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 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ELW# 505

Greeting

Prayer of the Day

Bell Choir "Ein Feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress is Our God)" Martin Luther

Psalm Psalm 46

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Second Reading: Romans 3: 19-28

Gospel: John 8: 31-36

Children's Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Hymn of the Day "God Is Here"vs. 1 & 3 ELW# 526

Affirmation of Baptism: Rite of Confirmation

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

Benediction

Sending Song "Praise God From Whom All Blessing Flow" X2 ELW# 884

Dismissal

Chimes and Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED…OUR SERVICE BEGINS

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, Cheri, Karen, Jeff, Jan, Jeremiah, Anne, Jim, Keith, Linda, Justin, Doug, Ray, Chris, Delores, Boston, Lynda, Vera, Sharon, Ron, and family of Bev.

Prayer Requests

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October 25, 2026

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." – Matthew 22:37

Do you put other "gods" before God? Is your love of money, power, status, comfort or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you recognize that everything you have and that everything you are is a gift from God? Putting God first in everything helps keep us from becoming a slave to our possessions and to our pride.

Free Thanksgiving Meal

As last year was a success, we will provide a free meal on Thanksgiving Day for anyone who walks through our doors between noon and two that day. Sign up for food donations and volunteers available at entrance to the fellowship hall.

Practicing the Spiritual Principle of Freedom

Freedom is the Spiritual Principle to Practice this week.

Freedom is the power or right to make choices and act, think, or speak as one wants without hindrance or restraints.

The Benefits of Freedom are empowering individuals to pursue their goals, developing creativity and innovation, and promoting personal growth and self-expression.

The Importance of Freedom is human growth, enabling people to live, expressing themselves, pursuing happiness, and the realizing of their potential.

Seven Examples of Freedom are: 1. **Freedom** of speech. 2. **Freedom** of religion. 3. **Freedom** of assembly. 4. **Freedom** of the press. 5. Economic **Freedom**. 6. Academic **Freedom**. 7. **Freedom** of movement.

The Spiritual aspect of Freedom pertains to the liberation of the soul, breaking free from attachments, fears and ego-driven desires, and connecting with God's essence within us.

Bible verses that include Freedom: *1). 2 Corinthians 3:17 –"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **Freedom**." 2.) Galatians 5:1 – "For **Freedom**, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." 3.) Galatians 5:13 – "For you were called to **freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your **freedom** as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*

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 and we have this QR code that can be used also. Thank you for your generous giving.

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

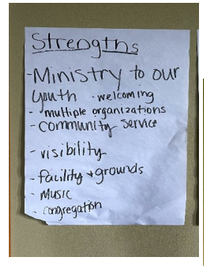
2026 October giving until 10/21 $ 15,427.09

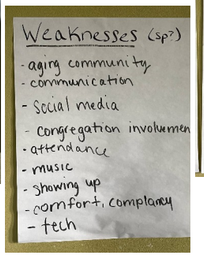
(Bills paid for the month of September $24,935)

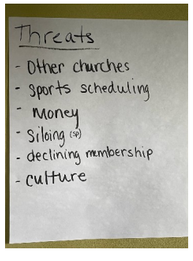
Events Upcoming

October 25th — Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Today
October 25th – Fall Potluck and Game Day/Vikings vs. Broncos
October 25th – Movie Night "Hotel Transylvania"
October 31st-- Change the clocks back one hour tonight
November 1st -- All Saints Sunday
November 8th – Council Installation
November 13th – Fly to Grandpa's Arcade
November 14th – All Circles @ Good Sam
November 16th & 23rd – AOTL Clay classes
November 18th – AOTL Lefse Class
November 26th – Free Thanksgiving Community Meal
November 29th – Movie Night "Space Jam"

Our **SWOT analysis** using YOUR input. (SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). From October 4th . What would you add??







*Burnout

*Pastor Lynn
*Missi Abfalter

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!

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

It was composed during a dark and dangerous period for Luther and the Reformation. He faced intense persecution from the Roman Catholic Church, threats of death from the emperor and pope, and political conflict. The hymn was also born out of deep personal grief and trials in 1527, including an outbreak of the Wittenberg plague (where Luther stayed behind to treat the sick), intense depression, and the death or illness of his children. Luther based the hymn directly on Psalm 46 ("God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble").

God Is Here

The Tune: Fred Pratt Green wrote the text to fit ABBOT'S LEIGH, an uplifting 1941 tune composed by Cyril Vincent Taylor. It is also compatible with alternative tunes like Hyfrydol and Austria.

Praise Go, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The hymn "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (commonly known as The Doxology or The Common Doxology) was written in 1674 by Bishop Thomas Ken, Anglican priest and the Bishop of Bath and Wells. He composed them for the young students at Winchester College to encourage daily prayer and worship. The verses were initially barred from some church services because they were newly written rather than direct translations of biblical Psalms. Over time, the final stanza broke away to become an independent song.

Why to join a church? Contact Pastor Lynn or the church office if you would like to be a part of our congregation

- Spiritual accountability
- Formal establishment of which Pastor shepherds you.
- You get to vote on congregational matters.

How do we apply it to our daily lives?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 God's instructions are written on our hearts. It is how we know the Lord. Do you recognize God's instructions on your heart?

Psalm 46 With God we have nothing to fear. Nothing - not even death. But we do experience fear. What things do you fear and how can you let that fear go?

Romans 3:19-28 Only Jesus can make us right with God. How do you respond to this gift?

John 8:31-36 "Everyone who sins is a slave of sin". When do you feel like a slave of sin?

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 26th
9:15 a.m. Scripture Study
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/Confirmation
11:00 a.m. Fellowship/Potluck
11:30 a.m. Board Games, Cards & the Vikings vs. Colts in fellowship hall

Monday, October 26th
9:00 a.m. Quilters
6-7:30 p.m. Rural Edge Meeting

Tuesday, October 27th
1:00 p.m. Cemetery
4:00 p.m. Bell Choir
6:00 p.m. Creation Stewardship

Wednesday, October 28th
10:00 a.m. Good Sam
3:30 p.m. WAFL
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
7--9 p.m. Youth Group
7:30 p.m. NA@ Sr. Ctr

Thursday, October 29th
8:00 a.m. TOPS

Friday, October 30th
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon at Sr. Center

Saturday, October 31st
Halloween – Don't forget to set clocks back an hour

Sunday, November 1st All Saints Day
9:15 a.m. Scripture Study
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
11:00 a.m. Fellowship

The next potluck is Sunday, November 29th.
Sunday, October 18— 72 Facebook and Youtube service —281

TECH ISSUES
Our congregational microphones in the sanctuary have some "issues". It is also affecting our live stream sound. We are attempting to resolve them. Please be patient as we figure things out. Thank you!

Noisy offerings

October — Humane Society
November — Christmas Baskets
December — God's Global Barnyard

Scripture Study

Every Sunday we hear different scriptures – but during worship we do not get a chance to dig into them. Sunday mornings, we will learn more about the scriptures on the day we hear them in church. The Scripture Study will begin at 9:15 am and end by 9:45 am. Coffee provided!

TODAY
Football and Game Day - Oct 25th 11:30 to 1:30 (after Potluck)

October 25, 2026

Worship: 10 AM

Pastor: Lynn Melchior

Musicians: Cindy Peterson
First Lutheran Church Bell Choir

First Lutheran Church

Christ Welcomes Everyone!!

"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.

office@blfirstlutheran.org
pastorlynn@blfirstlutheran.org
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