

The Light

The fun, food,
and fellowship of
our Big Tent Event
returns August 23!

Celebrate Community at the Big Tent Event

First Lutheran is a gathering place for people of all ages and from across the region. This fall you can discover more about God's love does through the wide array of worship, learning and outreach opportunities of First Lutheran.

On Sunday, August 23 we will celebrate being a community of faith and seeing what Love Does through our ministries, with a day worship, food, music, games, and more!

Starting at 10 a.m. we will hold just one worship service which will combine the best elements of our usually separate traditional and contemporary worship styles into one celebration.

Following the combined worship we will head out to the Big Tent Event in our parking lot. Enjoy special music, kids' activities and bounce houses, complimentary food from Los Ortega's, Street Bites & Back40 BBQ food trucks, and a few other surprises along the way! Guests will also be able to walk through the facility, to see our renovated kids, youth, and small group areas.

Make it Great!

Help us make it a great day for members, and guests!

- **Please RSVP** if you plan to come so we can anticipate the crowd and be prepared to best serve everyone.
- **Consider Helping** with worship, games or hospitality.



RSVP and Volunteer signups are available in our new Church Center app (see pg. 2), by scanning this QR code, or visiting firstlutherancr.org/big-tent.

Spread the Word!

Special "Invitation Tickets" are ready at the church to give you and a friend a reminder. You can also *Like* and *Share* the Big Tent Event on facebook.com/firstlutherancr - this really helps us extend our reach into the community and surrounding areas.

Discover More: Together
at the
Big Tent Event
Sunday, August 23
10 AM Worship *and* Celebration

Inside this Edition:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 ChurchCenter for Engagement | 6 Renovaré Book Study | 10 Interfaith Conversations |
| 3 Register Children & Youth | 7 Spiritual Formation | Legacy Project Momentum |
| Sabbatical Discoveries w/Pr. Craig | Community Outreach | Financial Giving Summary |
| 4 WOW God! Daycamp Thanks | Visitation Update | 11 Prayer & Worship Guide |
| Discovery Zone for kidz | 8 Music Ministries | 12 Discover what Love Does |
| 5 ELCA Youth Gathering 2027 | Musical Arts Series | |
| Echo Ministries Return 9/9 | 9 Monthly Luncheons | |
| #WheresMichael 2026 | Ladies' Night Out | |
| 6 Stock Sale Supper Update | Men's Ministries | |

Centralizing Engagement

Church Center Brings Ministry Together

For the first time, First Lutheran is bringing three technologies under one umbrella—making connecting, volunteering, and giving easier than ever for our congregation!

Earlier this year, Maddy Newhouse, Director of Ministry Engagement, introduced Church Center (also known as Planning Center) to streamline Sunday morning volunteering. Now, as our former website host winds down operations, we're expanding Church Center to handle our registration forms and online payments too. Best of all? Our staff is thrilled to manage all contact updates in one central place.

What will Church Center do for Me?

Our Sunday Morning Volunteers are already using Church Center; getting schedule reminders, requesting substitutes, and checking in when they arrive to print a nametag.

Families with Children and Youth will be able to "check in" each Sunday and Wednesday when they arrive to Discovery Zone or Echo and print a nametag for students. The check in process helps us interact with kids by name, and is a safety-check to ensure the right person checks them out at the end. It will also help us keep in touch!

Anyone Who Registers or RSVPs for events can get reminders, see what registrations they completed, make payments online, or see reminders for payments of cash or check due in-person.

Contributing an Offering can also be done through the Church Center App; which keeps all of your registration, payment and offering information current and manageable in one convenient portal with banking-level security.

Church Center is one of the most widely-used and trusted church platforms available. The easy-to-use systems have great support, and offer the lowest rates for payment processing, meaning more of your contribution goes directly to ministry.

What happens if I don't have a smart phone?

While 70% of our website traffic comes from mobile devices, Church Center works seamlessly on desktop computers, too! Clicking a link in an email or on our website will simply direct you to log in.

If you don't use technology at all, don't worry—just call the church office during business hours, and our staff will gladly assist you.

Does this replace the "Ministry One" app?

Yes - if you had previously used "Church" by Ministry One, with this purple cross icon, that service was tied to our previous website and will shut down on September 15. You can delete this icon from your device.



What's Changing About the Website?

Our website host since 2021, CloverSites, announced it is shutting down following a corporate merger. While we didn't expect to switch hosts after just five years, tech changes forced our hand. We are rolling out Church Center now, and our brand-new homepage at firstlutherancr.org will launch at the end of the month!

Does this affect MY recurring gifts?

Households that have recurring gifts set up through CloverGive will soon receive a letter outlining when contributions will stop on the old system, and how to get started in Church Center.

Can I just get a Little Help?

Certainly! Many of our staff and volunteers are already familiar with this system. If you need assistance, call or stop into the office, or talk to Maddy Newhouse at the Welcome Center on Sundays for a brief tutorial.



Download
the app today.





Register Your Children & Youth Today!

A new ministry year is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome children, youth, and families back for another year of faith, friendships, worship, service, and fun! No more construction surprises or "musical chairs" room-changes — our fully-completed and updated facility is ready to help your family grow in faith and learn about our good and gracious God!

All children and youth, PreK through grade 12 must be registered to participate in our Sunday and Wednesday Ministries.

Registration is now open for all ages. Signing up now helps us plan for the year ahead and keep your family connected with important updates and opportunities. New this year, registration also sets you up for a Sunday and Wednesday check-in /check-out system as an extra layer of protection to keep kids safe. We believe every child and youth has a place here—and we can't wait to grow together this fall!

Registration is available in the Church Center app, by scanning the QR code, or visiting firstlutherancr.org/register



Sunday Morning: Sabbatical Discoveries with Pr. Craig Brown

We have two upcoming opportunities to discover what our Lead Pastor for Outreach Craig Brown learned while he was on sabbatical this summer. Both will take place at 10:10-10:55 a.m. in the Youth Room. No sign up necessary. All are invited!

Sunday, Aug. 9: Pr. Craig takes us to London and Scotland along with his family. Discover the spiritual meaningful places he visited through pictures and stories. He'll also describe the emotions of letting go of his boyhood home and the sacred space of accompanying loved ones (his father and sisters) through the journey.

Sunday, Aug. 16: Can you imagine walking into a church in 2026 filled with multi-cultural millennials and non-church goers asking questions about Jesus and why he matters to their lives? Pr. Craig had such an amazing encounter in London with The Alpha Course at the church where it all started, Holy Trinity Brompton. Find out how this class on the Christian basics is still speaking to the hearts of young seekers today and how it might transform our church in the months ahead.

Pastor Craig is fresh of his summer sabbatical and will share stories of personal and spiritual impact the next two Sundays.



WOW God!

What an amazing week at Vacation Bible School and Daycamp 2026. We are so grateful to the many people who provided supplies, donations, and their gift of time and leadership. Can't wait for the best week of the Year in 2027, VBS/Day Camp July 12-15, 2027.



Above: The VBS Cast and Crew: our VBS/Daycampers along with our Youth Leaders and Adult Helpers in Rainforest Falls.

Left: Pastor Katie with the Camp EWALU Councilors who came and led the afternoon daycamp with our kids!



Discovery Zone for Kids

on Sundays -AND- Wednesdays!

- 10:15 a.m. on Sundays (PrK-4th Grade)
- Immediately following Echo Worship (1st-4th Grade)

One weekly theme with Two different opportunities to join in the fun! Children in preschool through 4th grade are invited to learn about how LOVE DOES honor God and honor one another.

Our children's ministry is going to take a 10 week journey into the 10 Commandments following the fall Love Does worship series. We will have music, activities, and new this year – lots of hands-on servant projects along the way that allow for the entire family to make a tangible difference in our church & community.

SAVE THE DATE! November 22 will be a family-friendly servant project morning!



Discovery Zone squeezed into some tight spaces last year, but now we are SOOO excited to be past our renovation process and moving into bright, spacious rooms this fall!

Youth & Adults

can join Discovery Zone too!

Our church puts an emphasis on creating meaningful relationships between members of all ages. One of the best ways to do this is by having youth & adult helpers in our Discovery Zone. No preparation on your part is needed, and all supplies are provided! You just get to join in the fun and help foster the faith of our youngest members.

Want to learn more? Reach out to Pr. Katie at katiell@firstlutherancr.org or call the office at 319-365-1494.



One of our Youth Helpers offering a hand in Discovery Zone.

ELCA Youth Gathering 2027

June 28- July 2 | Minneapolis, MN



"What if one week could ignite your faith, spark lifelong connections, and show you what God can do when young leaders unite? Through powerful mass gatherings, hands-on service, and authentic community, the ELCA Youth Gathering is an unforgettable invitation to live out your faith boldly."

If you'll be in 9th–12th grade this Fall 2026, now is the time to take the next step! Registration is now open, and we're inviting students to join us as we head to Minneapolis, June 28–July 2, 2027 for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

The theme, *Imagine More*, invites us to imagine more of what God can do in and through our lives and we can't wait to experience it together.

"EVERYONE
YOU MEET IS
FRIENDLY
AND EXCITED
TO BE THERE..."

Be sure to register and submit your deposit by the September 30th deadline to reserve your spot. We look forward to sharing this unforgettable journey with you! Register in the Church Center App, by scanning the QR code, or visiting firstlutherancr.org/gathering.



ECHO Worship Returns September 9!

Join us as ECHO Worship kicks off a new year on Wednesday, September 9! Everyone is welcome: youth, families, and the entire congregation. This relaxed, contemporary worship experience is youth-led and adult-supported, creating a welcoming space to grow in faith together.

Youth in Grades 5–12 are invited to stay for community and small groups following worship. We can't wait to see you—and don't forget to invite a friend!



We are also encouraging our youth to step up and use their god-given talents to help lead the service including roles for musicians, singers, and worship assistance like reading or communion. If you are willing to step forward in faith and try something new, contact our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Michael Beckmann at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org or by calling the office at 319-365-1494.

#WheresMichael 2026 Continues!



As summer winds down and midweek activities begin picking up, #WheresMichael is moving to Sunday evening! Join us for our final gathering for the summer on August 23, 6–7:00 PM for food, fellowship, and a chance to stay connected.

Watch our social media for each meeting location! Incoming 9th graders, high school students, alumni, and friends are all welcome!



Youth Stock Sale Dinner Update

Due to the cancellation of our BWCA trip because of unsafe air quality from the ongoing wildfires, we have also made the difficult decision to cancel this year's Youth Stock Sale Dinner on Sunday, August 30.

We are grateful for the congregation's generous support of our youth ministry. Since many of you had planned to support this event, we will be making a donation to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, whose summer camping season has been significantly impacted by the wildfires. The remaining support will continue to help send our youth to the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement, and generosity as you invest in the faith journeys of our young people and beyond.

The Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry camping season has been significantly impacted by the wildfires in Northern Minnesota. After the Boundary Waters were closed and our trip canceled, we made a donation to the camp to help them through this difficult season.



Smoke on the Camp Lakeshore.

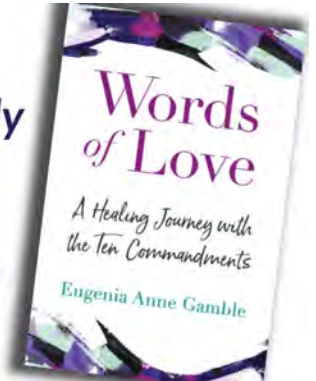
What is a Renovaré Book study?

The Renovaré approach emphasizes spiritual formation, the lifelong process of being transformed into the likeness of Christ through practices such as prayer, Scripture, community, and reflection. Rather than simply gaining information, the goal is to create space for God to shape our hearts and lives.

Renovare Book Study

Two Weekly Options

Monday Evenings- 6:00-7:30 PM
or
Wednesday Mornings- 10:00-11:30AM



Spiritual Formation:

A New Journey with the Ten Commandments

This fall, Spiritual Formation will begin a new Renovaré book study journey as we gather around *Words of Love: A Healing Journey with the Ten Commandments*. This book invites us to look at the Ten Commandments through a new lens, not simply as rules to follow, but as words of love from God that guide us toward deeper relationship with God, ourselves, and one another.

Together, we'll explore how these ancient words continue to speak into our lives today and how God's invitation to love shapes the way we live, worship, and grow in faith. As with all Spiritual Formation opportunities, this will be a space for conversation, reflection, and discovering how God is present in every season of our journey. The cost of the book is \$15 which can be paid online when you sign up, or in-person with cash or check in the church office.

Two groups will be offered this fall:

Wednesday Morning Book Study (Starting September 16) 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM	Monday Evening Book Study (Starting September 21) 6:00 PM- 7:30 PM
---	--

Whether you have participated in a Spiritual Formation group before or this is your first time, you are warmly invited to join us. You don't need to have all the answers, just a willingness to read, reflect, and journey together. Our spiritual formation is a lifelong journey, and we grow through the stories, questions, and insights we share with one another. We hope you'll join us as we explore the *Words of Love* God continues to speak into our lives. For more information contact Michael at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org. You can register for either opportunity in the Church Center App, by scanning the QR code, or visiting firstlutherancr.org/bookstudy



Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Group Spiritual Direction

Group Spiritual Direction returns this fall beginning Thursday, September 17, from 6:00–8:00 PM and will continue meeting on the third Thursday of each month. This monthly gathering offers a space to slow down, listen deeply, and notice where God is present in our lives. Through prayer, reflection, and conversation, we journey together as we grow in awareness of God's work in every season of life. Whether you are new to spiritual direction or have participated before, you are invited to join this meaningful practice of faith and reflection.



For more information contact Michael Beckmann at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org. You can sign up in the Church Center App, or by scanning this QR code.

Individual Spiritual Direction

Individual Spiritual Direction will also be available this fall. These one-on-one conversations provide space to slow down, reflect, and pay attention to where God is present and active in your life.

Spiritual direction is an opportunity to explore your faith, questions, transitions, and experiences with a trusted companion who listens and walks alongside you. Whether you are seeking clarity, a deeper connection with God, or simply a space to reflect, spiritual direction is a meaningful part of the lifelong journey of faith. If you are curious about spiritual direction or would like to schedule a session this fall, contact Michael at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org

Community Outreach

Personal Care & Food Drives Wrap-up

Thank you First Lutheran for your steadfast support of our most vulnerable neighbors this summer! In June our Personal Care Drive shared hope and dignity for those who visit our friends at Helping Hands. In addition to financial resources, being able to share personal care items helps families and individuals in distress make every dollar stretch a little bit more. During July we moved our focus to fighting local food insecurity with the Freedom from Hunger food drive. 400 pounds of food was donated which will help stock several local pantries through HACAP, and assist our own SEMP guests with meals beyond Saturdays.

Warm Clothing Collection

As hot as it is at this time of year, it is also when we begin to plan for our annual warm clothing drive for our unhoused neighbors or those without transportation who spend much of their time outdoors in the winter. If you are cleaning out closets and have boots, hats, coats, gloves or mittens that still have some life left in them, set them aside to bring to church early in the fall. If you are a Thrivent Financial member and would like to join Vicki Hughes in an Action Team now is the time to contact her. She will help you with the wording and timing of the grant process. You can text or call her at 319-471-3733.

Visitation Update

Home Visits, Hospital Visits & Holy Communion

Thank you for your patience as we coordinate people who wish to be visited and those making the visits, along with the resources to have a meaningful launch for these new, and yet very familiar ministries. We have heard wonderful stories of impact from both visitors and visitees, and we know lives are transformed during each and every visit when we connect with compassionate and mercy.

There is a new way to request a visit on the Church Center App (see page 2). You may use the secure form for yourself or a family member for one-time visits (like for a hospitalization), or to be added to and ongoing visit rotation. You may also call the church office during the week to request visits.

"I am in the hospital. How can I receive a visit?"

There are a couple of options for you:

1. When completing the medical facility check-in, Opt-In to being on the "Hospital/Church roster" This makes your name and room number available to church staff when we call St. Luke's and Mercy each morning.
2. Request a hospital social worker or chaplain contact First Lutheran to request a visit.
3. Complete the Visit Request in Church Center or call the church office. Please note, We cannot guarantee visitor availability on weekends.

Connect Deeper through Music Ministries

Our music ministries are a wonderful experience for those involved and our worshipping community as a whole. Each ensemble contributes to the vibrancy of our worship services throughout the year; and creates community within the group. Directly contributing to worship helps musicians feel more connected to worship, and taking part in regular rehearsals creates personal connections with one another. Learning and playing music has also been shown to keep the brain healthy and active!

The benefits are clear - the choice is yours! To join you can simply come to the first rehearsals listed below, or contact the directors through the church office with any questions

Music Ministry:	Members include:	Meeting Time:	Beginning:	Director:
Adult Choir	High School - Adults	Wed. 7:15 - 8:30 p.m.	Sept. 2	Marita Wolgast
Youth Choir	Grades 5 - 8	Wed. 5:35- 6:05 p.m.	Sept. 2	Tanya Malloy
Junior Choir	Grades 1 - 4	Wed. 5 - 5:30 p.m.	Sept. 2	Tanya Malloy
Resonaré Bells	Advanced Ensemble	Monday 6:30-7:30 p.m.	August 24	Brett Wolgast
Adult Handbells	Post. H.S.	Monday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.	August 24	Brett Wolgast
Youth Handbells	Grades 6-12	Wed. 5 - 6:30 p.m.	Sept. 2	Brett Wolgast



The 2026-2027 Musical Arts Series

Wolgasts in Concert

Sunday, October 11, at 3:00 PM

Lunch in the Loft: Music for the Seasons

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, at 12:05 PM

Organists of Iowa

Sunday, January 31, 2027, at 3:00 PM

Featuring: Dr. Karen Black,
Wartburg College in Waverly, IA

Spring Serenades

Saturday, February 27, 2027, at 7:30 PM

Featuring: Gustavus Choir,
Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN

Sunday, March 21, 2027, at 2:30 PM

Featuring: Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale performing
A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms

Sing Out! Hymn Festival and Potluck

Sunday, April 11, 2027, at 3:00 PM

Pipes, Pedals, and Pie Concerts

Tuesdays, June 8, July 13, and August 10, 2027, at 7:00 PM

Mark your Calendar Today!

2025-26 Series Finale Aug. 11

Our 2025-2026 Musical Arts Series will conclude on August 11 with our final even of the season: Pipes, Pedals, and Pie Concert featuring Brenda Sevcik, organist at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. The concert is at 7:00 PM followed by a Pie and Ice Cream Social.



August 11 - 7pm Brenda Sevcik

Organist at St. Pius X
Catholic Church,
Cedar Rapids

The Musical Arts Committee has been working for several months to plan the new season of our Musical Arts Series for 2026-2027.

Thanks so much for your support of our past seasons, both financially and in your attendance. We could not offer such events without an audience or without your generosity. Please consider supporting the new concert season by visiting the church's website, completing the form in the brochure, or contacting the church office.

First Lutheran Senior Adults Monthly Luncheon

Come one and all to our next luncheon on Thursday, August 13 at 12 noon here at the church. Each luncheon provides opportunity to meet new people, enjoy lunch together, and hear a meaningful or entertaining presentation.

In August we will welcome Ann Dugger and Rachel Schlager, The Executive Director and Development Director of The Catherine McAuley Center (CMC) here in Cedar Rapids. The CMC is a local non-profit that offers education and support services to women, adult learners, and immigrant and refugee populations to support the well-being and dignity of people in need.

Looking ahead to September 10 we are delighted to welcome back the always-entertaining musical antics of Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchman!

Cost for the luncheon is just \$5, which you can pay at-the-door, or with your online registration. Please sign up at our Welcome Center, through the Church Center App, or by visiting firstlutherancr.org/luncheon.



Weekly Men's Meet-up this Fall

Men, join us for Theology on Tap at 7-8 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 10 at Sag Wagon's Outdoor Patio for a cold one and conversation with Pr. Craig. Bring your questions about God, the Bible and Life. You will decide on our next location and we'll text it and gather there. The pub crawl will continue each week through Oct. 15. Locations may include the Pickle Palace Rooftop, LP Street Food Patio, Lion's Bridge, 30 Hop, Cedar Ridge Winery, etc. Cost is \$20 only if we decide to buy a book. Open to all men over 21. Friends are welcome!

RVSP in the Church Center app, with this QR code, or by visiting firstlutherancr.org/ontap.



Ladies' Night Out

Ladies Night Out is a monthly get-together just for the fun of spending time with friends united in Christ's love. 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.

On Monday, August 31, 2026 we will meet at 5:30 PM at The Pines Pizza and Pub at 4100 River Ridge Drive NE. Sue Tesdahl is this month's hostess, her phone number is (319) 310-4170. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or put your name, phone number and email address on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center at church. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

"One Year to Live" Fall Men's Retreat

Men, imagine a weekend enjoying the fall colors of the outdoors with no cell phone. No demands on you. Just you and God, and a bunch of guys on the same journey. You'll experience good food, hiking, prayer, and growing closer to our Creator.

If this sounds interesting to you mark your calendar now for 5:30PM Fri. Oct. 23 to 3PM Sun. Oct. 25 for our One Year to Live Men's Retreat with Pr. Craig at Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point.

Cost is \$180 before Oct. 1 and is all inclusive. If you have questions, call or text FLC Member Josh Moore who has been on the retreat at (319) 350-7778 or email Josh at crmoores@msn.com. If you're ready to say "I'm in!", sign up at firstlutherancr.org/mensretreat.

Note: This registration is through the national organization Lutheran Men in Ministry, so it is not available in our Church Center App.

You're Invited!

Gathering at the Table: Interfaith Conversations

Tuesday, August 18th
Gathering at 5:00 p.m.
Dinner Served at 5:30 p.m.

Our friends at the Prairewoods Spirituality Center and Inter-Religious Council of Linn County are teaming up to host a quarterly dinner series starting August 18 at 5 p.m.

These dinners will allow us all to focus on what we share: kindness, compassion, hope, belonging and caring for each other. By gathering as a community, we make room for understanding and real connections to grow. In a world that often emphasizes difference and division, we seek to create spaces of welcome, curiosity, and meaningful connection—places where people can listen deeply, share openly, and encounter the sacred in one another.

There is no cost for this program, but registration with Prairewoods is required. Scan the QR code below, or use a web browser to visit bit.ly/InterfaithConversations



Legacy Giving Project Gains Momentum

The Trust Committee's Legacy Project has been progressing nicely over the Summer! Numerous visits have been made by Legacy team members with congregation members to discuss legacy giving. These visits have been a wonderful way to connect and have meaningful conversations with our members of the congregation – the Body of Christ. Legacy team members have learned so much interesting information from fellow congregation members, from how and when they started coming to First Lutheran, to the ministries that are the most meaningful to them . . . not to mention the enjoyable conversations about them and their lives!



FLC Financial Giving Summary

as of July 31, 2026

2026 Annual Operating Fund:

Y-T-D Actual Income	888,707
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	887,971
Giving over (under) budget	736

Y-T-D giving has been more than budget through the first 5 months of 2026 and all planned ministry expenses have been fully funded. Thank you for your generous support!

Renewing for God's Mission Capital Fund:

	3-Year Budget	Project-to-Date Actuals:
Income	3,192,000	2,403,905
Expenditures	3,192,000	2,493,063
Surplus/Deficit	-	(89,158)

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.

Please include in your Prayers...

So Sorry! we missed two July birthdays:

Sue Helgeson celebrated 92 years on July 21
Mike Hansen celebrated 95 years on July 4

90+ Birthdays in August!

Carroll Cram celebrates 97 years on August 9
Eleanor Hegland celebrates 93 years on August 13
Ruth Hansen celebrates 91 years on August 17
John Anstrom celebrates 92 years on August 23
Darlene Gatto celebrates 96 years on August 28
Marge Bode celebrates 98 years on August 29

... and in early September:

Eunice Halvorson celebrates 98 years on Sept. 9.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in August!

Nick and Kay Gloe celebrate 54 years on Aug. 4
Bill and Von Cary celebrate 54 years on Aug. 5
Larry and Judy Blum celebrate 61 years on Aug. 8
Marilou and Mickael Denney celebrate 58 years on Aug. 10
Terry and Shirley Benfer celebrate 66 years on Aug. 13
James and Patricia Rose celebrate 62 years on Aug. 15
Gary and Cindy Steflik celebrate 56 years on Aug. 15
Rick and Ronda Hill celebrate 61 years on Aug. 20
Roger and Jeri Lueders celebrate 58 years on Aug. 21
Jim and Marla Schmitz celebrate 56 years on Aug. 22
Dean and Linda Arneson celebrate 59 years on Aug. 26
Stephen and Diane Krebs celebrate 55 years on Aug. 28
Larry and Roxanne Rustand celebrate 50 years on Aug. 28
Bob and Beth Anderton celebrate 50 years on Aug. 30

... and in early September:

Dave & Michelle Westbrook celebrate 54 years on Sept. 1
Gerry & Karen Seavy celebrate 58 years on Sept. 1
LaVern & Rose Gordon celebrate 63 years on Sept. 7

Prayers for Healing: Hospital/Surgical, etc.

Darrell Wahlstrom	Julie Wahlstrom	Lou Banker
Maria Hein	Gene Clark	Diane Neil
Kathy Matthews	Nancy Ross	Faye Roberts

Our Sympathy to:

Dick Johnson & family on the passing of his wife, Jackie.
Bob Koenig & family on the passing of his wife, Kathy.
Laura Draeger & family on the passing of her sister
in law, Yvonne Furr.
The family & friends of Deb Snook.
The family & friends of Edith Winistorfer.

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

August 8 & 9 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Return from Sabbatical for Pr. Craig Brown

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster

Scripture: Romans 10:5–15; Mthw 14:22–33 NRSVue

Special Music: (9a) Michael Kruse, vocalist
Sue Keller, flute

August 15 & 16 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

Scripture: Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32;
Matthew 15:(10–20), 21–28 NRSVue

Special Music: (9a) Katie Chism

August 22 & 23 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

10AM Combined Worship & Big Tent Event

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson

Scripture: Romans 12:1–8; Mthw 16:13–20 NRSVue
Worship Music provided by Organ & Band

August 29 & 30 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster

Scripture: Romans 12:9–21,
Matthew 16:21–28 NRSVue

Special Music:

September 5 & 6 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost

"Love Does" Worship series begins, see pg. 12

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

Scripture: Romans 12:9–21,
Matthew 16:21–28 NRSVue

Special Music: (9a) Lisa Wissenberg, Clarinet
Martin Wissenberg, vocalist

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled
to publish on September 10, 2026

Change Service Requested

Discover What Love Does

This Fall at First Lutheran

This fall we will look at the Ten Commandments in a new light through the worship and study series *Love Does*. We often think of the Ten Commandments as things we should not do, as most start with the phrase "Thou shall not..." But, when Martin Luther wrote a guide on how to teach the Ten Commandments at home, he explained each commandment in two parts: 1) What we're not to do; and 2) what love calls us to do.

These "Love Does" interpretations come directly from Jesus. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus begins "you have heard it said ..." and recites a commandment. Then, Jesus flips the script and continues "...but I say to you ..." and he expands the scope, pointing to the fuller way love would act. Other times Jesus is heard summarizing the commandments in terms of love: "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the driving force for living into Gods way of living through the ten commandments.

Each week starting September 6 we will look at each commandment in terms of what the love of God through Christ Jesus calls us to do – while living out our daily lives. Many of our already meeting small groups will pick up and discuss these topics each week. We will also have drop-in discussions each Sunday Morning for you to dig deeper into the content with other worshippers, and several other small groups will welcome people other days of the week. Our Children's and Youth Ministries, and Renovaré book study will all be echoing this look at the Ten Commandments through the fall so families can all discuss and grow together.

Leaders Preview

A special preview for current Small Group Leaders and anyone who might consider leading a group will take place on Sunday, August 30 at 10 a.m.



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 Senior Pastor
extension 106 stevek@firstlutherancr.org

Rev. Craig Brown Lead Pastor for Outreach
extension 105 craigb@firstlutherancr.org

Rev. Katie Lowe Lancaster Lead Pastor for Discipleship
extension 113 katiell@firstlutherancr.org

Michael Beckmann Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries
extension 112 michaelb@firstlutherancr.org

Brett Wolgast Cantor
extension 111 brettw@firstlutherancr.org

Marita Wolgast Dir. of Traditional Worship
extension 110 maritaw@firstlutherancr.org

Tanya Rosenkranz Malloy Junior & Youth Choir Dir.
extension 132 tanyar@firstlutherancr.org

Joel Reeves Dir. of Contemp. Worship Music
extension 109 joelr@firstlutherancr.org

Bob Koenig Director of Support Services
extension 108 bobk@firstlutherancr.org

Maddy Newhouse Director of Ministry Engagement
extension 103 maddyn@firstlutherancr.org

Megan Roling Office Administrator
extension 103 meganr@firstlutherancr.org

William Mittelsteadt Director of Communications
extension 115 willm@firstlutherancr.org

Ruth Ehrhardt Food Service Coordinator
extension 131 ruthe@firstlutherancr.org

Rich Hillyer Custodians
extension 116 richh@firstlutherancr.org

Todd Cornell toddc@firstlutherancr.org

Ernie Decious ernied@firstlutherancr.org

Audrey Montgomery Gardes Worship AV Director
AudreyM@firstlutherancr.org

Jacob Bartels, Avery Karkosh, AV Production Team
Kraig Wilford