

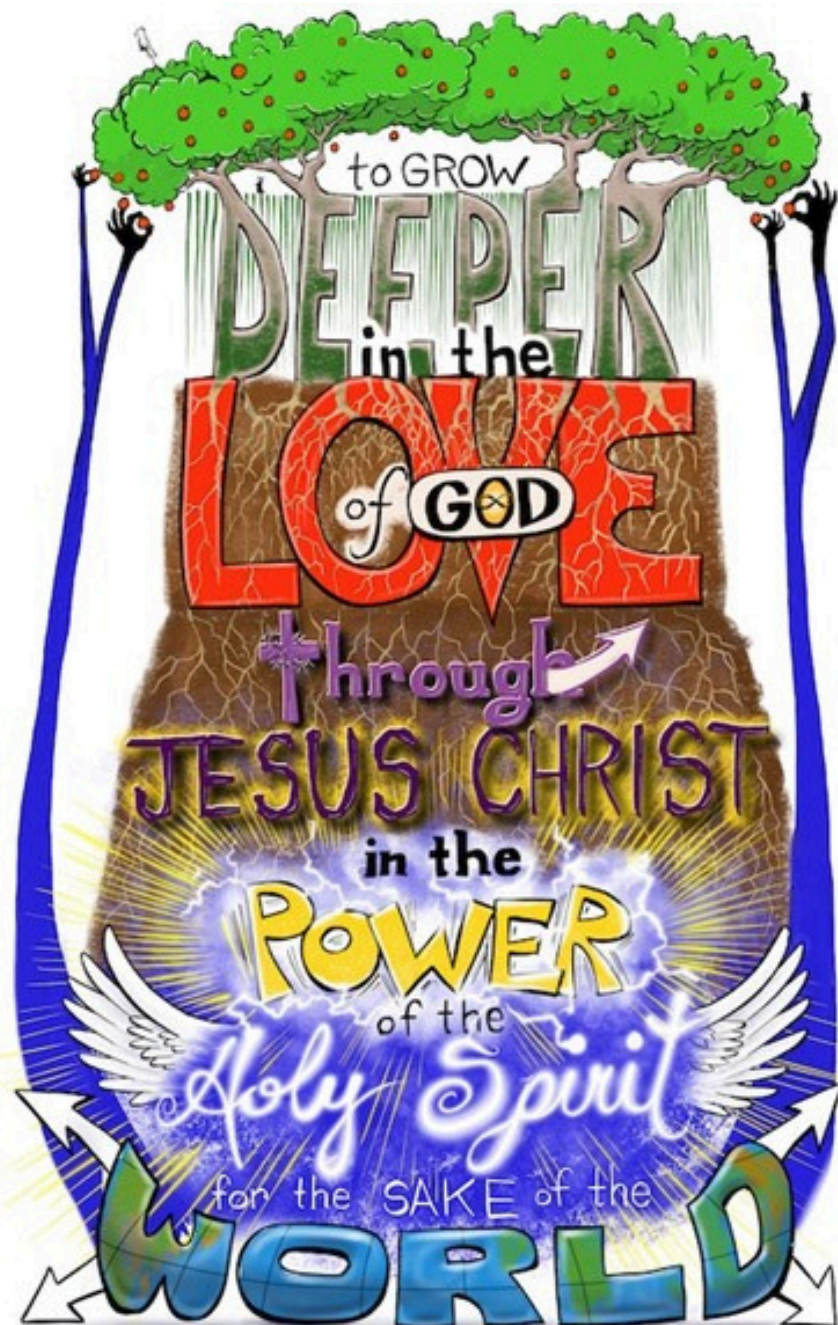
First Lutheran



May 2024

NEWSLETTER

God's Purpose Statement for us - Spiritual Formation



Important Dates

Feed My Starving Children	May 3rd
Blood Pressure Clinic	May 5th
Last Day of WAFL Blood Drive	May 15th
First Aid Classes	May 16th
Matthew House Forum	May 16&23
Baccalaureate	May 19th
FLY Lock In	May 19th
Graduation	May 22nd
	May 24th

Noisy Offering for May goes to First Lutheran Camp.

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What is Spiritual Formation?

Rev. Dr. Steve Thomason explains Spiritual Formation in a straightforward manner that I enjoy: “The term Spiritual Formation may seem deep and mystical. Perhaps it is intimidating. Truth is...it’s simple. It’s not easy, but it is simple. In its most basic form, spiritual formation is the process of cultivating and growing in a loving relationship with God.

Let’s take an analogy from our human existence. Unless you were hatched, you have a set of parents. Even if you have never met your biological parents, they still exist, or did when you were conceived. You cannot change that relationship. You are a child and they are your parents, no matter what you do.

However, simply being born to a set of parents does not mean that the quality of your relationship is any good. What does it take to have a good, loving, growing, life-giving exchange with your parents? It takes time, effort, commitment, communication, proximity, authenticity, vulnerability, courage, etc. If you don’t work on the relationship, it will get stagnant and possibly die.

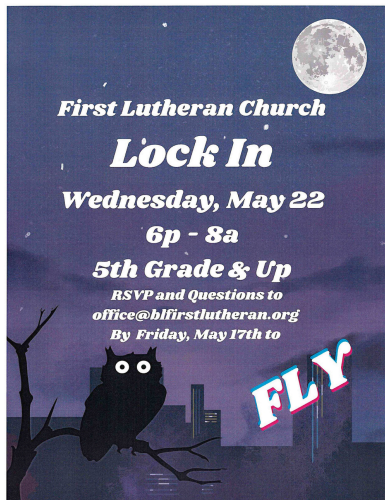
The same is true in our relationship with God. God is our Father/Mother, our Creator. God’s end of the equation is constant. God loves you, longs for you, and continually pours out life-giving love to you every moment of your life. The question is how much effort do you put into your side of the relationship? Do you take it for granted and ignore it, or do you pursue it with passion?

Why is it important? Not to be too overly dramatic, but the fate of the planet depends on it. When we ignore our relationship with God, or even worse, reject it, then we turn to all that is left – ourself. Left in the isolation cell of self we inevitably stumble into the darkness of self-protection, which leads to hatred, which leads to violence, war, and murder.

If everyone on the planet was passionately seeking an authentic relationship with God, then we would be transformed by the life-giving love of God from the inside out and overflow God’s love to everyone around us. Imagine what would happen if everyone did this? There is a simple word for it – Peace. Peace on Earth, good will toward men. That’s good news, don’t you think?”

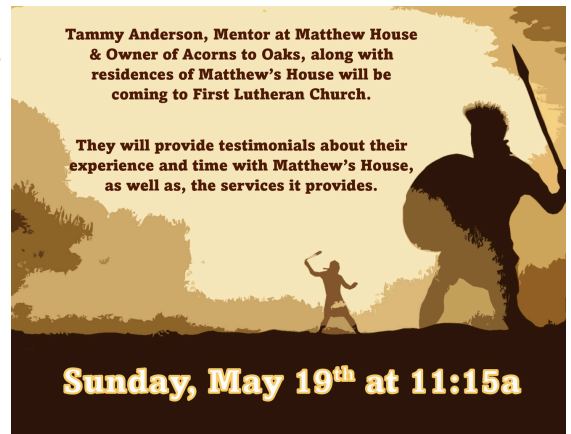
Gratefully Serving Christ, Pastor Lynn

UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Sunday, May 10th at 11:15am Tammy Anderson, Mentor at Matthew House & Owner of Acorns to Oaks, will be coming to First Lutheran Church to speak about the services provided at Matthew's house. Along with testimonials from residence about their experience and time there.



Youth in 5th grade and up are invited to attend a Redhawks baseball game in Moorhead on Friday, June 28th. We will leave the church at 5:15p, the game starts at 7p with fireworks following the game. We should be back by 12am. FLC will pay for the tickets but students should bring their own money for food.

Please RSVP by May 10th to office@blfirstlutheran.org



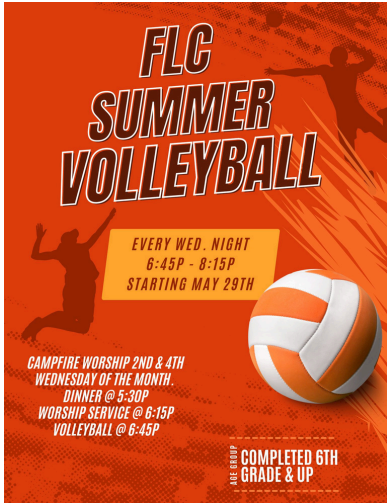
Two or More Fellowship (formally Holy Hops) will be meeting at ABC Brewery on Thursday, June 20th at 6:30pm. Appetizers and conversation will be provided.



Two or More Fellowship (formally Holy Hops) will be attending the Casting Crowns concert at Thrivefest on Saturday, August 24th. The concert starts at 2pm and doors open at 1pm. Cost will be \$60/ticket. Church will provide a “swag bag” and coordinate carpool for those interested. Please RSVP to office@blfirstlutheran.org by May 10th.



Weekly Wednesday night volleyball will begin on May 29th from 6:45p - 8:15p. Anyone that has completed 6th grade and older is invited to come and participate.



Starting in June we will be bringing back campfire worship on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. Dinner will be provided starting at 5:30p with worship service starting at 6:15p. Bring a lawn chair and your singing voice.



Grief Brings Unity



Meetings on hold until the Fall.

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



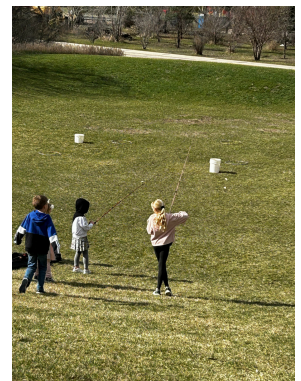
Holy Faith

We are counting down to the end of the WAFL year, just three weeks remaining and trying to cram in as much as possible. Recently the kids made “pass it on bags” which consisted of decorating a pillowcase that was made into a bag. They brought them home and returned them with items they had “outgrown.” The clothes and some toy items will be donated to New Life Center Thrift store which provides free clothing items to folks from Churches United.

We are currently doing the ReNew curriculum which is an environmentally focused program that encourages growing faith and taking care of God’s creation. Ben Eckhoff, from the MN DNR, came to speak with the WAFL kids on conservation and set up some fun activities as well. The kids did fish identification, knot tying, and worked on their casting. Ben had great information to share with the students. I encourage you to visit Ben at Glendalough every Thursday, June 20th–August 15th from 1p–2:30p for kids/family nature programs. More details on Glendalough’s website.

The WAFL students completed their April service project of putting together personal hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to your generous donations we were able to put together a total of 79 kits!

Finally, I would like to congratulate Cameron, Oliver, Jameson, Keylan, Maeci, Izzy and Leona on receiving their First Communion!



Holy Faith



In March the First Lutheran Youth (FLY) event consisted of playing laser tag at the church and everyone that participated in the event had a great time. The April FLY event was intended to be at Glendalough however we were snowed out and ended up at the church. The kids played video games, laser tag and hide'n seek in the dark.

In May we will be celebrating the last day of school with a Lock In at the church from 6pm, Wednesday, May 22nd until 8am the following morning. There will be outdoor activities including a campfire and volleyball, along with indoor activities planned for the wee hours of the night and early morning. June 28th FLY will be going to a Fargo/Moorhead Redhawks game against the Chicago Dogs.

If you would like to volunteer to chaperone any FLY activities please speak with Missi!



FLCAMP

We are busy preparing for the start of the First Lutheran Church Camp. With some successful hiring the decision has been made to extend the camp to Mon-Thurs in an effort to support working families more throughout the summer. We have had some success getting donations from area businesses and have submitted some grants to help with the start up costs and to purchase some supplies to ensure it is a great experience for the kids that will be attending.

The first Women's Retreat was held on April 20th with 15 women in attendance. After a great deal of positive feedback, additional retreats will be coming in the future. Stay tuned for more details!





Women of the



ELCA

May 6th--1:00 PM WELCA Board Meeting
May 7th--1:00 PM WELCA Study Leaders
May 14th--9:30 AM Lydia Circle, Host Anita
May 14th --10:00 AM Naomi Circle, Host Mary Jane
May 15th--9:30 AM Mary Circle, Host Nancy
May 16th --6:30 PM Evening Circle



First Lutheran Men's Fellowship met Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Shoreline with 11 members in attendance. We served 93 at the Easter breakfast with a net income of \$498.12. This year we have collected over 338 pounds of food and over \$43.00 in cash donations for the food shelf. In May, we will serve lunch to the volunteers during "Beautify Battle Lake," ditch walking, and clean up around the church. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 2, 2024

April Principal	\$ 3,003.48
April Interest	\$ 515.43
→ April Additional on principal	\$ 14,864.00
Balance as of April 10th	\$163,816.69

Your gracious donations allowed us to pay an additional \$14,864 in principal since March!!!

THANK YOU!

Worship and Music



Andrea Fowler

I grew up in Battle Lake. We had a small 160-acre farm just a couple miles north of town for about 10 years, then moved into Battle Lake. I took piano lessons for several years during middle and high school.

After graduation I left the area. My travels took me to Alaska, California, Hawaii, Arizona, and Colorado before I came back in 2021. It was in Colorado that I once again became active in music. Our children were now in school, and I started by playing for services at our church, St. Paul Lutheran of Calhan. As I got more involved in the community I started accompanying choirs from local towns, tutoring beginning band students, started teaching piano, and subbed for band and choir at the local high school. Among the other things I have done through the years are, Mom to 4 wonderful girls, office manager at St. Paul for 19 years, I taught drivers education for 10 years, served on our local school board for 7 years, and enjoyed following the girls in sports by doing the book for volleyball and basketball.

Since moving back to Battle Lake I have been playing for church at both First Lutheran and Maine Presbyterian, worked at Battle Lake School as a special education para for 1½ years, and have now moved into home health care. I also have been blessed with 12 piano students this year who have been a joy to work with.

On the rare occasion I find some free time I enjoy reading, playing piano, gardening and lawn care, hanging out with my neighbor (Gail), and getting together with family for games and cards. My children and grandchildren are currently in Colorado, Nebraska, and Florida. I visit as often as I can.

The First Lutheran Bell/Chimes Choir is looking for additional ringers. The choir is composed of a minimum of 8 ringers and plays in two octaves. We are always looking for new members. The only two requirements are that you can read music and are at least 16 years old. We meet once a week and occasionally play during church services.

If you are interested in joining this fun group, please contact Gail Nelson at 763-302-9760. You can call or text.

From Your Parish Nurse



Happy Spring!!

I am writing to you about another need. This one won't cost a penny but will be priceless. Volunteerism from the Webster dictionary is "to do something, especially for other people or an organization, willingly and without being forced or paid for it".

What does volunteering do for your health? It boosts self-confidence, self-esteem, and gives life satisfaction by giving you a sense of pride and identity, relieves stress, and alleviates symptoms of depression.

To sum up what makes a good volunteer; traits such as being passionate, reliable, team player, patient, creative, energetic, positive, and organized.

Why do we love a volunteer? They are not getting monetary compensation, but they truly feel the need to help, and this brings joy to their existence. Volunteerism is about the Golden Rule- - the principle of treating others as one wants to be treated.

First Lutheran has many opportunities for volunteering. We need you for WAFL/Summer camp (teaching, arts and crafts, music, or just coming to play with the kids), welcoming new members, assisting with Sunday service, volunteering in the office, visiting fellow parishioners who may need a friendly face, or offering a hot meal to someone who may need one. If any of these things are of interest to you or you feel the Holy Spirit calling to you then please contact the office, Pastor Lynn or myself. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver, give it all YOU got.

Blessings to all,
Jeri Wilmore, Parish Nurse

*I can
&
I will*

Walk to

From Battle Lake to Disney World and then onto LegoLand Challenge



WAFL vs CONGREGATION

Well Congregation, WAFL gets the win for the both legs of this journey. WAFL had 2595 miles and Congregation had 2108 miles for the final leg of this journey.

We are putting out a sign up sheet for helpers to serve the ice cream for these kids and teachers that worked so hard for their miles.

Congratulations WAFL--Great job!

Congratulations to our First Communion Students

Leona Ripple

Keylan Tandberg

Oliver Fix

Jameson Norberg



Maeci Tandberg

Elizabeth (Izzy) Evans

Cameron Jacobson

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 through March Finances:

Income	\$71,234	Budget	\$401,349	19.17%
Expenses	<u>\$98,417</u>	Budget	\$401,349	30.05%
Net	-\$17,183			

Summary of Council Minutes – April 9, 2024

Financial Report and Recommendations: Congregational giving has increased, yet we remain below budget. Until recently, designated funds were reported as part of our general budget. This gave an inflated view of our budget because designated funds cannot be used for anything but the designated purpose. Three restricted accounts that had completed their intent and had remained inactive. These three accounts were discussed, and the council voted to move those funds into the general fund. An additional \$2K gifted following the sale of stock will be added to the general fund. Additionally, the automatic payment for the mortgage, typically taken from the general fund, will be taken from the designated building fund for the next four months, to relieve pressure on the general fund balance. Any future decisions regarding designated funds will involve council approval. M/S: Henry/Stacy.

We reviewed the April article printed in the April newsletter addressing the discomfort associated with discussing money. (For example, many of us had no idea that the monthly cost of electricity for the building is \$1,300.) The council agrees that awareness needs to be raised to help the congregation see the connection between our individual commitment to giving and the church's ability to create a ministry. Quarterly financial updates will be done as Temple Talks.

Committee Reports: Faith Formation—Noisy offerings: April - Feed My Starving Children. May - First Lutheran Camp. June - Faith Haven Camp.

Old Business: *Electronic Digital Sign:* There is no plan to purchase a sign; we are looking at long-term goal-setting to raise awareness of FLC's ministry.

Mortgage Elimination: The council is committed to the goal of paying off the building mortgage by June 2025. Paying off the mortgage will free up \$3,518.91 per month. The current mortgage balance today is \$163,816.69. We have developed a plan to encourage involvement in reaching this goal.

We discussed the article from April's newsletter regarding a general discomfort in discussing money. The consensus is that this is common in our community, just as it is in the rest of the country.

New Business: Insurance Liability Update: We DO have non-auto coverage, which covers volunteer drivers transporting congregation members, including youth.

Next meeting: May 21, 2024

LIBRARY NEWS

“Libraries always remind me that there are good things in this world.” – Lauren Ward



We wanted to remind our congregation and neighbors that we have this beautiful library to be used by all. There are a lot of reference books for church study and we also have wifi access available if somebody needs to use for their research or homework, whichever it may be.

There are also many fiction and non-fiction books available to check out. All that is required to check them out, is to fill out the book card and return the book when done.

Please feel free to come and check it out. Our church doors are open from 9 am to 4 pm.



We have a member that has an older set of Comptons Junior Encyclopedias if any family is interested!



WELCA'S ANNUAL NO BAKE FUNDRAISER

May/June 2024

The “No Bake Fundraiser” has assisted our church WELCA (Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) to fund projects throughout the year.

Some of the WELCA projects or donations were assigned to: Battle Lake Food Shelf, Battle Lake School, Churches United, Red River Valley Hospice, Lake Region Cancer Foundation, Morning Watch, Someplace Safe Crisis Center, Personal Care Kits, Infant Kits, School Kits, and the ELCA Disaster Fund for local disasters.

We are once again asking you to donate financially to support the WELCA projects.

Checks should be made out to WELCA. Donations can be dropped off at the church office, given to a circle chairperson, or mailed to:

**Linda Manikowske, WELCA Treasurer
23370 Garland Lane
Battle Lake, MN 56515**



Thank you for your support of WELCA.

If you wish to become an active member of WELCA pick up a booklet in the church office, or contact Nancy Quam 218-371-0576, or contact any WELCA member. Currently, we have 4 circles to choose from to attend.

May 2024

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9 am Eggo/Chosen 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11 am Blood pressure clinic	9 am Quilters 11 am Leone Wilson funeral 1 pm WELCA bd. 2 pm Finance Open youth room	1 pm WELCA Study Leaders 2 pm Song Selection 3 pm Worship & Music	3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 PM NA @ Sr. Ctr.	8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship	Holy Hops-- Feed My Starving Children—Meet @ church 5:15 pm 8 pm AA & Alanon @ Sr. Ctr	2 pm Gladys Boyum Funeral
9 am Eggo/Chosen 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11 am Blood pressure clinic	9 am Quilters 11 am Leone Wilson funeral 1 pm WELCA bd. 2 pm Finance Open youth room	1 pm WELCA Study Leaders 2 pm Song Selection 3 pm Worship & Music	9:30 am Mary Circle 3:15 pm WAFL 5:30 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	8 am TOPS 8 am TOPS 10:30 am to 7:30 pm Blood Drive 6:30 pm 1 st aid course	8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	11
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9 am Eggo/Chosen 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11 am Blood pressure clinic	9 am Quilters 11 am Leone Wilson funeral 1 pm WELCA bd. 2 pm Finance Open youth room	1 pm WELCA Study Leaders 2 pm Song Selection 3 pm Worship & Music	10 am Good Sam Communion 3:30 pm WAFL potluck 6 pm to 8 am Lock- in—Last day of school 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	8 am TOPS 6:30 pm 1 st aid course	8 pm AA & Al-anon @ Sr. Ctr. Graduation	25
9 am Eggo/Chosen 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Coffee/Fellowship 11 am Blood pressure clinic	9 am Quilters 11 am Leone Wilson funeral 1 pm WELCA bd. 2 pm Finance Open youth room	1 pm WELCA Study Leaders 2 pm Song Selection 3 pm Worship & Music	7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	8 am TOPS 8 am TOPS 10:30 am to 7:30 pm Blood Drive 6:30 pm 1 st aid course	8 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	31

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 Abfalder: waf1@blfirstlutheran.org

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org