

The Light



The Project is Complete, The Purpose Continues

— A Reflection by Pastor Steve Knudson

Twelve years. That’s how long this has been unfolding — from the first neighborhood conversations to the dedication weekend of May 2–3, 2026. Twelve years of vision and discussion, of sacrifice and generosity, of disruption and perseverance. Ten years of people giving what they had — time, money, energy, faith — so that this place might be renewed for the sake of something larger than any of us.



Flashback 2017:

(L to R) LaVern and Rose Gordon with Leroy and Paula Bradway at our first capital campaign kick-off in 2017.

But here’s what needs to be said clearly, now that the scaffolding is down and the last invoice is paid: *the building was never the point.*

The point was always the mission. And the mission is captured in two phrases that have guided First Lutheran through this decade of work:

Discover More: Together. and
In the Heart of the City to Show God’s Heart for All.

These are not marketing slogans. They are a description of who this congregation is called to be — and that calling does not end with a ribbon cutting.

Discover More: Together holds two convictions at once. First: faith is a journey of the whole life. There is no point at which a person — or a congregation — has "arrived." There is always more of God’s grace and love to discover. Second: that journey was never meant to be walked alone. The “together” in our phrase is not incidental. It is the whole shape of the thing.

When someone walks through these doors — for the first time, or returning after years away, or still wondering whether to stay — they are carrying real questions. Can I be myself here and be accepted? Will I find God here? How will I grow and change? Those questions matter deeply. The investments made in this building — in the sanctuary, the welcome spaces, the children and youth areas, and everything hidden from view like the roof and mechanical systems — were made in service of those questions. Not for the sake of the building itself, but for the sake of the people who walk in carrying them.

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New phrases throughout the building are not mere decorations; they declare to everyone who enters that they are stepping into a community shaped by the wide grace and generous love of God.

All are welcome — no exceptions. That is what “together” means at First Lutheran. Whatever your background, your doubts, your story — you are someone who already matters here. Welcome is not simply a value we hold; it is a form of proclamation. It says something about who God is. And this congregation, at its best, has always understood that.

Junior & Youth Choir Musical



The Tale of the Three Trees Sunday, May 10 9am Worship

Celebrate the end of the season with our youngest choir members as they present the classic tale of three trees with great hope and purpose.

The musical takes the place of the scripture and sermon sections of our 9am worship service on Sunday, May 10.

In the Heart of the City to Show God’s Heart for All — is equally clear about where this journey leads. When a congregation is planted at the center of a city, the mission is not somewhere else. It is at the doorstep. For more than 40 years, this community has served its neighbors through the Saturday Evening Meal. We have partnered for housing through Habitat for Humanity and Matthew 25. We have stood alongside the vulnerable and the searching.

Consider this: over the seven years that we were also raising millions of dollars for this renovation, this congregation served roughly 280,000 meals. The building project and the mission work ran on parallel tracks — and both are expressions of the same heart. God’s heart for all people. The generosity required for one was the same generosity that made the other possible.

Woven into the walls of this renewed building are words that name what this community intends to be: “Love Your Neighbor.” “You are fearfully and wonderfully made.” “All are welcome in this place.” These are not decorations. They are declarations. They announce to everyone who enters — neighbor, stranger, skeptic, seeker — that they are stepping into a community shaped by a love that is wide and generous and comes from God.

The project is complete. The purpose is not. What has been built and renewed is a vessel for something that keeps going — the ongoing work of showing God’s heart for all people in the heart of this city. Every Sunday gathering, every meal served, every door held open, every person who finds a home here — that is the continuation of what these ten years were about.

We are never done. We are never done discovering. We are never done welcoming. We are never done serving. That’s the gift and the calling of being this congregation, in the heart of the city, to show God’s heart for all.

discover more : together

More on the Story: _____
"It Takes a Village", pg. 6

2026 Pipes, Pedals, and Pie Concert Series

June 9 — July 14 — Aug 11



The summer months are nearly here! As you anticipate a change in routine and perhaps slightly lighter schedules, we hope you will join us for relaxing and enjoyable evenings of music and fellowship with our Pipes, Pedals, and Pie concerts in June, July, and August. These concerts, as part of our First Lutheran Musical Arts Series, are now in their fourth season, and feature church organists and other musicians from the community and corridor.

All concerts are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Following each concert, the Musical Arts Committee hosts an old-fashioned Pie and Ice Cream Social – held outdoors on our new "back patio" plaza, weather permitting.

These evenings are a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of music and social time with your First Lutheran friends and many guests from the community. Add the dates below to your calendar today!

Calling All Bakers!

If baking is a skill and joy of yours, we would most definitely appreciate your talents in helping the Musical Arts Committee provide pies! We typically need 15-20 pies to serve at the Pie and Ice Cream Social following each concert.

To volunteer your culinary skills, please contact the church office at 319-365-1494, or email Brett Wolgast at: brettw@firstlutheranncr.org. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thanks!



June 9

AJ Cerniglia

Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Iowa City



July 14

Jacob Sprengeler

Organist at Concordia Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids



August 11

Brenda Sevcik

Organist at St. Pius X Catholic Church, Cedar Rapids

Make a Hole-in-One of Memories

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 firstlutheranncr.org/minigolf



**Prepare for
Adventure!**

**VBS-Daycamp 2026
is July 13 – 16!**



Reading in Bible Story Time with last years' wilderness adventure set.

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!



Youth Helpers learn leadership skills while having fun with younger kids during VBS week.

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



Sooo Much Gratitude!

Thank you to the amazing volunteers and teens who have spent the year with the children on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Truly, we could not share the Good News with our kiddos without our volunteers who share their gift of faith and time in Children's Ministry! **Discovery Zone for Kids** is now on our summer-time pause. See you in September!

Help with Crafts & Decorations!

Even if you can't volunteer your time in July, you can still help make VBS a success by donating items to help with decorations and craft projects that help drive home the daily themes! Anyone who has been here during VBS knows we go all-out to create a full environmental experience, transforming our Third Floor! If you can contribute to these amazing experiences, check out the Amazon Wishlist link posted at firstlutherancr.org/VBS.

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

ECHO Worship: A Gathering of Belonging

As we wrap up the ministry year, we're grateful for all that has taken place through ECHO Worship. This year has been filled with meaningful moments as we explored themes like Made To Be, Unbelievable, Another Look, In the Chat, and more, each one helping us connect faith to everyday life. Week after week, we've gathered around meals, worshiped together, and created space for honest conversation and growth.

One of the most powerful parts of ECHO has been seeing families, kids, and youth engaged together, not just attending, but participating. Whether serving in worship, joining discussions, or simply showing up consistently, this community continues to grow as a place where faith is lived out, side by side.

Thank you

to our small group leaders for ECHO Ministry grades 6-12:
Sarah Fersdahl
Rachel Cogdill
Kristin Wolfe
Jade Miner
Michelle Hetrick
Madeline Hetrick (High School Leader)
Jason Shire
Michele Formanek

As we head into summer, we carry that momentum with us—and we're already looking forward to the fall. We're excited to keep building ECHO Worship as a space where families can gather, serve, and follow Jesus together. There's more ahead, and we can't wait to continue growing this community in the year to come.

Thanks for a great year of ministry and worshipping together!

— *Michael Beckmann*



Welcome to Incoming 5th & 6th Grade Families

Current 4th & 5th graders and their families are invited to be part of ECHO Worship on Wednesday nights! ECHO is a welcoming, all-ages worship experience with music, a short message, and meaningful connection.

As students move into 5th grade, this becomes a key part of their faith journey, with small groups after worship to build friendships and grow in faith.

Registration for the upcoming year is coming soon — Stay tuned!

We'd love to welcome you!

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 firstlutheranncr.org/youth (QR below), 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!



Coming This Summer...

#wheresmichael High School Gatherings

Join us for a casual and fun summer hangout with Michael and other high school youth! #wheresmichael is all about staying connected, grabbing some food, and catching up in a relaxed spot around town. Whether you're a regular or new to the group, everyone is welcome—just show up, bring a friend, and enjoy the good vibes. Keep an eye on social media for dates, times, and locations! Incoming 9th-13th Grades are invited! @FLCRYouth (Instagram)

Follow us at: @FLCRYouth

ELCA Youth Gathering 2027

What is the Gathering?

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers and their adult leaders from across the ELCA come together for the ELCA Youth Gathering. It's not just an event but a movement in which faith ignites, and community comes alive. Through inspiring speakers, experiential learning, and transformative connections, young people experience the church in bold, unforgettable ways. Each night, participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. The Gathering is an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith, and be part of something bigger than yourself. Are you ready to join the movement?



The national church body has been hosting youth gatherings for over 60 years; pictured is Houston, 2018 with over 30,000 in attendance.



What do you need to know?

The ELCA Youth Gathering will be open for 9th-12th Grades (Fall 2026). Registration opens in August and closes in September. In the meantime, you can let us know you're interested by emailing Michael.

It Takes a Village to Host a Dedication

Even when the construction work is done, many tasks still remained to prepare the building and grounds to host a Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. There was a flurry of activity in the final couple of weeks leading up to the dedication weekend, involving many volunteers and crews. Thank you to all who stepped forward to serve.

Thanks to Pat Marshall, Mark Schuemann and Ryan Torson and their crew of other volunteers for hauling in black dirt, planting the trees, shrubs and flowers, covering the beds with mulch and power washing the parking lot. The grounds along the pathway to church were ready to host the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Even now, on the Monday after, more work is being done to prepare the front for sod and finishing touches.



Three generations of First Lutheran members work together planting a new tree.

Thanks to John Swenson and Ron Locker doing the final patching, painting, and putting up signs, and to Rich Hillyer and Bruce Lindholm for refinishing the last of 80 plus doors, which really feels like 160 doors, because both sides had to be stripped, sanded, and stained in their own time.

Thanks to Maddy Newhouse and her cleaning crew that made the rooms sparkle and Todd Cornell, custodian, for the windows and added tasks. Thanks to the Guy Squad and Ruth Ehrhardt for hosting the Sunday picnic.



Dr. Wolgast tours inside the organ chamber with members of the Economic Alliance during the Friday ribbon cutting.

Thanks to Pastor Craig for making the calls to civic leaders and medical community to gather people for our ribbon cutting on Friday. Friday was a proud day for First Lutheran Church, welcoming many who had never been inside and were surprised at the experience.

Feeding Iowa one Meal at a Time



Thank you SOY much!

We give a huge, humble thank you to everyone who supported and turned out to serve at our Meals from the Heartland Meal Packing Event on April 29! An extra big thanks to the planning and set up teams who put in so much work! All of the meals we packed will be distributed through HACAP to families right here in Eastern Iowa.

Youth take the Lead!

At the 3rd Annual Meal Packing Event we had the highest student participation to date! Students in grades K-12 from across the Cedar Rapids Metro gathered (many returning participants) and helped package meals that will end up supporting their own classmates.

Two returning teams, McKinley STEAM Academy's Cooking Club and Kennedy High School Student Government, returned this year after experiencing the impact of the event in 2025.



An additional youth group from Oakland Church of the Nazarene in Cedar Rapids joined the youth packing hour at the invitation of a First Lutheran youth. It is so amazing to see how proud and excited the youngest members of our community are to make a difference in their own classrooms and neighborhoods.



292
volunteers
engaged



60,048!
meals
packaged



231
children fed for
an entire year

First Lutheran Church
has packaged

152,064
meals to date!

Bike Ride for the CROP Walk

Kicks off Annual Hunger
Relief Efforts



Thank you to the riders that came together on a beautiful April weekend to kick off fund-raising for the 2026 CROP Walk. Around 50 people joined in to bike from Cedar Rapids to Ely, IA and back, stopping along the way for ice cream at Dan & Debbie's Creamery, and raising \$500.

The Annual CROP walk against hunger takes place each fall supporting global and local hunger relief efforts through Church World Service.



God's Work, Our Hands: Spring Edition

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 with spring yard clean up! **Sign up TODAY** - Registration must be made by May 10 so we can prepare for needs and match teams.

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 Hand to First Lutheran Friends

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.



Habitat for Humanity Faith Build 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! This house, built on land sold for \$1 by our friends at St. Pauls UMC, is being built entirely by area churches.

June 5 is First Lutheran Day

June 5 8 a.m. - 12 noon. is our congregation's turn at the home site. By that date in the construction timeline we *should* be working on siding the home. Find the link to habiat's registration at firstlutherancr.org/habitat



Dad & Me Canoe Trip

Dads, pack a picnic lunch and your kids of all ages for memories of a lifetime. We'll meet with other families from church at Monticello River Rentals at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 20 at 21430 River Road in Monticello, IA (just 45 minutes from Cedar Rapids). From there we'll glide down the majestic Maquoketa River, stopping for a picnic lunch in your canoe. The easy day will end at 2 p.m. Cost is \$30 per canoe (holds 2 people) includes life jackets and paddles.

You can bring your own kayak or canoe for a \$10 hauling fee. Direct your questions to Shannon Stark at (309) 696-3383 or stark.shannon75@gmail.com, or register today at firstlutherancr.org/canoe



Prayers for Peace

This Summer we are preparing two special contemplative prayer services on Wednesdays, June 17 and July 8. These 30-minute prayer vigils will each begin at 12 noon. There will be piano-led music and an invitation to pray for peace and well-being for the world and for our country.

During the June service we will gather around a large world map to place candles in regions of prayer, and in July we will experience the same moment of prayer around a map of our nation.



Thanks for the Time Away

By Pr. Craig Brown

I am so grateful that our congregation affords our rostered leaders one month sabbatical for each two years of service. I will be completely away from ministry from May 4 to August 3 primarily for rest, with some travel and education.

As much as I enjoy being a close part of the congregation's spiritual growth and emotional support, I also look forward to the gift of time away to not worry about such things for a season. Pastor burn out is real and happens at a very high rate. I'm not there by any means, but I am ready for a sabbatical of rest and study.

Goals for my time include working on personal health and fitness as well as preparing my parents' house for a new owner and spending more time with my Dad as he processes his grief of losing my mom this past January.

At the encouragement of one of our Global Outreach Team Members, Dan Musil, I will also spend some time in London, England at the Alpha ministry world headquarters: to see their operation firsthand, and to explore how we might integrate their life-changing programs into our ministry moving forward into the future here at First Lutheran. A couple decades ago we ran The Alpha Course for around 600 attendees growing both spiritually and in participation in the church. More recently we've used their marriage and newcomers materials; and we may be primed for a resurgence with this popular course on the Christian basics.

My family will also travel to London and Edinburgh, at our own expense to visit some of the countryside where Christianity has both flourished and gone through amazing times of conflict and challenge. This will be a tremendous teaching opportunity for our boys to expand their horizons and grow as men. I look forward to coming back and giving you a detailed report and leading some Adult Education Classes.

I also look forward to worshipping at different churches in our area both Lutheran and non-Lutheran alike to pick up different ideas on sermons and effective ways of doing church as well as growing myself spiritually to better serve our congregation well into the future. I have grown immensely both professionally and spiritually in my two sabbaticals over 16 years and they have most certainly sustained me in continued ministry here at First Lutheran. Thank you and see you in August!



Pastor Craig Brown received a Sending Blessing for his Sabbatical in worship on Sunday, April 26. He will return to ministry on August 3.

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies Night Out is a monthly opportunity just to have some food & fun. All women welcome; especially new members, friends and visitors!

We're shifting around Memorial Day, so the "May" gathering will actually take place on Monday, June 1. We will meet at 5:30 PM at Mulligan's, 1060 Old Marion Road NE in Cedar Rapids. Pat Stieglitz is this month's hostess, her phone number is (319) 981-3592. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or sign-up at the Welcome Center at church. We're looking forward to seeing you there! (Yes, we'll meet at the end of June too!)

Lil' Nursery Staffing Change

As we come to the wrap-up of our program year, we want to give a special *Thank you* to Jenna Ackman who will be ending her time as our lead for staffing the Lil' Nursery! With her boys getting older, she will be spending more of her energy at work and home. We wish her the best!



The Lil' Nursery and family room areas will remain open during worship times for parents and guardians to use with their children, but will not have staffed care at this time.

Guys: Save the Dates

Coming after
Summer:

"Theology on Tap"
7pm Thursdays,
Sept. 10 - Oct. 15
Bring the big questions
of life and faith,
and hash it out.
Locations to rotate.

"One Year to Live"
Men's Retreat
Weekend
October 23 - 25
hosted at Camp
EWALU,
Strawberry Point in
collaboration with
Lutheran Men in
Mission

Did You Know?

First Lutheran Church Has a Trust Fund

The answer is yes! The First Lutheran Church Trust Fund was established in 1985 and, as of March 31, 2026, has grown to more than \$1.3 million in assets. Much of the Trust's growth has come from generous gifts, including estate bequests and memorial donations which form the principal of the fund. Only the earnings from these investments are distributed, ensuring that the principal remains intact and every gift becomes a lasting one. Each year, the Trust Committee establishes a target for distributions which ensures responsibly while safeguarding the long-term strength of the fund. The target distribution for 2025 was \$54,485.

How does the Trust support the Church?

The fund is used to meet important needs that fall outside the annual operating budget. These often include unexpected property repairs or improvements that require prompt attention. The Trust supports ministry beyond our walls — assisting seminary students and interns and aiding local

outreach like Helping Hands. When a need arises, the Church Council may request a grant from the Trust Committee, which oversees the fund. Each request is carefully reviewed and approved before any distribution is made.

Gifts of all sizes make a meaningful difference. Whether you give now or include the Trust in your estate planning, your gift provides lasting support for the life and mission of our congregation. If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact Bob Koenig in the church office. You may also wish to consult your tax professional regarding potential tax advantages of charitable giving.

Your gift to the First Lutheran Church Trust Fund is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Thank you for your continued support.



Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in May!

Gene Clark celebrating 94 years on May 3
 Marian DiNucci celebrating 90 years on May 8
 June Ann Clark celebrating 93 years on May 19
 Jean Duncan celebrating 90 years on May 23
 Margaret Wells celebrating 94 years on May 31

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in May!

Mike and Janet Evans celebrate 50 years on May 1
 Mary and Wally Gorbatjuk celebrate 64 years on May 10
 Bruce and Vicki Benning celebrate 53 years on May 12
 Carroll and Becky Cram celebrate 59 years on May 20
 Bob and Kathy Koenig celebrate 54 years on May 20
 Jasmine and Mickey Wu celebrate 50 years on May 22
 Mike and Ruth Hansen celebrate 71 years on May 28
 Jeffrey and Kathryn Nelson celebrate 50 years on May 29
 John and Martha Bonte celebrate 57 years on May 31
 Everett and Ellen Collins celebrate 56 years on May 31

... and in early June:

Connie & Larry Lorenz celebrate 52 years June 1
 Al & Sue Fletcher celebrate 53 years on June 2
 Tom & Nancy Pugh celebrate 54 years on June 3
 Leroy & Paula Bradway celebrate 55 years on June 5
 Denny & Gwen Rubenow celebrate 60 years on June 5
 Lon & Linda Feddersen celebrate 67 years on June 5
 Curt & Marva Swanson celebrate 56 years on June 6
 John & Fran Meyer celebrate 62 years on June 7
 Dan & Mary Beth Malloy celebrate 63 years on June 8

Hospital/Surgical, etc. Prayers for Healing:

Derek Muters	Denny Graf	Jim Mator Carol
Rexroat	Clara Ackerman	Lisa Williams
Dean Arnson	Beth Bartels	Lou Banker

Our Sympathy to:

Donna Sprague, family & friends on the death of her brother Maurice Freund., Arlene Pickett.

FLC Financial Giving Summary

as of April 30, 2026

2026 Annual Operating Fund:

Y-T-D Actual Income	503,173
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	503,003
Giving over (under) budget	170

Thanks to your generous stewardship, we are slightly ahead of budgeted income for the first four months of 2026. All ministries have been fully funded.

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

May 9 & 10 - The Sixth Sunday in Easter

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Scripture: 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21 NRSVue
Special Music: 9a - Children's Chiors Musical

May 16 & 17 - The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; Jn 17:1-11 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Handbell Ensemble
 (11a) Youth Bells

May 23 & 24 - Pentecost Sunday

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 20:19-23 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir

May 30 & 31 - Holy Trinity Sunday

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Resonaré Ringers

June 6 & 7 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Scripture: Romans 4:13-25; Mthw 9:9-13,18-26

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on June 11, 2026

Renewing for God's Mission Capital Fund:

	3-Year Budget	Project-to-Date Actuals:
Income	3,192,000	2,326,563
Expenditures	3,192,000	2,466,756
Surplus/Deficit	-	(140,193)

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.

Change Service Requested

Spiritual Formation: A Pause to Give Thanks

Over the past few months, it has been a meaningful gift to walk alongside the groups meeting for book discussions and group spiritual direction. These spaces have been filled with honest questions, a shared desire to better understand our faith, and what it means to live it out in today's world. Time and again, I've been reminded how powerful it is when we slow down, listen deeply, and seek God together in community.

As we head into the summer months, we'll be taking a pause from our regular gatherings. Summer often brings a different rhythm of life, one that can still hold space for rest, reflection, and noticing where God is present in new ways.

I'm already looking forward to the fall, when we'll gather again with new opportunities and studies with fresh spiritual direction groups. It has truly been refreshing to share this journey, and I'm excited for what's ahead as we continue to grow in faith together.

If you are interested in learning more about the Spiritual Formation ministries, please reach out to me, and I'll either add you to our email list or set up a time to talk more about the opportunities to engage!

Thrivent Night at the Ballpark for the Special Olympics

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026 The Cedar Rapids Kernels take on the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers and local Special Olympics athletes will be honored before the game.

Discounted tickets for \$9 in sections 111-112 can be purchased through the Kernels Box Office or by calling 319-896-7560.



First Lutheran

discover more : **together**

1000 Third Ave. SE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Ph: (319)365-1494 | Txt: (319) 423-9383

text-to-give: text "give" to (319) 895-1494

firstlutherancr.org     @firstlutherancr

General Voicemail / After-hours: Extension 100

Rev. Dr. Steve Knudson extension 106	Senior Pastor stevek@firstlutherancr.org
Rev. Craig Brown extension 105	Lead Pastor for Outreach craigb@firstlutherancr.org
Rev. Katie Lowe Lancaster extension 113	Lead Pastor for Discipleship katiell@firstlutherancr.org
Sheila Anderson extension 135	Visitation Chaplain sheilaa@firstlutherancr.org
Michael Beckmann extension 112	Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries michaelb@firstlutherancr.org
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Joel Reeves extension 109	Dir. of Contemp. Worship Music joelr@firstlutherancr.org
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Audrey Montgomery Gardes,	Jacob Bartels,
Avery Karkosh, Kraig Wilford	Worship Production Team
Jenna Ackman	Childcare Coordinator