

First Lutheran Church



October
2026

NEWSLETTER

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.* Psalm 119:105

Fall brings cooler temperatures, colorful leaves, roadside pumpkins, and rainy days perfect for curling up with a good book, a warm drink, and a soft blanket.

I love to read. I make time each day to read fictional books. But I don't sit down and read the bible each day. Does that shock you? I am, after all, a pastor. I read and study the Bible to prepare for worship services and other duties as a pastor. I have read through the bible several times. I have even listened to the entire bible in my car.

What I find most beneficial is group bible study. Since 2016, I have been part of a non-denominational online bible study. Each week I spend 2 to 3 hours preparing for our 1-hour study. This year we will spend 30 weeks studying the book of Romans.

Studying the Bible with others offers as many gifts as there are participants. Each person contributes a unique perspective shaped by life experience, and the Holy Spirit is at work in these studies.

Beginning October 4th, I will host a six-week Sunday morning Scripture Study from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. We will explore the Sunday Scripture readings together. Join us, grab a cup of coffee, and share in God's Word.

Gratefully, Pastor Lynn

October 4th – SWOT during fellowship
October 4th – Conf. 7 WELCA Fall Gathering
October 6th – AOTL Lefse making
October 10th – Fall Festival
October 15th – Blood Drive
October 17th – Battle Lake City Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee
October 17th – Fly Corn Maze
October 25th – Reformation Sunday/Confirmation

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SWOT Analysis Oct 4th during fellowship



Dear First Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for donating your noisy offering to us. We feed 100 people in need almost every night for dinner, and your contribution will help so much with ingredients!


 Peoples Church, ELCA
 824 America Ave NW | PO Box 2050 Bemidji, MN 56609
 peopleschurchbemidji@gmail.com | (218) 214-9066
 peopleschurch-elca.org

God Bless
All of us
here at Peoples
Church



THANK YOU for all your support! This does not go unnoticed. We are grateful.

Thank you to the entire congregation for all the effort that went into that Rummage Sale!!!

-CU Staff

Thank you David, Peter, Lynn & Rob
for the great job on the parking lot striping.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Love Inc will be holding their annual fundraiser on **Sunday, October 11th** from 4p-7p. They are looking for silent auction items, items to sell in their “made with love” market and volunteers to help at the event. If you have anything to contribute please consider donating to this great organization. Finally, if you would like to join Pastor Lynn and Missi volunteering for the event please let us know, it would be nice to have additional representatives from First Lutheran.



Saturday, October 17th any students in 6th grade and up are invited to come to Otter Berry Farm. We will meet at First Lutheran Church at 6:15p and return at 9:45p. There will be a night corn maze, live music and food trucks. Please bring \$16 for admission and any money you would like for food.



Sunday, October 25th there will be a potluck and game day following worship from 11a-1:30p. Join us to play your favorite board or card game. We will also have the MN Vikings Game playing so you don't miss out on any of the action.



Sunday, October 25th kids ages 4 and up are invited to movie night at First Lutheran Church from 4p-6:30p. We will be watching Hotel Transylvania Transformania. Snacks will be provided and prizes for anyone that shows up in their Halloween Costume. Free will offering.

Upcoming Events



Wrist band night at Grandpa's Arcade. Unlimited play of 50 arcade games. \$10 per person. Pizza will be provided. Bring additional money for extra snacks. All youth in grades 6th and up are invited to attend. Meet in the First Lutheran Church parking lot at 5pm.



First Lutheran Church will be hosting a community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 26th from 12p-2p. Join us for a free traditional Thanksgiving dinner, football and games. We are thankful for many things but mostly we are thankful for you! Volunteer sign up sheets and donation requests will be posted in the Narthax in the next couple weeks.



Sunday, November 29th kids ages 4 and up are invited to movie night at First Lutheran Church from 4p-6:30p. We will be watching Space Jam a New Legacy. Snacks will be provided.



Thursday, December 10th Love Inc will be holding a winter clothing distribution event at First Lutheran Church from 3p-7p. Hats, Gloves, Coats, Boots, and Snow pants will be available at no cost. Battle Lake area families are encouraged to come and ensure your kids are covered for the winter. Volunteers from the congregation are needed for set up, assisting families and take down.

Holy Faith

The school year is under way and so are all of our youth programs, WAFL, Confirmation and Youth Group. The Wednesday's At First Lutheran (WAFL)

Program for PreK-6th grade students has 43 kids signed up. The kids are excited to be back and we are happy they are here. We started off the WAFL year with a backpack blessing and prayed for a safe and successful school year. Currently we are doing a 4 week deep dive into the life of Moses. The WAFL students will begin their September service project this week. They will be putting together thank you crafts for the staff of the Good Sam nursing home.

Currently most of our WAFL classrooms are at or nearing full capacity. If we continue to add additional students throughout the school year, we usually do, we will need to divide some of the classes up into smaller groups. If you are interested in teaching or being a classroom helper please let Missi know. I would also be looking for a volunteer to come in weekly to prep snack, serve it and clean up afterwards.

This year we will have 2 students getting confirmed and they are busy working on their faith statements while the other 4 confirmation students study the small catechism.

The youth group students spend time each week studying a variety of scriptures throughout the bible that they can apply to their everyday life to help them navigate challenges they face and to strengthen their spiritual practices. They also enjoy playing games and eating.

Finally, we had our first kid's movie night on 9/27. Kid's movie nights are open to any kids ages 4 years old and up. We watch a movie and then spend about 45 minutes playing. For the September showing of Monsters & Minions we had 30 people in attendance. Following the movie we enjoyed the beautiful weather outside and played a game of football and on the new playground.



Fall Festival

Mark you calendars for our annual Fall Festival Oct. 10th, 9 AM-1:30 PM. Come early for coffee and kringla and stay to browse books, jewelry, hand-made items, baked goods, silent auction, and the coffee can drawing. We will have lunch with chili, soup, chicken sandwiches, rommegrot, Swedish rice and pie. Take out is available. Remember to bring in your donations of jewelry and books now. Baked goods can be dropped off Friday morning or the morning of the sale. Tell your friends and invite them to join you Oct. 10th.



WELCA Fall Festival along with Trunk or Treat and Carnival Games will be held on **Saturday, October 10th**. Help make this a memorable event for all ages! We could use volunteers to create and work carnival games, oversee trunk or treat booths, candy donations and trunk or treat designs. Talk with Missi if you are available to help.



Blessing of the Animals Service

Sunday
October 4
2:00 PM

First Lutheran
505 W Holdt Street
Battle Lake, MN

ALL ANIMALS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND WITH THEIR FAMILIES AS LONG AS THEY ARE ON LEASHES OR RESTRAINED IN A CRATE OR CARRIER.

The service will be held outside on the church grounds. In the event of rain, the service will be moved indoors for the small animals. Unfortunately, large animals such as horses, cows, etc., will not be allowed inside.



Creation Stewardship

Plastics:

Can you change your habits? Make it a habit to bring a reusable bag, box, or other container when you shop.

Did you know you can refill bottles of soaps at “Soap Works” in Fergus Falls? So bring your glass jar. Or you can order powders online to mix with water to refill at home for your hand soap or foaming hand soap. There are endless non-plastic options. Look for non-plastic options for your purchases at every store. Reduce your plastic use to help your health and the health of everything on the planet. Currently, there is not an easy way to get rid of plastic. Recycling changes its form, but every piece of plastic you have ever touched is still here on Earth. According to what I have read, burning or sending it to be incinerated adds many toxins in the air. So we challenge you today to start some new habits to reduce plastic use.

Native MN Plant Gardening:

Watch for our display in the narthex! We have been collecting Native plant seeds and we will be sharing them. We will have a sign up sheet available. It will be first come, first serve until we run out. You can plant these seeds this fall or next spring. We will share planting information with you.

Our next meeting:

Come join us if you want to learn more, share ideas, or just want to physically help with a project. We plan our next meeting for Tuesday, October 27th at 6 pm.

Worship and Music



By Kristi Northrup- from Influence Magazine (adapted)

So many songs, so little time! Many people have asked me, “How do you choose songs for worship services?”

There are myriad ways to do it, and no single way is necessarily the right way. It is a spiritual, philosophical, and practical process. As a worship leader and pastor, I will share a few insights on the factors I consider when choosing the songs for our services and events.

Skill: I work with a variety of skill levels, and we have a limited amount of time for practice, so I want to give my players the best preparation I can. I must consider these crucial questions: What can my musicians play? What can my vocalists sing? Everyone knows there is a degree of flexibility.

Context: As a worship leader, these are questions you must think about: What is the context of your congregation? Is it mostly young families in a suburban setting? Is it an established church? Are the attendees mostly longtime Christians, new believers, or non-believers? Music should open people’s hearts to the presence of God, so it’s important to choose songs that the people in your congregation connect with. That may mean choosing some songs that aren’t in your personal favorites playlist.

Give people a chance to hear the voice of the Lord and respond to Him: I always try to include two factors in any worship set: energy and intimacy. I try to have at least one up-tempo, high-energy song that really expresses praise. Later, I always include a softer song to allow an opportunity for God to speak to people’s hearts.

Format: While no one will ever be completely happy, I try to incorporate these three elements into every song list: gospel, traditional, and contemporary. In my opinion, gospel does praise the best, while contemporary worship can really connect people to the presence of God. So, for example, we may start with a familiar gospel song and sing a hymn arrangement for the second song.



Riddle: What song was the baseball player singing on third base?

Answer: "There's no place like home."

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, September 3, 2026 at the Shoreline with 14 members in attendance. The final report was presented from the Art and Craft Affair food stand. We netted \$2,282.54, which was our best year. Thanks to all involved. We will assist with the church outdoor cleanup on September 10. We will clean up our assigned ditches after our October 1 meeting. The budget committee will meet September 9th to finalize our 2026-27 budget. We will assist WELCA with the Fall Festival on October 10. This past year we collected 755 pounds of food for the Food Shelf and took in \$192 dollars in donations. Our next meeting is Thursday, October 1, 2026 at the Shoreline.



WELCA Board –October 5th @ 1 pm
Naomi Circle – October 13th @ 10:00 am
Lydia Circle –October 13th @ 9:30 am
Mary Circle – October 14th @ 9:30 am
Evening Circle –October 18th @ 6:30 pm





GREETINGS FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE

From an essay on belonging by Marina Keegan: “We don’t have a word for the opposite of loneliness, but if we did, I could say that’s what I want in life. It’s not quite love, and it’s not quite community; it’s just this feeling that there are people, an abundance of people, who are in this together. Who are on your team.”

If you read my article from last month about loneliness, wouldn’t the above statement be a much better feeling than that of loneliness? I have my person; have you found one you can make a difference for? With the change in our weather, people will tend to stay home more and feel more shut in. This is where we come in; visiting them, or just checking in with them, will make a difference. Let’s beat out loneliness!

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15: 12

God Bless, Jeri

Reminder: Meet & Eat is scheduled for October 9th at 11 am. All are welcome. Bring a favorite dish and join us for stories and conversation.



Financial Updates

August 2026 Finances: YTD Budget Tracking:

Income	\$	23,904	Budget	\$319,552/ 76.42%
Credit Line		-0		
Expenses	\$	<u>24,749</u>	Budget	\$319,552/68.25%
Net	\$	-845		

Summary Sept 2026 Unapproved Council Minutes

Special Guest: John Wold from the Synod office gave an update on what is happening in the Synod.

Wold discussed what the Synod does and how it interacts with individual churches, its ministry and mission support. We noted: We had reached out to the Synod asking for guidance in how to move forward with our vision for the church; there was no response. Also, Pastor Lynn mentioned church competition in small towns. John Wold stated he would bring it back to the Synod and get back to us.

Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting for 8/11/26. Motion carried and approved. Financial Report and Recommendations: Motion carried and approved. Need to borrow \$10,000.00 against our line of credit due to low giving the first 2 Sundays of this month. Pastor Lynn made a request to have a closer watch on our bank account, a second set of eyes, and to try to look forward to upcoming finances rather than when they are upon us.

Comments/Correspondence: There have been community comments made about all the wonderful things First Lutheran is doing

OLD BUSINESS: We now have two new laptops thanks to an anonymous donor.

NEW BUSINESS:* Nominees for council have been secured. *ReTap – A free program to provide assessments known as energy audits to help reduce waste and operating costs. Pete will check into this.

Next Meeting: 10/13/26



October 2026

First Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8 am TOPS 8:30 am Men's Fellowship	2 7 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr	3
4 9:15 am Scripture study 10 am Worship/Communion 11 am Fellowship/SWOT 2 pm Blessing of the Animals	5 9 am Quilters 1 pm WELCA Board 6 pm Rural Edge Meeting	6 1 pm WELA Bible Study 2 pm Worship/Music 4 pm Bell Choir 4:30 pm AOTL Lefse Class	7 3:15 pm WAFL 5:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm Youth group 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	8 8 am TOPS	9 11 am Meet & Eat 7 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr. Fall festival set up	10 9-1:30 Fall Festival
11 9:15 am Scripture study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 4 pm Love Inc. Fundraiser	12 Columbus Day 9 am Quilters 2:30 pm Finance 6 pm Rural Edge	13 9:30 am Lydia Circle 10 am Naomi Circle 4 pm Bell Choir 5:30 pm Bldg. Bridges 6:30 pm Council	14 9:30 am Mary Circle 3:15 pm WAFL 5:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	15 MEA Blood Drive 8 am TOPS	16 MEA 7 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	17 City Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee 10 am Lake Ave Apt Communion 6:15 pm Fly Corn Maze
18 9:15 am Scripture study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship 6:30 pm Evening Circle	19 9 am Quilters 10:30 am Staff 5 pm Confirmation Dinner 6 pm Rural Edge	20 4 pm Bell Choir	21 3:15 pm WAFL 5:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	22 8 am TOPS	23 7 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	24 WELCA Conference @ Fergus Falls
Reformation 25 9:15 am Scripture study 10 am Worship/Communion/Confirmation 11 Potluck/Game day 4-6:30 pm Movie Night	26 9 am Quilters 6 pm Rural Edge	27 4 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Creation Stewardship	28 10 am Good Sam 3:15 pm WAFL 5:15 pm Confirmation 7 pm Youth Group 7:30 pm NA @ Sr. Ctr.	29 8 am TOPS	30 7 pm AA & Al-Anon @ Sr. Ctr.	31 Halloween Change clocks back

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
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

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