

First Lutheran



June 2025

NEWSLETTER

Summer Sermon Series: Are the 10 Commandments still valid?

Moses received the 10 Commandments in approximately 1445 BC. It is now 2025, about 3,470 years later. Life has changed drastically from Moses' time. Empires like the Babylonians, Romans, and Ottomans have come and gone. Agriculture, industry, and worldwide economics have developed beyond Moses' wildest imagination. With such revolutionary changes, one must ask: Are the 10 Commandments still valid?

On Pentecost Sunday, we will start a Summer Sermon Series that explores this exact question by looking at the Commandments' original intent and how it applies to today's world. Once we go through the Commandments, we will explore them in relation to the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and the Lord's Prayer. Each Sermon is stand-alone, so don't worry if you miss worship. (You can always watch it online, too!)

Here is the schedule:

June 8 – Are the 10 Commandments still valid?
June 15 – The Lord Alone
June 22 – Hallowing the Name of God
June 29 – Keeping the Sabbath
July 6 – Respect for Parents
July 13 – Protecting Life
July 20 – Telling the Truth
July 27 – Property and Possessions

Important Dates

Honor Flight forum	June 8
New Member Orient	June 8
Rock Painting	June 14
2 orMore study	June 19
FLY @ Glendalough	June 29
Blood Drive	July 2
FLY @ Long Prairie	July 11
2 orMore study	July 17
Childrens's mental Health	July 20
Faith Haven starts	July 27
2 orMore study	August 14
Back to school partry	August 22

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August 3 – Marriage, Sex, and The Neighbor
August 10 – Desire and Its Consequences
August 17 – The Good Samaritan and the 10 Commandments
August 24 – The Prodigal Son and the 10 Commandments
August 31 – The Lord's Prayer and the 10 Commandments

I hope you will find this a refreshing change for the summer. I am looking forward to diving into the 10 Commandments with you!

Serving Christ, Pastor Lynn



New Members- Get Connected

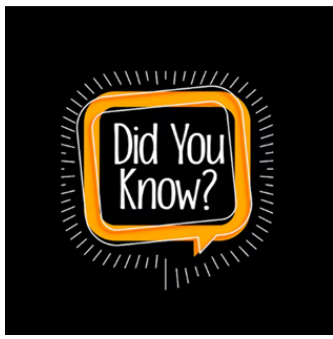
We are offering an orientation class to new and prospective members called New Members- Get Connected.

Attendees will have a chance to meet others, learn more about who we are, the activities we offer, and we'll take a tour of our facility.

Sunday, June 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Simply email office@FLFirstLutheran.org or call 218-864-5686 to sign up so we can have materials prepared.



*That as of May 30th, **FLCamp** already has 35 students registered? FLCamp doubles as Vacation Bible School and Summer Child Care for our community. It runs M-TH, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. We hire high school students to work with adults and charge \$30 a day.

**That Pastor Lynn provides Communion Services at the Assisted Living and Good Sam each month?

**That our 3 Confirmands this year plan on continuing this summer because they like it?

**That 9 students and 1 adult received First Communion in April?

**Inez Flores has left the employ at First Lutheran? We wish her the best in her new endeavors!

**There is a patio table and chairs near the back door? Consider meeting outside!

**That we are now recycling paper in the kitchen?



June noisy offerings will be going towards our Veterans
Honor Flight

New Pictoral Church Directory

We have completed the directory with the information and pictures that we do have. (We can always add later as we get more of the pictures and information.) There are some in the office that are printed. If you have an email address, we can send it to your email account.

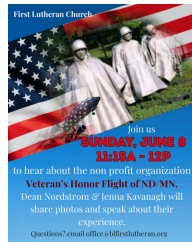
Thank you all for all your help in getting this completed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

New members - Get Connected

We are offering an orientation class to new and prospective members called New members - Get Connected. Attendees will have a chance to meet others, learn more about who we are, the activities we offer, and we'll take a tour of our facility. **Sunday, June 8th** at 9am in the fellowship hall. Email office@blfirstlutheran.org or call 218-864-5686 to sign up.

Sunday, June 8th Dean Nordstrom and Jenna Kavanagh will be sharing their experience with the MN/ND Veterans Honor Flight Organization. They will speak about the organization, share photos from their trip and speak about how you can help to support this organization. Join us after worship service.



Rock Art Class by Brenda



Saturday, June 14th there will be a craft gathering at First Lutheran Church from 9a-noon. Brenda Mathiesen will teach a class on how to do The Kindness Rock and the Madala Painting technique. You will have an opportunity

to make your own as well. You can paint up to 3 kindness rocks or one madala rock. Cost to participate is \$25 payable to Brenda. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Kim Peterson by June 1st at KimKPeterson@outlook.com or call 701-261-7307

Thursday, June 19th 2orMore Fellowship will be going to Zorbaz on Ottertail Lake from 5:30p-7:30p. We will be discussing the dichotomy Lost and Found from the Everything [in] Between series.



Sunday, June 29th FLY will be having a picnic at Glendalough State Park from 3p-6p. Kids can swim if weather permits, there will be games, activities and a campfire. Open to all youth in 5th grade and up. We will meet at the church at 2:45p or you can meet us there.

Friday, July 11th FLY will be going to the Long Prairie Drive In to see the movie Jurassic World Rebirth. We will meet at the church at 6:30p and arrive back around 1am. Please RSVP to missi.abfalter@gmail.com if you intend to come by 7/7. Open to all 5th graders and up.



Thursday, July 17th 2orMore Fellowship will be meeting at Beach Bums from 5:30p-7:30p. We will be discussing Righteousness & Mercy from the series Everything [in] Between. Appetizers will be provided.

Sunday, July 20th Colleen Kennedy, a school based clinical social worker with Lakeland Mental Health, will be here, following worship service, to discuss Children's Mental Health. She will speak on trends and how to navigate mental health issues. As well as, how to improve children's mental health.



Thursday, August 14th 2orMore Fellowship will be meeting at ABC Brewery to continue the series Everything [in] Between. Our discussion topic for August will be shouting and silence. Join us for appetizers and fellowship.

Friday, August 22nd there will be a Back to School Party for all youth going into 5th grade and up from 6p-9p at the church.



Called: Here I am - Send Me (Isaiah 6:8)

We will be returning to Faith Haven camp 7/27 to 7/30. If you would be interested in volunteering as a day camp leader or spending the night as a leader please speak with Missi. Cost will be \$100 per person, however, \$50 scholarships are available for all friends and family of First Lutheran Church.



Registration for Faith Haven is open and forms can be found outside of the sanctuary or online at www.blfirstlutheran.org/ministries

WAFL

Holy Faith thank you

Wednesday, May 14th was our last day of WAFL for the school year and

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the congregation members for your support whether it was donating snacks, contributing financially or praying for our students everything is greatly appreciated.

Most importantly I would like to thank our great team of teachers and volunteers, without whom this program would not even be possible. Week after week they show up and plant tiny seeds of faith, love and guidance into our kids that will form their beliefs and outlook on life for years to come. They are creating long lasting memories and building true genuine relationships with our kids. This year we studied Heroes of the Bible; below are some top notch heroes!! It takes a village; check out ours!



Pete and Henry's 4th grade WAFL classes, along with Jude Hagemeister, cleaning up at Sandy Bay Park for their May service project.

Holy Faith Continued...

On Sunday, May 11th we recognized and blessed our graduating seniors during the worship service. Additionally, Max Mekalson and Jack Jossart were each awarded with a \$750 scholarship to put towards their continuing education. We wish all of our graduates a bright faith filled future.



FLCamp kids will be having several 'Car Wash for a Cause' events this summer as their summer long service project. Free will donations will be collected in exchange for a car wash. All money raised will be split 50/50. Half will go to purchase snacks for BL elementary students that are unable to provide their own mid day snack. The other half will be given to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry in Moorehead. Come by between 2:30p-4p on the following dates to get your car washed!! 6/4, 6/18, 7/2, 7/16, 8/6, and 8/20

FLCAMP

To stay update with our weekly camp activities follow the WAFL - Wednesdays At First Lutheran Facebook page!

What do you think about the monthly forums?

Recently we priviledged to have local artist, Mary Jo Wentz and Devlyn Brooks, CEO of Churches United come and speak to the congregation following worship service. What topics are of interest to you and what would you enjoy hearing about? Email comments or suggestions to missi.abfalter@gmail.com. Thank you!



Worship and Music



Lord's Prayer

Have you ever noticed that there are multiple versions of the Lord's Prayer? Some churches omit what is commonly called the Doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, Forever and ever." Another difference is "save us from the time of trial" vs "and lead us not into temptation".

These differences can be traced to different interpretations of the gospel or an attempt to modernize the prayer. Rev John Philip Newell wrote a contemporary paraphrase of The Lord's Prayer called the **Casa Del Sol prayer of Jesus**. It beautifully identifies the universal truth that love is radically inclusive. Read and enjoy!

*Ground of all being,
Mother of life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.*

*May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.*

*Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.*

*Do not forsake us in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.*

*For the light of life, the vitality of life,
and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.*

SHARE AND CARE GROUPS:

Group Three---June, July and August

Clair & Barb Prody, Lynn Melchior & Rob Baardsen, Warren & Linda Tikkanen, Diane Greenagel, Jo Duncan, Daryl & Kathleen Baardsen, Dick & Shirley Peterson, John Hodnefield, Robert Hepper, Laurie Zelinsky, Carol Nelson, Shirley & Darold Kirschman, Lynn & Holly Johnson, Kathy Neese, Doug & Doreen Stave, Ron & Kathryn Rickers, Barb & Gerry Nelson, Peter & Kristi Everts, Inez Flores, Dennis & Cherryl Pederson, Jeff Morton, Dave & LouAnn Ellingson, Jim & Mabeth Fiedler, Heidi Jorud, David & Sharon Hanson, Mike Youngblood, Sharon Worden, Tom & Cindy Peterson, Linda & Gary Morical, Mike & Kristina Fielding, Peter & Carol Boyum, & Dick & Wanda Oftedahl.



First Lutheran Men's Fellowship met Thursday, May 1, 2025 at the Shoreline with 10 members in attendance. We served Easter breakfast between services Sunday, April 20. Income was \$587. Expenses pending. The Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a hole at the Veteran's Honor Flight golf tourney through membership donations. On Wednesday April 30, we cooked and served lunch to all the volunteers at Beautify Battle Lake. Due to rain, we will do our annual ditch walk/church clean up after our next meeting on Thursday, June 5



WELCA Board -- June 6th at 1:00 pm
WELCA Study leaders--June 7th at 1:00 pm
Lydia Circle --June 10th at 9:30 am
Naomi Circle --June 10th at 10:00 am
Mary Circle --June 11th at 9:30 am
Evening Circle-- No June meeting



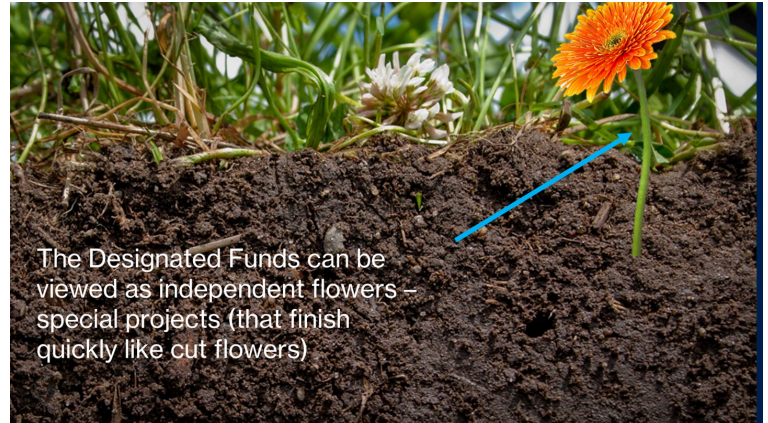
Operating VS Designated Funds

What is the difference?

The Operating Budget is the Soil.



The Operating Budget is the soil that produces worship, education, personnel, building and service opportunities.



The Designated Funds can be viewed as independent flowers – special projects (that finish quickly like cut flowers)



The Designated Funds can also be viewed as fertilizer to operating budget programs.



We need to increase our support of the soil



Greetings from your Parish Nurse

"Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy"

I remember memorizing this in Sunday School when I was very young.

I was driving to church one Sunday and I was listening to the Cowboy Church pastor and he was preaching about the Sabbath and asking the question, "who observes this and why"? I think it is one of those forgotten commandments and do we observe it? As I was looking into the Bible passages where the Sabbath is taught, I found these words: Jesus taught, the sabbath was created for the benefit of humanity, not the other way around. He reminds us that remembering it prioritizes human need and well-being, as he is the Lord of the Sabbath. In Mark 2: 27 we read God gave us the Sabbath as a gift not a burden. So, I challenge each of you to Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy and to practice it. God made the world in 6 days and rested on the 7th. It doesn't mean the sabbath is always on Saturday or Sunday, You pick the day that works for you and make it your sabbath. It is your day to rest and dedicate your thoughts and time to God.

Take that nature hike, journal, go for a bike ride, meditate, write a letter to a distant relative, visit a shut-in. These are just some thoughts for resting your soul.

God's Peace to all!

Jeri Wilmore, FCN

Financial Updates

April 2025 Finances: YTD Budget Tracking:

Income	\$ 33,462	Budget	\$377,225/ 36.03%
Credit Line			
Expenses	<u>\$ 33,982</u>	Budget	\$377,225/42.01%
Net	\$ -777		



Creation Stewardship met for an organizational meeting Tue May 20th.

Everyone is invited to join our next meeting on Tuesday, June 17th at 4:30.

Our immediate projects:

- Improve our composting system
- Increase paper recycling by adding a bin for paper in the kitchen area.
- A future project discussed was planting a pollinator garden with native plants.

If you want to help or have ideas, we should discuss. Please join us.

Any questions, call Nancy at 218-371-0576



Mission Jamaica 2026

January 31 to February 7

Are you interested in attending in 2026? Past attendees will hold a Q&A during the fellowship on June 15th. Just find the Mission Jamaica Table during fellowship.

A \$150 deposit holds your space for the 2026 trip.

Financial Report: Giving has increased in the past two months. Looking at ways to begin paying down the line of credit. As a result of better conservation of electricity by all of us, the bill dropped from about \$1400/month last year to \$1000/month this year! Kudos! The 542 Foundation Gala, Sept. 27, is at First Lutheran. Shoreline will be asked to add First Lutheran as additionally insured in their policy for the event, and provide a certificate of insurance. Report M/S: Carried.

Pastor's Report: In addition to report, she sent topics for discussion: +Bullying: She has raised the concern regarding bullying within the Battle Lake School system to the Network Battle Lake and the Enrollment Team. More information will follow.

+Operational Funding: need to continue to encourage increased giving to the general (operations) fund in order to sustain our current programming.

+Future Focus Areas: What are our guiding principles? Where are we going from here? Continue focus on Growing Young. Grow our membership and find ways to involve people in the mission to keep them engaged. More discussion is needed.

+Results of Congregational Discussion re Where We are Called: Tabled for more info.

Faith Formation Report: An opportunity offered by United Way is a poverty simulation. It is a 3 hour commitment for 40-50 people, to help us better understand the hurdles faced by people trying to climb out of poverty. Possibly open to the community. Ways we might help to eliminate bullying discussed: riding the buses to keep a positive environment, developing a foster grandparent program, reading with students. These will also increase intergenerational involvement and Growing Young.

The playground has not yet been installed; the ground surface still needs to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletters: Multiple problems with the mailing of newsletters in recent months. Discussion was held regarding alternatives to mailing to everyone. The consensus was to: 1) Educate the congregation regarding the need for change. 2) Ask for email addresses 3) Make email delivery the primary method of communication. 4) Hand carry newsletters to congregation members living at Good Sam and Lakeview. 5) Mail only to those people who specifically request mailing.

Land Adjacent to FLC: Habitat for Humanity has withdrawn their application for the proposed use of this land. Motion to table discussion of possible land use M/S: Carried.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2025 6:30pm



WELCA'S ANNUAL "NO BAKE" Fundraiser

May/June 2025

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, Red River Valley 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 booklet in the church office, or contact Nancy Quam at 218-371-0576, or contact any WELCA member.

FLC RUMMAGE SALE TIME!

Our annual rummage sale will again be held during Battle Lake Rummage Sale Weekend, June 20&21 (This weekend has now been renamed "Junk Jaunt" and will be in coordination with sales in Henning and Ottertail... bigger and better than ever!).

This sale has been a huge success the past three years, quickly being established as the "best of the best" sales because of the wonderful donations we receive for the sale. Last year's sale allowed us to donate \$4000 to area non-profits! With your help, we will do that again this year.

Donations are welcome now until Wednesday, June 18. (Please, don't wait until the last minute to donate... We can no longer accept items arriving after Wednesday, June 18!)

All donations may be left in the church library.

Please consider donating these items that are in good condition:

HOUSEHOLD GOODS (no chipped items, please)

SHOP AND HANDYMAN TOOLS

GARDEN TOOLS

SMALL APPLIANCES (in working condition; No TVs, please)

SPORTING GOODS

YARD GAMES

CAMPING EQUIPMENT

LAWN/PATIO FURNITURE

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

WATER TOYS

TOYS and BOARD GAMES

PUZZLES (no missing pieces, please)

BABY EQUIPMENT

INFANTS' and CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

BOOKS

FURNITURE (Must need only ONE PERSON TO CARRY!) A good furniture donation might be something that could be used by someone moving into a cabin or apartment.

BOOKSHELVES

SMALL CABINETS or DRESSERS

CHAIRS

NO adult clothing, please

We invite you to price any or all of your items, if you are willing (not required!)! Pricing stickers will be available in the library. If pricing any décor, be sure to place the sticker where it won't damage the item.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING ITEMS!

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