

First Lutheran Church



July
2026

NEWSLETTER

Do you enjoy sequels?

A sequel is a book, movie, play, or video game that continues the story or expands upon an earlier work. Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back and Toy Story 2 are a few famous movie sequels. As I love to read fiction, I often choose books to read by how many sequels there are – the more, the better!

The bible has several sequel books: Joshua, Neiamiah, and 2 Kings, for example. The Book of Acts of the Apostles is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Both Luke and Acts are written by Luke – a gentle physician. Acts is the connecting link between Christ's life and the life of the church. Chronologically, it fits between the Gospels and the New Testament Letters.

Acts follow the lives of Peter and Paul as they work to found and grow the early church. It is a difficult, rocky road crowded by rejections, beatings, arrests, miracles, baptisms, and Holy Spirit interventions.

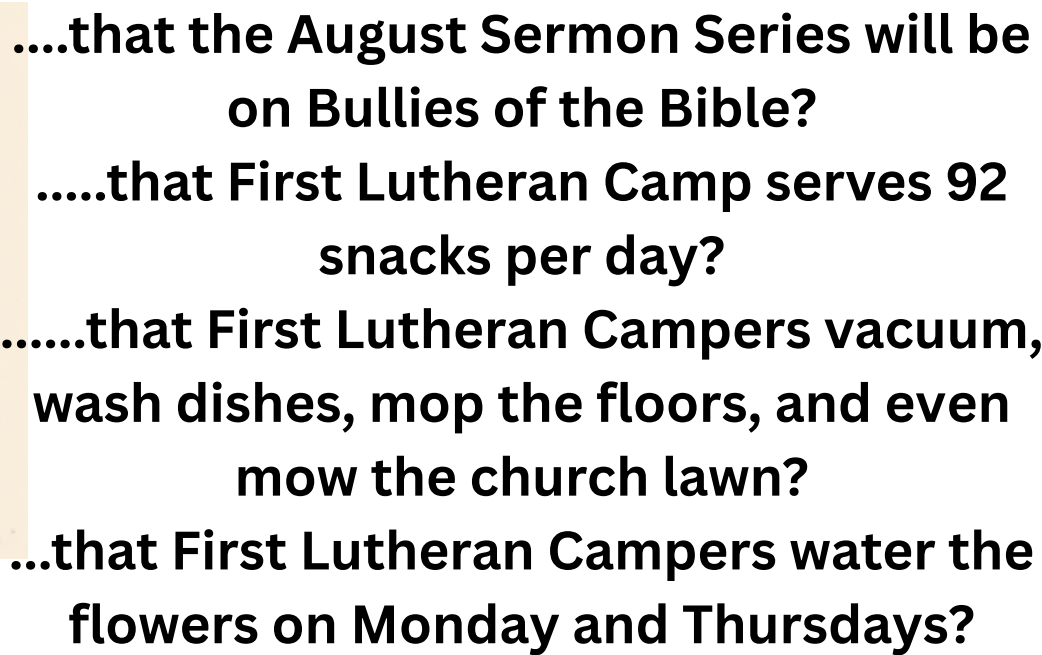
Throughout July, we will explore the Acts in a sermon series. It is fitting that as we celebrate our country's origins, we also lift up the beginning of our church. Both of which are influential in our lives.

I'm looking forward to exploring this ancient sequel with you!

Serving Christ alongside you, Pastor Lynn

July 1st -- Car Wash & Lemonade Stand
High School Blood Drive
Mondays -- YMCA Food Truck
July - AOTL Art Classes
July 24th - Music Bingo
July 25th - Wenonga Days
July 26th -29th - Faith Haven
August 8th - Art in the Park
August 10th - Honor Flight Golf

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One morning, after a torrential downpour, Lena and Mrs. Johnson were sitting on their roof waiting for the floodwaters to recede.

Mrs. Johnson noticed a baseball cap floating away from the house, then floating back toward the house.

Curious, she asked, “Do you see dat der baseball cap a floatin' away from da house, den back again?”

Lena replied, “Oh yeah, dats my husband Ole. I tole dat lazy-such and such he vas gonna cut da grass today, come hell or high water!”

UPCOMING EVENTS



The Viking Library Bookmobile will be stopping at First Lutheran church this summer. The bookmobile will contain a wide variety of books and genres for all ages. The bookmobile will be stopping 6/9, 6/23, 7/7, 7/21, 8/4, and 8/18 from 1:45p - 2:30p.



The YMCA Food Truck will be returning for the summer. Any children 18 years old and younger are eligible for a free bag of food weekly. Each bag contains 7 days of breakfast and 7 days of lunch. The YMCA truck will be here Mondays from 10:30a-11a starting the week of 6/8.



The FLCamp kids will be holding a carwash and lemonade stand throughout the summer to raise money towards two charity organizations. Half the money raised will go towards Churches United and half the money will go to LRHC.



This summer First Lutheran Church will be doing monthly music bingo. Music bingo will be free to play and small prizes will be awarded. Join us on Friday, June 26th at 6p for the first one of the summer.

Holy Faith

FLCamp has been busy with activities. We've gone on several field trips to places like Dairy Queen, Granny's, Turtle Races, and Fergus Falls. This week (6/29) we will be having our 3rd Carwash and Lemonade Stand to raise money and we will also be going to God's Acres. This week we also say good bye to one of our camp staff, Junior. Junior enlisted in the Marines and will be headed off to basic training in mid July.

With summer rec activities slowing down we are turning more of our time and attention to Vacation Bible School. We are nearing the end of Rainforest Falls. In Rainforest Falls we explored 5 themes: God is our creator, God knows Everything, God Is Our Safe Place, God Is Love, and God Is Forever. In July we will begin Magnify.

Preparations for Faith Haven are under way. We will be exploring the theme Legacy. How are faith is handed down to us from generation to generation. How we are writing our own legacy and how will our actions today affect the future. If this sounds interesting to you we are always in need of volunteers. We could use small group leaders during the day or evening chaperones. As a reminder we will be at Faith Haven the evening of July 26th (for overnight campers only) until the afternoon of July 29th. If you are interested or have any questions please see Missi!!



Don't forget registration for Faith Haven camp is now open. If you are willing to come out to Faith Haven during the day to help out with a group of kids or lead lessons please talk with Missi.

Creative Stewardship

For the last couple months we have been busy planting our native garden behind the fellowship hall. We have planted over 20 types of seeds or plants. At this time we are putting in edging. Native plants are important for our pollinators for food and habitat.

Plastic Free July is here. Remember to use a fabric reusable bag when shopping. Also to celebrate the month please try a non plastic alternative or two to change a plastic use habit. I found bamboo toothbrushes and bar shampoo/conditioner for sale right here in Battle Lake!



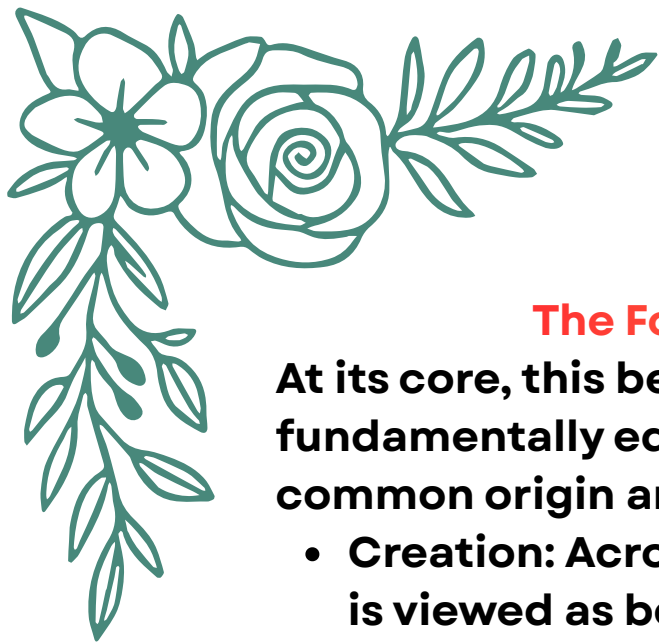
Break Free from Plastic

Plastic production, use, and disposal harms the planet, our health, and our future. What steps can you take to break free from plastic?

- ☒ Switch to refillable water bottles and coffee mugs.
- ☒ Use reusable shopping bags.
- ☒ Say 'no thank you' to straws and other single-use plastic items.
- ☒ Switch to reusable or compostable utensils and dishes instead of plastic for events.
- ☒ Replace plastic food containers with glass.
- ☒ When you can, purchase products in bulk and fill your own containers.
- ☒ Purchase clothing made from natural materials such as wool, cotton, and bamboo – or buy used.
- ☒ Urge local businesses to discontinue the use of Styrofoam take-out containers and cups and other single-use plastics.
- ☒ Think twice about buying plastic dishes, toys, or decorations.
- ☒ Swap plastic kitchen tools and cutting boards for bamboo, wood, or stainless steel to avoid microplastics.

Information received
from West Central
Initiative

Plastic production is set to double by 2050. Take action now to reduce



The Foundation of Equality

At its core, this belief asserts that we are all fundamentally equal because we share a common origin and spiritual identity:

- **Creation:** Across various traditions, humanity is viewed as being made in the image of the Divine. This provides every human being with an equal and sacred dignity that cannot be earned or lost.
- **Universal Grace:** Divine love and mercy do not play favorites. Spiritual teachers from Insight for Living highlight that no matter a person's background, God's love and the opportunity for redemption are offered equally to all.
- **Shared Struggles:** In a broader sense, humanity shares common vulnerabilities. We face the same physical laws of nature, and spiritually, all are considered to fall short of perfection, putting everyone on level ground when it comes to the need for grace and understanding.

Quoted from Insight for Living



Worship and Music



According to the Bible, music is a powerful, God-ordained medium for expressing praise, remembering God's mighty acts, and teaching spiritual truths. It is meant to be a joyful, sincere, and corporate response to God's holiness, character, and redemption.

Key biblical principles for music in worship include:

1. Expressions of Praise

The New Testament outlines three primary categories of musical worship, as stated in Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16:

- Psalms: Reciting or singing scripture, particularly from the Book of Psalms.
- Hymns: Songs specifically composed to praise God and declare His attributes.
- Spiritual Songs: Broad expressions of worship filled with a biblically sound, spiritual message.

2. The Purpose: Glorifying God and Edifying Others

Biblical music is vertically focused—directed primarily to God—while also serving to teach and encourage fellow believers. It should be done "with the spirit and with the mind also," emphasizing that lyrics and meditation matter more than emotional stimulation alone (1 Corinthians 14:15).

3. Musical Instruments

The Old Testament heavily features instruments in worship, with entire Levitical choirs and various instruments—including harps, horns, cymbals, and trumpets—ordained for temple praise (e.g., Psalm 150).

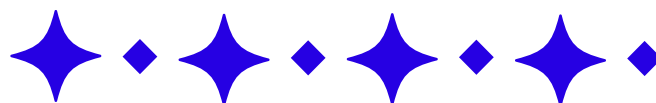
Opinions differ on the use of instruments in New Testament and modern church worship. Some interpret scriptures (like Ephesians 5:19) as commanding a capella (vocal) singing exclusively, using the heart as the instrument. Conversely, others view the omission of instruments in New Testament commands as an allowance rather than a prohibition, pointing to historical and overarching biblical continuity.

4. Sincerity Over Performance

God desires heartfelt devotion rather than hollow rituals or self-exalting performances. In the New Testament, music is simply a natural outflow of a Spirit-filled life (e.g., James 5:13), rather than a theatrical production.

5. Creative Variety

The scriptures frequently encourage offering "new songs" to the Lord (Psalm 96:1), reflecting a celebration of God's ongoing grace and the artistic creativity He has given humanity.



Why was music coming from the printer?
The paper was jamming!



SHARE AND CARE GROUPS:

Group Three: June, July and August

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, June 4th, 2026 at the Shoreline with 13 members in attendance. We donated \$500 to the church scholarship fund for Jack Jossart. Our big fundraiser, the "Art and Craft Affair" food stand, is going to be Saturday, August 8th. A committee of Clair P., Lynn J., and Tom R. will meet to finalize details. Thank you to Jim A., Mike Y., and Scot E. for cleaning the grills. We collected \$180.00 from individual members to sponsor a hole at the Honor Flight golf fundraiser on August 10th. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 9, 2026 at the Shoreline.



WELCA Board – July 6th @ 1 pm
Naomi Circle – Picnic
Lydia Circle – No meeting
Mary Circle – No meeting
Evening Circle – No meeting





Dear Friends in Christ,

I was reflecting on the women of the Bible, and I couldn't help but compare the women in my life who helped to shape me into the woman I am. My grandma, my mom, my older sister, all who were faithful and showed mercy to all who needed it. They were great community members and did so much for others. From working in the food banks, making meals for children who had none, sewing clothing for their families, volunteering for their churches, and being prayer warriors for family, friends, community members, and anyone else in need. Special attributes that I can think of to describe them are as follows; learning to trust God's timing, demonstrating immense faith, being peacemakers, showing courage and obedience to God's calling, and showing honesty and integrity in everyday living.

I see much of the same in the women of the Bible that Pastor Lynn has talked about. If we all could live like they have lived, the world would be a much better place. I strive to emulate them, but I know I fall short. I pray for God's mercy and the strength to live a faith filled life.

I wish all of you a great summer, and don't forget to stop and smell the roses. Psalm 46:10- "Be still, and know that I am God."

Jeri, Parish Nurse



Next Meet and Eat: With all of our busy summer schedules, we will resume in September.

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



Summary June 2026 Unapproved Council Minutes

- May 12, 2026, Council Minutes Approved. May was a good month financially with income of \$34,000. Monies generated by the rental of the church will be put into the building fund. Motion carried and approved. \$2,000 paid down on line of credit.
- The First Lutheran Cemetery looked rough for Memorial Day. Very small group tasked with administration and upkeep of three (3) cemeteries. So, the 3rd Saturday of May is set aside for cemetery clean-up.
- Faith Formation team evolving to meet the needs of the congregation and community. It will now be called Building Bridges Together, focusing on bridging gaps in the community across age, needs, and activities. Activities to include bingo, crafting projects, watermelon or ice cream socials.
- Old business: Looking for help to facilitate determining direction for our future. Waiting to hear back from several sources.
- New Business: Mutual Ministry is a constitutionally required team that is currently not functioning. MM serves staff as a confidential sounding board, mediator, and feedback loop to ensure staff wellness, reconcile conflicts, and align the congregation's goals with the Gospel. Council will work to restart this team. Bullying is a problem in the Battle Lake School District and also in our adult community. Be aware and know that bullying is not okay. Vacuum Cleaner- We have the money to purchase now!!! Yay
- Next Meeting: 7/14/26



Financial Updates

May 2026 Finances: YTD Budget Tracking:

Income	\$	34,708	Budget	\$319,552/ 47.73%
Credit Line		-0		
Expenses	\$	<u>25,566</u>	Budget	\$319,552/42.96%
Net	\$	8,575		

July 2026

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Fellowship 11:30 am Baptism	5 1 pm WELCA Board 10:30 am YMCA Food Truck Office Closed	6 FLCamp 2 pm Worship & Music 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 Art 1-3 AOTL Gr. 2-3 Art 1:45 - 2:30 Bookmobile	FLCamp 2-4 pm Car wash & Lemonade Stand High School Blood Drive No confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	FLCamp 8 am TOPS 12-4 God's Acre field trip	7 pm AA & Al-Anon	4
10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship	12 FLCamp 10:30 am YMCA Food Truck 2:30 pm Finance	13 FLCamp 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 Art 5:30 Bldg. Bridges Together 6:30 pm Council	FLCamp 2-4 pm Confirmation 2-4 pm Car wash & lemonade stand 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	FLCamp 8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 11 am Turtle Races	7 pm AA & Al-Anon 10:30 am Lake Ave Apt Communion	18
10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship	19 FLCamp 10:30 am YMCA Food Truck Newsletter articles due 11:45-4 FLC Field trip to Glendalough	20 FLCamp 10:30 am Staff 1:45 - 2:30 Bookmobile 3-4:30 FLC DQ 6 pm Creation Stewardship	FLCamp 10 am Good Sam 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	FLCamp 8 am TOPS 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 Art 11 am Turtle Races 1-3 AOTL Gr. 2-3 Art	6 pm Music Bingo 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	25 Pastor Lynn @ WELCA Triennial Wenonga Days FLCamp float
10 am Worship/Communion 11 am fellowship/potluck Faith Haven Camp	26 Faith Haven Camp 10:30 am YMCA Truck	27 Faith Haven Camp 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 Art 1-3 AOTL Gr. 2-3 Art	Faith Haven Camp check out at 11 am 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 pm NA @Sr. Ctr.	FLCamp 8 am TOPS 10-12 AOTL Gr. 4-5 Art	7 pm AA & Al-Anon	31

First Lutheran Church
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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 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 Abfalter: wafi@blfirstlutheran.org

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org