



THE VOICE

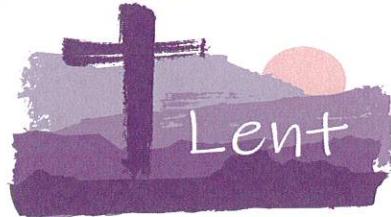
of the First Lutheran Congregation

First Lutheran Church
401 7th Av SW Pipestone MN
56164
Phone: 507-825-5837

Words from Pastor	
~February and the beginning of Lent	1
Some People are Stubborn	2
Church Council Highlights	3
Noisy Offering / Offering	4
~ current Bell Tower balance	4
~Year-End statements & info updates	5
~Radio slots	5
Church News, Events & Happenin's	6-8
~Visitations/Homebound	6
~Thoughts, prayers	6
FLCW News & Activities	7
Shetek Happenings	8
~Shetek 2025 Year-end letter	9
F.L.Y. (First Lutheran Youth)	10
~Remind App for kids & parents	10
~Upcoming events	10
~Time to Talk about Anime	11
~Kidz Korner (LIFT)	12
February Worship Assistants	13
February Anniversaries & Birthdays	14
February 2026 Calendar	15

February and the beginning of Lent

We are now in the month of February, the month that begins with a lying rodent who tries to predict the end of winter, overflows with hearts and chubby cherub cupids for Valentine's Day, and images of men in white powdered wigs for President's Day (or, two holidays celebrating the birthdays of George Washington and Abe Lincoln). But February also includes the more somber "holiday" (holy day) of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we shall return. We have ash put on our foreheads in the shape of a cross, then participate in Holy Communion, reminding us that the cross is not the end, but the way in which we do not die, but are saved, and that we will be raised to be with Christ in eternal life.



During Lent, we will be having worship Wednesday evenings at 6:15 for about a half hour (except for Maundy Thursday, which will be at 7:00), and our theme will be Miracles. As in the last few years, we will have various speakers at this kid-friendly service, and LIFT and confirmation students will go to class after worship.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Pastor Ann

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

SOME PEOPLE ARE STUBBORN

By Dr. Joe Pettigrew

We have all encountered them—the people who dig their heels in, refuse to listen to reason, and seem determined to hold their ground no matter the cost. Dealing with stubbornness, whether in a colleague, a family member, or a friend, can be incredibly draining. It tests our patience and often tempts us to respond with frustration or force. We think if we just push a little harder or argue a little louder, they will finally see the light. Yet, experience usually teaches us that pushing against a wall only leads to exhaustion.

When we face stubbornness in others, God invites us to take a different approach—one rooted in the fruit of the Spirit rather than the force of our will. Instead of meeting rigidity with rigidity, we are called to meet it with grace. This doesn't mean agreeing with something wrong; it means choosing to protect the relationship over winning the argument. It means realizing that hearts are rarely changed by pressure, but they can be softened by love.

It is also a moment for humble self-reflection. If we are honest, there are times when we, too, have been the stubborn ones—perhaps even with God. We have held onto grudges, resisted His guidance, or insisted on our own way. Yet, God does not force us into submission. He patiently waits, gently leads, and kindly draws us back to Himself.

If you are dealing with a stubborn person today, surrender the situation to God in prayer. Ask Him for the supernatural patience to bear with them in love. Remember that you cannot force a heart to open, but the Holy Spirit can. Step back, lower your defenses, and let your gentle spirit be a testimony of God's grace.

Thought Of The Day

Sometimes, the softest answer is the only one strong enough to break through the hardest barrier.

Council Highlights from January 14th, 2026

- ◆ **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Pastor Ann Zastrow, Kristy Henriksen, Sarah Meyer, Karen Boehm, Thad Reinert, Nicole Weber, Danielle Ossefoort, Cristy Appel & Marit Sterud
Absent: Robert Baerenwald, Al Hollingsworth
- ◆ **TREASURER'S REPORT:** A motion was made by Nicole to pay the bills as listed EXCEPT: Shetek Lutheran Ministries, SW Minnesota Synod, and Pipestone Food Shelf.
 - ◆ **PASTOR'S REPORT:** The report was given in written form
- ◆ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Kristy will be finishing her term and looking forward to spending more time with family. She asked that we keep the mission in mind, working for the better good of the church.
 - ◆ **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Sarah will be moving to President for the next year.
- ◆ **Unfinished Business notes:** Planned Giving: January 11th, 2026 - 3 in attendance. A lot of good information was shared; Kaffi-Ti was Dec 13th from 1-3pm. Raised approximately \$2000, but likely will be seen with a different look next year due to lack of congressional helpers to run the event; Budget for 2026 was discussed and approved with a motion to accept budget, motion carried; Nominating Committee: Will need to fill VP position. Karen Boehm will move to Congregational Life. Nicole Weber will move to Secretary. Kristy Henriksen will move to committee member for Outreach and Mission, still need a council member. For the Synod Assembly and Conference - Paul and Kristy Henriksen will attend. Conference Assembly will be attended by Pastor Ann and Sarah Meyer. This will be Feb 15 in Worthington. Up to 6 members can attend. Talk to Pastor Ann if interested in attending.
- ◆ **New Business:** Instillation of Council and Committee Members- Feb 1, 2026 during worship; Council orientation Feb 1, 2026 following worship; LIFT, contemporary service will be kept once monthly at this time.
 - ◆ **LIFT & Youth:** LIFT Christmas program was well attended and the kids did GREAT! Youth - Stampede Hockey game for Feb or March, working to set a date.
 - ◆ **Worship:** Good Friday service will be at 1pm.
- ◆ **Outreach & Mission:** Personal Care kits will be collected for Lent. Start bringing items in!
 - ◆ **Personnel:** discussed with the budget.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 11th, 2026 @7:30pm



Noisy Offering for January was collected for:
SW Crisis Center

The total amount collected was: **\$55.97**

Noisy Offering for February & March (match month) will go to
the Pipestone County Food Shelf.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE IMPORTANT OUTREACH NEEDS.

January 2026 Offerings

Monthly Offering needed:	\$21,150.00
Weekly Offering – week 1	
Weekly Offering – week 2	
Weekly Offering – week 3	
Weekly Offering – week 4	
MONTH-END TOTAL:	

Needed / week:

4-week month = \$5,288/week 5-week month = \$4,230/week

****NEW AMOUNTS WILL BE POSTED ONCE THE 2026 BUDGET IS APPROVED.**

There are now THREE METHODS to use Simply Giving:

- 1) Your church offerings can be made weekly, every other week (bi-weekly) or monthly automatically through electronic funds transferred from your checking or savings accounts or by using your credit card.
- 2) To the right (>) is a Quick Response (QR) code. When you scan the QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of the church's Vanco/Simply Giving offering site. Just follow the directions on your screen.
- 3) Be watching for other options as they become available.
- 4) Good ol' offering envelopes - they are tried and true still today!!



Current Bell Tower fund balance (1/29/2026): \$ *7,000*
THANK YOU to all who have donated!!!

Year-End Giving Statement

Year-end giving statements have all been mailed out. If you DID NOT receive one and you gave to FLC in 2025, please contact the church office.

PLEASE NOTE: the office also sent out an information sheet of what we currently have on file for you or members of your family.

PLEASE MAKE A POINT TO UPDATE THIS INFORMATION INCLUDING EMAILS!!

We are trying to improve our communications with our members but if our information is incorrect, it doesn't work so well. We use this contact information in our online church directory also. Please indicate if you prefer to OPT OUT of including certain information in the directory. (NOTE: This directory is ONLY accessible by members of First Lutheran). The forms can either be returned to the church by putting in the offering plate on a Sunday, sending via email to the church office OR via 'snail mail'.

I had some express confusion or feeling uncomfortable by the content of the letter and the orange slip. That WAS NOT the intention!!! If you have any questions or issues with the letter that was sent out, please contact the office and I will answer your questions as best as I can.

THANK YOU for all of your help with this task – it is appreciated so very much!!!!

Lori

2026 Radio Sponsorships



Radio Sponsorships for 2026 are posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you have a recurring yearly sponsorship, please let the office know if you would like to change the date as listed on the schedule. There are 7 open slots (listed below) so if you would like to get signed up for one, please add your name to one of the open slots on the sheet. If you would like to check your recurring sponsorship, OR signup online, scan the QR code below.

THANK YOU all who give to the radio sponsorship – it is a GREAT way to share the ministry here at First Lutheran!!

Available Dates:

April 26th

May 10th

June 28th

August 30th

September 13th & 20th

October 11th

December 13th



Church News, Events & Happenin's

VISITATIONS

If someone is ill or in need of a Pastoral visit, please call Pastor Ann or contact the Church office @ 825-5837. Please remember the following First Lutheran Church members in your prayers, send them a card, or stop to visit them.



Joyce Kunz	Good Samaritan Communities, Pipestone
Darrell Foss	Good Samaritan, Sioux Falls
Kay Dubbelde	<p>The Lodge Assisted Living - Mankato, MN <u>Send any letters or cards to: Kay Dubbelde</u> <u>Mankato Lodge Senior Living</u> <u>1360 Adams St Apt 103 -</u> <u>Mankato, MN 56001</u></p>



Our thoughts and prayers to the families of Jon & Shelly Kozlowski on the passing of Shelly's brother, Tom Winter and to Jeff & Sal Griebel on the passing of Jeff's mom, Karen Griebel. May you all find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.



F.L.C.W News & Activities



REMINDERS:

- ⇒ **FLC Serves at the Food Shelf on Thursday, February 5th @1:30pm.**
- ⇒ **Quilting the 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month @9:30am.**
- ⇒ **Group Circle for February will be Tuesday, February 17th @Noon.**
- ⇒ **Personal Care kits will be collected during Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 18th. Please start bringing items in!!!**



Personal Care Kit items:

- 1 light-weight, dark towel
- 2 bath-size bars of soap
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in original package
 - 1 sturdy comb
 - 1 metal nail clipper

WELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

Check out the WELCA website for some great resources (www.womenoftheelca.org). Sign up for a Daily Grace devotion to start every day off right and have a moment with God.

Shetek Happenings

February 2026



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Apply to work at Camp this summer!

Registration is open for summer camp!

Wish List

- Office Supplies - Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Extension cords and Power Strips
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Volunteers

Upcoming Events

Hiking Club February 15

Hiking Club March 15

Confirmation Retreat March 20-21

Register online at Shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!



Shetek Lutheran Ministries
14 Keeley Island Dr.
Slayton, MN 56172
(507)-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Executive Director – Marv Nysetvold
Program Director – Lexie Blaschko

January 2026

Dear friends and supporters of Shetek Lutheran Ministries:

I'm very grateful for the support and prayers Shetek receives every year. It allows us to carry on the ministry that happens through our summer program and through hosting guests all year round. Last summer, we served 693 campers on site and another 244 through our day camp programs for a total of 937 campers!

Our capital campaign, "Building on the Foundation", is finishing up with a few final pledges coming in. We have met our phase 1 goal of \$1.5 million and our current total in gifts and pledges is \$1,725,000. The Eagles Nest Lodge is being used by a variety of groups – women's groups, Boy Scouts, family gatherings, meetings, etc. Our first new cabin is being built and will be ready for summer 2026.

Some improvements that your gifts helped make possible this year include:

- Upgraded the hood suppression system in the kitchen
- Removed the old pump house and the old wells were sealed
- Cabins #1 and #5 were reshingled
- Most of the Retreat Center (part of it was done a few years ago) and the Chapel were reshingled also
- Campers who would not be able to afford camp were able to come because of your support!

Our summer brochure has been mailed and we hope you'll check out all our programs for 2026. Registration is open and we have many opportunities for all ages on our website – www.shetek.org

Thank you again for your support of the ministry at Shetek. Without your generous support last year, we would not be in as good a position to move forward in 2026. We hope to see you here at camp and we hope you'll encourage others to participate as well.

Blessings in 2026,

Marv Nysetvold
Executive Director

PS Thanks again and I hope we can continue to count on your support and prayers this year.



Remind

The REMIND app is used here at First Lutheran for our Youth activities!

To join, send a text to 81010 with the message:
@8728964

OR

Visit: <https://www.remind.com/join/8728964>

It's a GREAT way to see opportunities for First Lutheran Youth in grades 6-12! Both students & parents are welcome to join!



Stay tuned as we are still working on attending a Stampede game in Sioux Falls sometime in February or March!! We also begin Lent services mid-month and need confirmation students to sign up to help with services.

Clipboard is in the Narthex or get signed up online!

- * Wednesday, February 4th: 6:15-7:15pm LIFT/Confirmation
- * Wednesday, February 11th: 6:15pm Contemporary Service, 6:45-7:15pm LIFT/Confirmation
 - * Monday, February 16th: NO SCHOOL - President's Day
- * Wednesday, February 18th: 6:15pm - LENT BEGINS w/Ash Wednesday services; NO LIFT/CONFIRMATION this week
- * Wednesday, February 25th: 6:15 Lent Service; 6:45pm - LIFT/Confirmation

Welcome to Youth Ministry!

Time to Talk about Anime

By Austin Gravley

Japanese animation has become a media mainstay among Gen Z. You may not "get" it, but the zoomers at your church sure do.



Christianity Today

October 1, 2025

After winning the gold medal for the 100m in the 2024 Summer Olympics, Team USA sprinter Noah Lyles did a Kamehameha. And earlier this year, the L.A. Lakers did a collab with *One Piece*, with jumbotron branding and animation shown during a game. If you don't know what a Kamehameha is, I want to propose that you've missed one of biggest cultural shifts of the past 30 years: the mainstreaming of anime in the West.

That's not cause for alarm. In fact, I have good news: You're already prepared to minister to the anime fans under your care, because anime is not as different from more familiar cultural products as it may seem. But you do need to grasp the scope of this cultural shift to serve these students well. At its most basic, *anime* refers to a style of Japanese animation. Even if you know very little about it, you probably know the look: big eyes, spiky hair, lots of action. Think *Pokémon* or *Dragon Ball Z*, two of the earlier anime shows to come to the West. Unsurprisingly, given that growth, anime's popularity is no longer limited to stereotypical audiences (chiefly tech-savvy young men). The NFL and MLB are doing anime collaborations alongside the NBA, and the reception has been positive among sports fans and anime fans alike. For most younger Americans, none of this is news. And my experience as a youth pastor suggests that for those in Gen Z and younger (anyone born after 1996), the notion of dropping anime as an adult is almost nonsensical. For these students, anime is simply a normal part of life, a mainstay of pop culture. It's reached water-is-wet levels of cultural saturation, much like *Friends*, *Seinfeld*, and the original *Star Wars* trilogy are for Gen X, or *The Office* for older millennials. Even as a lifelong anime viewer, I struggle to wrap my mind around just how pervasive anime has become. That baseline familiarity has served me well in youth ministry, but thankfully, you don't need to be an anime fan to understand why younger Christians care about anime and how it's influencing their lives. Here are three ways to begin.

- ◆ **First, add anime to your list of cultural buckets.** When we're trying to get to know someone, we often work through large cultural buckets—books, movies, TV, sports, video games, and so on—to learn what they like.
- ◆ **Next, ask good questions with genuine interest.** If a student is wearing a T-shirt with anime characters on it or makes a reference to an anime as you're talking (and that's likely the allusion if you can't think of what else it could be), ask them about it. Kids love talking about things they enjoy, and they want adults to notice them and their interests.

Many of its stories are positive and hopeful, appealing to both boys and girls, with clear morality structures that do not confuse good and evil. Where Western media often treats boys and men as dangers to avoid or problems to be solved - many animes have aspirational male heroes and messages about courage, dedication, sacrifice, persistence, and duty. Anime may have a surface-level weirdness for older Western audiences, but look deeper and you'll frequently find remarkably virtue-driven storytelling. At the same time - and again, just as with Western media—each anime should be evaluated on an individual basis, and ministry leaders should recognize that students may express enthusiasm for an anime in spite of its objectionable content rather than because of it.

- ◆ **Third, connect the deeper appeals and aspirations of anime to Christ through the Word.** Anyone with long experience in youth ministry knows that pop culture can be a meeting point for deep discipleship. Being a good conversation partner about the stories our students love and why they love them is a ministry skill. In this sense, anime is no different than any other story, and you can submit the questions, ideas, and themes in these stories to examination by the Word.

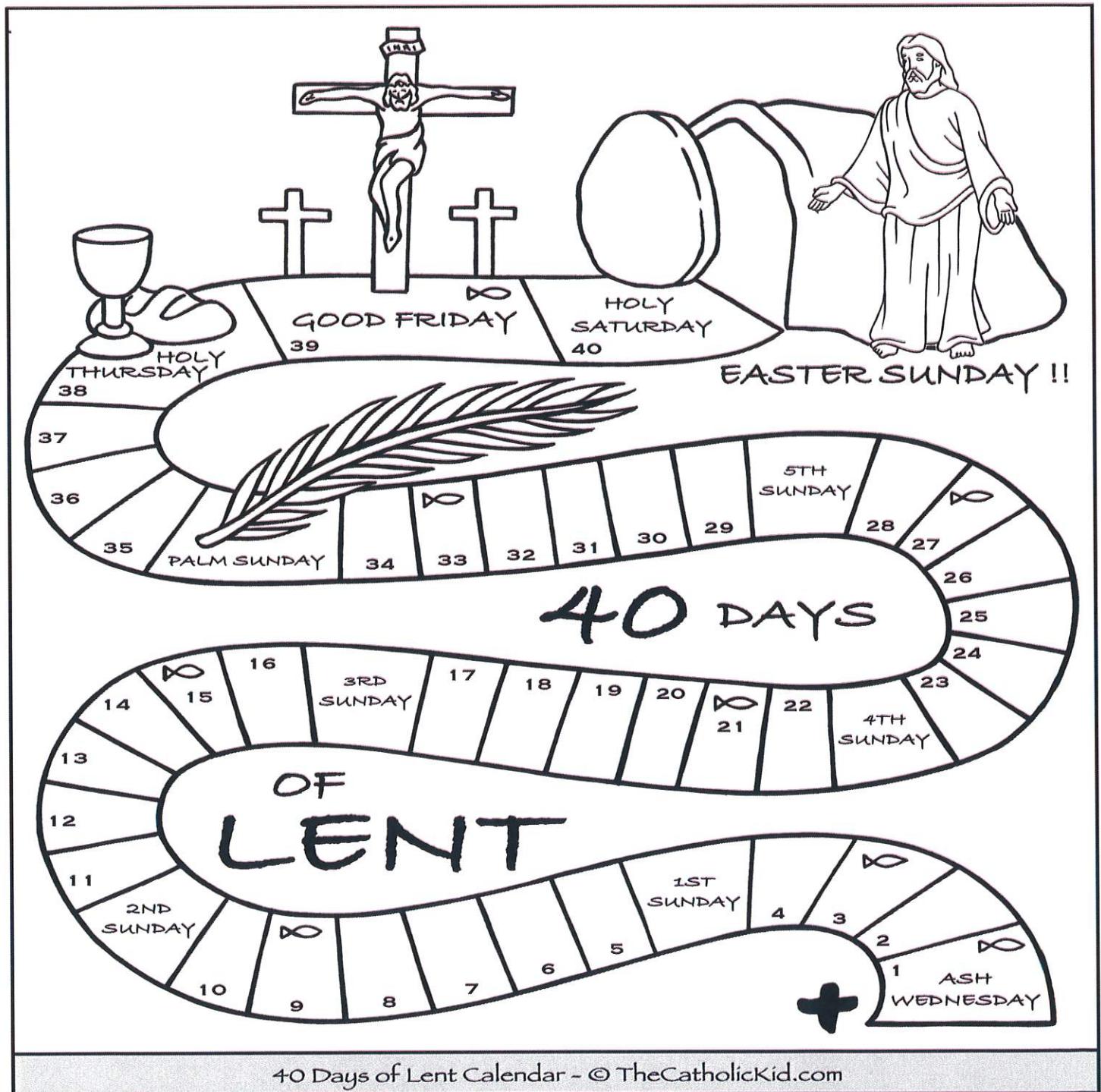
Anime is part of internet culture, and internet culture increasingly *is* our culture. The church needs mature Christians to be willing to navigate this huge new bucket of media consumption. But even as culture changes, the words of Ecclesiastes are true: There is nothing new under the sun (1:9–10). The way we tell stories may differ, but the stories that captivate our hearts always speak to our deepest need for God.

You may never "get" anime, and that's okay. But with the patience and courage to learn more about it, obstacles can become opportunities. For the sake of discipling future generations of Christians, we should take every opportunity we can get.

Kidz Korner



Every Child is designed
by God to be a
leader!!



February 2026

Date	Worship Time	Reader	Acolytes	Communion Assistant(s)	Ushers *(captain)	Sound		
2-1-2026 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Dave Dulas	Elle Brockberg	Dave Dulas	*Dave Dulas (cpt) ~Jason & Nicole Weber family ~Mike Thode ~Laura Thode family	Mark Zinnel		
2-8-2026 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Dave Dulas		Dave Dulas	*Dave Dulas (cpt) ~Jason & Nicole Weber family ~Mike Thode ~Laura Thode family	Neil Johnson		
2-15-2026	9:30 a.m.	Debbie Reinert		_____	*Dave Dulas (cpt) ~Jason & Nicole Weber family ~Mike Thode ~Laura Thode family	Mark Zinnel		
2-18-2026	6:15pm		Communion Assistants (4 adults): Acolyte: Elle Brockberg Greeter: Ushers & Offering (2 or 3): Attendance Counter:					Mark Zinnel
2-22-2026	9:30 a.m.	Wielenberg's		_____	*Dave Dulas (cpt) ~Jason & Nicole Weber family ~Mike Thode ~Laura Thode family	Ryan Wielenberg		
2-25-2026	6:15pm		Acolyte: Greeter: Ushers & Offering (2 or 3): Attendance Counter:					Mark Zinnel

Communion Assistants, Lesson Readers & Acolytes are needed!!!

If you are able to help us out, please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex
OR you can sign up online by using the QR code to the right >>>

PS - DID YOU KNOW that you can also check to see when you are signed up by just scanning the code!!



February

anniversaries

May God's love continue to shine upon your marriage, filling your hearts with joy and peace!

February 1st	February 8th	February 16th
Mick & LaDonna Myers	Paul & Carol Johnson	Kris & Erin Mastbergen



February 1	Marli Taubert	Aria DeZeeuw	February 16	Liam Schroyer
February 4		James Skyberg	February 18	Cole Lytle
February 5	Rowan Heidebrink Kai Schroyer	Kaysan Ilse Makhia Wilson	February 19	Rob Woodbury
February 6	Kyle Hansen	Nate Schloendorf	February 20	Darrell Foss
February 7		Doreen Hansen	February 22	Dusti Sabers
February 8		Andrew Royer	February 23	Dawn Heidebrink Craig Stevens
February 9		Leann Vos	February 27	Neil Johnson
February 14		Erin Brockberg	February 28	Jolie Prouty
February 15	Vivian Brockberg Carol Rudie	Jenny Mathews		

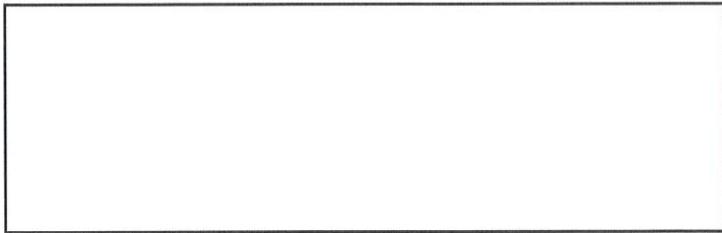
On your special day, you are wished all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you also be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days to come!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ~9:30am - Worship w/ Communion	2	3	4 ~8:15am Pastor's Prayer ~6:15pm LIFT / Confirmation ~7:00pm - church committee	5 ~1:30pm - FLC serve @Food Shelf ~5:30pm - Executive mtg	6	7
8 ~9:30am - Worship w/ Communion ~Council/ Committee installation during worship ~10:30am Council orientation??	9	10 ~8:30am - Ministerial	11 ~8:15am Pastor's Prayer ~6:15pm - Contemporary Service 6:45pm - LIFT/ Confirmation ~7:30pm - Council mtg	12 ~9:30am - Quilting ~5:30pm - Executive mtg	13	14
15 ~9:30am - Worship ~2pm - SW Synod Conf. Assembly	16  NO SCHOOL	17 ~12:00pm— Group Circle	18  ASH WEDNESDAY ~8:15am Pastor's Prayer ~6:15pm - Ash Wednesday service w/ communion ~NO LIFT/ Confirmation	19 ~AM - Pastor out of office - Conf. mtg	20	21
22 ~9:30am - Worship	23	24	25 ~8:15am - Pastor's Prayer ~6:15pm - Lent Service ~6:45pm - LIFT/ Confirmation	26 ~9:30am - Quilting	27	28



First Lutheran Church - ELCA
401 7th Av SW - Pipestone MN 56164



Phone: 507-825-5837

Email: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org
The VOICE is produced monthly by First Lutheran Church - ELCA

*We are all one body, one spirit,
compelled by Christ to share His
Word and the promise of salvation.*
~Matthew 28

Worship schedule:

- ◆ 9:30am Sundays at Church & live-streamed on Facebook
- ◆ Radio Worship Broadcast: 10:30am Sundays on KLOH 1050AM
- ◆ TV Public Access: Wednesdays @12pm & 5pm on Channel 3

Our Church Staff

Ministers

Members of First Lutheran
Pastor Rev. Ann Zastrow
Email: pastor@firstlutheranpipestone.org

Admin. Asst/Office Mgr

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Melissa Burnett Cell: 507-215-0166

Church Office Phone: (507) 825-5837

Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org

Facebook:

Google First Lutheran Church - Pipestone
FB & hit the FB link on the webpage

Congregational Contacts:

**President

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*Vice President

Sarah Meyer Ph: 507-215-7401

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Treasurer Liaison Thad Reinert

Financial Secretary Kaitlyn Ilse

First Lutheran Church Women:

Coordinator Nancy Johnson 507-227-5335

Treasurer Patti Peterson

Secretary Darlene Muller

First Lutheran Church Council meets on the
second Wednesday of each month
@ 7:30 p.m.