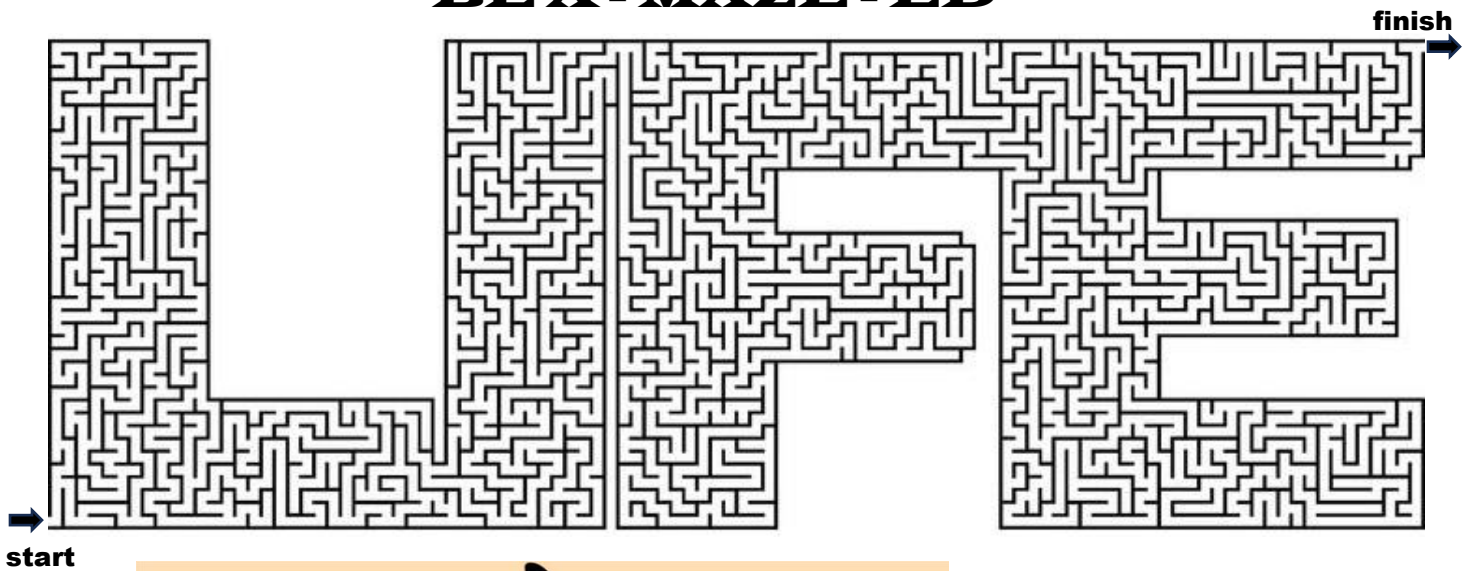


BE A - MAZE - ED



Life is much better
when you are living
in the present
moment.

First Ev Lutheran Church Council Minutes – September 17, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Erica Aronson @ 6:02pm **Devotions:** presented by Tammy

Present: Candy Herrlich, Brad Nesseth, Amy Lee, Luke Cordes, Oliver Bauer, Tammy Fletcher, Eric Hoversten, Erica Aronson, Bryana Lothert, Pastor D.J. Chatelaine

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda. Amy/Brad/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Treasurer's Report: Year to date giving is slightly ahead of 2024 but down from 2023. Attendance also continues to trend down with an average of 60.6 per Sunday, compared to 65.4 in 2024. Rally Sunday attendance was down over 30 people from last year. We still owe over \$4500 to ELCA general benevolence and will have the one-time large insurance bill coming at the end of the year. Tammy will provide a financial update in church on Sunday.

Pastor's Report: Home visits are ongoing. Heard gratitude expressed for online services, the work volunteers put in during all the funerals we've had, and the cards that are sent to homebound folks. **Kenyon Community**

Connections: Celebrations of Life for Ken Wold, Karl Haugen, and Jim Nesseth; graveside service for Carole Barsness. Thank you for your prayers and support during this heavy time. First & Gol tailgate on September 5, Next dates will be September 26 and October 3. Open Prayer on September 2. Meeting with area pastors to plan Thanksgiving service. **Confirmation/High School:** Backpack blessings, Pizza, and Pickleball on August 27. Thanks to EdYou committee, Dee, and the Pickleball players for your work on this. 9th graders have been meeting weekly since September 3 to prepare for Confirmation Sunday, October 26. They are helping plan the service for that morning. 6-8 grade Confirmation begins on Wednesday October 29 with "Fall Youth Fellowship, Faith and Fun" event. **Synod/Churchwide events:** Attended Conference Gathering on September 11. Planning to attend a statewide clergy gathering, coordinated by ISAIAH, on September 25. **Other:** Attended the Augsburg University Corporation Board Meeting on September 5 via Zoom. Men's Ministry Bible study continues to meet. Interest expressed in a Bible/Book Study group open to all genders. Grief Support Group will have its first meeting on Monday September 29 at 2pm. Coffee hours: reflect on recent speakers/presenters. Do we want more of this going forward? Are practical connections to everyday life helpful (advocacy for access to health care, quality education, legacy planning, etc)? Blended service elements are ongoing. Worship committee expressed recommendation for a projector and screen in the sanctuary to provide for more flexibility and accessibility in worship.

Recommendations/requests: Livestream policy re: funerals moving forward [council discussed-will not offer]; Choir Waffle Feed- waiting on a date (original date conflict with garage sale); Church Logo [Bryana and Pr. D.J. to continue to explore options]. The first part of my parental leave will begin October 1. I plan to return from the first part of my leave on October 22 to finalize details for Confirmation Sunday (Oct. 26). Thank you for your prayers and support of me and my family!

August 21-September 17 Mileage (\$70) + other expenses (\$137.04). Total: \$207.04.

President's Report: Wow did August fly by! I couldn't attend our last council meeting as I needed to attend three 3-hour school board training sessions, that was a lot of sitting and on a computer for one day (directly after work). I learned a lot and it will help me become a better board member (that is the goal)! On August 21st instead of going to my usual work I volunteered for Rice County Habitat for humanity. They are doing an entire neighborhood build in Faribault, I installed windows, and spray foamed them the entire day. Habitat is very rewarding, and I always do something that I literally never thought I would ever do! This neighborhood only has one house left and they expect to have it done before winter- they are amazing! On August 27th my family divided and concurred getting to each of the kid's schools to meet the teachers and then to church to the pizza party and backpack blessing (shout out to Haugen's- Trader Joes Pizza dough is amazing!). September has started off just as busy as August- we attended Rally Sunday which had a great turn out! I learned I am not good at Pickle ball, but Hunter seems to really enjoy it. I have been and I am signed up to setup and or serve communion in August and continuing into September. I have been talking with Pastor Marggi about pastoral care while Pastor DJ is out- so stay tuned for her services (she has been visiting her daughter in Antigua Guatemala and has not had very good service so we will get everything worked out on 9/17/25). I am sure she will have some great stories for us when she returns.

Motion to approve the consent agenda including mileage and expenses: Eric/Tammy/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. Organ Repair: Work is complete with the exception of installation of a dedicated electrical outlet. There is a 5-year warranty. Obermeyer will come back late fall to tune the organ. The organ committee will be meeting on 9/28, which is also the first Sunday it will be played during worship.
2. Constitution Review: Erica and Tammy have reached out to several neighboring congregations and are exploring options for record keeping. Pr. D.J. shared sample prayer/communion cards. Worship committee will have agenda items at their meeting in October.

New Items:

1. Sanctuary Screen & Projector Research: The worship committee would like to explore ways technology in the form of a screen & projector might enhance and supplement our services. Tammy and Brad to work together and contact Fette to explore options.

Youth Rep. Report: School has kicked off. It is fun to see the little [elementary] school kids in the halls! Band & Choir have announced plans for a trip to Chicago next March. Fall sports are on-going. The band students attend Camp Friendship in Nerstrand Woods and participated in team building activities. The pep band will begin planning this week, starting with a volleyball game. Homecoming week will kick off with a homecoming dance on Saturday 9/27, then coronation on Monday 9/29, and end with the football game on 10/3.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Thank You to workers who helped serve for Ken Wold's Funeral August 30. Thank you to workers who helped serve for Karl Haugen's funeral August 31. 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: Sept 25, Oct 9, Oct 23

Worship/Evangelism- August Meeting: Recapped summer Wednesday and Sunday service with positive feedback regarding transition to different Bible translations, music and songs. Will continue to bring less traditional elements into the service 2 times per month. Discussed Rally Sunday, Pastor DJ's leave and future events. Recognized the weight carried by Pastor DJ due to frequency of deaths and offered support. September Meeting: Recapped Rally Sunday with recommendation to combine Rally Sunday and first day of Sunday School next year. Discussed use of screen to project hymns and readings- Tammy will bring to Council. Assisted in planning for 10/12 congregation led service, discussed youth service (to coordinate with EdYou) and more interactive ideas. November 23 will have a sports themed Sunday. Will look into Fall Festival community activity. Will also plan a community meal in December for community outreach. Will post a sign-up sheet, with recipe, to allow volunteers to help make communion bread. 1 recipe will provide for 4 Sundays.

Property and Management- The committee did not meet in September. The following activities have or are taking place: Old school parking lot mowed and cleaned up for 2 large funerals this past month. Organ restoration project has now been completed. Hope to relocate pews and piano within the month. Continue working with multiple insurance agencies hoping to secure additional quotes for church property and liability coverages. Council has decided to place phone and internet service through Metronet going forward. Working with them in regards to installation of lines and equipment. Have lightly pruned maple trees on church property.

Stewardship- Continuing to take donations for the Love Offering for the SEMN SWO Fall Conference on September 27 in Waseca. Thank you to all those who donated items. We will continue to seek donations for General Benevolence.

Youth and Education- We kicked off our year on Sunday September 7th with Rally Sunday and Outdoor breakfast, it was a great success with beautiful weather. There are lots of events in the months ahead, I have created our Sunday School & Youth calendars. Upcoming events: Ditch clean up 10/12. Confirmation 10/26. Fall fellowship and fun 7th-12th (10/29) Edyou is working on ordering merchandise for some of our future events/community outreach opportunities. As well as creating a banner! Thrivent Members: If you have a \$250 Action Team Grant available, please let me know! This money could be used to support children and youth ministry here at First Lutheran.

KAIC- No report- next meeting Tuesday 9/23

Next Meeting: October 15 Time: 6pm Devotions: Brad

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Tammy/Eric/pass Time: 7:33 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary

October

2025



SEASON:
After Pentecost
Reformation Sun

			1	2	3	4
					5:30 pm First & Gol Tailgating @ KWHS	
5 aP Lec 27 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	6	7	8	9 1 LOVE DAY	19	11
12 aP Lec 28 9 Assembly-Led Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee <i>Ditch Clean-Up</i>	13 5 pm Worship/ Evangelism	14	15 6 pm Council	16	17	18
19 aP Lec 29 9 Worship 10 NO SUN-SCH 10 Coffee	20	21	22	23 1 LOVE DAY	24	25
26 Reformation Sun. <i>Confirmation</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	27	28 7pm KAIC	29 5-8 pm Fall Youth Grade 7-12 Fellowship, Faith & Fun	30	31 <i>Reformation Day</i>	1 <i>All Saint's Day</i>