

The Light

Providing Helping Hands to Our Neighbors in Need

Don't you just love it when a plan comes together? When God brings certain events and people together at just the right time in your life that you think to yourself, this has to be more than coincidence, right? I felt that earlier this year when I took a phone call from Scott Olson. Many of you know Scott as one of our Cedar Rapids City Council Members, a respected architect in town, and a well-known public figure. But he's also an incredible human being who serves on the board that oversees a ministry called Helping Hands that helps people keep the lights on when things get tough. Scott called me to let me know some bricks were falling off the façade of the building and that was hatching a plan to get it fixed.

He piqued my interest because I know just enough about Helping Hands to be dangerous. I know it was started by Pr. Steve's predecessor, Pr. Dan Kolander, with other Third Ave Churches to consolidate resources for helping community members who had fallen on hard times and found themselves going door-to-door, church-to-church just trying to keep their utilities connected, kids fed, and avoid facing eviction.

The idea Helping Hands gives people a one-stop shop to get assistance, and to have a consolidated record of those we help. They have a beautiful building called the Ecumenical Community Center on 2nd Ave next to my old TV station, KCRG. At that facility Green Square Meals also serves a hot meal every week night. Now their facility needs a little brick facelift.

So I gathered the Third Ave Church Pastors and Scott Olson dropped this idea on us, "What if I gather some fellow business leaders to pay for the bricks, and we ask the churches to raise money for Helping Hands to support our neighbors in need?" I brought this back to the Generosity Team and that's what we've decided to do.

At the same time, one of our church members Alicia Murphy reached out to me to let me know she recently joined the Thrivent Member Board of directors and felt called to share the opportunity she had to share generosity in our community and to get my perspective on best opportunities to serve. "Is there a place needs help?" she asked. "Well..." I told her. "I think I've got it."

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First Lutheran
discover more : together



We're calling our annual fall stewardship campaign "Helping Hands, Helping Hearts." Our Generosity Team feels our first priority for every church member needs to be to increase our giving to the ongoing mission and ministry that sustains our worship, music, faith formation, and outreach. We also understand many of you have also made a second financial commitment to renovate our building, and for that we are very grateful!

Beyond those gifts of generosity, for those who have the means, we invite you to contribute to our special offering for Helping Hands. Thanks to a wonderful \$10,000 matching grant, every dollar you give to Helping Hands through the end of 2025 will be matched to extend Christ's love to those who need it most.

For Thrivent Members, you have the additional opportunity to support Helping Hands using your Thrivent Choice Dollars. Our Generosity Team will set

up a special table in the narthex in November to help you take the necessary steps for you to direct money that's available for you to give in this way. We thank Thrivent for being a valued partner both in this special project and Celebration Meal.

We invite you to make your commitments of generosity at our Celebration on Sunday, November 16 with one combined 10 a.m. worship service followed by a Sunday dinner at 11:30 a.m. which is free; covered a generous gift from Thrivent to celebrate this generous giving community. An RSVP card is in your mail. We look forward to hosting you in this celebration and witness all that God is doing through our Helping Hands, Hearts.

In Christ, 

Pr. Craig Brown
Lead Pastor for Outreach

What is Helping Hands?

Established in 1995, Helping Hands Ministry (HHM) has a mission to provide emergency material assistance, referrals, and/or supportive ministry to persons in need. They accomplish this through collaboration with the faith communities and local agencies across Linn County. First Lutheran has been a partner in this ministry since its inception, originally located just across Third Avenue from the church.

A household may apply for assistance with rent utilities, auto gas, or Iowa Identification. Other services provided include donated gift cards when available. HHM also provides services like financial and life-skills coaching to help people budget and prioritize, as well as personal care items, laundry soap, and warm winter gear during cold weather.

Helping Hands Ministry is a direct service of the Ecumenical Community Center Foundation (ECCF), which also operates the Margaret Bock Housing

building near First Lutheran, and provides space for other agencies like the Inter-religious Council of Linn County, the GreenSquare Meals Program, NAACP, and others. HHM relies on the generosity of the faith community and limited grant opportunities to provide this much needed local ministry. There is never any charge for applying or assistance, and services are never restricted based on race, religion, gender, familial status, national origin, or disability.

The HHM office is in the Ecumenical Community Center, 601 2nd Ave, at the corner of 6th Street and 2nd Avenue SE in downtown Cedar Rapids.



Join Our Personal Care Drive for Helping Hands Ministry!

Help Us Spread Comfort and Self-Confidence — One Item at a Time

Everyday essentials make a world of difference. This fall, join us in supporting members of our community by donating personal care items for those in need. Your small gesture—a bar of soap, a tube of toothpaste, a bottle of shampoo—can offer dignity, hope, and a fresh start. We welcome families and kids of all ages to participate!

What to Donate:

- ✦ **New, unopened hygiene items** such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant, lotion, tissues or toilet paper.
- ✦ **Soaps:** Laundry soap (bottles and pods), dish soap, bar soap, body wash, shampoo
- ✦ **Hair care items:** hair ties, combs, brushes, etc.
- ✦ **Travel sized items** for unhoused individuals
- ✦ **Feminine hygiene** products, especially tampons
- ✦ **Clothing:** Men's pants, socks, hats, scarves, mittens

Where to Donate: Bring your offerings to the collection point at the front of our worship space.

When: The drive runs from October 1 through our stewardship celebration Sunday, November 15-16. Every donation counts!



Together, we can make a meaningful impact. Let's come together and show that even the simplest acts of kindness can change a life. Donate today and help us spread care, comfort, and confidence throughout our community.

"Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'" — Deuteronomy 15:11

What's a "Thrivent?"

If you've been around First Lutheran awhile, you've probably heard us talk about "Thrivent" supporting various community outreach efforts. Thrivent has helped to fund many special ministries like our SEMP program, Comfort Makers, and many others. But who is Thrivent, and where did they come from?

After its merger with Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL), members of Lutheran Brotherhood voted to adopt the name "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans" in 2002. The company shortened its name to simply "Thrivent" in 2014, after it expanded its membership eligibility beyond Lutherans to include all Christians.

AAL traces its roots back to 1902 when a Lutheran Church in Appleton, Wisconsin created an insurance society to help support fellow Lutherans. The

organization Lutheran Brotherhood started similarly in 1917 among Lutherans in Northern Minnesota.

With deep roots in Midwest Lutheran congregations, today Thrivent Financial stands independently from any church body or denomination, but continues to be guided by Christian values to support community outreach initiatives through matching grants, Thrivent Action Teams, and through investors' directives via their Thrivent Choice program.



Welcome to the

Discovery Zone *4 KIDZ!*

One weekly message and theme;
two different opportunities to Jump In!

Sundayz begin at 10:15 a.m.

PreSchoolerz – Kindergarten – in Room 308
1st – 2nd – 3rd – and 4th Grade in Room 312

Wednesdayz at 7:15 p.m.

1st – 2nd – 3rd- and 4th Grade in Room 312

Family schedules can vary a lot from week-to-week. Know that whether you come to Childrens Ministry on Sunday Mornings or Wednesday Evenings you can get the same great content and faith-building experience whenever it best fits your schedule!

Large Group in a Smaller Room



As we paint, carpet and refinish rooms upstairs, our Discovery Zone is on the move from week-to-week! Here, Pastor Katie leads kids through a Bible story together in room 311 while our usual large group room was receiving carpet. Though we are a bit displaced like many ministries, we continue to meet twice weekly and look forward to the complete renewal of our building for our ministries and the community groups who also use them!

Trailblazer: a 4-Week Teaching Series for Children's Ministry



Jesus was a true trailblazer—not just for his time, but for all time! Jesus' teachings and way of life often went against the grain of what people expected, showing us a whole new way to live and love. While blazing new trails, Jesus never wavered from the path of following God, and he paved the way for us to follow his lead. In this 4-week series, kids will learn to trust Jesus even when it's not easy, show others the way to God, let God's love take the lead, and pray the way Jesus prayed.

BIG IDEAS & BIBLE STORIES:

- Let's trust Jesus even when it's not easy!
(The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1–12; James 1:2–12)
- Let's show others the way to God!
(Salt and Light: Matthew 5:13–20; Colossians 3:12–17)
- Let God's love take the lead!
(Love for Enemies: Matthew 5:43–48; Psalm 99:1–5)
- Let's pray the way Jesus prayed!
(The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:5–15; Psalm 32:1–7)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior." — Psalm 25:5a (NIV)

Summer Trip Survey – Share Your Input!

We're excited about the possibility of offering a summer trip experience for middle and high school youth at First Lutheran Church! To help us plan a trip that best fits the needs, interests, and schedules of our youth and their families, we'd love your input.

Please take a few moments to visit firstlutherancr.org/survey and complete the brief survey. Your feedback will guide us as we create a meaningful, fun, and faith-filled experience for our community. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and helping us make this summer unforgettable!

ECHO Wednesday Nights at First Lutheran

ECHO is our midweek ministry for children, youth, and families. Each Wednesday we gather for food, worship, and community, creating a space where faith is nurtured and friendships grow. All are welcome—whether you've been part of First Lutheran for years or are just checking things out!

Weekly Schedule

5:00–5:30 PM – Junior Choir (Grades 1–4)

5:35–6:05 PM – Youth Choir (Grades 5–8)

***NEW* 5:15-6:15 PM- OPEN DOOR HOUR**

(open to all ages in the new youth space)

5:15–6:15 PM – Community Meal (open to all ages)

6:30–7:15 PM – ECHO Worship- Youth Led- Adult Supported
(children, youth, and families together)

7:15–8:00 PM – Small Groups & Activities (Grades 1-12 & Adults)

ECHO brings our whole church family together in the middle of each week for music, food, worship, and growth in faith.

October ECHO Worship Series: Unbelievable

Whether you've gone to church your whole life or just started today, it's understandable if you have questions about God and the Bible, especially when some things seem unbelievable. But our doubts don't have to destroy our faith. We might just find our voice when we speak up about questions we have. In this series from the book of John, we'll look at how Jesus met people where they were, showing that **when we have questions, he's always listening**, and that even **when we don't understand, we can trust God's character**. We'll also see that, **when we can't explain everything, we can trust what we know for sure**, and trusting God's plan is key to knowing that **when we want to walk away, God isn't finished yet**. Join us each Wednesday for Echo Worship in person or online at 6:30 p.m.



Our new youth room is almost ready to open! Before ECHO Worship, join us for Open Door Hour—a time to hang out, play games, relax, and enjoy some pizza with friends. We're also looking for adult or parent volunteers to help host and make everyone feel welcome. If you'd like to help, please reach out!

High School Ministry

High School Ministry Sunday Nights is back in the YOUTH ROOM! Join us for pizza and games in the new space on October 19 from 6 - 7:30 pm! Bring a friend and come see the refreshed area and play some games!

Oct. 19 - Pizza in the Youth Space!
Nov. 9 - To Be Determined
Nov. 23 - To Be Determined

Follow us at:

 **@FLCRYouth**

Cold Gear Collection for SEMP Guests

As we finally get into some cooler fall temperatures, we are also pulling out fall and winter items to keep ourselves warm. As you do this, please think about our Saturday Evening Meal guests, and if you have any winter coats, boots, hats or gloves that you can spare; bring them to church with you.

Even with all our renovations, we'll find a place to stash them until our Giveaway day in early November. We generally have adults at SEMP, so please keep that in mind as you explore your closets! If you are a *Thrivent* member and would like to help with this clothing drive; please contact Vicki Hughes at 319-471-3733 to learn more.



You have helped many SEMP guests stay warm with coats, boots, hats and gloves over the years!



In our current worship series we are closely examining The Apostles' Creed that we say each week in worship. Where does it come from? Why do we say it? We're taking you behind the words so you can better understand where they come from and to give you more meaning when we recite it together. Martin Luther said, "the Apostles' Creed sets forth to us everything that we must expect and receive from God. To state it quite briefly, the Creed teaches us to know God fully."

Many people have found their faith immeasurably strengthened and matured throughout the centuries by this historically deep statement of our Christian faith, and we think you might too. In fact, the word "creed" comes from the Latin word, "credo," which means, "I believe." This study will take us inside this public declaration of our basic beliefs for us to discover more together exactly what *I Believe*.

Study Guides are available in print at the church as well as online at firstlutherancr.org/grow. The study guide features some introductory text about the Apostles' Creed and its three articles. It also contains excerpts from Martin Luther's Small Catechism and explanations of each week's context written by Pr. Steve. The guide has a study for each week of the series and is designed to be used for the week beginning with that Sunday. These study questions work whether you were able to attend worship or not. You can use this guidebook at home for conversation around your table; simply pick and choose those questions that encourage conversation with children of all ages. You can also choose to go deeper with small group discussions where you can share thoughts and reflection with other members.



**Download
The Guide**

Each Sunday at 10:15 a.m. anyone who wants to engage in conversation around the message and focus for that week can head up to Room 306. From there we will break into smaller groups for discussion. There will also be an open group meeting each week after Echo Worship at 7:15 p.m. which will meet in Room 217, the Chapel.

***I Believe* Series Continues:**

Life in the Savior:

Sept. 27-28 Who is Jesus for Me?
Oct. 4-5 What does Jesus Do?
Oct. 11-12 Why Does Jesus Matter?

Life in the Spirit:

Oct. 18-19 Making Belief Possible
Oct. 25-26 Church & Community
Nov. 1-2 Fulfilling God's Promises

Healing Worship Oct. 18-19

Honoring St. Luke, the Physician

Our congregation will commemorate Luke the Physician with a service of healing at all worship services at 5 p.m. Sat. 9 & 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 18-19. As with each of our Healing Prayer services, we will gather your prayer requests for our staff and prayer team to pray over in the coming week, and Holy Communion will include a special anointing with oil.

Pr. Katie will preach a special message on the Holy Spirit tied into our *I Believe* worship theme, and we've asked some of the medical professionals in our church family to help with the oil of anointing. We have a gift of a heart lapel pin to give to all members and visitors who work in or has worked in the medical field in any capacity to say thank you for giving of your heart to heal others.

Everyone, please come so we can pray for God's healing for your life whether it be physical, emotional, relational, or spiritual. Family and friends are welcome to join you. Our worship services as always are open to the public.



Affirmation of Baptism October 25-26 & 29

During all worship services the week of October 25-26 & 29 (ECHO Worship), we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism. This is a special time when youth who were baptized publicly affirm their faith and God's promises in their lives. In the ELCA tradition, this milestone invites the whole congregation to support and encourage these young people as they claim their faith for themselves and commit to following Christ in daily life.

One of the ways we support our youth affirming their baptism is by letting them select a quilt made by our Comfort Makers group to serve as a reminder that the comfort of Christ is always near.



Great American Organists:

Dr. Stephen Hamilton in Concert

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Iowa-native Dr. Stephen Hamilton has established himself as an organist of international acclaim. For nearly 40 years, his name has been synonymous with "concert touring organist." Throughout this time, his concerts have included most major venues and churches throughout the US and Europe. One of many rave reviews states, "[Dr. Hamilton's] performance had to be one of the supreme moments of music making in this year's or any other year's Orgelfest offerings." This concert will be amazing! You are welcome to join us live in-person or online through firstlutherancr.org/live.



Ladies' Night Out

Ladies Night Out is a loosely organized affair where the Holy Spirit is busy helping new friendships form and old ones grow deeper. All the women and friends of First Lutheran, *especially new members and visitors*, are invited to gather monthly at a restaurant for food and fellowship.

On Monday, October 27, 2025 we will meet at 5:30 PM at the Pickle Palace, 101 First Avenue SW in Cedar Rapids. Mary Kay Grodt is this month's hostess; her phone number is (319) 364-7694. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or put your name, phone number, and email address on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Contemplative Hands

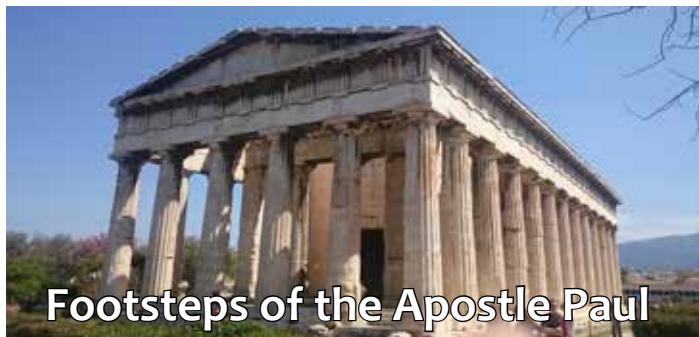
Wednesday, Oct. 22 1:30-3 p.m. in Rm. 310

Contemplative Hands is an occasional gathering for reflection while we work with our hands stitching, knitting, crocheting, drawing, etc. We gather for creating, conversation, and reflection. Don't have a "hand practice"? Come anyway for the fellowship. Don't have the supplies or know how to crochet or knit? We have some yarn and needles on hand would be happy to share and or teach you how to crochet! Think this will be a time of silence and solemnity? No way! Laughter and sharing are great prayer practices.



Our Prayer Shawl ministry supported by these crafty gatherings have given away hundreds of shawls to people facing tough times in life and is in need of restocking; so it's a great time to start a new spiritual practice!

November Monthly Luncheon



Footsteps of the Apostle Paul

As this newsletter is going to print, Pastor Steve and a group of savvy travellers are embarking on a 13-day adventure across the Greek Isles in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. You can hear all about this "journey through the New Testament" presented by Pastor Steve at our November Monthly Luncheon on Thursday, November 13 at 12 noon.

In addition to a delicious lunch prepared in-house by our own Ruth Ehrhardt, Pastor Steve will walk us through their visits to the sites visited by the Apostle Paul. RSVP by calling the office or online at firstlutheran-cr.org/lunch

2025 Southeastern Iowa Synod Report

The 2025 Annual Report, themed "Spirit, Open Our Hearts," is now available. It highlights the stewardship of \$2,031,775 in mission support, distributed across Southeastern Iowa Synod Ministries and ELCA Churchwide Ministries.

Through inspiring stories, you'll see how the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts: Pastor Katie Jensen's journey of calling, Iglesia Camino de Emaús fostering Scripture-based ministry, St. Paul Lutheran's inclusive youth programs, and St. Mark's Neighborhood Food Fridge outreach. Partnerships with Lutheran Campus Ministries, Lutheran Services in Iowa, the CaSTLE Project, and our seminaries illustrate the broad impact of collaboration.

Read the report to see how the Spirit is at work and join in celebrating the faithfulness of our congregations, leaders, and ministry partners. Limited copies are available in print from the office, or you can view it online at firstlutheran-cr.org/synod-report

2025 CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 12, 1:30 p.m. — Thomas Park, Marion



**Register
or Donate**

The Crop Hunger Walk is a nation-wide annual event raising funds to fight hunger both in local communities and around the world. 2024 saw a record-breaking level of support from our congregation, and with federal budget cuts affecting hunger relief on local and global fronts, it is more important than ever this year for individuals to step up and feed the hungry.

The Cedar Rapids/Marion CROP Hunger Walk is this Sunday, October 12. You can still register to walk yourself, or donate to support our team at crophungerwalk.org/cedarrapidsia

According to UNICEF, there are currently 673 million people in the world who do not have enough to eat. In Eastern Iowa, 1 in 6 children and 1 in 9 people are food insecure. Support the CR/Marion CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 12, 1:30 pm at Thomas Park in Marion. Join Team First Lutheran and other faith-based organizations in fighting hunger.

*Help us create a world
where there is enough for all.*



First Lutheran's 2024 hunger-fighting walkers.

Operation Christmas Child comes to First Lutheran!

For more than 30 years local churches across the country have been partnering with Samaritan's Purse to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to children worldwide through boxes of practical and fun Christmas gifts along with a copy of Luke's Gospel in their own language. This year FLC members Doug and Mary Jo Elam are bringing this outreach opportunity to First Lutheran. In 2024 over 11,000 shoeboxes were collected in Linn County. Boxes we collect this year will go to children in war-torn Ukraine.

Starting on the weekend of October 28-29 you can pick up a shoebox along with information on how to fill it with gifts for a child to receive. We will collect the

boxes here at First Lutheran November 2-23, before they are sent to Operation Christmas Child, and onto Ukraine.



Since 1993, more than 232 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. Seeking to follow Jesus' command to "make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19), Samaritan's Purse has trained over 2.2 million volunteers from these congregations to teach The Greatest Journey, the dynamic follow-up discipleship course for shoebox recipients. Since 2009, 46 million children have enrolled in this 12-lesson program to learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. More than 24 million of these children have decided to accept Jesus as their Savior during the course. Many are now praying for and sharing their faith with family and friends. As a result of this ever-expanding witness, new churches are starting and communities are being transformed!

Watch for more details to come near the end of October, or learn more now by visiting firstlutherancr.org/christmas-child

Renewing for God's Mission Update

Steady Progress Toward a Renewed Facility

After months of preparation, we are happy to announce that our parking lot is now open for weekend worship! We have also installed a “doorway” in the construction fence so you can walk through from the east PCI lot and enter across the new plaza. Parking may still be restricted during the week while repairs are underway on the flat roof at the back of the building. However, we expect the lot to remain available on weekends moving forward.

We kindly ask that our closest parking spaces be reserved for individuals with limited mobility, guests, and families with infants or small children. If you are able, please continue to park in the PCI or DaVita Dialysis lots.

In September, the crew working on resurfacing our floors started sweeping through the third floor, removing tile, conditioning the floors, and installing new carpet, and installing laminate in the choir room. Work is ongoing, so groups will be bouncing around rooms – we will announce changes as need be. Additionally, new entry doors with clear glass have been installed to provide a better welcome and more open feeling at all three main exterior entrances. Beyond an updated look they provide better security, and a better seal against the environment. Electricians are now installing security sensors and opening devices in the new door frames.



Workers made the final touches of stamping the concrete on our new entry plaza last week.



New tables for the youth room are collapsible and on wheels which allow easy positioning in modular configurations for the many uses of the space.

On the first floor, we are putting the final touches on the Youth Room. All drywall and ceiling work are complete, the electric fireplace is installed and functional, and most furnishings are in place. Just some electrical and window work remain before installing new presentation and sound equipment. Rinderknecht is currently finishing the counter top and cabinets.

As October begins, we have also started work on the building’s heating and air conditioning systems. While the first few days without AC were quite warm, we are hopeful for a calm and temperate month. All the large mechanical HVAC units were removed by crane just this morning (Tuesday, 10/7) to prepare for roof repairs. While the less “pretty” side of renewal, these mechanical and building repairs provide for the crucial roles of comfort and a sound structure.

Renewing for God's Mission Fund

As of September 30, 2025

	3-Year Budget	Project-to-date
Income	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 1,778,400
Expenditures	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 1,030,885
Current Surplus/Deficit		\$ 747,515

Upfront giving towards the RGM pledges has been very strong. Major expenditures under the Rinderknecht contract have now begun and will continue throughout the rest of the year. Our forecast for achieving the 3-Year balanced budget is positive.

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in October!

Barb Dietz, celebrating 95 years on October 4.
Faye Roberts, celebrating 96 years on Oct. 15.
Barbara Munson, celebrating 92 years on Oct. 19.
Ken Torno, celebrating 92 years in Oct. 26.
Betty Kosek, celebrating 91 years on Oct. 31.

... and in early November:

Bill Schoon, celebrating 93 years on November 3.
Jean Schneider, celebrating 90 years on Nov. 6.

Wedding Anniversaries in October!

There are no 50+ year anniversaries in our records, but we pray for the 38 couples in the congregation married in October for 11-49 years.

... and in early November:

Roger & Janice Torson celebrate 57 years on Nov. 2,

Hospital/Surgical, etc. Prayers for Healing

Carroll Cram	Michelle Jungjohann	Sue Tesdahl
Connie Sanders	Mike Cervantes	Sally Fairchild
David Stortz	Pat Young	

Our Sympathy to:

for Connie Stusak on the death of her husband, Mike Stusak

Submit Your Prayer Requests to our First Lutheran Prayer Chain by calling the church office at (319) 365-1494, on our website at firstlutherancr.org/prayer, or on the Church App under the Contact button. Consider joining our Prayer chain to receive and pray over the concerns of fellow members each week.

FLC Financial Giving Summary

As of September 30, 2025

2025 Annual Operating Fund:	
Y-T-D Actual Income	\$ 1,166,783
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	\$ 1,119,567
Giving over (under) budget	\$ 47,216

Thank you for your strong continuation of giving during the summer. We are well ahead of budgeted income for the first nine months of 2025. All ministries have been fully funded by your generosity!

WORSHIP GUIDE

Piano-led Traditional Worship: 5 p.m. Saturdays
Organ-led Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sundays
Band-Led Contemporary Worship: 11 a.m. Sundays
Sundays & Wednesdays - worship LIVE online at firstlutherancr.org/live
Radio worship radio on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on KMRY 1450 AM or 93.1 FM, or anytime at firstlutherancr.org/podcast

October 11 & 12 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
"God the Son: Forgiveness & Life"
Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20 NRSVue
Special Music: Organist Robin Wagner
(9a) Junior Choir

Echo Worship at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday

see pg. 5 for series themes.

Oct. 18 & 19 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Healing Prayer Worship Weekend (see pg. 7)

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
"I Believe That I Cannot Believe"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Handbell Ensemble

Oct. 25 & 26 - Reformation Sunday

Affirmation of Baptism (see pg. 7)
Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
"The Holy Spirit in Community"
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir;
Resonaré Ringers (11a) Youth Choir

Nov. 1 & 2 - Festival of All Saints

We remember those who we have laid to rest in the past year

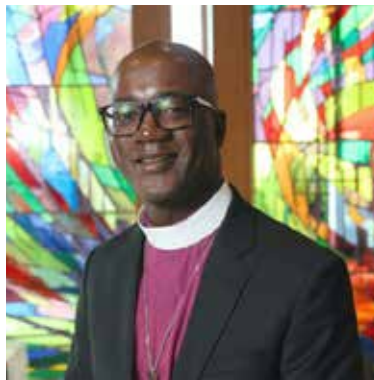
Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
"The Holy Spirit of Life"
Scripture: Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on November 6, 2025

Change Service Requested

Rev. Yehiel Curry Installed as Presiding Bishop of ELCA

On Saturday, Oct. 4, the Rev. Yehiel Curry was installed as presiding bishop of the ELCA at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN, becoming the first Black person to hold the position.



Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry will serve the role for at least the next six years, 2025-2031.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton presided over the ceremony and presented Curry with the pectoral cross, symbolizing his new office. The Rev. Kevin Vandiver, senior pastor of Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington, D.C., delivered the sermon. Ecumenical and global partners attended including the Rev. Henrik Stubkjaer of the Lutheran World Federation, the Most Rev. Sean Rowe of The Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jihyun Oh of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the Rev. Larry Kochendorfer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Bishop Curry previously served as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod (2019–2025), and as mission developer and pastor of Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill. He began his term on Oct. 1. Curry holds a B.A. from Lewis University (1995) and an M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (2013). Through his seminary studies, he was part of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program, which the ELCA says prepares ministers in “ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings.”

Learn more about Bishop Curry, the office of the presiding Bishop and the work of the greater ELCA at ELCA.org and LivingLutheran.org

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