

NEWSLETTER



Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. 2 Corinthians 9:6

WARNING! UNCOMFORTABLE STUFF AHEAD.

Money is an uncomfortable topic. Working in a church office for years, I've encountered everything from "When is the next temple talking about money? I will skip church that day" to "I'm going to leave this church - all you do is talk about money." These statements surprise me because talking about money *is* Biblical. Money is part of our spiritual lives.

Money is frequently mentioned in the Bible. 2,300 verses in the Bible talk about money or possessions. 42% of Jesus' parables deal with money and possessions. Jesus did not avoid the subject - so neither should we. (Check out the article on page 11 that talks about why we are uncomfortable talking about money.) The Bible even provides insights on fundraising.

Apostle Paul talks about money.

Chapters 8-9 in Second Corinthians speak about money and fundraising. Paul makes two theological points: (1) God will provide the means by which the Corinthians may be generous, and (2) the very act of sharing possessions is a way of thanking God for the gifts and blessings one has received. To translate it into today's world, let's look at what The Life Application Study Bible has to say about raising funds:

Continued on the next page...

Important Dates

Northwester College Choir Supper	April 12
Fly	April 19
Women's Retreat	April 20
Grief Support-	April 9 and 23
Holy Hops	April 26
Adult Forum on Debt Reduction	April 28

Noisy Offering for April goes to First Lutheran Camp

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“The topic of fund-raising is not one to be avoided or one that should embarrass us, but all fund-raising efforts should be planned and conducted responsibly. Like Paul, we should be guided by these practices when it comes to raising money.

- *Be persistent, trusting God to provide.....2 Corinthians 8:1 – 9:15*
- *Provide information.....2 Corinthians 8:4*
- *Show the definite purpose and Goal.....2 Corinthians 8:4*
- *Be dedicated to God.....2 Corinthians 8:5*
- *Be enthusiastic.....2 Corinthians 8:7 – 8:11*
- *Be generous to yourself.....2 Corinthians 8:7*
- *Have someone to keep things moving.....2 Corinthians 8:18 - 22*
- *Act with honesty and integrity before God and others.....2 Corinthians 8:21*
- *Be accountable.....2 Corinthians 9:3*
- *Let people give willingly.....2 Corinthians 9:7”*

As we walk forward in the light of Christ, we will endeavor to follow these biblical practices in all we do – which includes fundraising. Our focus is on Jesus Christ, our Savior. We worship God and love our neighbor. It takes money to do these things, so do not be afraid or embarrassed to talk about money. Jesus wasn’t – we should not be either. Let’s pool our resources and live out our faith together.

Be the farmer who plants generously - for they will receive a generous crop.

In Christ’s Service, Pastor Lynn

1 Enter the Bible, Mary Hinkel Shore, Provost at Luther Theological Southern Seminary
<https://enterthebible.org/courses/2-corinthians/lessons/theological-themes-in-2-corinthians>



UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, April 19th FLY will be at Glendalough State Park from 5:30p-9:30p. We will have hot dogs, snacks, activities, games, fishing and a campfire.

Meet at First Lutheran at 5:30p for a ride to the park. We will be at Molly Stark Pavilion area.

Grief Brings Unity



Grief Support Group
Join Parish Nurse, Jeri Wilmore, the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month for a Grief Support Group. Divorce, Separation, Death, etc. However you experience grief in your life, this group is for you!
First Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 28th at 11:15a
Representatives from church council & the finance committee will be speaking about the debt reduction initiative and will be available to answer any questions.

JOIN US
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH
FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICE FOR AN OPEN CONVERSATION ON DEBT REDUCTION! REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL & THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND SPEAK ABOUT THE INITIATIVE.

Grief Group has changed their dates of meetings to the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month. They meet in the fellowship hall at First Lutheran at 1pm. However you experience grief in your life, this group is for you.

Retreat to Restore the Soul is a women's retreat that will be held on Sat., April 20th from 9a-2pm here at First Lutheran Church. We will be engaging in strengthening our mind, body and soul. Women of all ages welcome. Please RSVP by April 15th to office@blfirstlutheran.org

RETREAT TO RESTORE THE SOUL:
Encounter God & Take Stock of Your Life
Saturday, April 20th
9am to 2pm
First Lutheran Church

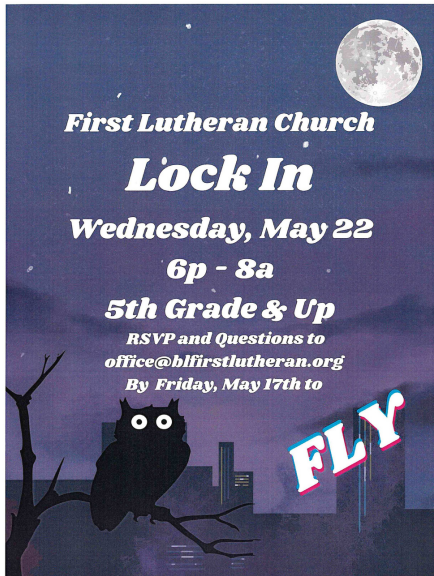
Join us as we journey to strengthen our mind, body and soul practices. All women of any age are welcome to attend.

Lunch will be provided.
Please RSVP by April 15th to office@blfirstlutheran.org



Friday, April 26th at 6p
Holy Hops
 will be at Missi & Jess/
 house. We
 will be doing a BBQ &
Campfire.
 Bring your own
 beverage & chair.

Celebrate the last day of school with a Lock In at First Lutheran Church. Wednesday, May 22nd from 6p until 8am the following morning. For all youth 5th grade and up. Please RSVP by May 17th to office@blfirstlutheran.org



Friday, May 3rd Holy Hops will be participating in packing meals for Feed My Starving Children, We will meet at the church at 5:15p to carpool to Perham. We will be packing meals from 6p-8p and then go to Zorbaz for appetizers and drinks. We should be returning to the church about 9:30p. If you would like to participate there is a sign up sheet outside of the sanctuary.



July 7th to July 10th First Lutheran Church will be hosting summer camp at Faith Haven.

We will be having three options for camp, Day Camp, Overnight Camp and Family Camp. Cost to attend camp is \$50/person. See Missi for additional information and registration.



From Your Parish Nurse



GREETINGS FROM YOUR PARTNER IN GIVING

We have three parts to our health: Mind, Body, and Soul. Today I would like to talk about how we fill our soul or spiritual health cup.

It is our responsibility to feed our souls as well as our bodies and minds. Being a good steward of God's gifts is one way to do this. We are a team of GU's (giving units), and as a team, we should all do our part to ensure that the generous donations given to our church are used for our growing ministries. Gifts such as music, artistry, WAFL/confirmation teachers, knitting, sewing, crocheting, and finances are just a few. One way to ensure that we can financially support the growing ministries is to pay off the mortgage by May 2025. We must each decide in our hearts how much to give, and don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a cheerful giver". Remember, per GU the monthly amount is only \$64/month to meet our initiative to pay off the mortgage by May of 2025. If \$64/month is too much, then whatever you can give is great. Let's be a team and knock the mortgage out of the ballpark!!

GO TEAM FIRST LUTHERAN!!

God's Blessings to all,
Jeri Wilmore, FCN, Parish Nurse

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVICE FROM NANCY QUAM

Less plastic is a good environmental choice.

Some alternatives to kitchen plastic wrap are glass canning jars and lids, silicone lids that vacuum to your dish, reusable bees wax cloth, and even re-using a cleaned cereal bag or bread bag.

Let's recycle and be environmentally friendly!

Personal Hygiene Kits

Donations Needed:

Must be new and unopened

- 70 combs
- 66 nail clippers
- 38 Bath Towels (dark color 20"x40" or 52"x27")
- 64 bars of soap (individually wrapped)

The WAFL students will put the kits together.



Please drop off donations in the entryway in the box marked Hygiene Kits
Deadline is April 22nd

LIBRARY NEWS

First Easter, by Paul Maier, portrays the Easter event and the days preceding it. *Easter Greetings*, an Ideals publication, serves as a touching reminder of the true meaning of the Easter holiday and special family traditions.

Ideals publications always present poetry and wonderful prose by familiar contributors, and they also have beautiful photographs and fine art masterpieces. Many other Easter Greetings publications are available as well.

Happy Easter to all!





Women of the



ELCA

April 4th--1:00 PM WELCA Board Meeting
April 2nd--2:00 PM WELCA Study Leaders
April 9th--9:30 AM Lydia Circle, Host Lynda
April 9th --10:00 AM Naomi Circle, Host Marilyn
April 10th--9:30 AM Mary Circle, Host Cathy
April 21st --6:30 PM Evening Circle



First Lutheran Men's Fellowship

First Lutheran Men's Fellowship met Thursday, March 7, 2024 at the Shoreline with 12 members in attendance. We will be serving the Lent soup supper Wednesday, March 20. We will also be serving a free will offering egg bake breakfast between services on Easter Sunday, March 31. In May, we will serve lunch to the volunteers that help with the "Beautify Battle Lake" project organized by Network Battle Lake. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2024.

January, February, and March Principal	\$ 8,930.22
January, February, and March Interest	\$ 1,626.51
January and March Additional on principal	\$ 15,960.00
Balance as of March 15th	\$181,684.17

Your gracious donations allowed us to pay an additional \$15,960 in principal since the first of the year!!!

THANK YOU!

Worship and Music



In the following issues of our newsletter, we are going to introduce you to the musicians of First Lutheran with short bios and pictures.



We begin this series with Gail Malmgren Nelson, Organist & Bell Choir Director

The day I was born, my dad said to my mom, "She has such long fingers, we'll have to get her a piano." Little did he know . . .

I was born in Minneapolis and lived there and in California until I was 9 years old when we moved to Battle Lake and I began taking piano lessons. When

I was 14, I also began organ lessons and played flute and piccolo in our school band. I also took harp lessons. I was a backup organist at both First Lutheran and the Baptist Church during my high school and college years. I began teaching piano lessons in high school and taught organ lessons while in college.

I have been active in the Lutheran church since I was a little child, attending Sunday School, confirmation, and Luther League and teaching Sunday School and Confirmation for 13 years while my two sons were attending Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis.

I have been active at First Lutheran on the organ committee, on the Worship & Music committee, and as lead organist and bell choir director for several years. I love being involved in music and feel so fortunate that we have a pipe organ that I can play for the congregation.

I have two sons, Joshua and Nicholas, and six grandchildren. I enjoy reading, traveling, my two little dogs, and being at my cabin or anywhere on the water during the summer.



Holy Faith

You may have noticed a new addition to the WAFL space; the students and teachers created a mural. The theme of the mural is “Where do you see God”? God created the gift of color and art and I think the students are proud to make the space their own. We would like to continue this project every year and expand on it. Keep an eye out for additional artwork created by and for the students.



The students completed their March service project of making Easter cards for the residents of the nursing home. Based on the feedback received last month when the 5th graders went to the nursing home to play bingo, we are going to try and get students out to visit the residents more often in the coming months.



During the Lent season our lessons focused on the pivotal moments of Jesus’ life from birth to death. The student’s put on a Parade to Jerusalem for their parents with singing, palms and even a donkey. They lined the “pathway” into church with decorated rocks that led to the cave/tomb of Jesus, created by Billie’s 1st grade class. Finally, each class took some time to lay their sins, in the form of rocks, at the feet of Jesus in a resurrection garden made by 4th grade student Brayden Olson.

Holy Faith

Last Year vs. This Year

I'm sure you have noticed by now the changes we have made to the summer programming this year. I wanted to take the opportunity to explain the reasoning behind these changes.

Last Year:



Last Year we sent six kids to Luther Crest camp in Alexandria. Children attended a five day camp and the church paid a total of \$3249 in camperships to cover the cost of their fees.

This Year:



This year we are planning a three day camp at Faith Haven. There is more work involved. However, we are fortunate to get an AMAZING deal from the folks at Faith Haven. Children & adults can attend the camp for \$100. At this time, we are offering to pay half of those fees. We can essentially send 65 kids for the same cost as last year and provide the opportunity for more kids to attend camp at a cost saving to church.

Last Year:



Last Year we invited Luther Crest to the church for a four day Vacation Bible School camp. Ten children attended the camp at a cost of \$3000 to the church.

This Year:

FLCAMP

This year we are offering a Mon-Wed camp here at the church from 7:30a-5:30p from the beginning of June to the end of August. Families will pay \$25/day per student and provide a bag lunch. The church will provide breakfast, two snacks per day, "transportation" to and from summer rec and we will be completing three vacation bible school programs throughout the summer. We will be able to bring on 25 children and hire several paid staff to help with the camp. Minus expenses the FLCamp should result in an approximate PROFIT of \$8000. This will allow funding for future youth programming and provide a significant service to the community.

Walk to

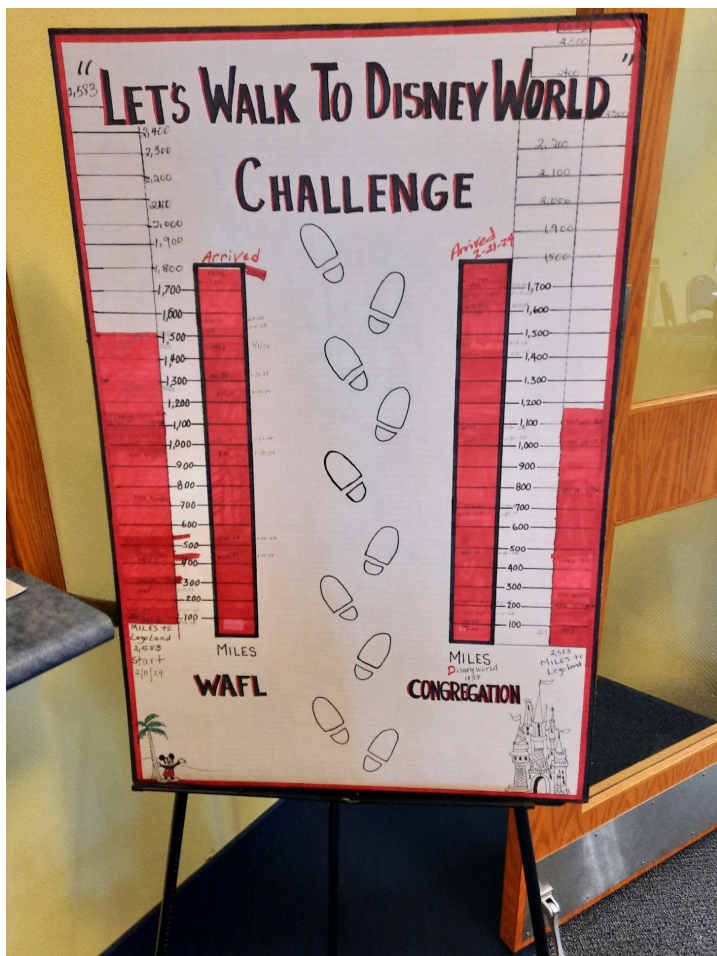
Legoland from Disney World Challenge



WAFL vs CONGREGATION

Well Congregation, WAFL gets the win for the first leg of this journey. Is the congregation going to serve the WAFL kids and staff ice cream sundaes for the first leg win??? Now we are all on our way to Lego Land in California. Let's get trucking!! Send your steps, miles, or exercise minutes to Jeri Wilmore, Parish Nurse.

Parishnurse@blfirstlutheran.org or let the office know at 218-864-5686. Or drop them in the box by the fellowship hall



New Study Shows Majority of Americans Are Uncomfortable Talking About Finances

Many of us grew up with the conceit that talking about money is rude, and sadly, that thinking persists in American culture. A new survey by Empower found that money talk remains highly taboo. The survey found that 62% don't talk about money – not with their family (63%), not with their friends (75%), and not even with their spouse/partner (46%).

People would rather discuss other potentially flammable topics instead, like politics (43%) and, more morbidly, death (32%), than their finances, according to the survey. So what's the hang-up over talking about money? Why does it make us so uncomfortable?

Protectiveness Over Social Status Perception

According to Brad Klontz, CFP, founder of the Financial Psychology Institute, on a blog by Northwestern Mutual, people may be disinclined to talk about money because they feel vigilant and protective over their social status.

"Money is very tightly linked to our status," Klontz said. "We like to disparage the whole idea of people trying to show status, but it's an ingrained human characteristic. Your concern over your status is one of the reasons you're alive right now because your ancestors passed this onto you."

Fear of Judgment

Klontz went on to explain that fear of being judged is also one hangup holding people back from talking about money. "Either I'm worried you're not going to like me because I have too little, or you're going to judge me because I have more than you," Klontz told Northwestern Mutual. "So we're very hyper-aware of how other people might be looking at us around money."

You Learned Only One Way to Talk About Money – Which is to Not Talk About It

As noted, many of us grew up without money being plainly and comfortably talked about in the home. We may have also inherited what Klontz calls "money scripts", i.e., the concept that talking about money is inappropriate. These money scripts get further ingrained in your psyche as you age, and unless you are actively working to change them, they only further shut the door to money talks.

The stigma around talking about money does appear to be fading, fortunately. Empower's survey found that millennials (56%) and Gen Z (49%) are more willing to talk about money topics than older generations (38% Gen X and 22% Boomers), and twice as likely to say they're an "open book" (28% versus 13%). *Written by Nicole Spector for GodBankingRates.*



Thank you to Billie's First Grade WAFL class for the Tomb! Awesome job.

Thank you from your AV and Tech team! Our live telecasts have been so very well received. Remember to share the options with your friends and family as an outreach to others.



Just an update for all of our team.

Mike and Laurie are putting together a picture booklet with instructions on the things that need to be done each Sunday (or event). This way if someone cannot be there the directions are there for all to see. This will include which microphones are being used and what has to be turned on the board for videos, guitars soloists, etc. Once this booklet is put together, we will set up a training meeting for anyone interested in helping out this important ministry.

January and February Finances:

Income	\$47,653	Budget	\$401,349	11%
Expenses	<u>\$65,126</u>	Budget	\$401,349	16%
Net	-\$17,474			

Summary of Council Minutes – March 12, 2024

Purpose: General Oversight of the life and activities of the congregation

Approval of the Minutes: Motion by Jeri, Second by Pete, approved

Financial Report: Motion by Jeri, Second by Scot, approved

Faith Formation Highlights: 1. Sharing FLC, Summer Rec, first aid dates set, 2. Silhouettes in gym with chalkboard paints. 3. Noisy offering for April for FLC Camp.

Old Business:

- Discussion of Dan Hanson Observation: Potential electronic reader board. \$30,000 to \$40,000 cost, contacts made, waiting on responses. Tabled until April.
- Initiative for next year: Debt Removal (Pay off Mortgage): Items discussed: One idea for debt reduction is if everyone (197 units) give \$16 a week, payoff by June 2025. This is feasible— \$41,000 in mortgage expense would go a long way in paying for Faith Formation Director. Jane Dixon could make a Thermometer of debt reduction and giving. Margret to contact Jane to champion debt reduction. Money giving needs to be explained to new members who don't know it's tracked. Online giving—is Bank sending reason or purpose? Laurie to follow up on. Mike Youngblood and Pastor Lynn (Margret too) will approach people for debt reduction. We need better electronic instructions for giving. Newsletter—Print too small. So hard to provide information that way.
- Our quote for 2024 from our current provider (Grinnell) is up over \$3000 from 2023. Pete suggested 3 options by email. Email vote chose: Stay with Grinnell Mutual, but switch from Rentz Agency to Faber Insurance. Faber reps multiple companies. Grinnell quote same but be we will save over \$400 switching our workers comp to Travelers Ins. through Faber.

New Business:

- 1) This is the season we celebrate the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It gives us hope while we are on this earth and eternal life when we depart from this earth. Is there anything we can identify as a church to celebrate along with celebrating the resurrection of Jesus? It may be as simple as low snow amounts which equal low snow removal bills, or
 - a) Youth Program, b) Mission Jamaica- 9 people the first year, c) WAFL—stronger, better, and lots of volunteers, d) Newsletter change, e) E-news
- 3) Council support Mission Jamaica activity. Motion by Jeri, Second by Pete, it was passed.
- 4) Committees are not responsible for bringing soup for Lent/Advent—Open to entire congregation. Motion by Margret, seconded by Scot, Passed.

Next meeting: April 9, 2024

April 2024

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2 pm WELCA Study leaders 4:30 pm music select 5:30 W&M	3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr	8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship 1 pm WELCA Board	8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	
9 am Chosen 9 am Eggo 10 am Worship/Communion/ Baptism 11 am Coffee/Fellowship	7 9 am Quilters 2 pm Finance WELCA Conference Open Youth Room	8 9:30 am Lydia 10 am Naomi 1 pm Grief Support 5:30 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Council	9 9:30 am Mary 3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	10 8 am TOPS	11 8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	12 13 Concert @ School Feeding 60 Band members and chaperones
9 am Chosen 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee/Fellowship	14 9 am Quilters Open Youth Room Graveside Service for Pastor	15 9 am Quilters Open Youth Room	16 3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	17 8 am TOPS	18 5:30 – 9:30 pm Fly @ Glendalough 8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	19 20 10 am Lake Ave Apt Communion 9 am to 2 pm Women's retreat @ First Lutheran Offsite Wedding
9 am Chosen 9 am Eggo 10 am Worship/ first communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 6:30 pm Evening Circle	21 9 am Quilters 10:30 – 11:30 am Staff meeting Open Youth Room	22 1 pm Grief Support	23 10 am Good Sam communion 3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	24 8 am TOPS	25 6 pm Holy Hops @ Missi's 8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	26 27
9 am Chosen 9 am Eggo 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11:15 am Debt Reduction Forum	28 9 am Quilters Open Youth Room	29 30				

First Lutheran Church
505 Holdt St. West
Battle Lake MN 56515
218-864-5686
www.blfirstlutheran.org



Address Service Requested
Newsletter

Sunday Worship 10 AM

Communion 1st & 4th Sundays

Coffee/Fellowship 11 AM following service

Online worship @ Youtube-First Lutheran Church Battle Lake and Facebook



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BATTLE LAKE

First Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Lynn Melchior : pastorlynn@blfirstlutheran.org

Office Secretary: Laurie Hanson-Zelinsky: office@blfirstlutheran.org

Parish Nurse: Jeri Wilmore: parishnurse@blfirstlutheran.org

Faith Formation: Missi Abfalter: wafi@blfirstlutheran.org

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org