

The Light

The freshly-poured concrete parking lot with a lower grade, better drainage, and fewer curbs to improve accessibility.

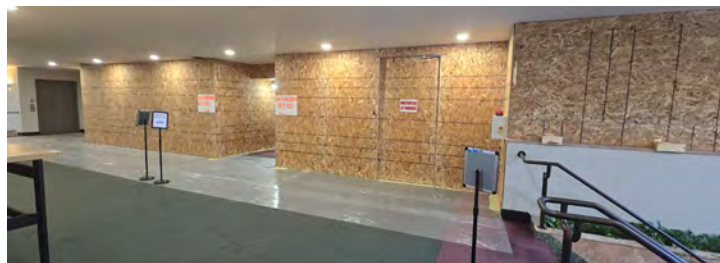
Renewing for God's Mission

Progress continues at a steady pace as we work to renew our facility to Welcome Like Christ; serving as a hub for our faith journeys and the needs of our community.



Our downstairs fellowship hall, room 104 has seen a big transformation this month. New carpet with a simpler pattern and a lighter paint color on the walls has contributed to a more open, larger-feeling space (which can be hard to convey through a camera lens.) Carpeting the main room has been finished since this picture, and our current focus is now on the side-rooms around the fellowship hall and the presentation area where the small stage has been removed, as it was more of a tripping hazard than helpful.

On the second level, the narthex (coffee area) has now been cordoned off and work is starting to modify or remove columns where possible. The archway in the middle of the room will be removed to cut down on the loud echo, and the closet near the kitchenette will be converted into a single-use, accessible restroom which will be a great help to families with young children, and others with mobility issues. With temporary walls up, our main fellowship area has moved down to the lower level fellowship hall.



While under renovation, we have decided to forego our August Saturday Night Fellowship and monthly Luncheon. We are also postponing the Youth Stock Sale dinner until we can hold it in our newly renovated Youth Room, which will be completed soon! Keep up with updates at firstlutherancr.org/renewing or at [Facebook.com/firstlutherancr](https://www.facebook.com/firstlutherancr).

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New to First Lutheran?

If you are new to First Lutheran and would like to know more about the congregation in general, the wide variety of ministry opportunities we have for you, or how to become an official member of the congregation, please join us for a Newcomers Dinner on Thursday, September 18.

Dinner starts at 6 p.m. and the information session will start at 6:30 p.m. and run until about 8:30 p.m. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we are sure to prepare enough food!

Please RSVP online at firstlutherancr.org/newcomers

If you have any questions about the orientation or becoming a member, please feel free to contact Maddy Newhouse in the church office at maddyn@firstlutherancr.org or 365-1494 x.103.



The HACAP Food Backpack Program ensures kids have healthy, ready to eat and easy to prepare foods when they are not at school. Over 4,500 kids in Eastern Iowa are served by this program, which is a huge help to working families in the community who are stretched thin! Help pack the bags on Thursday, August 14 at 1-3:00. Summer is a great time for a family service project where kids can help kids! Visit firstlutherancr.org/hunger to sign up!

"Big Tent" Sunday August 24



SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, August 24, 10 a.m.

We are excited for the renewal of our faith and reconnecting as a congregation this fall; and the sanctuary is becoming the BIG TENT to celebrate! We want to pack the house for a blended 10 a.m. worship service filled with contemporary and traditional music from our praise band, adult choir, and organ with big-top colors all around! The worship service will also feature our back-to-school backpack blessing for students.

After worship, you will be able to check out the newly refreshed Lutheran Fellowship Center for refreshments, a photobooth and other fun activities for all ages! All families will receive a special gift to take home!

Don't miss this opportunity to come together and celebrate what's in store for the year ahead!



Renewing for God's Mission Capital Fund As of July 31, 2025

	3-Year Budget	Project-to-date Actuals
Income	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 1,625,486
Expenditures	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 319,252
Surplus/Deficit	\$ —	\$ 1,306,234

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

More Than Music - Grow Together in Ministry

As vacation season starts to wind down our music ministries will start up toward the end of the month! Each of our ensembles contributes to the vibrancy of our worship services through out the year; but that is just where the benefits begin. Beyond the most obvious benefit of enhancing our worship services, music ministries provide a wealth of social, personal, and health benefits which people do not often consider.

Having a direct role in worship helps our musicians feel more connected to the worship service and personally get more out of each experience. Taking part in a regular rehearsals with other First Lutheran members also helps grow personal connections and friendships within the community of faith.

Additionally, participating in music ministries can also improve personal wellness. Learning music, or learning new musical skills like singing and playing handbells keeps the brain active and healthy. Regularly engaging

in rhythmic activities can also enhance and protect balance and coordination which is why music is often used in rehabilitation.

No matter if you want to try singing, playing handbells, or connecting with the band for Contemporary or Wednesday Worship - there is a place for you! No experience required, just come to a rehearsal to get started!



One of our Handbell Ensembles enhance our worship experience with their musical contribution.

Music Ministry:	Members include:	Meeting Time:	Beginning:	Director:
Adult Choir	High School - Adults	Wed. 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.	August 20	Marita Wolgast
Youth Choir	Grades 5 - 8	Wed. 5:35- 6:05 p.m.	August 27	Tanya Malloy
Junior Choir	Grades 1 - 4	Wed. 5 - 5:30 p.m.	August 27	Tanya Malloy
Resonaré Bells	Advanced Ensemble	Monday 6:30-7:30 p.m.	August 25	Brett Wolgast
Adult Handbells	Post. H.S.	Monday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	August 25	Brett Wolgast
Youth Handbells	Grades 6-12	Wed. 5 - 6:30 p.m.	August 25	Brett Wolgast

If you are interested in joining with the Celebration Band for 11 a.m. worship, or the Echo Worship Team for Wednesday Evenings, please contact director Joel Reeves. If you play an instrument are interested in providing music for solos or special events please contact Brett Wolgast. For any questions, all director's contact information is on the back page.

National Lutheran Choir Workshop comes to FLC

On Saturday afternoon, September 6, First Lutheran will be hosting Dr. Jennaya Robison to lead a choral workshop. Dr. Robison is the director of the National Lutheran Choir, which is based in the Twin Cities. She is beginning her second year as Artistic Director of that ensemble. Joining Dr. Robison will be Erin Gaffaney, Director of Education and Outreach of the National Lutheran Choir.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Cedar Rapids is co-sponsoring the event with us, and in addition to First Lutheran Adult Choir, we will also have the youth choirs of First Lutheran participating. The event will culminate with participation in our Saturday 5:00 p.m. worship that day, presenting several fun and festive anthems. We are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Robison and Ms. Gaffaney for an afternoon of making a "joyful noise" to the Lord!

Appetizer Fellowship

To celebrate the Choir workshop and worship music on Sept. 6 we will hold a special Appetizer Night in the Fellowship Center following Saturday worship.

If you would like to contribute an Appetizer that night please contact Vicki Hughes at 319-471-3733.



An Amazing Week of Ministry!

VBS and daycamp was a fun-filled week of adventure as we embraced the theme of the Alaskan wilderness and learned about the unmovable, unshakable love that Jesus has for all of us through songs, scripture, crafts and even snacks! Yes, you can make snacks into a learnable moment!

Aside from the fun and laughter, what makes this annual festivity so special is that we come together as a church body with multiple generations serving side-by-side. Our teenage youth led many activities with the younger kids, and while the younger kids were with Camp EWALU staff, the youth had their own time of leadership development as well. The relationships formed between adults, teens, and kids continue and grow long after the (AMAZING!) decorations come down, creating community on the foundation of faith that is simply unmatched outside of the body of Christ.

Thank You Volunteers & Congregation

Thank you for all that you have done to welcome and support us during VBS. We appreciate your help and we hope that you continue to use your love to help everyone around you.

God is always near through Trusting, Blessing, Listening, Serving, and Following!

With Love through Christ,
EWALU Staff

NATHAN!
Emily
Emma
Neo
Dylan
Lexie

*Pastor Katie with
the Camp EWALU
staff who joined us
for Daycamp.*



It's Time to Get Registered for 2025/26!



Registration for the 2025-2026 ministry year is open — and all online! This one form covers all of First Lutheran's Children, Youth & Family Ministries. Whether you're signing up for First Lutheran Kids, Confirmation, or High School Ministry, this is the only form you'll need.



Once submitted, you'll receive a confirmation email from First Lutheran letting you know you're all set for the new year. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Katie Lowe Lancaster or Michael Beckmann in the church office. We're here to help!

Scan the QR code or visit firstlutherancr.org/register

Discover More Together This Fall with Youth & Families



As summer begins to wind down, we're looking ahead to an exciting season of ministry where we'll Discover More Together—more connection, more faith, more moments of growth and grace. Fall is a time of new rhythms, and it's the perfect opportunity to step back in or try something new. Whether it's Sunday morning learning, small groups, youth ministry, or family events, there's a place for everyone to grow and belong. Completing your fall registration now helps us prepare well and ensures your family is ready to be part of all that's ahead. Look for ways you can volunteer in small groups or worship as well!



Echo Worship ECHO Wednesday Volunteers – **Get Involved!**

Looking for a meaningful way to serve this fall? Consider becoming an ECHO Youth Guide (Grades 9-12)—we'll provide training, encouragement, and leadership growth as you walk alongside middle school youth in their faith journey.

Or, if music is your passion, join the ECHO Worship Band! We're seeking vocalists and instrumentalists (Grades 6–12) who want to help lead our congregation in worship. We need a new drummer this year!!!

ECHO meets Wednesday nights from 6:30–8:00 PM, with dinner starting at 5:15 PM. ECHO begins less than a month from now on September 10, so let us know today if you're ready to be part of something inspiring!

September ECHO Series:

Have you ever wondered what you were made for? As we explore who we are and what makes us unique, the first article of the Apostles' Creed reminds us that we are not accidents or afterthoughts—we are lovingly created by God, the maker of heaven and earth. We believe that God not only created us but continues to provide for and sustain us each day. Our gifts, passions, and personalities are not random; they are signs of God's ongoing creative work in us. In this series we'll discover how we are made to know God, and how the things we love might be the very ways God shines through us—because we are created to bring light, to lead with purpose, and to make a difference in the world God so lovingly made.


September 10 - Welcome to ECHO Worship
September 17 - Made to Be- Made to Know God
September 24 - Made to Be- Made to Be Light
September 31 - Made to Be- Made to Make a Difference



Final Summer #wheresMichael Gathering!

High School #wheresmichael gatherings - Find Michael at a restaurant and he'll buy you dinner and catch up over the summer! Be sure your youth is following us on Instagram for more information and location clues! (Open to incoming 9th-12th and alumni)

Join us for the final
#wheresmichael of the summer
6 - 7pm, Sunday, August 17.

Follow us at:
 **@FLCRYouth**

Liberian Connections Bring Thanks to First Lutheran

Dr. Ricks Thanks us for Newborn Kits

Dr. Minnie Ricks, Medical Director of the Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Liberia came to our worship services July 26-27 to thank us for the many newborn kids we assemble which they distribute to new mothers in poverty who receive care at Phebe Hospital and other partnering facilities.



Juile & Lou Banker of the Global Outreach Team, with Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster, Suah Borsay and Dr. Minnie Sankawulu Ricks

This ministry, started by FLC member and Liberian refugee Suah Borsay, has grown into a large operation involving a many volunteers from our church including a member who provides a facility for storage and assembly. Each kit contains new cloth diapers, onesies, soap, a baby blanket, and other basic need items. Dr. Ricks is so impressed with our ministry that changes the direction of so many new mothers and babies that she wants to come and say "thank you" and show us how the gifts transform lives.

During the visit to Cedar Rapids, Dr. Ricks was able to personally take part in packing 280 more kits. She then travelled to the Global Health Ministries warehouse in Minneapolis and took part in packing the sea container that will be shipped to Liberia.

A Heartfelt Letter of Appreciation

To Suah and Ivan, and the Pastors and Loving People of First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, IA,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! As one who works with Dr. Ricks at Phebe, I am reading and watching online with a heart full of gratitude and joy. I therefore write to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for the love, hospitality, and generosity you have so graciously shown to us through your invitation to Dr. Minnie Sankawulu Ricks, our dedicated medical director of the Phebe Hospital.

It was truly a blessing and honor to witness her participation in your ministry—sharing about the vital work of Phebe Hospital and being part of the mission that God has laid upon your hearts on behalf of the newborn children at both Phebe and Curran Lutheran Hospitals in Suakoko and Zorzor. A special word of appreciation goes to my dear sister, Suah, and her husband, Ivan. Working closely with you—exchanging ideas and communications to make this moment possible—filled my

heart with joy. It was a reminder of how powerful and beautiful Christian partnership can be when rooted in faith and mutual purpose.

To the pastors and members of the First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, the Global Team, and the tireless champions of newborn kits: Thank you for choosing to walk alongside Phebe and Curran Hospitals. Your labor of love, your commitment to maternal and child health, and your spiritual partnership are deeply felt and greatly appreciated here in Liberia. May the Lord bless you all abundantly for the seeds you are sowing in the lives of the vulnerable. May your hands never grow weary, and may your hearts remain filled with His joy.

With profound appreciation
and love in Christ,

Rev. Thomas Z. Paye,
Assistant to the Bishop
of the Lutheran Church in Liberia



Housing Team Coordinates Helpful Hands

As part of this year's "God's Work. Our Hands." national service day on Sunday, September 7, 2025, the Housing Team is offering help to members of our congregation through minor home repairs and yard work projects.

Need an Extra set of Hands?

Do you have a project that's just a bit too much to tackle on your own? If you could benefit from assistance, whether it's small repairs, basic maintenance, or yard cleanup, please submit a request for assistance. Requests can be submitted by stopping by or contacting the church office, or by completing the form at firstlutheranncr.org/housing. All requests are due by Sunday, August 24 so we can plan accordingly.



Lend a Hand!

We'll also need volunteers of all skill levels to help with these projects. Whether you're handy with tools or just willing to lend a hand, your help will make a difference! This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, and youth to serve together. Volunteer to do God's work with Your Hands at firstlutheranncr.org/housing.

Let's serve together in Christ's name!



God's Work. Our Hands. is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

ELCA congregations across the country coordinate service activities as an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Pastors Give Thanks for Seminary Support

It was a great Father's Day weekend, June 14-15, welcoming Rev. Edwin Flomo and the newly minted pastor, Rev. Sumo Pewu Korkorlor, both from Liberia, to share their stories with our congregation who supported both financially in seminary. Pr. Edwin read the gospel and Pr. Sumo presided over communion. We gave each a travel communion kit to bless the people they serve.

Both men witnessed loved ones being massacred during their country's civil war and were able to come face-to-face those who committed the crimes and say, "I forgive you." It was very powerful story to witness. Plus Pr. Edwin told us he recently baptized 150 at one service! Even amidst some hardships it's good to see the gospel continuing to flourish world-wide. Our people were very receptive to the visit. Thanks to our Food Service Coordinator Ruth Erhardt for setting it up. Plus, we baptized a baby boy the Saturday night they were here. What a celebration!



Two Liberian pastors who we supported through their seminary educations shared their stories and participated in worship on June 14-15.



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, August 25, 2025 we will meet at 5:30 PM at Villa's Patio, 5200 Fountains Drive NE in Cedar Rapids. Judy Cheney is this month's hostess; her phone number is (319) 361-0403. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Contemplative Hands

Monday, Aug. 25 1:30-3 p.m. in Rm. 310

Sometimes prayer simply means slowing down and working with our hands, knitting a prayer shawl, chopping veggies, or weeding the garden. 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. Think this will be a time of silence and solemnity? No way! Laughter and sharing are great prayer practices.



Prairiewoods Retreat Series: Dear Younger Me

A Journey of Reflection, Forgiveness & Renewal



*Cindy Dunn, Spiritual Director,
Stephen Minister, retreat leader*

Dear Younger Me is a transformative retreat that invites you to embark on an intimate journey of self-discovery, healing and connection with God's boundless love.

Through life review, reflection, and group sharing, we will confront the areas of our heart that long for self-forgiveness and also celebrate the joys we find along the way. In moments of quiet reflection, we will write heartfelt letters to our "dear younger me," offering the wisdom, compassion and grace we have gained along the way. This is not just about looking back; it's about embracing the present with courage and hope. We will leave renewed, with a heart softened by love, a spirit anchored in grace and a deeper understanding of our worth in the light of God's unending mercy. This is our sacred pause—a time to breathe, reflect and return home to our hearts.

This retreat is a four-part series held every-other Tuesday, 5:30-8 p.m. (Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14 and Oct. 28) offered by and taking place at Prairiewoods Retreat Center, 120 East Boyson Road in Hiawatha.

The Retreat Leader, Cindy Dunn is a spiritual director trained at the Franciscan Spirituality Center. She is an active member of our Stephen Ministry program, a lifelong learner, and compassionate listener. Additionally, Cindy volunteers as a chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital. Read her blog post about the retreat series and find registration details at [Prairiewoods.org/dear-younger-me](https://prairiewoods.org/dear-younger-me)



Pipes, Pedals, & Pie

Summer Organ Concert Series



Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO will perform Aug. 12

Two great evenings of concerts have already passed us by on June 10 and July 8; and you have one more opportunity coming up on August 12 to hear fantastic music that you might not usually encounter in a worship setting from a talented artist with deep ties to our congregation.

Our final concert is Tuesday, August 12 at 7 p.m. featuring Dr. Mark Bauman, organist at St. Paul's United Methodist in Cedar Rapids. As with each event in this series, the concert will be followed with pie & ice cream social!

Bakers Needed!

If you would like to assist with the baking of pies for our final concert on August 12, please contact the church office (319-365-1494).

Pies should be brought to the church to the church kitchen by 6:00 p.m. prior to each concert. The Musical Arts committee welcomes your baking skills!



Thank You for Your Support!

Music is central to the mission of First Lutheran Church. Our newly renovated sanctuary features outstanding acoustics and houses exceptional instruments: the Opus 50 Pipe Organ by Parsons, a Steinway grand piano, and a restored harpsichord.

Through our Musical Arts Series, we share these gifts with the community, offering free concerts that inspire and uplift throughout the year. The series is sustained by voluntary donations outside of the church operating budget, which support artist honorariums, accommodations, publicity, and hospitality.

You can support the series at firstlutherancr.org/music-arts

Mark Your Calendars for our Fall Concerts!

The Wolgasts in Concert!

Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025

at 3:00 p.m.

Join First Lutheran's Organist and Director of Traditional Worship, Brett and Marita Wolgast, for an afternoon concert featuring the music of that musical "giant," Johann Sebastian Bach. With the theme, Ah! Bach, the program will highlight a sampling of Bach's many compositions for the organ including both free and chorale-based works, and transcriptions for organ and piano duet.

Great American Organists:

Dr. Stephen Hamilton

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025 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!

First Lutheran Podcasts

In addition to our weekly behind-the-scenes *Faith First* podcast, you can now also listen to the First Lutheran Radio Worship from KMRY radio as a podcast.

Find the links to both at firstlutherancr.org/podcast



FLC Honors Long-Time Voice of Radio Worship

Since 1977 Jim Gruettner's voice has welcomed our listeners to our 30 minute radio broadcast that features a sermon, prayers and music from our church at 8:30 every Sunday morning on KMRY Radio 93.1 FM and 104.5 AM. What started as a vital service for shut-ins has grown to reach thousands of people in their cars heading to other church services or out running errands on Sunday morning. And now you can stream our half hour show anytime on demand on Spotify.



With Jim's blessing, Chris Ackman has re-recorded our intros, thus ending an incredible 48 year run for Jim, which is longer than nearly anyone has been on the air in Eastern Iowa. On the weekend of August 2-3 in worship we presented Jim with a golden microphone with an inscription on it that reads, "Gifted to Jim Gruettner For 50 Years As The Voice Of First Lutheran Radio." Please help us thank God for Jim Gruettner for his five decades of faithful service as the Voice of First Lutheran Radio!

The Endow Iowa Tax Credit has been Preserved

If you have considered making a legacy gift to the First Lutheran Church Trust Fund, we have good news for you. After months of negotiation, the governor recently signed legislation preserving the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. This is a 25 percent tax credit available to all Iowa taxpayers who make a qualifying charitable contribution to a permanent endowment fund, for the benefit of an Iowa charitable cause, at a qualified community foundation. The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation (GCRCF) is such a qualified foundation.

First Lutheran Church has an endowment fund at the GCRCF. Contributions given to the First Lutheran Trust Fund at GCRCF qualify for the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. Although it is very good news that this legislation preserved the tax credit, it did contain changes which will reduce the benefit of this credit. The maximum tax credit per taxpayer is currently \$100,000,

however, this amount will be reduced to \$50,000 effective January 1, 2026. Also, the State of Iowa has an annual grand total tax credit 'allocation' amount. This total year allocation amount is being reduced from \$6 million to \$3.5 million effective January 1, 2026. Of the \$6 million allocation amount for 2025, over \$3.5 million is still available.

Given the reductions in the maximum allowable tax credit and the total state tax credit allocation amount effective January 1, 2026, now (prior to December 31, 2025) is the time to make your gift. If you have an interest in making a charitable contribution and utilizing the benefit of the Endow Iowa Tax Credit, please contact Bob Koenig at 319-365-1494, Ext 108.



First Lutheran Trust
building a legacy: **together**

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in August!

Marge Bode, celebrating 97 years on August 29.
Carroll Cram, celebrating 96 years on August 9.
Darlene Gatto, celebrating 95 years on August 28.
Eleanor Hegland, celebrating 92 years on August 13.
John Anstrom, celebrating 91 years on August 23.
Ruth Hansen, celebrating 90 years on August 17.

... and in early September:

Edith Winistorfer, celebrating 98 years on September 4.
Eunice Halvorson, celebrating 97 years on September 9.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in August!

Terry & Shirley Benfer celebrate 65 years on Aug. 13.
James & Patti Rose celebrate 61 years on Aug. 15.
Rick & Ronda Hill celebrate 60 years on Aug. 1.
Larry & Judy Blum celebrate 60 years on Aug. 8.
Bob & Beth Anderton celebrate 59 years on Aug. 30.
Dean & Linda Arneson celebrate 58 years on Aug. 26.
Roger & Jerri Lueders celebrate 57 years on Aug. 21.
Jim & Marla Schmitz celebrate 55 years on Aug. 22.
Stephen & Diane Krebs celebrate 54 years on Aug. 28.
Nick & Kay Gloe celebrate 53 years on Aug. 4.

...and early September:

Dick & Jackie Johnson celebrate 63 years on Sept. 1.
Gerald & Karen Seavy celebrate 57 years on Sept. 1.
LaVerne & Rose Gordon celebrate 62 years on Sept. 7.

Hospital/Surgical, etc.:

Jim Perkins	Carol Rexroat	Gene Clark
Jacqueline Foote	Joe O'Brien	Sandy Bishop
John Glass	Barb Munson	Stan See
Dan Baty		

Our Sympathy to:

Ardy Finch, family and friends on the loss of
her husband Lew Finch.
Friends and family on the loss of Shirley Lamb.
Friends and family on the loss of Elizabeth Bowen.
Friends and family on the loss of Jan Anderson.

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.

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
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

August 9 & 10 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

"The Possibility of Readiness"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

Special Music: (9a) Dr. William Jones, bassoon
Sue Keller, flute

August 16 & 17 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

"The Possibility of Devotion to God"

Scripture: Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 23 & 24 - 11th Sunday of Pentecost 10 a.m. Sunday Combined Big Tent Worship

(5 p.m. Sunday as normal)

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster

"The Possibility of Repentance"

Scripture: Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Special Music: 10 a.m. – Celebration Band,
Adult Choir & Organ in one service!

August 30 & 31 - 12th Sunday of Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson Returns!

Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

FLC Financial Giving Summary

As of July 31, 2025

2025 Annual Operating Fund:

Y-T-D Actual Income	\$ 908,190
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	\$ 882,988
Giving over (under) budget	\$ 25,202

Thank you for your strong continuation of giving during the summer. We are currently ahead of budgeted income and all ministries have been fully funded by your generosity! Mid-year giving statements have recently been mailed for your verification and year-end planning.

Change Service Requested

Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

The Rev. Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly being held July 28–Aug. 2 at the Phoenix (Ariz.) Convention Center.

Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and the Rev. Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry is the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.



Bishop Curry addresses the churchwide assembly after his election as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer while he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, rural and inner-city settings. He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role.

“Perhaps I’m out there in one of you,” Curry said. “I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me, and I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Read more about Bishop-elect Curry and the churchwide assembly at [ELCA.org](https://elca.org) and LivingLutheran.org

Photo and article © Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



First Lutheran

discover more : **together**

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