

First Lutheran NEWSLETTER

May
2026

Ever wonder how the scriptures are chosen for a specific Sunday?

We used the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL). The RCL is a three-year cycle of standardized Bible readings designed to cover the life of Christ and key biblical themes. However, that still leaves a lot of the Bible out of our worship. Plus, not all biblical themes are covered.

These are a couple of reasons why a Summer Sermon Series (SSS) can be helpful spiritually. They can be on themes/topics not covered by the RCL.

We did an SSS last year on the 10 Commandments, with positive feedback. In Congregational Voices on April 19, most of the congregation voted to have an SSS.

Thank you to everyone who shared ideas. The most requested topic was Women of the Bible. After reviewing the options, here is what I have tentatively chosen:

June – Women of the Bible

July – The Book of Acts (including the women)

August – tbd (possibly angels or what does the Bible say about.....)

I am looking forward to this summer and our SSS.

Serving Christ alongside YOU,
Pastor Lynn

Church Clean-up and playground construction	May 2nd
Purse Bingo	May 8th
Blood Drive	May 12th
Honor graduates	May 17th
Bike Blessing	May 17th
Movie Night	May 17th
End of school party	May 22nd
Memorial program	May 25th
Synod Assembly	May 30th

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New stuff Alert!

1. *Music Bingo!* One Friday each month this summer, Pastor Lynn will host a free music bingo night - complete with prizes!
2. *Bike Blessing* - On May 17, bring your bike to church between 2 and 4 pm for a blessing. No bike is too small or too large to be blessed.
3. *Lakes Lockerroom* will be hosting a **T-Shirt Bar** here at First Lutheran in June. You select your shirt, your picture/saying, and it is made as you wait!
4. Viking Library's *Bookmobile* will stop in our parking lot this summer! Every other Tuesday, beginning June 9 through August 18, the stop would begin at 1:45 p.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m. This is a community-wide stop - so get the word out.

Ole and Sven.....

Ole and Sven are sitting at the bar having beers and Ole is complaining about the snakes that have invaded his basement.

Sven says to Ole, well dats easy to take of. Yous just take a plate of lutefisk and set it on the floor of your basement and dem dang snakes will leave!

So Ole does just that and the next day Sven asks him how it worked. Ole says, by golly it sure did the trick, all dem snakes are gone!

But only problem now is the basement is full of Norwegians!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 2nd will be a church cleaning day, as well as, playground assembly day. Grab your loved one, kids, uncle, nephew, aunt, sibling or neighbor and come help with spring cleaning and construction. We will do a pot luck lunch. More details to follow.



Art of the Lakes will be hosting a Designer Purse & Cooler Bags Bingo Fundraising event on **Friday, May 8th** starting at 6pm. The event will be held at First Lutheran Church and will also include a raffle and meal. Tickets will include your bingo packet and meal. \$45 if you register prior to the event and \$50 at the door. Register at artofthelakes.org/events



There will be a blood drive at First Lutheran Church on Tuesday, May 12th from 12p-6p. To register for a time slot for donation go to www.redcrossblood.org



Sunday, May 17th from 4p-6:30p there will be a movie night for kids in PreK and up. We will be watching the movie Hoppers. Snacks and beverages will be provided.



Sunday, May 17th there will be a Bike Blessing from 2p - 4p. Any type of bike is welcome whether it's pedal, electric or gas! Pull up, get blessed and travel safely.



Friday, May 22nd from 6p-11p at the church there will be an End of the School Year Party for students going into 5th grade and up. There will be a BBQ, games, and prizes.



Saturday, May 23rd a community event, Ninja Anywhere, will be held at railroad park from 10a-2p. Come and check out the minnow races with First Lutheran Church.



Holy Faith

This past month the First Lutheran Youth did a dinner mystery, Murder at The Disco, complete with costumes and a 70's menu. Once they successfully captured the murderer, we celebrated with some karaoke.

Meanwhile the younger kids got to watch Angels In The Outfield at their monthly movie night, complete with concession stands. Followed by an epic snowball fight.

The WAFL students have just two weeks remaining and completed their April service project. On 4/29 we hauled 33 WAFL students with 14 teachers out to Faith Haven to help with some spring yard clean up. The kids did a great job raking and picking up sticks.

Looking ahead FLCamp will be starting on May 26th. We have a parent/child meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th at 5:30p. Pete Eggen will also be doing a lawn mower safety training class at that time for any child 10+. Prior to the parent meeting there will be a FLCamp staff meeting at 4:30p. This year I am happy to say that we continue to expand our camp staff and bring on some great help. This year we will have 7 employees and thus far we have 37 students registered for camp.

Finally, registration for Faith Haven is currently open. Overnight campers (10+ unless accompanied by a parent) and day campers will pay the same rate of \$100/person. Registration forms can be found in the Narthax.



First Lutheran Church Presents

LEGACY

You are His. Now live it.

FAITH HAVEN CAMP 2026

Genesis 11: 1-9

Sunday, July 26 - Wednesday, July 29th
Overnight Camp

Monday, July 27 & Tuesday, July 28th
Daycamp from 8a - 6p

\$100/person to cover cost of food; lodging is free
Scholarships available

Registration forms can be found at bfirstlutheran.org/ministries



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

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



Your support for FLCamp is always greatly appreciated. If you would like to purchase items from our camp wish list go to find a list or registry on Amazon. You can search using “Missi Abfalter” or “FLCamp”
Donations are always greatly appreciated and we love playing with new toys!!





Involving children in church worship services is crucial for their faith development, teaching them through listening, imitation, and active participation in the community. Research suggests including kids in the main service fosters long-term involvement, helping them understand scripture, prayer, and the gospel.

children.pcacdm.org

Why Children Belong in Worship

- **Active Participants:** Children are not just observers; they are members of the body of Christ who can participate in communion, baptism, and singing.
- **Discipleship Opportunity:** Regular attendance helps children build habits of worship and enables parents to teach them the meaning of theological concepts.
- **Witnessing Faith:** Children benefit from watching their parents and the congregation listen to God's word, sing, and pray.
- **Cultural Contrast:** Regular church gathering teaches children to focus on God rather than the consumeristic, fast-paced culture.
- **Reformed Worship**

How to Involve Children in Church

- **Utilize Kid's Activity Materials:** Provide "busy bags" or pew boxes with quiet activities, coloring, or sermon notes to help them stay engaged.
- **Interactive Sermons:** Incorporate a children's sermon or use visual aids that appeal to all ages.
- **Active Roles:** Involve children as greeters, ushers, or in the worship team.
- **Explain Rituals:** Take time to explain the meaning of symbols, the Bible, and ordinances like baptism.
- **Lewis Center for Church Leadership**

Benefits of Intergenerational Worship

- **United Community:** It brings together the whole church—young and old—displaying the uniting power of the gospel.
- **Long-Term Faith:** Kids who are trained to worship are more likely to stay involved throughout their lives, building a lasting faith rather than treating church as a "playground".
- **Lasting Habits:** It fosters a sense of security and familiarity with liturgical practices.
- **Milwood Baptist Church**

Staying Awake To Community

Did you know that living in loneliness is as harmful to your health as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day!!

(The 'loneliness Epidemic' Health resources & Services Administration)

Every month Faith Formation shows a slideshow of pictures from WAFL, Youth Group, FLCamp and the wide variety of activities that we having going on for our youth throughout the month. While all of these activities are geared toward our youth, I invite anyone from the congregation to attend. Last month, I wrote about how young people are more apt to be involved in church when they build personal relationships with the congregation. I believe it can be mutually beneficial for both youth and adults to attend these events.

These are opportunities for relationship building and connection. **Intergenerational relationships foster mutual growth, providing mental, emotional, and social benefits for both young and old.** These connections bridge generational divides, reducing loneliness and depression in seniors while boosting empathy, social skills, and self-esteem in youth.

You might be thinking, "I don't want to be the only older person at a youth event." or "That will be really awkward and uncomfortable." You would be right, it probably will be awkward at first. However, most things that cause growth in us are uncomfortable or awkward in the beginning.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

This is an open invitation to come show love to our youth and build relationships. It's an invitation to step outside your comfort zone. It's an invitation to show up for our children.



Show Up

Joe Davis

We were each called to this place,
this time and this season,
we may not yet know the rhyme or the reason,
you may not feel, think, or believe in
the same things I believe in,
but we've each been asked to show up.

Show up from wherever you are from,
you can come here to be free.

Without you I am incomplete,
without you there is no me-
I need you not just to survive, but to thrive,
to come fully awake and alive
with potential and possibility!

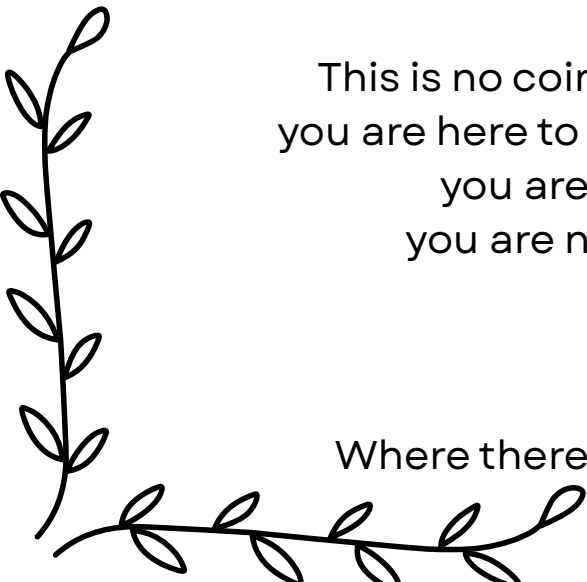
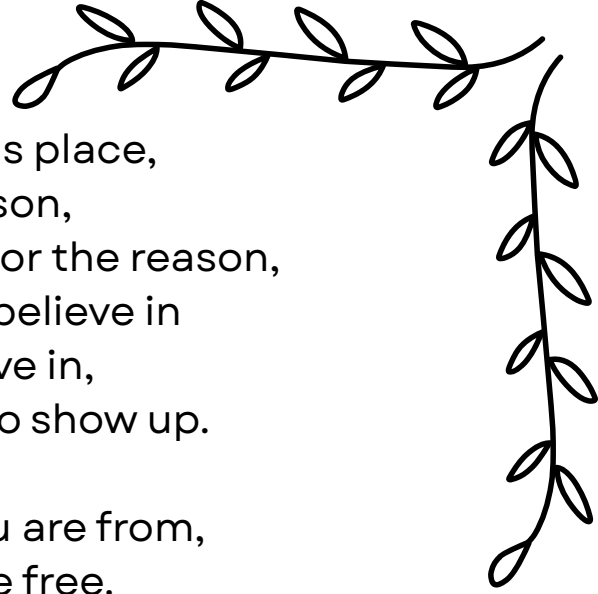
Join me at The Table for it is wide
and there is lots of food to eat!
So show up,
And be fed.

No matter where you are or where you're from,
all will be welcome when we're all welcome.

Show up with your wounds and scars, we all have baggage,
But this is a place where, together, we can unpack it.

This is no coincidence, you are not here by accident,
you are here to share the stories of your sacred passage,
you are the only you there ever has been:
you are not the Magician, you are the Magic!

So show up ,
to this place here,
Where there is no grace period, only grace, *period*.



FAITH HAVEN CAMP

Faith Haven Camp is currently seeking hard-working, conscientious people to help at camp this summer.

Primary duties will include housekeeping between our guest groups. This will be approximately 12 hours per week, on Friday and Sunday afternoons. But there are times outside of those days. We do have a complete calendar of days that you are needed.

Starting wage is \$17.00 per hour.

There will be hours available for other duties, such as lawn maintenance and extra help in the kitchen when we cook for a group.

You must be able to get to the camp for work, so having a driver's license is helpful. There will be an application to fill out, but we would like to sit down with you and share what working at Faith Haven will be like.

We are also looking for a lifeguard for a few groups in June and July.

Pay will be \$20 per hour.

Interested applicants can call Scott at 218-282-1456 or Lisa at 612-710-7567, or email us at faithhavencamp@gmail.com
Scott and Lisa Larson (Directors)

15 April 2026

Dear Church family,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love and support you have shown our family during Vera's surgery and recovery.

We felt surrounded by so much care and encouragement during a very difficult time. Knowing so many people were lifting her up in prayer brought us much comfort and peace.

We are so grateful for all of the prayers, calls, meals and gifts from WAFL.♥

We thank you. David & Rachel Nelson

Pasta Lynn &
1st Lutheran congregation

Thank you for
welcoming Adelynn
to your church
through Baptism

God Bless!

Brett and Amanda
and

Adelynn Leitch

Worship and Music



Music in the church today is characterized by a blend of contemporary praise and worship (often led by bands with guitars and tech) and traditional hymns, aimed at proclaiming the gospel and facilitating congregational participation. Modern trends emphasize emotional connection and accessible, often repetitive, songs while highlighting themes of personal devotion and theological depth.

Key Trends and Styles

Modern Worship (CCM/Contemporary): Highly popular, often featuring electric guitars, synthesizers, and drums. Artists and groups like Bethel Music, Elevation Worship, and Phil Wickham lead this style, focusing on immersive, concert-style experiences.

Modern Hymnody: Organizations like Getty Music and CityAlight are reviving the hymn tradition with new songs (e.g., "In Christ Alone," "Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me") that offer deep theology in a accessible, modern, yet lasting style.

Theological Discussion: While modern worship is popular, some voice concerns about repetitiveness or shallow lyrics, sparking a push for intentional, biblically grounded songwriting.

Diverse Choices: Many churches use a "blended" approach, utilizing both classic hymns and modern songs to engage multiple generations.

Purpose of Church Music

Proclamation: Music is viewed as a vital part of worship, serving to teach and pass on biblical truth.

Participation: A core goal is encouraging the congregation to sing together rather than just watching a performance.

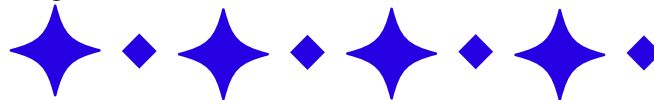
Emotional Connection: Music helps individuals engage their emotions in worship, allowing them to express their faith profoundly.

Impact of Technology

Accessible Resources: The use of platforms like Spotify and CCLI lists allows new songs to spread quickly.

Production: Modern worship often utilizes lighting and media to enhance the worship experience, with high energy in many settings.

Quoted from Faithword.org



Bach to Basics: Why did Beethoven get rid of his chicken? Because it kept saying "Bach, Bach, Bach".



SHARE AND CARE GROUPS:

Group Three: June, July and August **(Meet May 10th @ 11 am)**

June

Clair & Barb Prody
Lynn Melchior
Rop Baardsen
Warren & Linda Tikkanen
Diane Greenagel
Jo Duncan
Daryl & Kathleen Baardsen
Darold & Shirley Kirschman
Lynn & Holly Johnson
Kathy Neese
Doug & Doreen Stave
Ron & Kathryn Rickers
Gerry & Barb Nelson
Pete & Kristi Everts
Inez Flores
Dennis & Cherryl Pederson

July

Clair & Barb Prody
Lynn Melchior
Rob Baardsen
Warren & Linda Tikkanen
Jo Duncan
Daryl & Kathleen Baardsen
Shirley Peterson
John Hodnefield
Robert Hepper
Laurie Zelinsky
Carol Nelson
Dave & LouAnn Ellingson
James & Mabeth Fiedler
Deb Anderson
Heidi Jorud
Dave & Sharon Hanson

August

John Hodnefield
Robert Hepper
Laurie Zelinsky
Carol Nelson
Darold & Shirley Kirschman
Lynn & Holly Johnson
Kathy Neese
Mike Youngblood
Sharon Worden
Tom & Cindy Peterson
Gary & Linda Morical
Mike & Kristina Fielding
Peter & Carol Boyum
Anita Boyum



First Lutheran Men's Fellowship met Thursday, April 2, 2026 at the Shoreline with 10 members in attendance. We will be hosting the Easter breakfast between services on Sunday, April 5th. Beautify Battle Lake will take place on Wednesday, April 29th. We will be serving lunch to all the volunteers. Tabled for our May meeting discussion on serving brats and burgers at the Church Rummage sale, which will take place June 19-20. To date we have collected 446 pounds of food and \$158 cash donations for the food shelf. Church clean up and ditch walk will take place after our May meeting. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 7, 2026 at the Shoreline.



WELCA Board – May 4th @ 1 pm
Naomi Circle – May 12th @ 10:00 am
Lydia Circle – May 12th @ 9:30 am
Mary Circle – May 13th @ 9:30 am
Evening Circle – May 17th @ 6:30 pm





Greetings from your Parish Nurse

Happy Spring, I smell the earthworms this morning and there are some big ones. The rain is a Godsend and now for our May flowers.

I had the pleasure of being invited to attend the Memory Café in Fergus Falls. It is called the Rivers Area Memory Cafe and is located at the YMCA in Fergus Falls. It is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 1-3. It is a place of connection, learning, and support for those impacted by memory loss. These monthly events feature movement, music, art, games, and educational resources. Their goal is to build community in an environment that is enjoyable, safe, and comfortable.

The next event is on May 19, and the program will be about movement and nutrition. The speakers are Jill Fjestad, LRD from Lake Region, and Natalie Knutson, Director of Wellness at Lake Region Healthcare.

I was very impressed with the event, and I would encourage anyone with memory loss or family members who care for a loved one with memory loss to attend.

As we move into spring, I wish all of you sunshine and roses. God speed.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Be at peace,

Jeri

Summary April 2026 Unapproved Council Minutes

- Approval of the Minutes: Motion carried and approved.
- Financial Report and Recommendations: Motion: Set aside ½ percent for a building fund (capital improvement) as our building is aging. Motion carried and approved. No credit line advances. Paying interest. Reviewed general fund through 3/31/26. Better in 2026 than in past years.
- Pastor Report: Concerns/Thoughts- Church structure was discussed, what is the purpose of the Pastor, council, and congregation? How can we get more people involved in activities in and outside of church? Whose responsibility is it to do ___?

OLD BUSINESS:

- Lawn mowing safety class on May 20th.
- Ruby's Pantry- No longer exists.
- Vacuum cleaner funds. Will ask if 40 people each give \$50.00 to complete raising funds. A letter written for communication and a money minute in church.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Simplifying the website. Motion carried and approved. Make links easier to find, a picture of the church, easier to donate, etc.
- Bldg. use- more discussion needs to happen; subgroup created with Pete Eggen, Doreen Stave, and Pastor Lynn.
- Easter Breakfast - Not very successful in 2026. Options for change: Breakfast on Palm Sunday or one earlier Easter service with breakfast after. Will revisit closer to Easter.



Next Meet and Eat: May 1 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

It's an opportunity for us to get to know each other better. Bring a potluck item to share, if you can. If you have any ideas on how this group could spend the time, please let me know. I look forward to visiting with you.

Jeri Wilmore

Financial Updates

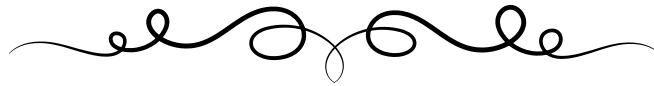
March 2026 Finances: YTD Budget Tracking:

Income \$ 24,290 Budget \$319,552/ 29.26%

Credit Line -0

Expenses \$ 31,377 Budget \$319,552/27.77%

Net \$ - 7,079



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Why Choose Us?

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- ✔ Flexible Scheduling
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- ✔ Compassionate care

Contact Us

Call Number: **218-864-5686**  jwilmore890@gmail.com

First Lutheran Church of Battle Lake

May 2026

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Fellowship	4 9 am Quilters 1 pm WELCA Bd. 5:30 pm Endowment	5 1 pm WELCA Study 2 pm Worship & Music	6 3:15 WAFI 5:15 Confirmation 7-9 Youth 7:30 NA @ Sr. Ctr.	7 8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship	8 7 pm AA & Al-Anon 6 pm Purse Bingo	9 Church cleanup and install playground
10 Mother's Day 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 11 am Share & care group #3 meet	11 9 am Quilters 2:30 pm Finance Bike Rodeo	12 Blood Drive 9:30 am Lydia Circle 10 am Naomi Circle 5:30 pm Faith Formation 6:30 pm Council	13 9:30 am Mary Circle 3:15 WAFI—Last Day 5:15 Confirmation 7-9 Youth 7:30 NA @ Sr. Ctr.	14 8 am TOPS	15 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	16
17 10 am Worship/Sr. recog 11 am Fellowship 2-4 Bike Blessing 6:30 pm Evening Circle 7 pm Baccalaurette	18 9 am Quilters 10:30 am Staff Newsletter articles due	19	20 4:15 FLC Staff Meeting 5:30 FLC Parent meeting 7:30 NA @ Sr. Ctr.	21 8 am TOPS	22 7 pm AA & Al-Anon 6-11 End of School Party Last Day of School	23 9-12 Madison Molter graduation reception 10 am Lake Ave. Apts. Communion Ninja Anywhere
24 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Fellowship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed Memorial Day Program	26 FLC First Lutheran Camp	27 FLC First Lutheran Camp Starts 7:30 NA@Sr. Ctr.	28 FLC First Lutheran Camp 8 am TOPS	29 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	30 Synod Assembly
31 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship/Potluck						

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