

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 “Rise Up, O Saints of God” Vs. 1, 2 ,3, & 5 ELW# 669

Greeting

Confession and Forgiveness

Prayer of the Day

Faith Formation Slides

Psalm Psalm 145: 1-8

First Lesson: Jonah 3: 10—4:11

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 21-30

Gospel: Matthew 10: 1-16

Children’s Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Hymn of the Day “When Peace Like a River” Vs. 1-3 ELW# 785

Affirmation of Faith — New Members

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace with our Neighbors

Offering

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

Lord’s Prayer

Blessing

Sending Song “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land” ELW# 333

Dismissal

Chimes and Postlude

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED...OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Mary Jane, Sandy, Patricia, Michelle, Suzann, Kathleen, Daryl, Sheri, Cheri, Karen, Jeff, Jan, Jeremiah, Anne, Jim, Keith, Linda, Justin, Doug, Ray, Bev, Chris, Delores, Boston, Lynda, Vera, Sharon, Cherie, and Ron.



September 20, 2026

“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last”. - MATTHEW 20:16

You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

Practicing the Spiritual Principle of Patience

Patience is the Spiritual Principle to Practice this week.

Patience refers to the ability to remain calm and accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without becoming angry or agitated.

The Benefits of Patience include reduced stress, improved relationships, enhanced problem-solving abilities, and a greater sense of inner peace and contentment.

Patience is important in building emotional resilience, deepening one’s understanding of oneself and others, and cultivating a sense of empathy and compassion.

Examples of Patience are: 1. Waiting in line for your turn. 2. Teaching a child a new skill. 3. Waiting for plants to grow in a garden. 4. Listening to someone who is expressing themselves. 5. Choosing to respond with grace. 6. Reading a difficult novel without rushing. 7. Learning a language without getting frustrated, 8. Exercising every day to see long-term results. 9. Waiting for food to cook before eating it.

Spiritually, Patience is an expression of faith, trust, and surrender to a higher power and divine timing, fostering spiritual growth and alignment with one’s purpose and calling.

Bible verses about Patience: “But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” - Romans 8:25

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer wait for the precious fruit of the earth, bering patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.” - James 5:7

How to Practice 52 Spiritual Principles by Stanley Scott Jr.



Fall Festival Oct. 10th, 9-1:30

Mark your calendars. Now is the time to declutter your book shelves and your jewelry box. Drop off jewelry by the church office. We do take single earrings.

Congregational voices on 8/30/26 identified the following area of interest for our future:

- 1: Bible study/Adult Education
- 2: A choir and more frequent bell choir performances
- 3: Continue focus on children
- 4: Living Hope Camp respite care development

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 September giving through 9/17 \$ 9,768.81
(Bills paid for the month of August \$25,043)

Events Upcoming

- September 20th — TODAY Blood pressure clinic during fellowship
- September 20th — New Member Sunday
- September 26th — 542 Taste, Toast and Traditions Fundraiser
- September 27th — Annual Meeting
- September 27th — Movie Night
- September 28th — Rural Edge Meeting — Through November 9th
- October 4th — SWOT during fellowship
- October 4th — Conf. 7 WELCA Fall Gathering
- October 6th — AOTL Lefse making
- October 10th — Fall Festival
- October 15th — Blood Drive
- October 17th — Battle Lake City Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee
- October 25th — Reformation Sunday/Confirmation

We have a mission: *Sharing Hope in Christ*. How do we implement that? What should our focus be? We can’t be everything to everyone.

Two important events that are coming up that will help determine our future:

1. Our **2026 Annual Meeting** is September 27th after our worship service. It will give us an idea of how and what we have accomplished in the past 12 months.
2. On October 4th, during fellowship, council will conduct a **SWOT analysis** using YOUR input. (SWOT = Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). Once we have a list, we can put together areas to grow, safeguard and ponder. YOU are the church. Your input is needed. So please take some time and think about where God is leading us. What opportunities shall we pursue? Or not pursue?

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!

Rise up, O Saints of God

Nolan R. Best—the editor of the Presbyterian newspaper *The Continent*—asked Merrill to write a new "brotherhood hymn" for the Presbyterian Brotherhood Movement, which sought to engage laymen more actively in church leadership and social reform.

When Peace Like A River

"It Is Well with My Soul", written by Horatio Spafford after a devastating family tragedy. All four of Spafford's daughters (Tanetta, Annie, Margaret, and Bessie) drowned. His wife, Anna, survived. Horatio immediately boarded a ship to join his grieving wife. During the voyage, the captain of the ship pointed out the exact spot where the tragedy occurred in the deep ocean. Overcome with immense grief, Spafford returned to his cabin and penned the words.

Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land

"Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land" is a traditional African American spiritual combined with elements from a late 19th-century English hymn, "A Shelter in the Time of Storm."

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

1. Spiritual accountability

2. Formal establishment of which Pastor shepherds you.

3. You get to vote on congregational matters.



How do we apply it to our daily lives?

Jonah 3:10-4:11 Jonah was stubborn, angry, and resentful. And yet God treated Jonah with consideration, patience, and care. How do you treat others when you are angry?

Psalms 145:1-8 There will be a time when we all worship and praise God – but some of our loved ones are not believers. How have you planted the seeds of faith?

Philippians 1:21-30 Paul is committed to live out his faith – no matter the circumstances. What circumstances derail you from living out your faith?

Matthew 20:1-16 God is more generous than we can imagine. How does your need for fairness get in the way of God's generosity?

Text from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2019 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS027893.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 20th

10:00 a.m. Worship/New Members
11:00 a.m. Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure clinic
6:30 p.m. Evening Circle

Monday, September 21st

9:00 a.m. Quilters
10:30 a.m. Staff
Newsletter articles due

Tuesday, September 22nd

4:00 p.m. Bell Choir

Wednesday, September 23rd

10:00 a.m. Good Sam Communion
3:30 p.m. WAFL
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
7--9 p.m. Youth Group
7:30 p.m. NA@ Sr. Ctr

Thursday, September 24th

8:00 a.m. TOPS

Friday, September 25th

7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon at Sr. Center

Saturday, September 26th

Dist. 542 Taste Toasts and Traditions fundraiser

Sunday, September 27th

10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. Fellowship/potluck

The next potluck is Sunday, September 27th.

Sunday, September 13th— 79 Facebook and Youtube service —231

Welcome New Members

Karen Chabot and Ann MacGregor

Noisy offerings

September— Love Inc.

October — Humane Society

November — Matthew & Barbara House

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. For six weeks, starting Oct 4th, 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!

Save the Date!

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

Until further notice Bell Choir practice will be at 4:00 on Tuesdays .

September 20th, 2026

Worship: 10 AM

Pastor: Lynn Melchior

Musicians: Meghan Stringer

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
parishnurse@blfirstlutheran.org

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