Volume 72, Number 4

April 9, 2026

The Light

Celebrate Dedication Weekend

And a Whole Season of Celebration and Invitation

You are invited ...

Dedication Weekend

Friday, May 1, 3 p.m.
Public Ribbon Cutting
& Open House
Welcoming our Mayor,
City Council ,Economic Alliance
& construction partners.
Open to the Public.

Congregation
Dedication May 2-3
Facility Blessing in Worship
with Scavenger Hunt,
Tours and indoor "picnic"
lunch with burgers,
hot dogs and more!

First Lutheran celebrates the completion of the building renovations with a series of events for members and the wider community. Dedication weekend kicks off with a Ribbon Cutting and Open House open to all at 3 p.m. Friday, May 1 with remarks from Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell and members of the Economic Alliance. On Saturday, May 2 we will have worship and appetizers. On Sunday, May 3 there will be guided building tours of the renovation at 10-11 a.m. The adventuresome can go on a scavenger hunt throughout the morning to look for different places to take selfies and post on social media. We'll draw for a winner from those who complete the challenge. There will also be a grill out of hamburgers and hotdogs from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level. All worship services will feature a special blessing and dedication ceremony at 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 & 11 a.m. Sunday.

Season of Celebration

In addition, April and May feature many events in a Season of Celebration and Invitation that are especially directed to the community and invite our neighbors and friends to come and see what is happening at First Lutheran.

We say Celebration because we do celebrate the completion of both the most recent phase of renovations and the completion of the sanctuary done earlier. We have been about this project for about 10 years. We have done major work in taking care of the building so that it can serve our mission well. We have brought the feel and look into this present moment. We will complete everything on time, on budget, and paid all expenses.

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First Lutheran
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Season of Invitation

We say Invitation because we invite others to learn about what we are doing in the heart of the city and to consider joining us in ministry and mission. Many opportunities in the coming weeks will bring people through our doors for ministry, partnerships, music, and unveiling the renewed facility. We have not done this work only for ourselves, but so that we can offer a welcome for worship and community that is contemporary and authentic.

Take a look at this list of happenings; some opportunities are familiar, and some new, but each of them offering a chance to invite a friend or neighbor, "Come and See."

April 10	Women's Gathering Event
April 16	New Member's Gathering
April 19	Hymn Festival & Potluck
April 26	CROP Family Bike Ride
April 26	New Horizon Band Concert
April 29	Meal Packing Event
May 1	Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
May 2	CR Concert Chorale Performance
May 2-3	Dedication Weekend
May 6	Last Echo/Ice Cream for All
May 10	9 am Worship Children's Musical "The Three Trees"
May 15-16	SE Iowa Synod Assembly
May 31	Mini Golf & Ice Cream

After renewing the narthex, worshippers could gather by the fire indoors for the beginning of our Easter Vigil worship service on an otherwise blustry evening outside.

Meal Packing 2026!

We're just weeks away from our Meals from the Heartland Packing Event on April 29, 2026!

Our goal is to pack 60,000 meals this year which will be distributed directly to food banks and programs within Eastern Iowa thanks to our partnership with HACAP and their regional distribution network.

This is going to be a large, all-day event with set up in the morning, and packing shifts all afternoon and into the evening. For this special one-week only, we will even forego our regular Wednesday dinner, Echo Worship, Echo kids, and Confirmation so we can *all* be hands-on for this outreach project!

In the last two years we have packed over 92,000 meals! Everyone has a role to play in the success of this mission project:

Event Support

Outside of packaging food, we will need volunteers to help set up in the morning, help with volunteer check-in, and other logistical tasks. For these specific roles, please contact Pastor Katie directly at Katiell@firstlutherancr.org.

Be a Team Captain

Recruit a team of friends, neighbors, or coworkers to come and participate in an hour of packing. It is also helpful to encourage your team members to support the event with donations as they are able to provide.

Help as an Individual

Individuals can sign up for a time slot that fits your schedule to come assemble meals. Event Coordinators will assign you to a table with others to create a full team.

Can't be here on April 30?

Not only do we volunteer our time to pack food, we pay for the ingredients that go into each meal. You can make a monetary contribution toward the goal.

Sign up or donate at firstlutherancr.org/meals

First Lutheran Musical Arts Series

Mark your Calendars:

MORE Upcoming Concerts at First Lutheran include:

New Horizons Community Band, April 25, 2:30 p.m.
The New Horizons Band of Cedar Rapids is a volunteer organization that consists of senior musicians. Our purpose is to have fun and improve the quality of life for members by encouraging cooperation and creativity, as well as enhancing players' musical abilities and knowledge. The band rehearses weekly and has live performances throughout the community at various civic and community venues.

Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale, May 5, 7:30 p.m.
The music to accompany the themes of earth's elements, Earth, Wind, Fire & Water is rich and varied, with styles ranging from serious a capella to pop and Broadway. Live poetry from a Chorale member will introduce each section. ***Get Tickets in Advance at CRChorale.org***

Pipes, Pedals, & Pie, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.
Our popular, free summer concert series featuring regional musicians followed by a pie & ice cream social!

For changes or updates watch the Music Arts page at firstlutherancr.org/about/music-arts

Sign Out! Hymnfest 2026

"Gaze in Amazement"

Sunday, April 19, 2026
3 pm Hymn Festival
with Potluck Dinner following

led by Dr. Jeffrey Blersch
Concordia University, Seward, NE

The Sing Out! Hymn Festival is a beautiful way to offer our collective praises and prayers to God, and to sing and hear old and new hymns, and inspirational readings and scripture.

This year's spring hymnfest will celebrate God's amazing providence through readings and song. Congregational hymns will be interwoven with special music from First Lutheran's music ensembles as well as a mass-choir from area ELCA congregations.

Following the concert we will gaze in amazement at the plethora of food options with a potluck dinner for everyone! Bring your favorite main dish, side, or dessert and enjoy a big community meal together!

Share an invitation online by sharing our Facebook Event at facebook.com/firstlutherancr, or pick up a Music Arts card from the Engagement Center.

An Invitation into Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is often misunderstood. It is not counseling, advice-giving, or problem-solving. At its heart, spiritual direction is a practice of holy listening. It creates space to pay attention to where God is present and active in the ordinary movements of life.

Whether in an individual or group setting, spiritual direction invites us to slow down and ask different kinds of questions:

- Where did I notice God's presence this week?
- What stirred consolation or resistance in me?
- What might the Spirit be inviting me toward now?

Rather than offering answers, spiritual direction offers space. Space to notice. Space to listen. Space to trust that God is already speaking.

Individual Spiritual Direction can be scheduled by emailing Michael- michaelb@firstlutherancr.org

Our next gathering for Group Spiritual Direction is scheduled for April 16 at 6:00 pm. Register at firstlutherancr.org/spiritual-direction

2026 VBS-Daycamp is July 13 – 16, 2026!

Prepare for Adventure this summer as we step through the mist into Rainforest Falls! Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms. Full-day or half-day options are available for kids preschool through fourth grade.

VBS is for Youth and Adults Too!

Hey Youth! Looking for a meaningful (and fun!) way to spend part of your summer? We're inviting all middle and high school students to serve as leaders at our VBS/Day Camp! This is a great opportunity to build friendships, grow in your faith, and make a real impact in the lives of younger kids.

Youth volunteers help lead games, guide small groups, assist with activities, and bring energy and encouragement throughout the day. Plus, you'll get to be part of a team, develop leadership skills, and have a blast doing it.

Adults are *always* welcome from set-up through tear-down, helping the week progress smoothly and safely for everyone. Whether you can help with decor, music, crafts, snacks or other ways - you too can feel like a kid again and enjoy the summer fun.

Camper & Volunteer Registration is now OPEN!

Scan the QR code, or visit firstlutherancr.org/VBS

Coming Soon to Discovery Zone for Kidz:

Discovery Zen Room

The Discovery Zen Room will be a sensory room for children to use when they need to take a break from group activities, need a safe place to calm their body, or get their wiggles out so they can be successful in Sunday School, Worship, VBS, and more!

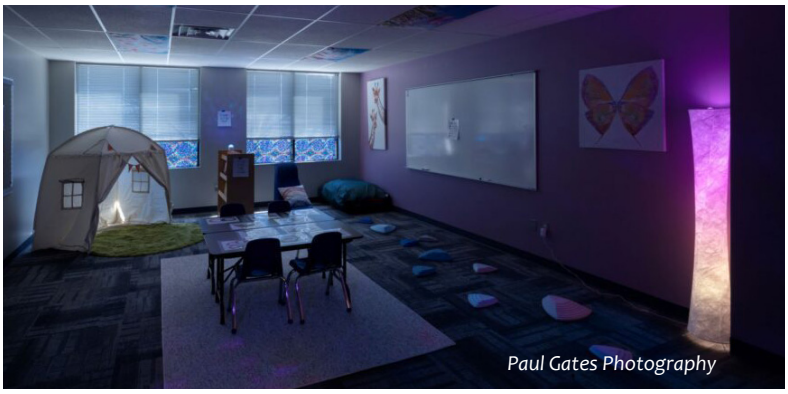
What Is A Sensory Room?
A therapeutic space specially designed to support children with emotional regulation, sensory stimulation, and anxiety reduction.

How Do They Work?
Sensory Rooms provide children with a variety of outlets designed to support their needs. Some examples include low-lighting, soothing sounds, tactile objects, movement-based activities, and visual features.

What Is In A Sensory Room?
With your help, the Discovery Zen Room will include: calming lights, positive affirmations, sensory-friendly toys and activities, relaxing sound machines, and equipment that allows kids to burn off their wiggles.

How Are Kids Kept Safe?
The Discovery Zen Room will be monitored by a trusted adult whenever it is in use.

How Can I Support the Sensory Room?
You can support the Discovery Zen Room by purchasing an item from our Amazon Wish List that you can find at ***firstlutherancr.org/wishlist***


Paul Gates Photography

← ← Middle & High Schoolers: Have fun & help Kids as a VBS Youth Leader!

Echo Worship

April Topic: Another Look

Have you ever had a conversation that opened your eyes to something you'd never thought about before? Or maybe someone asked you a single question that completely shifted your perspective. Words have the power to change everything, and that's never been more true than with Jesus. He asked questions that changed people's perspectives and caused them to take another look at themselves, their lives, and what they believed about God. In this 2-week series from the book of Luke, we'll take a look at some big questions Jesus asked.

4th & 5th Grade Invite to ECHO Wednesdays

We're excited to invite all current 4th and 5th graders to join us for ECHO Wednesdays! This is a great opportunity to begin the transition from children's ministry into youth ministry—getting a feel for what ECHO is all about and starting to build connections along the way.

As we look ahead to the fall, we're excited to offer grade-specific small groups just for 5th and 6th graders, creating space to grow in faith and community together.

To celebrate this next step and wrap up another great year of ECHO Worship, join us on May 8 for our final gathering of the season—followed by a fun parking lot party with Moo Moo's Ice Cream Truck. We hope you'll come check it out and celebrate with us!

Youth & Family Ministry
discover more : together

Echo Wednesdays

Remaining Schedule

April 15- Another Look
April 22- Another Look
April 29- ALL ECHO Meal Packing Event
May 3- 8th Grade Invite to High School Ministry
May 8- Final ECHO & Moo-Moo's Ice Cream Parking Lot Celebration (All Congregation)

ECHO Families Unite for Meal Packing

We are asking each family of youth involved with ECHO Worship to donate $30 for the upcoming Meal Packing Event. This will help cover some of the costs for our youth to participate in the evening. Visit firstlutherancr.org/youth for this and other youth ministry links.

8th Grade Invite to High School Ministry

Hey 8th graders! As you get ready to step into high school, we want to welcome you to High School Ministry with a special ***Grill Out with Games at the Beckmann's on Sunday, May 3rd***, from 6–7:30 PM!

This is a great chance to meet the high school crew, enjoy some delicious food, and get a taste of what Sunday nights are all about. We can't wait to celebrate this next step in your faith journey with you—see you there!

Graduation Sunday

May 17 in 9 & 11am Worship

Graduation Sunday is just around the corner! We're asking all graduating seniors to ***help us celebrate you*** by visiting the Youth page of our website (QR above), filling out the graduates profile, and uploading a picture ***by May 10th*** to ensure your profile is ready for display in the Narthex on May 16th & 17th!

Ride Bike & Feed the Hungry

We are bringing back the best day of Spring with the CROP family bike ride. On Sunday, April 26 (May 17 rain date) we will gather at Hoover Park on Cedar Rapids' south side, and bike as a big group together to Dan & Debbie's Creamery in Ely.

The cost is $20 and 100% of the proceeds go directly as a contribution to the Annual Church World Service CROP hunger walk that supports local and international hunger relief efforts. Register at firstlutherancr.org/CROP

Mini Golf Outreach Event

Invite all your friends and neighbors to join the whole First Lutheran family of faith for a little mini-golf, ice cream, and fun at Airport National Golf Course at 3-5 p.m. Sunday, May 31.

We want this to be an easy-invitation event to help everyone, but especially our kids, have a fun way to invite and introduce others to the fun, faith, and service of our church family. So kids — invite your classmates to come celebrate the end of the school year and the start of summer. The event is free (normally $9) and includes a round of mini golf and ice cream with thanks to our Hope Team.

Space is Limited, so register today and get your friends to do the same at firstlutherancr.org/minigolf

Help Feed Local Kids

Help feed local Kids by volunteering with other members at HACAP. Next Thursday, April 16 we will work 1-3 p.m. to pack food backpacks with healthy and easy to prepare foods.

After packing, the bags are distributed by local schools to kids who receive free and reduced lunch programs for when they cannot get meals at school. These extra healthy foods really help local families make ends meet!
Register now at firstlutherancr.org/HACAP

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies Night Out is a monthly opportunity just to have some fun, enjoying the warmth and support of Christian love - one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All the women and friends of First Lutheran, especially new members and visitors, are invited to gather once a month at a restaurant for food and fellowship. The locations vary, and a list is kept of restaurants suggested as places to go. Come join us!

On Monday, April 27, 2026 we will meet at 5:30 PM at the Irish Democrat, 3207 First Avenue SE, in Cedar Rapids. Becky Cram is this month's hostess, her phone number is (319) 448-4535. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or sign-up at the Engagement Center at church. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Daniel Luepke to preach at First Lutheran, April 18-19

Daniel Luepke is now completing his Seminary training through Wartburg Seminary, and is getting ready to enter ordained ministry as a pastor. For 3 years, Daniel has served as an Intern and Synodically Authorized Minister at Ascension Lutheran in Marion. As he concludes his seminary training, Daniel will preach at First Lutheran the weekend of April 18 and 19. In worship, we will take time to recognize Daniel and offer our prayers and blessings as he seeks a call. Those who wish are invited to offer encouragement and support to Daniel through an offering of cards that weekend.

During his Seminary training, First Lutheran formed a support team that also served as his internship committee, along with members of Ascension Lutheran. Members of that team include Terry Shie, team chair, along with Matthew Moore, Anne Jahnke, Mary Van Houten, Sue Padget , and Mark Erenberger. Before entering Seminary, Daniel served as our Ministry Engagement Coordinator. Daniel, spouse Whitney and son Luke have made this journey together, even as each family member pursued their own work and schooling.

Pr. Steve served as intern supervisor, as well meeting with Daniel monthly during his work with Ascension. Pr. Steve noted: "Daniel is one of those rare Seminary students who was already formed as a pastor even as he began Seminary. When the call come, the church he serves will be so fortunate to have him as pastor. I am glad that as a congregation, we have been a supportive community for him."

Pastor Katie Lowe Lancaster with Daniel Luepke in his "sending service" going to serve Ascension Lutheran in January 2024.

Greetings from Daniel

First and foremost, I want to say thank you. Thank you to all of you for supporting me on this journey. I also want to say thank you specifically to the CL Team that was also my internship committee for walking with me these past four years. Also, a thank you to Pastor Steve for accompanying me and guiding me during this time of exploration and growth.

It is hard to believe that it has been 2 1/2 years since I stepped into a leadership role over at Ascension Lutheran Church. They have helped me explore and find my own leadership style and voice. We have explored different ways of doing ministry and they have helped me discern that pastoral leadership is where God is calling me into. My experience there has been fulfilling. We have walked through hardship and joys together, all the while learning to listen to what God is calling us into next.

During my time at Ascension, I have continued to take courses at Wartburg Theological Seminary learning about preaching, church history, biblical studies, leadership, and a whole lot more. While the classes have been rigorous, I have enjoyed them greatly. The ability to learn something and go apply it that very day has been invaluable. While I finish up and hope to graduate May 17th, I have begun the process of first call. I have been told that we will not need to move and have begun to work with the Synod office on placement, hoping to be interviewing soon.

Thank you again for your support, and God's Peace be with you,

Daniel Luepke

Sr. Adults Galena Bus Trip

A Sr. Adult Bus Trip to Galena is coming up on May 14! We'll take a guided tour on the Galena trolley, see Ulysses Grant's Historical home, and enjoy the well-known downtown shops in the afternoon!

RSVP at the engagement center or by calling the church office **by April 14** – cost will be $89-100, depending on the number of participants.

Members Helping Members this Spring

The First Lutheran family loves and cares for the community and one another in many ways. On Saturday, May 23 we are extending that care to helping one another get our yards cleaned up for summer!

Make A Request

Are you looking outside and wondering how you can get the yard in order again all by yourself? Let us help! Make a request for help by calling the church office or visiting firstlutherancr.org/housing.

Lend a Helping Hand

Do you just love being outdoors on a warm, spring day connecting with nature and nurturing growth? We're going to team up to help other members of the congregation tackle a few yard projects! A link to sign up for helping out is also at firstlutherancr.org/housing.

All requests and offers to help must be made by May 10 so we can prepare for needs and match teams.

Faith First Podcast Hits 150 Episode Milestone

We've reached the 150th episode of the *Faith First* podcast, a weekly recorded audio conversation between our pastors, church members, and community leaders about the scriptures and our shared life in Christ. Each episode runs about 30 minutes which means we've produced 75 hours of content in three years. To grasp the volume of this, if you were to listen to all episodes back-to-back non-stop starting at midnight on Good Friday, you would still be listening to us talk about Jesus into the Monday morning after Easter Sunday!

We've made our 150th episode a very special one. In place of our usual segment of "what's brewing" around the church, Pastors Steve, Craig & Katie reminisced about their 5 most memorable moments in ministry together over 90 years of collective service to the church.

Listen to this special episode as well as all 150 episodes for free on Spotify, iTunes, YouTube, and wherever else you get your podcasts. Get started at **firstlutherancr.org/podcast**

In 150 Episodes we have had 90 guests including:

73 different lay people
11 youth
17 pastors
4 PhDS
2 seminary professors
1 mayor
1 school district superintendent
1 New York Times Best-selling Author

Help with Housing in Wellington Heights

This Summer the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity is working with Thrivent Financial on a special Faith Build project right here in our backyard at 1415 2nd Ave. SE – just two blocks east of First Lutheran! There are a couple ways to get involved with this build; starting right away, and coming up in June.

April 18 "Panel Build"
This Habitat Home is being built starting with wall panels made indoors at the CV Habitat warehouse and then transported to the site. The Kick-off event for all congregations involved is just about a week away! Help start this build off right by visiting PanelBuild2026.eventbrite.com

June 5 First Lutheran Day
June 5 is our congregation's turn at the home site. By that date in the construction timeline we should be working on siding the home. SAVE THE DATE for now, and watch for a link to Habitat's registration form when it becomes available.

Take your First Steps into First Lutheran!

Come discover what First Lutheran is about, and how we can grow together in community. You'll meet pastors and staff, First Friends (members of our Welcome Ministry), and others looking forward to connecting in community.

This is the perfect opportunity to learn a little about us, and help us learn more about you! Meet up at either 10 a.m. Sundays, or 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 12-26. Get details and RSVP at firstlutherancr.org/FirstSteps.

Giving Our Assistance to Helping Hands

Facing the Issues Together

Last summer, leaders from Third Ave churches—including St. Paul's United Methodist, First Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, First Congregational, Wellington Heights Community Church, and First Lutheran — met to address growing challenges in our community.

While rising gas, grocery, and utility costs have pressed in on families, government assistance has decreased. The ministry created by our churches years ago, Helping Hands, not only couldn't keep up with the need for social services, but they also faced massive repairs for their Ecumenical Community Center building where structural damage revealed by storm that was far beyond what insurance could cover.

City Council Member Scott Olson, who also sits on the Ecumenical Center Board, met with our Third Avenue Churches leadership who offered to help raise funds and fix the building; but Scott proposed a collaborative alternative: he would secure business donations for the structural repairs while the churches raised funds for direct community aid.

Key Outcomes & Updates

We were recently overjoyed to hear that Scott Olson successfully raised the full $100,000 for the structural repairs through the local business community. In the last six months the Third Ave churches have collectively raised $58,744 to support direct aid to struggling families. This includes a lead gift of $32,667 from First Lutheran's fall campaign, in addition to *numerous* toiletries and household goods that are helping families stretch their budgets.

The Ecumenical Center just recently had another challenge with smoke damage from a fire behind the facility. Helping Hands Coordinator Robin Brunner confirms insurance covered the repairs. The ministry is now fully operational, with the $58,744 gift set to be distributed over the next 12 months to maximize its impact on neighbors in need. Brunner recently visited First Lutheran to thank us all for our support saying, "Thank you for your gifts and efforts to help our neighbors who need it most. This is a gift of astounding magnitude, and we will do our best to steward it well." Thank you, Church!

Contemplative Hands May Gathering

Contemplative Hands is an occasional gatherings for conversation and reflection while we work with our hands stitching, knitting, crocheting, drawing, etc. Our next gathering of Contemplative Hands is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 1:30 pm; we will be meeting in Room 307. Please plan to join us and bring a project of any kind that you are working on!

Create Prayer Shawls for Synod Companions

We are also asking that if possible, you would each bring in a handmade prayer shawl to donate to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly being held here at First Lutheran Church on May 15 and 16. As part of the preparation for the Synod Assembly, the synod is inviting congregations to contribute handmade prayer shawls and quilts that reflect this year's theme, "Peace be with You."

These pieces will help surround the Assembly in prayer, comfort, and symbolic care, either as keepsakes for participants or to be shared afterward with people and organizations in need. We plan to donate 10 prayer shawls from our Contemplative Hands group. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Linda Klein at (319) 804-5535

Washers for Liberian Hospitals

Last year, Dr. Ricks, The Medical Director for the Phebe and Curran Hospitals in Liberia, came to personally think us for the maternity kit ministry started by Suah Borsay and see it in action.

In her message, she talked about the need for new washers and driers for the hospitals. Several people came forward at that time to say they would like to help; but we didn't keep track of who. We are moving ahead with a plan to make this a reality, so if you had previously expressed interest in helping, please contact Lou Banker at lbanker56@gmail.com.

Planting for the Future

With a A Legacy Gift to the Trust Fund

First Lutheran Trust
building a legacy: together

A single daffodil sprouted up in the woods and brightened my mood during a cold morning walk. This bright bloom was like a message sent from past generations of caretakers of the land. Did the gardener who planted the daffodil envision that years later the plants would have spread and grown into a field of blooms that bring joy to everyone who passed by?

Like that long-ago gardener who planted the first daffodil in that field, the First Lutheran Church Trust was established so that congregants can ensure that the church is able to continue blooming in the future. Monetary donations and trust and estate allocations will fund the growth of First Lutheran Church's "garden".

Please consider a donation to the First Lutheran Church Trust Fund in your estate plans to plant seeds that will become the blossoms for many future generations.

FLC Financial Giving Summary

as of March 31, 2026

2026 Annual Operating Fund:

Y-T-D Actual Income	368,453
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	359,945
Giving over (under) budget	8,508

Thank you for the good start to our new year. We are slightly ahead of budgeted income for the first three months of 2026. All ministries have been fully funded.

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in April!

Ann Gesme, celebrating 98 years on April 29.
Rev. Dick Lehmann, celebrating 92 years on April 22.
Joe DiBernardo, celebrating 90 years on April 18.

... and May:

Gene Clark, celebrating 94 years May 3.
Marian DiNucci, celebrating 90 years on May 8.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in April!

Darrel & Linda Millard celebrate 62 years April 4
Joe & Melanie DiBernardo celebrate 67 years April 11
Don & Pat Switzer celebrate 52 years on April 14
Jerry & Ruthie Trudo celebrate 61 years on April 17
Ron & Bonnie Locker celebrate 55 years on April 17
Jim & Sue Schulz celebrate 63 years on April 21
Jack & Cathi Harville celebrate 52 years on April 27

... and in early May:

Mike & Janet Evans celebrate 50 years on May 1.

Hospital/Surgical, etc. Prayers for Healing:

Derek Muters Dennis Graf Vicki Hughes
Tyler Trudo

Our Sympathy to:

Becky Cram, family & friends on the death of her sister, Arlene Pickett.

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.

Renewing for God's Mission Capital Fund:

	3-Year Budget	*Project-to-Date Actuals:*
Income	3,192,000	2,294,182
Expenditures	3,192,000	2,412,784
Surplus/Deficit	-	(118,602)

Upfront giving towards the RGM pledges continues strong. The Rinderknecht contract work has been completed. Our forecast for achieving the 3-year balanced budget remains positive.

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

"Conversations on the Flipside"

After the resurrection, Jesus spent 50 days with his followers. In these parting words, he focused on what was essential, he prayed for them, and then he commissioned them. The time is brief, the needs are great, and what Jesus had to say was important. Now on the other side of the cross and the resurrection, we listen to Christ speak to us.

April 12&13 - The Second Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Dawn Schlesinger, vocalist

April 18 & 19 - The Third Sunday of Easter
Preaching: Seminarian Daniel Luepke
Scripture: 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Handbell Ensemble

April 25 & 26 - The Fourth Sunday in Easter
Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Youth Choir & Handbells
(11a) Junior Choir

May 2& 3 - The Fifth Sunday in Easter
~Building Dedication Weekend ~
Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on May 7, 2026

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PERIODICAL

Change Service Requested

Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly at First Lutheran May 15-16

First Lutheran is honored to host the upcoming Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly on May 15–16. As one of 133 congregations that make up our regional branch of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we will welcome up to 500 visitors from across 38 counties to our facility.

Under the theme "Peace Be with You," voting members and guests will gather to elect a Bishop for a new six-year term, celebrate our collective work in the wider church, and approve ministry plans for the coming year.

The synod council has decided to move the assembly from a convention center to a congregation setting, and First Lutheran will be the first to host. The assembly will happen in the sanctuary. First Lutheran will host a festival worship with organ and choirs on Friday night, May 15, and we will feature our Contemporary Worship Band on Saturday, May 16 at a service of morning prayer. The entire lower lever will be used to host a banquet on Friday, and lunch on Saturday. The assembly will have a chance to use every renewed space.

There will be many opportunities for members to serve, providing a warmth of welcome, from help with parking, to way finding, to staffing a hospitality center, to serving the meals. More information will be made available. For now, mark your calendar for this important event.

Southeastern Iowa
SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

First Lutheran
discover more : together

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