



2025 — SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER — FIRST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

309 Forest Street Kenyon, MN 55946 — firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com — flckenyon.org

. . . and the **SUN** takes a step back, the **LEAVES** lull themselves to sleep, and **AUTUMN** is awakened.

First Lutheran Family,

To me, August seemed like it lasted longer than the whole Summer beforehand. It was a month filled with grief in our congregation, community, state, and world, as we remembered and celebrated the lives of loved ones and grieved at the ongoing violence that hurts every member of Christ's body. It was also a month filled with end-of-Summer rituals away from church, like back-to-school shopping, the State Fair, and getting out on the lake one last time. Months like these happen in our lives—it's part of living that many people in the Bible experienced, from Job losing everything to the wisdom literature in Ecclesiastes. It's also in times like these that we can grow closer to God and to each other, trusting in God's promise to make things whole, to bring about life from death, and to ultimately restore creation to how it was originally intended to be way back in the very beginning.

As we move into September, I invite us to reflect on times like these and to draw our attention to the hope that comes with new beginnings in life: whether it's the first day of school, the first day in a new role, or simply the start of another day alive. Here is "**A Blessing for this Beautiful, Limited Day**" from one of my favorite authors, Kate Bowler, to help ground us at the start of a new month:

Blessed are we who see the impossibility
of solving today.
It can't be done.
God, there are lists on lists and errands on errands
and a taste, like tin in our mouths,
of the unfinishedness—the imperfectability—of our lives.
Are we counting items instead of knowing what counts?
God, help us live here,
seeing the whole truth of what is.
Blessed are we who walk toward the discomfort,
bringing what gifts we have, and our sufferings too,
whether of illness or loss,
grief or betrayal,
confusion or powerlessness.
Blessed are we who scoot up close
so we can whisper our loves, our fears,
all that feels too heavy to carry alone,
and all that we wish we could hold onto for longer.
Show us what we love.
Show us what we never want to lose.
And show us what we no longer need
here in this beautiful, limited day,
as we place our trust and hope in you.
Amen.

Peace, Pastor D.J.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday September 7

**Sunday school
registration
Parents must be present**

SEPTEMBER 7TH WORSHIP AT 9 AM

Rally Sunday

BE A PART OF THE FUN!

OUTDOOR BREAKFAST:
PANCAKES & SAUSAGE
OUTDOOR GAMES & PICKLE BALL!



Sunday September 14

CRADLE ROLL Honors
for Newly Baptized
and 4 yr olds beginning
Sunday School.


BIBLES PRESENTED
to 3rd Graders
and
7th Graders



Tailgating

**Fridays Sept 5 & Sept 26
at KWHS Parking Lot
by First & Gol Churches**

*Confirmation
Class*



ALL SEPTEMBER WEDNESDAYS



Sunday September 14

10 AM Forum – Legacy Gifts

By Tharan Leopold, Regional Gift Planner
with ELCA Foundation

Sunday, September 21

DURING COFFEE HR
Come for Cake to
Celebrate Larry Walker's
80th Birthday!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

(New)

**Monday, September 29
2 PM**

FIRST EV LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – AUGUST 20, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: Vice President Eric Hoversten @ 6:05pm

Devotions: presented by Carmen Luke 12:13-31 An Abundance of Possessions for What?

Present: Candy Herrlich, Carmen Nesseth, Brad Nesseth, Amy Lee, Luke Cordes, Oliver Bauer, Tammy Fletcher, Eric Hoversten

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with additions. Carmen/Candy/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

Secretary's Report: Reviewed as printed in the July Church Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Attendance has been very similar to summer of 2024 thus far, but August giving looks to be low. The ELCA Missionary Sponsorship giving has been completed to our full pledge, will now focus on general benevolence. There were 1-2 large, one time offering in July which we are thankful for. We were able to replace some of what was borrowed from savings last month but also had a large single expense for the installation of new air conditioning mini splits. We are also very thankful for the very generous giving towards our organ repairs.

Pastor's Report: It has been a joy to journey with you all this Summer. We continue to lean into our calling to share in God's love, and I am looking forward to what this will look like in the months to come. Here are some updates from my ministry since the last council meeting: Folks continue to appreciate home visits. I was able to be present with Hagbergs and Wolds immediately following Ken's and Ralph's passings. **Kenyon Community Connections** VBS was the week of July 21. Thanks to volunteers, especially Candy, Coralee, Carmen, and Susan for helping to serve lunch and snacks. Movie Night on August 13 and Coffee/Rolls on August 16. Thank you to the Ed You Committee, Organ Fund Committee, and all who helped with these events! Todd Lippert, Rural Organizer for ISIAH MN, came for coffee hour on August 17 to learn about our needs in Kenyon and to share about his work advocating for small towns in Minnesota. First and Gol Tailgate will happen in September—either/both September 5 & 26. Open Prayer on August 5. **Confirmation/High School** Send Fall plans to 7th-9th graders. 9th graders will have Confirmation prep sessions on Wednesdays in September and will acolyte in September and October. 7th/8th graders will begin Confirmation on November 5. Fall/Winter events will be sent out by Bryana. **Synod/Churchwide events** Pray for Presiding Bishop-Elect Yehiel Curry! His installation will be at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on October 4 at 1 pm. **Life Passages** Dick Thissen Memorial Service: July 22 at 2 pm Ralph Hagberg Celebration of Life: August 9 at noon Ken Wold Celebration of Life: August 30 at 2 pm **Other** Backpack Blessing with Pizza and Pickleball will happen next Wednesday at 6 pm. Men's Ministry Bible study continues to meet. Grief Support Group will have its first meeting on Monday, September 29 at 2 pm. Wednesday Night Summer Services are finished. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to Chris Cordes for grilling! Blended service elements are ongoing. Meeting with the Worship Committee on Monday night to evaluate and discuss ideas for future plans. I am in the Boundary Waters this week. Will be back for Sunday morning worship. The first part of my parental leave will begin October 5, if not earlier. I will return in time to be present for Confirmation Sunday (October 26). Thank you for your prayers and support of me and my family!

July 17-August 20 Mileage (\$56) + other expenses (\$28.91). Total: \$ 84.91.

President's Report: I wanted to start off by sending my gratitude for everyone's efforts so far this year, we have gotten so much done and have made some good work (ex: the organ fundraising/coming together to make that all happen was just amazing). This good work has not gone unnoticed- Huge thank you! I am unavailable for Council on Wednesday the 20th due to completing my last School Board Training session (3 hr zoom session- yuck!). From last council until now I have served communion several times and set up once. I dropped off and picked up a very excited Hunter for VBS- He loved it again this year. Brought Hunter and a friend to the pool party which was also fun, and I was happy to see the weather held out for us. I am still investigating the options to replace Servant Keeper (due to age). I have a request into Pastor Marggi for Pastor Care for Pastor DJ's Parental Leave- Stay tuned for that.

Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and expenses: Amy/Carmen/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. Organ Repair: Obermeyer has picked up the counsel and expect to begin placing the organ back into place the next week or two. Cleaning and painting was done to the organ chamber while it was out.
2. Potential Trip to Colombia: No update
3. Constitution Review: No updates. Worship committee will have agenda items at their meeting on Monday night.
4. Farmer's Market Shed Request: A motion was made to approve the agreement as presented between the City of Kenyon and FLC. It was requested that an attempt be made to color match our current shed, if the option exists. Tammy/Brad/pass
5. Phone & Internet Service: Due to an increase of \$110/ month to our phone and internet bill Tammy explored alternate options. Metronet is able to offer a 3 year contract, business fiberoptic internet service with Wi-Fi and 2 phone lines (primary phone and elevator) for \$165.60 per month. Motion was made to change our internet and phone service to Metronet. Carmen/Amy/Pass. Tammy will complete the steps to complete the contract, then installation will most likely take place in September.

Youth Rep. Report: Many youth participated in the Goodhue County Fair this month. Fall sports have now begun, with first games, meets and scrimmages already happening this week. There is a state fishing tournament at the end of the month and recently a TOC fishing tournament that Seth and Ross Aldorfer participated in.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Thank You to workers who helped serve for Dick Thissen's funeral, July 22nd. Thank You to workers who helped serve for Ralph Hagberg's funeral, August 9th. A flyer with information and Registration Forms are available in the fellowship hall for SEMN Women's Organization Convention. Convention to be held on September 27, 2025, 8:00 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca, MN. Love Offering items are being collected to take along. List on bulletin board. FLCW meeting Sunday, October 5 following church service. Lefse making will be November 7, watch for sign-up sheets to work and purchase. A flyer with information and registration forms are available in the fellowship hall for the 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial convention in Des Moines, Iowa on July 16-19, 2026. Upcoming Love Day Dates: Aug 28, Sept 11, Sept 25

Worship/Evangelism- Did not meet, no report. Next meeting on Monday 8/25

Property and Management- The committee did meet on August 20th. The following items were discussed or took place over the past month: As scheduled, 2 new mini splits were installed in the church sanctuary by Reliable and are now operational. Not yet scheduled but a new boiler will be installed prior to the heating season also by Reliable. A pickle ball court was painted onto the concrete surface in the SE corner of the church parking lot. Additional organ components have been removed and some taken to organ repair company for needed work. We anticipate the rebuild to begin in the next couple of weeks. The organ chamber was cleaned and foiled walls painted to reduce potential glare. Temporary re-direct of rainwater coming off church roofs has been a success (in terms of ed wing basement staying dry). Committee is considering the option of burying those lines with pop-ups as a more permanent solution.

Stewardship- Thank you to those who donated items to the June Stewardship Challenge: 1 Month/100 pounds. We received a good assortment of items needed for the All-Seasons Food Shelf. We donated 126.8 pounds to the Food Shelf. Committee did not meet in July. Our focus for the rest of the summer will be General Benevolence. Also promote the Love offering for the SWO Convention in Waseca on September 27.

Youth and Education- The outdoor movie for Rose fest was a grand community success, over 125 people in attendance. There is a sign up in the fellowship hall for volunteers for the rally Sunday breakfast. Will plan to hold another Garage Sale next March and some items have already been donated and are being stored in the education wing.

KAIC- No report

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- No report

Next Meeting: September 17th Time: 6pm Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Eric/Carmen/pass Time: 7:10 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

September 2025



SEASON: After Pentecost (aP)

	1	2 12-1 pm Open Prayer	3 5:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation	4 4-7 <i>Farmers Market</i> 7 AA	5 <i>First & Gol Tailgating KHS parking lot</i>	6 12 Noon <i>Jim Neseth Memorial Service</i>
7 RALLY SUNDAY 9 Worship 10 <i>Rise & Shine:</i> Outdoor brunch, Yard games, Pickle ball	8	9	10 5:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation	11 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	12	13
14 HOLY CROSS DAY 9 Worship <i>CRADLE ROLL, 3RD & 7TH GR. BIBLES</i> 10 Coffee 10 Sun School <i>LEGACY GIVING PRESENTATION</i>	15	16	17 5:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation 6 pm Council	18 4-7 <i>Farmers Market</i> 7 AA	19	20
21 aP Lec. 24 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10-11 COFFEE HR: w/ <i>Cake to celebrate Larry Walker's 80th Birthday</i> 10:15 Men's Ministry	22	23 7 pm KAIC	24 5:30 pm 9th Grade Confirmation	25 1 LOVE DAY 7 AA	26 <i>First & Gol Tailgating KHS parking lot</i>	27
28 aP Lec. 25 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	29 2 pm <i>Grief Support Group</i>	30				



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 FOREST STREET, KENYON, MN 55946
PHONE: 507-789-5261
E-MAIL: firstlutherankenyon@gmail.com
WEBSITE: flckenyon.org

September

Newsletter



“Ah, September, the month where
every tree in your neighborhood
becomes an artist.”

UNKNOWN