

Welcome to First Lutheran Church! May God richly bless our time together through silence, in prayer, song, and in studying God's Word.

Prelude/Chimes

Time For Quiet Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW# 611

Greeting

Baptism

Hymn "All Who Believe and Are Baptized" ELW# 442

Prayer of the Day

Psalm: Psalm 130

First Lesson: Isaiah 1: 10-17

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: 1-10

Gospel: John 8: 2-11

Children's Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Hymn of the Day "There's A Wideness in God's Mercy" Vs. 1,2, & 4 ELW# 588

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace with our Neighbors

Offering

Offering Hymn "We Give Thee But Thine Own" Vs. 1 ELW# 686

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Blessing

Sending Song "Jesus is A Rock in the Weary Land" ELW# 333

Chimes and Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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March 22, 2026 Fifth Sunday of Lent

"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" JOHN 11:40

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Worship and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."

Practicing the Spiritual Principle of Optimism

Optimism can be defined as hopefulness and unwavering confidence in the possibility of a bright future or the achievement of successful outcomes in different areas of life.

The Benefits of Optimism include increased happiness, success, and resilience. Additionally, optimism helps individuals experience less stress in unfavorable situations, enhances their ability to manage emotions, and fosters a greater sense of hope.

The Importance of Optimism is that it allows us to view setbacks as temporary, providing us with the courage to keep going instead of giving up. It also enables us to hold onto our goals and dreams, keeping us motivated and determined to keep striving toward them.

Examples of ways to practice Optimism are focusing on the positive outlook, finding sources of hope, being mindful of the company you keep, limiting exposure to news, engaging in journal writing daily, and acknowledge the extent of your control over situations.

The Spiritual aspect of Optimism involves nurturing a belief in our inherent connection with the Creator and embracing an attitude that upholds a positive spirit while persistently seeking solutions to problems. It entails being hopeful and anticipating favorable outcomes.

Bible verses that speak about Optimism:

1. Romans 15:13—"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
2. Philippians 4:8—"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."
3. Jeremiah 29:11—"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."
4. Psalm 118: 24—"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."
5. Proverbs 17:22—"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones"

These verses emphasize the importance of having hope, focusing on positive thoughts, trusting in God's plans, finding joy each day, and understanding the therapeutic value of a joyful heart.

How to Practice 52 Spiritual Principles by Stanley Scott Jr.

Offering Options:

*In person – drop in offering plate

*QR code

*Mail a check – Send it to:

505 W Holdt St,
Battle Lake, MN 56515

*Use your banks "bill pay" option

*Direct Giving - <https://blfirstlutheran.org/simply-giving>



Your offerings support our Building, Pastor, Staff and our valuable ministries to the community.

2026 March through March 19th giving \$ 9,168.63

(Needed for the month of February \$37,501)

Events Upcoming

March 25th— Lenten Services with Soup Suppers —There is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for all to be able to provide where they can.

March 20th — Escape Room Challenge

March 22nd — Creation Worship

March 29th — Palm Sunday

March 29th — Movie Night

April 4th — Faith Haven Camp & First Lutheran Church Easter egg hunt at Faith Haven at 10 am

April 5th — Easter Services at 8 and 10 am

April 5th — Easter Breakfast 8:30 to 10 am

April 17th — FLY Murder Mystery Dinner (Murder at the Disco)

May 22nd — FLY End of School Party

Pastoral Visits: If you would like a visit, especially if you are to be or are hospitalized or are having health issues, please contact the church office at 218-864-5686 or you may contact Pastor Lynn on her cell, 218-298-0396

Mary Jane, Sandy, Patricia, Michelle, Suzann, Kathleen, Daryl, Sheri, Sean, Cheri, Gerry, Cathy, Karen, Jeff, Harold, Jan, Jeremiah, Anne, Jim, Keith, Joyce, Linda, Justin, Doug, Ray, Bev, Chris, Delores, Shari, Boston, Lynn, Rob, Vera, and Cherie.



Welcome!

We are glad you are here. Join us as we worship God and love our neighbors. Those who are mobility challenged are welcome to remain seated while others stand.

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee fellowship after service. To learn more about our ministries, visit our website at www.blfirstlutheran.org or grab a copy of our newsletter at the Kiosk near the entryway.

If you are visiting, introduce yourself to Pastor Lynn – she would love to meet you!

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" was written by Scottish minister [Horatius Bonar](#) and published in 1846, often titled "The Voice from Galilee". It is a "subjective" hymn designed to portray the Christian life as a pilgrimage, focusing on resting in Christ, drinking from the living water, and following Him as the Light.

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized" is a foundational Lutheran hymn based on Mark 16:16, written by Danish poet and clergyman [Thomas Hansen Kingo](#) in the 17th century. It emphasizes baptismal grace, covenant, and new life in Christ, later translated into English by George A.T. Rygh. It is commonly set to the 16th-century German tune "Es ist das Heil."

There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" was written by English theologian Frederick William Faber and published in 1854 as "Come to Jesus," originally part of a longer poem intended to encourage a more joyful, expansive view of God's love. Faber, a convert to Roman Catholicism, wrote it to bring popular hymn-singing to Catholics.

Jesus Is A Rock in the Weary Land

"Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land" is a widely recognized African American spiritual rooted in biblical imagery from Isaiah 32:2, symbolizing God as a protector during difficult times. It is often associated with the phrase "A Shelter in the Time of Storm," a hymn written around 1880 by English pastor Vernon J. Charlesworth, popular among sailors and later arranged by Ira D. Sankey.

Isaiah 1:10-17 What does God want from us? "Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed." Sounds easy – but it is not. How are you giving God what He wants?

Psalms 130 If we confess our sins, God will forgive us. Period. End of discussion. How does this assurance impact your life? Your daily choices?

2 Peter 3:1-10 Jesus will return. Are you ready?

John 8:2-11 Jesus was continually tested by the religious leaders. How do you respond when your tested by circumstances, life and evil? Was it like Jesus' responses?

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 22nd

10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/Vera Nelson Baptism

11:00 a.m. Coffee/Fellowship

Monday, March 23rd

9:00 a.m. Quilters

12:00 p.m. OE

Wednesday, March 25th

3:15 p.m. WAFL

5:30 p.m. Confirmation

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper

6:15 p.m. Wednesday Service—WAFL kids will be singing with choir

7-8 p.m. Youth

7:30 p.m. NA 12 Step at Senior Center

Thursday, March 26th

8:00 a.m. TOPS

Friday, March 27th

5:00 p.m. Josie Schmidt Baptism

8:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon at Sr. Center

Sunday, March 29th

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Potluck

Our next potluck is March 29th. Anyone interested in joining our congregation, please contact the office. All are welcome.

Attendance March 8th— 59 Facebook and Youtube — 323

Thank you to all who have stepped up to help through this time of my healing.. Pastor Lynn

Noisy Offering

March — B. L. Food Shelf

April — Faith Haven

May — FLCamp

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be combined with Faith Haven Camp and will be held at Faith Haven this year. **We are needing candy for our Easter egg hunt.** Donations can be left with Missi in her office.



- Monday - Thursday 7:30a-5:30p May 26th - August 27th
- Service Project/ Fundraising for Charities
- Daily fee \$30/child per day
- Breakfast & 3 snacks provided daily
- Daily Indoor & Outdoor Activities
- Scholarships available
- Transportation to & from BL Summer Rec Activities
- Field trips
- Registration forms online at blfirstlutheran.org/ministries
- Monthly Vacation Bible School themes
- Flexible Scheduling

Contact Missi Abfalter for any questions at missi.abfalter@gmail.com



March 22nd, 2026

Worship: 10 AM

Pastor: Lynn Melchior

Accompanist: Cindy Peterson

Christ Welcomes Everyone!!

Lenten Service: March 25

Maundy Thursday: 6:30 pm

Good Friday Service: 2 pm @ Eagle Lake

Easter Services: 8 am and 10 am

First Lutheran Church

"Sharing Hope in Christ"

505 W Holdt Street

Battle Lake, Minnesota (218) 864-5686

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org

Office Hours:

Monday— Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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