

Summer.

What an incredible blessing for us northerners. Gone is the ice, snow and wind that freezes our nose hairs and propels us inside. Out come the shorts, boats and lawn chairs. Life is different in the summer. It is a precious time spent with family, friends and neighbors.

In the Lakes Area of Minnesota, our culture lifts up the beauty and diversity of summer. We celebrate at the drop of a hat – whether it is a wedding or the fact it is Thursday. Our jobs, neighbors and food change. (Nothing beats home grown sweet corn, ice-cold watermelon, veggies straight from the garden or fresh fish straight out of the lake.) I am thankful for Summer.

Yet, as much as life changes, it does not. A different type of yard work must happen. Homes are cleaned for company and feasts are prepared. Summer is hard work. People still get sick, have accidents, die too.

My summer started on a rocky note. As many of you know, my husband had been suffering for months with a broken rib. At the end of May, we learned that it was much worse than a broken rib – and was scheduled for major surgery at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, MN. Rob had four broken ribs and torn sternum cartilage. He spent 8 days in Regions Hospital.

As I write this, we are 3 weeks post-op and Rob is healing very well. It will be a long-haul recovery – 4 to 6 months. Currently Rob is limited to a 5 lb weight limit – not something a farmer (or a fisherman) ever wants to hear!

Important Dates

Blood Drive	July Z
FLY @ Long Prairie	July 11
2 orMore Study	July 17
Children's Mental Hea	lth
Forum	July 20
Faith Haven Starts	July 27
Sunshine Forum	August 10
2 orMore Study	August 14
Back-To-School party	August 22
FLY Bowling	Sept. 14
Fishing Forum	Sept. 21
2or More Study	Sept. 25
FLY -Arcade	Oct. 10
2orMore Study	Oct. 23

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As Rob and I travelled on this difficult medical journey, you walked alongside us. You prayed, sent cards and messages, gave us gas money and meals. You have been patient, caring and loving. **Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.** While our journey is not over, it has become easier. You have shown what it is to be a God-fearing, Jesus-loving, Holy Spirit-listening community. I repeatedly thank God for that.

God never leaves us even for a millisecond – in good times or bad, in summer or winter or when we struggle to believe. I am so grateful that God and this congregation is in my life.

I have so much to be thankful for. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Lynn

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Summer Sermon Series: Are the 10 Commandments still valid?

Moses received the 10 Commandments in a culture very different from ours. 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?

<u>Here is the schedule</u> (dates have changed due to Pr Lynn being out of office in early June):

July 6 - Hallowing the Name of God

July 13 – Keeping the Sabbath

July 20 - Respect for Parents

July 27 - Protecting Life

Aug 3 - Telling the Truth

Aug 10 - Property and Possessions

Aug 17 - Marriage, Sex, and The Neighbor

Aug 24 - Martin Luther and the 10 Commandments

Aug 31 - Desire and Its Consequences

Sept 7 - The Good Samaritan and the 10 Commandments

Sept 14 - The Prodigal Son and the 10 Commandments

Sept 21 - Creation Worship (Fall Equinox - A celebration of God's Creation)

Sept 28 - The Lord's Prayer and the 10 Commandments

*YMCA Summer Food Program now in Battle Lake!

What: FREE 7 days of breakfasts and lunches for children 18 and younger.

When: Thursdays 11:30 am to 12:30 pm until August 14th.

Location: First Lutheran Church parking lot (505 W. Holdt St).

As part of the YMCA of Northern Sky's commitments to youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility, they want to help kids grow and thrive by

ensuring access to healthy meals, regardless of their

family's financial status.

YMCA of Northern Sky provides FREE healthy meals to ALL children up to age 18 at NO CHARGE. One week of meals will be available weekly throughout the summer (7 meal bags, 7 breakfasts, and 7 lunches). Meals do not need to be consumed on site. An adult may pick up the meals with prior approval. All meals meet standards established by the USDA.

Learn more: ymcanorthernsky.org/foodprograms







Did you know....

****A new First Lutheran team evolved out of a shared desire to be good stewards of creation? As the new team starts, remember that starting something new is difficult - and patience and grace is required.

****The YMCA Summer Food Share program fed 61 children the week of June 23rd? (There is no Food Share program on July 3rd.)

****Battle Lake is hosting a National Night Out on August 5th? We hope to be there with minnow races.

****Donations to the operating fund were down noticeably in June? ****New Member Sunday is July 13th?

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.





Sunday, August 10th following worship service Heidi Hull, from Good Sam, will speak about the *Sunshine For Everyone* initiative. Join us to learn more and how you can help to support from 11:15a-11:L45a.

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.





FLCamp kids will be holding carwashes on the following dates from 2:30p-4p to raise money for food insecurity. After just two carwashes the kids have raised a total of \$395 so far. Thank you for your continued support!

7/2, 7/16, 8/6, and 8/20

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



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.

Sunday, September 14th FLY will meet at the Shoreline for bowling and pizza from 12p-2p. All youth in 5th grade and up are invitied to attend.





Sunday, September 21st Ross Hagemeister will speak after worship service about his 30+ years of experience as a fishing guide in the lakes area.



Thursday, September 25th 2orMore Fellowship will be meeting at the Shoreline from 5:30p-7:30p to continue the series Everything [in] Between. Our topic for September will be Power and Humility.

Saturday, October 10th FLY will be going to Grandpa's Arcade located in Brandon. We will meet at church at 5p and return by 9p. Food and snacks will be available for purchase. Please RSVP to Missi at missi.abfalter@gmail.com by Wed, Oct. 8th.





Thursday, October 23rd 2orMore Fellowship will be meeting at the Boathouse from 5:3op-7:30p to continue the series Everything [in] Between. The topic for October will be acceptance and resistance.

Holy Faith



The first month of camp has gone well. During the month of June our vacation bible school (VBS) theme has been **True North: Trusting Jesus In A Wild World.** It is an Alaskan themed VBS. The kids learned how to trust in Jesus when they need help, need hope, feel powerless, feel alone, and wonder through songs, games, science projects and bible study. In July we will be doing the **Magnify VBS: Discovering The Bigness Of God In The Smallest Of Things.** Be prepared to see some BIG vacation bible school decorations!!

June is a pretty heavy summer rec month. We make 3 trips back and forth to the school <u>daily</u> for ball, summer splash takes place 2 days per week, there have been daily art activities happening at the Creative Arts Center, tutoring, the summer rec play and the younger kids have had a week of soccer, a week of basketball and a week of football. It is a busy schedule to manage but all the FLCamp staff are doing well at getting everyone where they need to be!

This month we have visited the school playground several times, as well as, ABC Brewery's Pirate Ship. The kids are all looking forward to having a playground of our own though. Having conveniently located bathrooms will be much appreciated. We have gone to the school to cheer on the older kids at their home baseball games and we went uptown to send off the track and field students going to state. The kid's have also enjoyed two water days, learning a variety of new games and loads of arts and crafts.

To go along with our Alaskan themed VBS the kids have spent the month creating their very own totem poles. Each totem pole represents their Native American birth month animal, symbols that represent who they are as an individual, symbols that remind them of their family with the option of adding a totem of an animal to protect them. Their totems will hang in the fellowship hall for a couple weeks for your viewing pleasure.

Holy Faith Continued...

Finally, we have continued to award weekly camp students that best display our camp values of

Faith•Leadership•Cooperation•Attitude•Manners•Pals.
Weekly camp award recipients can be found on the bulletin board in the hallway.

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



Reminder we will be going to Faith Haven from July 27th to July 30th. We will be in need of volunteers to help oversee small groups of day campers. Day camp students range in age from Kindergarten to about 4th grade and attend camp from 8a-6p on July 28th & July 29th. Volunteers will be responsible for teaching small group lessons, overseeing their group during small group activity time and helping to monitor kids during large group activities. If you are available to volunteer a partial day or full day either Monday or Tuesday it would be greatly appreciated. The more volunteers we have the better the experience will be for campers. The success of camp is vital to growing children's faith and to continue to build our ministry.

Thank you!!

Worship and Music



We WANT to hear from YOU! What music do you want to sing/hear in Worship? Fill out a green slip, email the office, or text Pastor.

(Carrier pigeons accepted with prior notice.)

There are green slips in the pews or as you enter the sanctuary to fill

List some of your favorite songs or hymns that you want to sing or hear. We will look at all input!

Songs I'd like to hear in Worship 1 2 3 4			
1			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
Comments About Music:			
Name (Not required)			

We are also looking for singers to help lead the music during worship.

Why??

So we can hear more of our beautiful voices, especially when there are songs that haven't been sung in a while!

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossions 3:16

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, June 5, 2025 at the Shoreline with 14 members in attendance. We are looking for volunteers to mow the church grounds. We do have a Husqvarna tractor mower available to use or you can bring your own mower. Please sign up in the back of the Narthex. We walked ditches and did church clean up after our meeting. Upcoming events: FLC Rummage sale - June 20-21 and Arts & Craft food stand - August 9. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 10, 2025

Women ELCA

No Meetings for July We had a great sale.

Thank you all so much for your any donations and all the help with our annual rummage sale.



ELCA

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

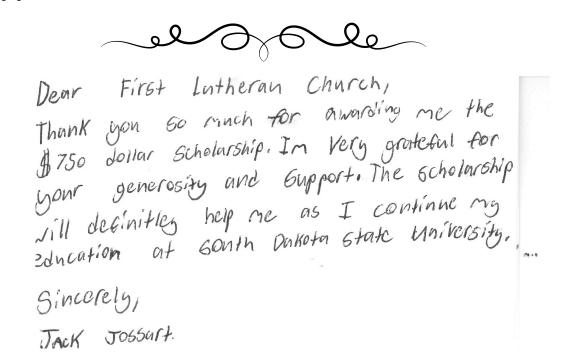


Greetings from your Parish Nurse:

Wow it is already July. Where did June go?
This month I just have a couple of announcements to share with you.

- 1. If I can get 5 people interested in having a medication review completed by a pharmacist student, the Agency on Aging, Dancing Skies will set it up. If we get more than 5 people interested they will send two or three students. It is called a brown bag review. Just put all your pharmaceuticals, prescriptions as well as vitamins and minerals in a bag and they will review them with you and advise you how best to take them and when, what can be taken together and what should not be taken with others. I will be the first one to sign up..If you are interested in this service, contact me or call Laurie at the church office and she will pass it on to me.
- 2. The church council needs your service. We will be down three council members in September and will need to fill those positions. If you are interested in serving on the council or just want more information, please talk with Pastor Lynn or let me know.
- 3. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer at the First Lutheran Camp please let Missi know. Missi will let you know what times would be most helpful and which days she could use some extra hands. This doesn't have to be full days, a couple of hours once in a while would be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your summer, God bless all! Jeri Wilmore, Parish Nurse, FCN



Financial Updates

May 2025 Finances: YTD Budget Tracking:

Income \$ 27,735 Budget \$377,225/ 36.93%

Credit Line 0

Expenses \$ 34,281 Budget \$377,225/42.12%

Net \$ -7,061





Mission Jamaica 2026 is January 31 to February 7

Are you interested in attending in 2026?

Past attendees, Jim Gronbeck, Pastor Lynn, Margret Dahl, Nancy & Dennis Quam, can answer any questions you have.

A \$150 deposit holds your space for the 2026 trip. We currently have two people attending. We could use more - the more the merrier!

2026 Costs: (Airfare, hotel, most food, & transportation included)

Single: \$2,878

Double: \$2,325

Triple: \$2,281

Summary of COUNCIL MINUTES 6-10-25 (unapproved)

Financial Report: With the increased giving in the past two months, the Finance Committee recommends that we begin to pay down the line of credit. They recommend we pay the month's interest plus at least 10% of the balance of the line of credit. Amount determined by Pastor Lynn and Laurie Zelinsky. M/S Carried. Temple talks by council members to keep congregation aware of our mission and why continued financial support is needed even after mortgage is paid off.

Comments/Correspondence: The suggestion box contained a frustration about the choice of hymns, asking for more familiar hymns during worship. A discussion followed; several people were concerned that some of the songs were unfamiliar and less singable. Pastor Lynn suggested we ask people to give us a list of the hymns they'd like to sing, and we could develop a list from which to select hymns, adding an occasional new hymn to the mix. It was agreed that when we have a new hymn, if people seem to struggle with singing along, we either should plan to include that hymn for several services to familiarize ourselves with it, or we should delete the hymn from the rotation. Pastor Lynn suggested that since she is planning to do a themed sermon series this summer, she'd like to choose the hymns herself and take responsibility for the hymns. Motion that we trial having Pastor Lynn choose hymns this summer. M/S, Carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Lynn updated council on her husband, Rob's medical condition She asked for patience as she takes time to help him recover. Confirmands decided they wanted to continue meeting throughout the summer. Pastor Lynn is planning a combination of learning and fun. Discussed a community wide service in Lion's Park on August 24. Jeri and Margaret will work on this. Wenonga Days church service will not be held this year due to construction at the school.

Faith Formation Report: Missi reported there are 37 children participating in FLCamp. Cindy Harms coordinated the minnow races at Ninja Anywhere, assisted by four students: Shane and Savanna Severson, Logan Stock, and Brianna Kohlmeier. Missi reported that she needs help on July 16 &17 with FLCamp while she is unavailable. The youth counselors will be there to run programming; adults are needed to supervise and ensure safety of participants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Young Family Focus Group: On June 18, families with young children will meet to discuss what they are looking for in the church.

Sunday Morning Sunday School Planned: After hearing from some families that they would like to have Sunday School available, Jeri and Sandy Schatschneider have offered to teach one Sunday School class for children through 6th grade.

Donating Excess Wheelchairs and Walkers: There is an accumulation of donated w/cs and walkers. A decision was made to offer them to the Ottertail Lions, or HERO (Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization) in Fargo. One w/c and one walker will remain in the church.

Next Meeting: July 8 at 6:30pm.



Question about this new team?? Contact Nancy Quam or the office.

Environmental
Stewardship:
Nurturing our planet
for future Generation

A Note from Creation Stewardship

Plastic-Free July is a global movement to challenge individuals to be a part of the solution to plastic pollution.

Did you know every piece of plastic you've ever used still exists. It takes hundreds of years for it to disappear. We challenge you this month to use an alternative to plastic for one item you regularly use.

There are many brands available online! Here are some examples:

Bar Shampoo/Conditioner (available at the Market or online at Ethique)

Reusable Straws

Glass or Silicone Storage Containers for Leftover Food Laundry Sheets Sold in Cardboard (Clean People is a Canadian Brand, Available Online) Bar Dish Soap (Blueland Sold Online)

Dishwasher Detergent Sold in Cardboard Instead of Plastic (Blueland Sold Online) Toothpaste Tablets Sold in Glass Jar or Metal Can (Humbly brand or Canary are a couple),

Toilet Cleaning Tabs Sold in Paper Bag (Blueland Online)
Deodorant Sold in Cardboard Dispenser (Native Brand has this Option)

There are many ideas and brands to choose from to cut back on plastic use. See what you can do!



Did you know that MN has documented over 500 native bee species?

Bees are the most effective pollinators. It is important for the bees to have native plant sources for their food.

A couple places to find native plants ideas for your yard or garden is:

Bluethumb.org

or

Windflower by Fergus Falls

	m Worship/Communion Fam Fellowship otluck as Lion's take feed Haven Camp	n worship n Fellowship 6 Colleen Kenedy iildren's Mental health	n worship n Fellowship	n worship/communion F n Fellowship 1		Sunday M
	n Camp	FLCamp 10:30 Staff Newsletter articles due		CA Bd.		Monday
Notes	Faith Haven Camp	FLCamp	15 FLCamp	8 FLCamp 5:30 Faith formation 6:30 Council	FLCamp 9 am Visioning meeting 2 pm Song Select 3 pm Worship & Music	Tuesday
	Faith Haven Camp 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 NA@Sr. Ctr. No Car wash	PLCamp 10 am Good Sam 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 NA@Sr. Ctr.	16 FLCamp Car wash 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 NA@Sr. Ctr.	9 FLCamp 2-4 Confirmation 7:30 NA@Sr. Ctr.	2 FLCampCar wash 2-4 Confirmation 9-2 School Blood Drive 7:30 NA @ sr. ctr.	Wednesday
	31 8 am TOPS 11:30-12:30 Kids food FLCamp	24 FLCamp 8 am TOPS 11:30 - 12:30 Kids Food	17 FLCamp 8 am TOPS 11:30-12:30 Kids food 5:30-7:30 2orMore at Beach Bums	10 FLCamp 8 am TOPS 11:30 - 12:30 Kids Food 8:30 am Men's Fellowship	3 Office Closed FLCamp 8 am TOPS	Thursday
Calendar Templates by Vertex42.com	need.	25 8 pm AA & Al-Anon Wenonga Days	18 8 pm AA & Al-Anon	11 FLY to Drive Inn 8 pm AA & Al-Anon	4 Independence Day 8 pm AA & Al-Anon OFFICE CLOSED	Friday
s by Vertex42.com	2	26 Wenonga Days	19 10 am Lake Ave. Apts. Communion	12	57	Saturday

First Lutheran Church 505 Holdt St. West Battle Lake MN 56515 218-864-5686 www.blfirstlutheran.org Non-Profit Org
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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: wafl@blfirstlutheran.org

Website: www.blfirstlutheran.org