

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 “Be Joyful in the Lord” Marc Jordan

Time For Quiet Reflection

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song “As The Deer Runs to the River” Vs. 1-3 ELW# 331

Greeting

Confession and Forgiveness

Prayer of the Day

Psalm Psalm 119: 33-40

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33: 7-11

Second Reading: Romans 13: 8-14

Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20

Children’s Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Sermon Pastor Lynn Melchior

Hymn of the Day “Lord I Need You” Video Matt Maher

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace with our Neighbors

Offering “At Worship” Franklin Ritter

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

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Communion

Blessing

Sending Song “Go, My Children, with My Blessing” ELW# 543

Dismissal

Chimes and Postlude “No Name”

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, Rob, Vera, Sharon, Cherie, and family of Harold.



September 6, 2026

“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel...”
EZEKIEL 33:7

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, many of us are not generous in proportion to the gifts we have been given. How often do we give at the minimum level required? Remember, the Lord calls us to nurture and develop our gifts and to give back with increase. He calls us to be generous with all the gifts, especially the one that means the most to us.

Practicing the Spiritual Principle of Integrity

This week, we will focus on the **Spiritual Principle of Integrity.**

Integrity refers to having strong moral principles being honest, being up-right, undivided, and acting in firm adherence to a code, even when no one is watching.

The Benefits of Integrity include earning trust and respect from others, building strong relationships, and feeling good about oneself.

Integrity is important because it forms the foundation of one’s character, reputation, and personal and professional success. Which leads one to be seen as trustworthy and reliable.

Examples of Integrity can include being truthful in all; situations, keeping promises, admitting mistakes, and standing up for what is right. Also letting a cashier know if they gave you too much change.

Spiritual Integrity is seen as living in alignment with one’s values, and beliefs and treating others with fairness and compassion.

Bible verses about Integrity include: “*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*” Proverbs 11:3.
“*Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.*” Proverbs 10:9”

How to Practice 52 Spiritual Principles by Stanley Scott Jr.

Naomi Circle is once again collecting school supplies for school kits which we donate to Lutheran World Relief. We are hoping to fill at least 75 backpacks. It is a great time to shop for these items during back-to-school sales.

Today we need: 70 8X10 1/2 notebooks (70 sheets, no loose leaf)
172 ballpoint pens (no gel ink), retractable is best.

Please place your donations in the box near the front entrance. We thank you for your support.

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 8/31 \$ 24,460
(Bills paid for the month of July \$27,867)

Events Upcoming

- September 6th — Lion’s Pancake Feed — Today
September 8th — First Day of School
September 10th — Yard Cleanup
September 11th — Meet & Eat
September 12th— Faith Haven Golf Fundraiser
September 16th — WAFL and Confirmation start
September 18th — FLY Game Night
September 20th — Blood pressure clinic during fellowship
September 20th — New Member Sunday
September 26th — 542 Taste, Toast and Traditions Fundraiser
September 27th — Annual Meeting
September 28th — Rural Edge Meeting
September 28th — Movie Night
October 4th — SWOT during fellowship

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!

As the Deer Runs to the River

The Christian worship song "As the Deer" was written by Martin J. Nystrom in 1981 after he found inspiration in the biblical passage Psalm 42:1. The verse says, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God". It uses the image of a thirsty deer to show how deeply a person's soul can long for God.

Lord I Need You

The contemporary worship song "Lord I Need You" was written by Matt Maher alongside four other songwriters (including members of Passion City Church), and released in 2013 on the album *All the People Said Amen*. The writers initially wanted to offer a simple, humble prayer for young adults and college students facing modern struggles and isolation. It famously became an anthem at the 2011 Passion Conference.

Go My Children With My Blessing

The Christian hymn "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" was written in 1983 by Jaroslav J. Vajda to fit a traditional Welsh melody called *Ar Hyd y Nos* ("All Through the Night"). Vajda wanted to write a sending or closing hymn where the words are sung from the direct perspective of God speaking to the congregation as a benediction at the end of a worship service.

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 what Pastor shepherds you.
3. You get to vote on congregational matters.



How do we apply it to our daily lives?

Ezekiel 33:7-11 God desires restoration not punishment. Prophets like Ezekiel warn believers to repent and understand God’s desires. Do you repent such that you desire to meet God in restoration?

Psalm 119:33-40 True happiness comes from obeying God. Do you obey God 25%, 50% of the time or more?

Romans 13:8-14 Love fulfills God’s requirements. But it is a love with no limits and should define Christian life, reconciliation, and legacy.

Matthew 18:15-20 This model of restoring relationships after sinning only works in healthy churches. What if this call is not to root out sinners but a call for humility, patience and the pursuit of forgiveness and reconciliation?

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 6th
10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
11:00 a.m. Fellowship
Lions Pancake Feed
Monday, September 7th
LABOR DAY — OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, September 8th
SCHOOL STARTS
9:30 a.m. Lydia Circle
10:00 a.m. Naomi Circle
Wednesday, September 9th
9:30 a.m. Mary Circle
7:30 p.m. NA@ Sr. Ctr.
Thursday, September 10th
8:00 a.m. TOPS
9:30 a.m. Yard Cleaning
Friday, September 11th
11:00 a.m. Meet & Eat
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon at Sr. Center
Saturday, September 12th
Faith Haven Golf Fundraiser
1-5 p.m. Scot & Cathy Anniversary open house
Sunday, September 13th
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Fellowship
Annual Reports available
The next potluck is Sunday, September 27th.
Sunday, August 30th— 88 Facebook and Youtube service —250

Noisy offerings

September— Love Inc. November — Matthew & Barbara House
October — Humane Society December — God’s Global Barnyard

The First Lutheran Bell Choir is gearing up for another great year of practices and performances. We are looking for additional ringers. The only requirements are: have at least 2 years of musical experience and be age 16 or older. The choir rings both bells and chimes. We are an 8 member, 2 octave choir. Practices will begin around the middle of September. If you are interested in joining this dynamic group, please see or call Ringleader Gail Nelson at 763-302-9760.

It was brought to our attention that we need a little weeding and pruning around the church. Please join us September 10th at 9:30. Bring your gloves and garden hand tools. See you there!

Yard Cleanup

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September 6th, 2026

Worship: 10 AM

Pastor: Lynn Melchior

Musicians: Gail Malmgren Nelson

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