

First Lutheran Church



August
2026

NEWSLETTER

Harass these hecklers, God; punch these bullies in the nose. Psalm 35, vs 1 MSG Translation

Bullies are not new. As long as people have existed, so have bullies—individuals who repeatedly act aggressively or threateningly toward those at a relative disadvantage. Bullying can be physical, verbal, social, and digital.

Bullying is never okay. The Bible condemns taking advantage of or mistreating the vulnerable (Proverbs 22). Scripture also makes it clear that hateful and destructive behavior toward others is unacceptable (1 John 3 & Ephesians 4).

So why does bullying exist? According to Psychology Today: "The psychology of bullying centers on power, control, and learned behavior, driven by a mix of social dominance, a lack of empathy, and internal insecurity. Perpetrators use aggression to elevate status, while targets are often chosen for perceived submissiveness."

Bullying is not limited to students in school – although Battle Lake school does have a problem with bullying. Homes, offices, organizations, and churches all have bullies too. Bullies can be present anytime there is a perceived power imbalance.

Bullying is present in the Bible as well. In August, we will take a look at Bullies of the Bible and think through how Jesus handles bullies. I hope we can have creative and positive discussions around bullying because bullying is not okay.

Serving Christ, Pastor Lynn

August 8th - Art in the Park
August 10th - Honor Flight Golf
August 10th --Last YMCA Truck
August 4 & 18--Bookmobile
August 5 & 19--Carwash & Lemonade stand

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Battle Lake Emergency Food Shelf, Inc.
PO Box 352
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your donation to the Battle Lake Emergency Food Shelf. Your kindness and generosity enable us to serve the needs of those who struggle to provide adequate food for themselves and their families.

Food Shelf clients receive four or more days' supply of food with each visit and may come twice a month if necessary. They also received \$23,864 of coupons to be used at Larry's Foods to purchase milk, eggs, bread, or fresh produce.

There were 1,116 family visits serving 2,619 individuals to the Battle Lake Food Shelf, and we distributed 874 backpacks to students at the Battle Lake School in 2025. Our service area is primarily those living in the Battle Lake School District and the Underwood School District.

The request for help from the Food Shelf means that many volunteers are needed. We currently have about 70 volunteers from the community and require six to seven volunteers each week to keep the Food Shelf open.

Other volunteers are needed monthly to unload the food ordered from North Country Food Bank in East Grand Forks, our major source of food.

We are open 2 pm to 6 pm every Thursday at our location in the Battle Lake Senior Center. A volunteer Board of Directors meets monthly to set guidelines and handle policy matters. There is no paid staff.

The Board extends appreciation on behalf of those we serve. We thank you for your compassion and care, demonstrated by your giving. You have helped to make the Battle Lake Food Shelf one of the best!

Sincerely,

Jean Bayum

On behalf of the Board of
Directors Battle Lake Food Shelf,
Inc.

Receipt for tax purposes:

The Battle Lake Emergency Food Shelf has NOT provided in whole or in part any goods or services in exchange for the donation. It is fully tax deductible.

Please retain this receipt and your canceled check for your records.

Contribution: \$ 275.82 Check # 1227 Dated: 6-07-2026

Battle Lake Emergency Food Shelf is a 501 [c] [3] non-profit corporation

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 last stop for the bookmobile will be 8/18 from 1:45p - 2:30p. The fall bookmobile schedule is not available online yet.



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 ending the week of 8/10.



Our last carwash and lemonade stand will be Wednesday, August 19th from 2p-4p. If you haven't stopped by yet to support the FLCamp kids fundraising efforts it's not too late!! Devlyn Brooks from Churches United and Leigh Schebeck from Lake Region Healthcare Foundation will be visiting camp to discuss their organizations and how the donations will be used.

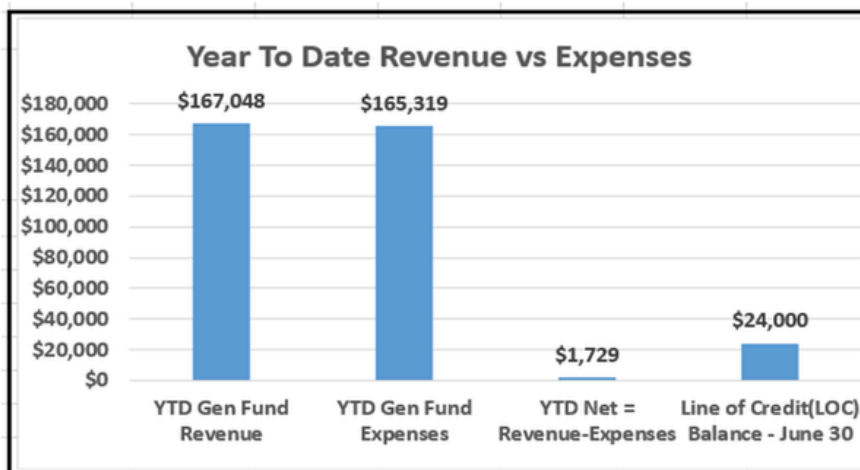
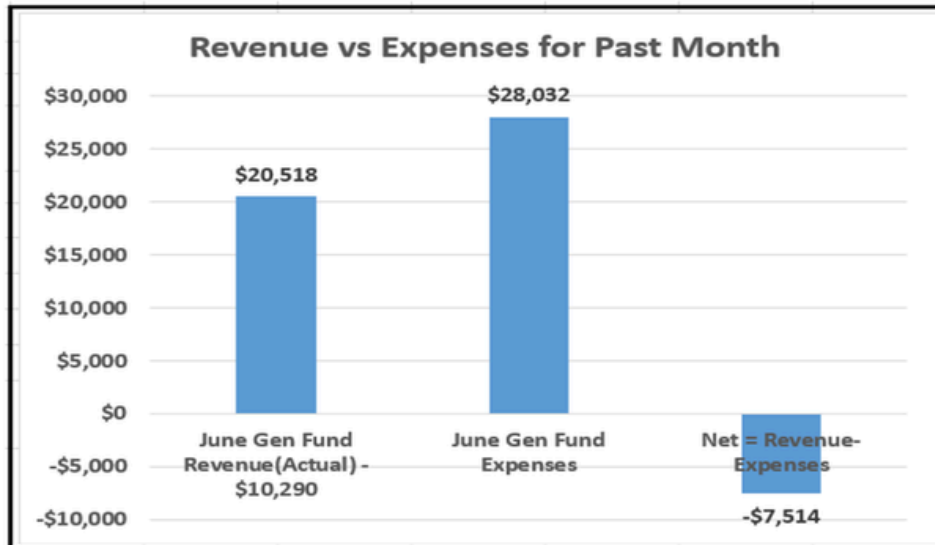
Wenonga Days



Faith Haven Camp



First Lutheran Church 2nd Quarter Financial Update



Points of discussion

- We paid \$2000 on LOC principle in June. Line of credit currently at \$24,000 was \$32,000 in January.
- Thru June: In total, Fire alarm, Property repairs and water and sewer Expenses are \$3000 over budgeted amounts Thru June.
- Although June Revenue was off pace, we have been paying down our line of credit, weathering some increases in spending and still YTD Revenue is slightly ahead of YTD Expenses thru mid-year. THAT IS GOOD!
- We need to average \$26,629 a month Revenue to meet expenses.



WELCA'S ANNUAL "NO BAKE" Fundraiser 2026

The "No Bake" Fundraiser has assisted our church WELCA
(Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)
to fund projects throughout the year.

Some of the WELCA projects or donations were assigned to:
Battle Lake Food Shelf, Battle Lake School, Churches United, HIA (Hearts In
Action) Hospice, Lake Region Cancer Foundation , Morning Watch, Someplace
Safe Crisis Center, Personal Care Kits, Infant Kits, School Kits and the ELCA
Disaster Fund for local disasters.

Please make a donation to support WELCA projects.
Checks should be made out to WELCA. Donations can be dropped off at the
church office, given to a circle chair member, or mailed to:

Linda Manikowske, WELCA Treasurer
23370 Garland Lane
Battle Lake, MN 56515

Thank you for your support of WELCA

Everyone is welcome to help with any of our projects.

Any questions about WELCA
pick up our 2026 booklet in the church office,
or contact Nancy Quam 218-371-0576,
or contact any WELCA member.



Worship and Music



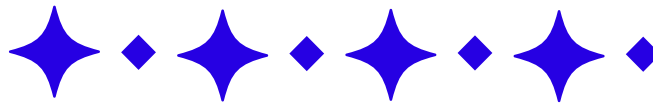
The importance of worship includes honoring God, transforming the believer, and building community.

- Honors God: It shows love, respect, and thanks to God for who He is and what He does.
- Transforms the Heart: It softens a person's heart, making them more humble and open to truth.
- Shifts Perspective: It helps people look past daily troubles and focus on a higher, eternal purpose.
- Unites People: It brings believers together to share faith and support one another as a community.
- Improves Well-being: It brings inner peace, lowers stress, and gives comfort during hard times. (from makingamosaic.com)

Thinking about all of these points of music and worship, I remember all the songs that we have learned in our lifetime. From Sunday School, church services, bible camp, and visiting other churches. The many times our family was together sitting around the piano with my aunt playing guitar, singing songs that worshipped our Lord.

I know there have been a lot of conversations about the differences between traditional and contemporary. Taking the time to listen to the music and words while understanding the emotions behind all the songs that were written is a very important part of any song. Some songs were written as a prayer to God while others are written as joyful praise. Praising God does not mean we have to only praise in traditional or contemporary, it just means that we worship and praise him with all our hearts, showing our love and devotion to him.

By Laurie



The Soprano in Heaven: St. Peter is at the pearly gates when an angel walks up and pokes a soprano three times with a needle. "Ow! What was that for?" asks the soprano. Peter says, "Here in heaven, we stick you once for each false note you sang on Earth." The soprano nods and walks inside, but suddenly a horrible scream echoes from down the hall. "Oh," Peter says, "that's a tenor we got last week. He's just starting his third week in the sewing machine."



SHARE AND CARE GROUPS:

Group Four: September, October & November

September

Tony & Molly Bussa
Beth Harvieux
Don & Sheri Olson
Leigh & Stacy Shebeck
Ron & Kathryn Rickers
Jason Severson Family
Sharon Worden
Henry & Mary Jane Peterson
Hugh & Beth Warner
Dean & Mavis Nordstrom
Angie Abram family
Kim & Gary Peterson

October

Andrea & John Everts
Peter & Marcia Eggen
Joan Koep & Hanna Cathey
Linda Manikowske
Dee Dee Maher
Stephani & Steve Jossart
Corey Mekalson family
LaMae Maher
Tony & Molly Bussa
Beth Harvieux
Gail Nelson
Pete & Kristie Everts
Jenna Kavanaugh
Vicki Hull

November

Andrea & John Everts
Peter & Marcia Eggen
Joan Koep & Hanna Cathey
Linda Manikowske
Dee Dee Maher
Stephani & Steve Jossart
Corey Mekalson family
LaMae Maher
Deb & Al Lundquist
Don & Sheri Olson
Wayne & Marilyn Horgen
Scot & Cathy Englin
Jim & Julie Aamot
Jim & Mabeth Fiedler
Heidi Jorud
Larry & Kim Charest
Sonja Peterson
Jack & Betsy Everts



First Lutheran Men's Fellowship met Thursday, July 9, 2026 at the Shoreline with 12 members in attendance. Our annual food stand will be at the Art and Craft Affair event on Saturday, August 8th. This year we are serving jumbo brats and 1/3 pound hamburgers. We are serving pie as a new menu item this year. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 6, 2026.



WELCA Board –August 3rd @ 1 pm
Naomi Circle – August 11th @ 10:00 am
Lydia Circle –August 11th @ 9:30 am
Mary Circle – August 12th @ 9:30 am
Evening Circle – No meeting

Women of the



ELCA



Happy Summer!

A quick reminder to stay hydrated and avoid being outside during the noon till 4 timeframe. Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, and sit in the shade for breaks. This is for our 85 degree plus days.

I would like to update you on the progress of the Living Hope Camp. I have 5 people enrolled. So far, I have had 4 come in for a few hours. I have had calls from aging agencies who saw our flyer. Remember to tell folks who are caregivers about this service. We are spreading the word through word of mouth. I am setting the days as Tuesday and Thursday and will run the days from 8:30-4:30. Let me know if you have any questions. I am attending an educational forum on Alzheimer's and new ideas on how to manage. I look forward to learning more about this disease and how it is affecting our population.

An update on our Meet and Eat, which we were doing the first Friday of the month. Starting back up in September, it will be the second Friday of the month. Our first meeting will be on the 11th of September. I have missed seeing you and look forward to getting back together. This is open to all, and we have lots of laughter and conversations during our time together. Please come and see.

God Bless

Jeri



August Noisy Offering is for The Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN

The Veterans Honor Flight of ND/MN is a volunteer organization that takes Veterans to Washington, DC free of charge to visit the memorials built in their honor. 2,824 veteran trips have been provided, with 871 veterans on the wait list. Each flight costs \$290,000. Priority is given to older veterans (World War II and Korean War Veterans) and those terminally ill. Several members of our congregation have been honored with the flight.

Summary July 2026 Unapproved Council Minutes

- Visitor attending: Tammy Anderson, Acorns-Oak Consulting: Conversation on how to grow within the community, strategic planning, and envisioning our mission. We want to engage and create excitement for volunteerism/service within the church and our community. Tammy will put a quote together for discussion at the August meeting.
- Approval of the Minutes: Approved 6/9/26 council minutes.
- Financial Report and Recommendations: First 6 months proved to be profitable. \$600.00 given to Missi as a 1 time bonus. Bonus to be reviewed in 3 months (September). Staff received no cost of living or pay increases in 2026. Motion carried and approved.
- Lline of credit used- Balance of the line of credit is now \$24,000.00.
- Comments/Correspondence: Our new Vacuum cleaner is here!!!
- OLD BUSINESS:
- Organ: Repairs and maintenance estimated at \$50,000. Gail is waiting for a breakdown of what needs to be done.
- Mutual Ministry is re-establishing. Looking for members.
- NEW BUSINESS: Professional cleaning for the tile floors and alcove storage closet needs to go to the building team for discussion before council discussion.
- Next Meeting: 08/11/26



Men's Fellowship will have a booth at the "Art in the Park" event. Help is needed to set up on August 7 at 6 pm and during the event on August 8th. Come out and enjoy all the good food with Amish pies added this year.



August 2026 First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 am worship/communion 11 am Fellowship	2 10:30 am YMCA Truck 1 pm WELCA Board	3 FLC Camp 1 pm WELCA Study 1:45 pm Bookmobile 2 pm Worship& music 5-8 pm Nat'l night out	4 FLC Camp 2-4 pm Car Wash & Lemonade stand 2-4 pm Confirmation 7 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	5 FLC Camp 8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship	6 FLC Camp 3 pm Graveside for Tim Sydow 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	7 Art in the Park Men's Fellowship booth
9 10 am Worship (New Member) 11 am Fellowship 11 am #4 Share & Care	10 FLC Camp 10:30 am YMCA Truck 2:30 Finance Honor flight golf	11 FLC Camp 9:30 am Lydia Circle 10 am Naomi Circle 5:30 pm Bldg Bridges 6:30 pm Council	12 FLC Camp 9:30 am Mary Circle 2-4 pm Confirmation 7 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	13 FLC Camp 8 am TOPS 4-7 pm AOTL Pie Making	14 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	15 10 am Lake Ave. Apt. communion
16 10 am Worship (New Member) 11 am Fellowship	17 FLC Camp 10:30 am Staff Newsletter articles due	18 FLC Camp 1:45 pm Bookmobile	19 FLC Camp 2-4 pm Car Wash & Lemonade 2-4 pm Confirmation(last) 7 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	20 FLC Camp 8 am TOPS	21 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	22
23 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Fellowship	24 FLC Camp	25 FLC Camp	26 FLC Camp 10 am Good Sam 7 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	27 FLC Camp Last 8 am TOPS	28 7 pm AA & Al-Anon	29
30 10 am Worship 11 am Potluck	31					1 11 -1 John Rydland 90th BD

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 Abfalter: waf1@blfirstlutheran.org

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org