

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

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My Siblings in Christ,

As the leaves are changing color and falling from the trees, so are we turning the page on another month together. November is the time of year where we prepare for winter's chill to set in. It's a transitional month of sorts: we are in between high school sports seasons and we experience the rare warm day before snow flurries appear. We begin to shift our routines as our days grow shorter and colder, and we prepare for the Holiday season coming around the bend. It's a time where we can turn to nature and notice the pause that is happening around us. The stillness that was once filled with animal noises can be jarring—we once heard birds singing, squirrels chirping, and mosquitos humming. Now, all of those creatures have either hunkered down for winter or have followed the sun to warmer places. Yet, we are still here. We remain gathered and centered in community, ready to journey on the path God has laid before us. And, like nature reminds us, we can take this time to pause. To be still. To be grateful.

Gratitude is a word that gets thrown around often at this time of year. Thanksgiving is coming at the end of the month, after all. Each Thanksgiving, my family has the tradition of going around the table to share one thing we are grateful for each year. The rules are there can be no repeats. For example, if someone says, "Our family," that response is taken off the board. So, if you don't go first, you really have to think, especially in years in life where it might be more challenging to do so. This practice has expanded my understanding of gratitude and has helped me to be a better listener in order to learn what others in my family are thankful for. This also makes me wonder what this practice would look like if we took time on a Sunday morning to have each person share one thing they are grateful for—again, with no repeats. What would we learn about each other? What might we learn about ourselves? And what might we learn about God's presence and action in our midst?

The practice of gratitude centers us in what truly matters. It grounds us in our faith and hope and love for God and the world. It helps us pay attention to what is happening around us. And it reminds us of our need to be in community, to share the ups and downs of life, to focus on how God continues to call us together in this very time and place. So, as we practice gratitude in the month ahead, I leave us with the words from Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth."
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Thanks be to God! Pastor D.J.

ALL
SAINTS'
SUNDAY

On November 2, 2025
we honor all our saints

PICK UP *NOVEMBER 7TH 5PM-7PM *NOVEMBER 9TH 10AM-12PM	FIRST LUTHERAN LEFSE SALE 309 FOREST ST. KENYON
LEFSE, IT'S HOW WE ROLL!	
☎ 507-218-9946	FLCW569@GMAIL.COM
ORDER HERE  ORDERS DUE BY NOVEMBER 1ST	6 ROUNDS \$12 12 ROUNDS \$22 

FLCW

Lefse Orders Due by 11-1
Call or E-Mail

Lefse Making Fri 11-7
Starting at 9 am

Pick Up Times
Fri 11-7 → 5-7 pm
Sun 11-9 → 10 am - Noon

FLC YOUTH

SUN NOV 9, 10 am, in the Ed Wing

Gift Box Packing for Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Gift Donations are needed.

SEE GIFT LISTS *

*Available at Church or sent with Friday E-News

WED NOV 19

Simmer Pot Making & Pizza for all Helpers.

SUN NOV 30

Advent Festival: Crafts/Cookies/Games



HYMN SING & LASAGNA SUPPER

November 16th – 4 pm

First Lutheran – Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

Featuring favorite hymns, hymn requests, surprise musicians,

Followed by Lasagna Supper

FACEBOOK EVENT LINK:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2157553774659920/>

FIRST EV LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2025 -- 6:00 PM

Welcome and Call to Order: President Erica Aronson @ 6:01pm

Devotions: presented by Erica

Present: Candy Herrlich, Amy Lee, Luke Cordes, Chris Cordes, Tammy Fletcher, Eric Hoversten, Erica Aronson

Approve Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda. Eric/Tammy/pass

Consent Agenda Items:

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

Treasurer's Report: September was the lowest giving month to current expenses in the last 4 years. October 12th had the lowest attendance for a Sunday in the last several years. Giving is \$18,342 under our planned budget, \$3674 is still owed to ELCA general benevolence. Thank you, Stewardship committee, for your current focus on benevolence. Metronet internet installation is delayed until 10/22. We will have an overlap for internet to both Mediacom and Metronet in October but will have a monthly savings in November after Mediacom is cancelled.

Pastor's Report: No report, Pr. D.J. is currently on parental leave. They welcomed new baby John (Jack) William on October 1st. He will return on 10/22 and take the remainder of his parental leave time at a future date.

President's Report: Continue to help with set-up and serving communion; baked bread for communion- it was easy! Greeted and read at lay service on 10/12, have received good feedback about that service.

Approve Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the consent agenda: Amy/Chris/pass

Ongoing Items:

1. **Organ Repair:** Obermyer's work is complete and the organ is being played! The electrician was here 10/15 and will return 10/16 to install a light fixture in the closet off the organ chamber and a stand-alone service line for the organ. One of the pedals is sticking, Brad will reach out to Obermyer to come address. The organ repair committee met and is planning a lasagna dinner and hymn sign on 11/16 to wrap up the project, similar to the kickoff event they held prior to the project start. There will be roughly \$9000 excess balance in the organ repair fund, after the electrical work is paid for. This is due to a less than anticipated cost for construction. The council is considering moving this to the general repair fund account for future repairs. Please speak to a council member if you have questions, suggestions, or concerns about this topic. The grand total raised for the organ repair project was approximately \$75,400. Thank you all for your generous giving and creative fundraising ideas!
2. **Constitution Review:** Reviewed a draft communion/prayer request card. Council approves and will work to create a card that will fit in the pew holders. No new updates for record keeping options at this time. Amy will incorporate all proposed changes, including the 2025 ELCA amendments to the model constitution, into a draft for final review by council at the November meeting.
3. **Sanctuary Screen & Projector Research:** No updates, Tammy will connect with Brad and together they will pursue input from Fette Electronics.

Youth Rep. Report: Homecoming week at the beginning of this month was fun. The junior class won the Powder Puff football game. The Beef Cake Volleyball game ended in a tie (1 to 1) between the juniors and seniors. They will play the tie breaker set during snow week in February. The football team has not won a game this season. The regular season has wrapped up and they will begin play offs on Tuesday 10/21. The volleyball team starts play offs on 10/23. They have an 18-3 winning record and earned the #3 seed. Winter sports will begin soon.

Committee Reports:

FLCW- Discussed and made plans for Good Earth Village Goods Gift gala (no quilt this year, will give a monetary donation provided by Love Day), Christmas Project and lefse making/ marketing, etc. Candy has been in contact about the Christmas project; names will be available in November. Flyers for Lefsa ordering are being disturbed- there is a QR code for ordering. Lefsa making will be on November 7th.

Worship/Evangelism- Recapped 10/12 Sunday service. Mary graciously has prepared candles for All Saints Sunday. Will "host" a Tailgate/ Sports Sunday service on 11/23 and a community meal in December- either 12/3 or 12/7. The community meal will not be a fundraiser; community outreach is the only goal. Tammy has requested a Thrivent grant to fund the first meal. Any donations will be used to fund future community meals/events.

Property and Management- Committee did not meet in October however the following activities have taken place: The installation of a new boiler in the ed wing is complete and ready for the upcoming heating season. Metronet is scheduled to install equipment needed for new telephone and internet service on October 22. Electrical work is scheduled for week of October 13th which includes running a new stand-alone service for the organ and installing a light fixture in the small paraments closet off the organ chamber. Have received the premium notice from Church Mutual for our insurance policies set to expire in late November. Have also received one competitive quote and awaiting additional before considering our options going forward. Have sprayed the exterior of our buildings hoping to reduce the annual infestation of insects. A special 'thanks' to Peyton for removing leaves from around our church property.

Stewardship- Love Offering for the SEMN SWO was delivered to the Fall Conference in Waseca. Still seeking donations for General Benevolence. These funds are dedicated to carrying out God's work in social ministries (Lutheran Social Services, church camps and retreats like Good Earth Village), Seminaries and Leader Development, new and existing ministries, and Global Missions. Prayerfully consider making a donation to General Benevolence. Stewardship will be assisting the Organ Committee with the meal for the Hymn Sing and Lasagna Dinner on Sunday, November 16.

Youth and Education- This past weekend was a busy one! I'd like to thank all the volunteers that were able to help out at the Fall Festival on Saturday, it was a great community outreach opportunity and the cotton candy was a HUGE hit for all ages! Another shout-out to all the volunteers that helped Sunday for our ditch clean up, the weather ended up working in our favor. We enjoyed some lunch back in the fellowship hall afterwards, and brainstormed some adult activities for the near future. Upcoming events: Confirmation Sunday 10/26; Trunk or Treat 10/26 3-5 pm Depot Park- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! (open to ALL CONGREGATION MEMBERS)**; Fall, faith, and Fellowship 7th-12th 10/29; Simmer pot Fundraiser (11/2); Operation Christmas Child, Shoebox packing (11/09). We are on hold with ordering a banner and merchandise until we create a logo and slogan. Any ideas are welcome, please reach out to Bryana flcyouth45@gmail.com.

KAIC- 3 applications have been sent for next year but seminary enrollment is at an all time low. We expect we may not get an intern again next year. We ask each congregation to keep this as a line item in your 2026 budget but we will not collect payment unless an intern is secured. Wanamingo churches (Trinity and Wanamingo Lutheran) have withdrawn from KAIC. The committee is considering ways to continue the connections between the congregations and work together for committee collaboration when there is no shared intern. Bryana L. has also gathered with other youth leaders to work on joint youth events. If you have community collaborative ideas, please reach out to a KAIC member.

Long Range Planning/Personnel/Endowment/Committees- Endowment committee met and will send scholarship applications to current high school seniors. Received a very nice thank you from a recent scholarship recipient. Discussed outreach funds available if needed to assist with the community meal Worship committee is planning.

Next Meeting: November 19th Time: 6 pm

Devotions: Tammy

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn Tammy/Chris/pass Time: 7:28 pm

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Amy Lee, secretary



NOVEMBER

2025



SEASON:

All Saints
End of After-Pentecost (aP)
Christ the King
Advent



2 All Saints  9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry	3 5 Worship Evangelism	4 12-1 Open Pryr	5 5:30 - 7 7th/8th Gr. Confirmation	6	7 9 Lefse-Making	8
9 aP Lec 32 9 Worship 10 Sun School - <i>Operation Christmas</i> <i>Child Shoebox Packing</i> 10 Coffee	10	11	12 5:30 - 7 7th/8th Gr. Confirmation	13	14	15
16 aP Lec 33 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee 10:15 Men's Ministry 4:30 Hymn Sing & Lasagna Supper	17	18	19 5:30 - 7 7th/8th Gr. Confirmation 6 COUNCIL <i>Youth Simmer Pot</i> <i>Making & Pizza for</i> <i>all Helpers</i>	20	21	22
23 Christ the King <i>Tailgate/Sports</i> <i>Sunday w/food</i> 9 Worship 10 Sun School 10 Coffee	24	25 6 pm Community Thanksgiving Service AT DALE	26 <i>No Confirmation,</i> <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Break</i>	27 Thanksgiving <i>Day</i> 	28	29
30 Advent 1 9 Worship 10 Coffee 10 SS--ADVENT <i>FESTIVAL: Crafts/</i> <i>Cookies/Games</i>						

★ Watch for Beau Chant Concert 12/13

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November

newsletter



O give thanks to the LORD;
call on his name;
make known his deeds
among the peoples.

PSALM 105:1