

The Light

I BELIEVE

CREATOR ♦ SAVIOR ♦ SPIRIT

Fall Worship Series & Study

This 9-week study (in three 3-week segments) will closely examine The Apostles' Creed we say each week in worship. Where does it come from? Why do we say it? We'll take you behind the words so you can better understand where they come from and to give you more meaning when we recite it together. Martin Luther said, "the Apostles' Creed sets forth to us everything that we must expect and receive from God. To state it quite briefly, the Creed teaches us to know God fully."

Worship Series Schedule:

Life in the Creator:

Sept. 6-7 I Believe
Sept. 13-14 Maker of It All
Sept. 20-21 God Our Protector

Life in the Savior:

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

Life in the Spirit:

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

Many people have found their faith immeasurably strengthened and matured throughout the centuries by this historically deep statement of our Christian faith, and we think you might too. In fact, the word "creed" comes from the Latin word, "credo," which means, "I believe." We'll gather in small groups to discover for ourselves and for each other what it means as Luther teaches to say, "I believe in God the Father, who created me; I believe in God the Son, who has redeemed me; I believe in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies me." This study will take us inside this public declaration of our basic beliefs for us to discover more together exactly what *I Believe*.

Go Deeper Each Week

Study Guides are available in print at the church as well as online at firstlutheran.org/grow. The study guide features some introductory text about the Apostles' Creed and its three articles. It also contains excerpts

"The Creed teaches us to know God fully."
— Martin Luther

from Martin Luther's Small Catechism and explanations of each week's context written by Pr. Steve.



Download
The Guide

Continued on pg.2 →

Inside this Edition:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 New to First Lutheran?
Fall Study continued | 6 Pr. Steve Sabbatical Pilgrimage | 10 First Lutheran Trust |
| 3 Monthly Luncheons Return
Wednesday Evening Ministries | 7 Stock Sale Dinner Postponed
Beckmann Completes Training | 11 Prayer & Worship Guide
Giving Summary |
| 4 Discovery Zone for kidz
You have a Place in Ministry | 8 Ladies' Night Out
Contemplative Hands
Dear Younger Me Retreat | 12 Music Arts Fall Concerts |
| 5 Discover More with Echo
Get Involved on Wednesdays
High School Update | 9 2025 CROP Hunger Walk
Men's UNO Tournament
His Hands Clinic Event | |



First Lutheran
discover more : together

New to First Lutheran?

Newcomers Welcome Dinner

Do you know someone looking for a church home, or have you recently come to First Lutheran and are looking to get more connected?

If you 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 5:30 p.m. and the information session will start at 6 p.m. and run until about 8 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.

"I Believe" Study, continued

The guide has a study for each week of the series. It is designed to be used for the week beginning with that Sunday. These study questions work whether you were able to attend worship or not. You can use this guidebook at home for conversation around your table; simply pick and choose those questions that encourage conversation with children of all ages.

You can also choose to go deeper with small group discussions where you can share thoughts and reflection with other members.

Find a Group

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

Besides the open groups after worship, seven other groups are welcoming anyone for this series at times that may work better for your schedule. No matter when you can connect, you don't have to commit to every week, just as you are available.



**Connect with
a Group**

- 6:30 p.m. Sunday nights (couples) with Peg Musil
- 6:30 p.m. Sunday nights (young adults) with Pr. Craig
- 7:30 a.m. Tuesday (women) with Vicki Hughes
- 9 a.m. Tuesday (women) with Judy Cheney & Betty Lindholm
- 6:45 a.m. Wednesday (men) with Pr. Steve
- 8:30 a.m. Wednesday with Dick & Donna Sprague
- 7:15-8 p.m. Wednesday with Pr. Craig
- 1:30 p.m. Thursday (empty nesters) with Paul & Cathy Price

Get connected with any of these at firstlutherancr.org/groups



Discussion Groups help to engage the materials with outside perspective from others' unique life experiences.

Monthly Luncheons Return to First Lutheran

After a few months off-site and a break in August, the Monthly Luncheon is coming back to our renewed Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 12 noon.



**Barefoot Becky & the
Ivanhoe Dutchman**

In addition to a delicious lunch prepared in-house by our own Ruth Ehrhardt, we will have a foot-stompin' hand-clappin' good time with entertainment from Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchman! Becky and her husband are great musicians and hilar-

ious story tellers you won't want to miss. RSVP below! Barefoot Becky is our most-retuning lunch guests because she and her husband are great musicians and hilarious story tellers you won't want to miss. RSVP by calling the office or online at firstlutherancr.org/lunch

Looking ahead ...

Coming up on October 9, our guest will be First Lutheran member Amy Johnson introducing us to the Community Health Free Clinic (CHFC). Founded in 2002, The clinic is a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides free medical, dental, vision and prescription services for those without access to or the ability to pay for healthcare in our community. CHFC never charges for our services and is not reimbursed by the government; rather they are fully funded through the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporate donors.



Wednesday Evening Meals & Ministries Return

Starting next week, Wednesday September 10, all of our Wednesday Evening Activities will start up for the year!

5:15—6:15 p.m. Dinner for the Family is served each Wednesday in the first level Luther Fellowship Hall, rm. 104 You can come and go as needed for music rehearsals or just hang out to catch up with friends!



5:00 p.m. Junior Choir Grades 1-4
 Youth Bells Grades 6-12
5:30 p.m. Youth Choir Grades 5-8
6:00 p.m. Echo Band Rehearsal Gr. 6-12

6:30 p.m. Echo Worship

each Wednesday offers a youth-led, adult-assisted worship service tailored to families and open to all!

6:30—8:30 p.m. Nursery Care for 6 mo.— 4 years is offered during and after worship through small group and adult choir times.

Discover More following Echo Worship!

7:15 p.m. Adult Discussion Group looking at the "I Believe" worship study, Chapel, Rm. 217

7:15 p.m. Youth Discussion Groups for intermediate students, Grades 5-8 and High School students 9-12.

7:15 p.m. The Discovery Zone for Kidz!

Grades 1-4 will gather in room 312.

7:15 p.m. Adult Choir Grade 9 — Adult

We understand that weekends can get busy with a lot of commitments on your time, so Wednesdays offer a great opportunity to get plugged in to ministries, music, small groups for all ages, and it comes complete with a meal to make it extra convenient for families. Come check out the energy and excitement of ministry in motion on Wednesday Evenings at First Lutheran!

Welcome to the

Discovery Zone *4 KIDZ!*

Okay! What's this all about?

We are launching a Children's Ministry at First Lutheran called Discovery Zone4KidZ

ONE WEEKLY MESSAGE AND THEME;
TWO DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES TO JUMP IN!

Sundayz begin at 10:15 a.m.

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

Wednesdayz at 7:15 p.m.

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

The series will begin with **A PARTY!**
on **SEPTEMBER 7 AND 10**



Big Idea:

God made the world and everything in it.

Bible Verse:

Genesis 1:1-25, 2:1-3; Psalm 33:4-9

Memory Verse:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it" - Psalm 24:1

With Large Group teaching and small group relationship groups we will dig deeper into the "Big Church" *I Believe* worship theme – with a 4 week series on God and creation! **I believe** in God the almighty creator of Heaven and Earth. This way the discussion questions from the worship series work for families at home around the dinner table too!

You have a Place in Children & Family Ministries!

No kidz? No Problem!

The Discovery Zone needs leaders to assist us along the way! We **LOVE** to have people **other than parents** to help build and guide our kidz' faith formation.

Our recent focus on Growing Young showed us that intergenerational support is crucial to a healthy church. Middle School and High Schoolers are always welcome just the same as empty-nesters and grandparents!

Contact Pr. Katie ASAP at
KatieLL@firstlutherancr.org
for more information!



*Assistants of all
ages are welcome
and encouraged!*



Last Chance to Register in Advance!

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 with Echo Midweek Ministries

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

Weekly Schedule

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

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

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

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

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

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



September ECHO Series:

Made to Be

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

Get Involved as a Wednesday Night Volunteer

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.



Weekly Worship Sign-Up for ECHO will be available in the Narthex when we start up on September 10. We’ll cover the basics at ECHO Worship! Our goal is to have youth leading in every aspect of ECHO Worship! From greeting to serving communion, we want youth (and their families) to feel welcomed and like they belong in the worship space, leading in this way helps create space for this to happen. Each of these opportunities can be found on the youth page at firstlutherancr.org/connect/youth



High School Ministry UPDATE

High School Ministry Sunday Nights are on hold for now as construction in our space isn’t quite finished, but in the meantime, youth in grades 9–12 are encouraged to join us Wednesday nights for ECHO Worship and small groups. Once we kick off, Sunday Nights will meet monthly for food, fun, and faith conversations—so stay tuned! Be sure to follow us on Instagram for the latest updates on when Sunday gatherings will begin—we can’t wait to see you there!

Sabbatical Pilgrimage Refreshed

I send a personal note to the congregation returning from a sabbatical pilgrimage. I offer thanks to the congregation for the opportunity. The theme of pilgrimage informed my sabbatical experience, beginning with a pilgrimage walk to Santiago, Spain, called the Camino de Santiago. The sabbatical time ended with an American kind of pilgrimage, walking in the Cascade Mountains from a Lutheran retreat center called Holden Village.

I return with a fresh appreciation for pilgrimage as a guiding theme for the life of faith. We are all on a pilgrimage through life toward the love of God. There are many ways we each experience pilgrimage. For Becky and I, we make a pilgrimage to see our grandchildren in Philadelphia and then Seattle. I also made a pilgrimage to see my parents in California, and my father who is now in a memory care unit. We made a pilgrimage to a family cabin in Minnesota, what I call my "happy place."

What does it mean to be in a pilgrimage as opposed to just any trip? One thing that comes to mind is living and traveling with a holy intention, a sense of God's leading and purpose in the journey. After Santiago, it came to me how that pilgrimage was framed by a kind of intentional walk in faith. After that walk, I realized how easy it is to lose sight of living each day with a guiding sense of God. Perhaps that is the very nature of our secular world, it is a world where faith and God are set aside as secondary. To live with intention, to live with a sense of God's leading and guiding, I have a deeper personal awareness.

A shift for me came with a question: When you think of the body of Christ, when you imagine the church, do you imagine a church sitting or moving? I see now how the body of Christ, the church, can only be church on the move. Jesus said, "Come, Follow me," and these words an invitation to a walk with Jesus, a pilgrimage where we learn what it means to be a forgiven child of God called to serve a greater purpose in God's mission



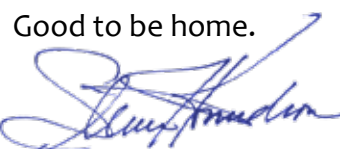
*Pastor Steve & Becky Knudson
upon arrival at the Santiago de
Compostela Cathedral.*

of love. We learn by doing and being on the move. Yes, we may stop and sit and have Bible study, or worship, but these actions only make sense within the greater sense of God's people on the move. Remember, at the end of each worship, we say, Go in peace, and Serve, go and do, live your faith on the move.

No one can walk another person's journey. We each walk our faith and make our journey through life in a way that is personal. We also make our pilgrimage with others, we share stories with others, we encourage one another. We met a person from New Zealand as we walked the Camino, and shared our experiences at supper. It helped me to see differently what happens at First Lutheran and every congregation. Each week we meet up,

whether in a small group, a study group, or over donut holes. We ask one another, "How was this week for you? How was your pilgrimage since last we met?" We check in, we encourage one another, we pray for one another, so that we can continue in our own walk of faith. Faith is something that is both personal and shared. We can be the church on the move as we also gather to support one another.

So after our pilgrimage to many places, after being on the move, living out of a suitcase for all these weeks, we return home. We re-enter this community of faith to share what we experienced and to hear from you how your journey of faith has been. Perhaps it is in the sharing we experience the truth of what Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am with you." And our everyday trips and travels become something more, daily pilgrimages taken with a sense of God's leading and presence.

Good to be home.


Pr. Steve Knudson

Youth Stockholders Dinner Postponed (AGAIN)

Due to construction scheduling and supply delays, we postponed the 2025 Youth Stockholders Dinner. While we are getting closer to the new space being completed, we still need a bit more time to make it happen! A new date will be shared soon! Please stay tuned—and thank you for your continued patience and support!

Youth served as leaders with kids during the morning for Vacation Bible School, and had their own leadership training in the afternoons.



Michel Beckmann Completes Spiritual Direction Training

Over the past three years, I have been walking through a rich and life-giving journey of preparation in Spiritual Direction. This program invited me to slow down, to be quiet, and to listen deeply—not only to God, but to myself and to others. Along the way I learned the rhythms of Franciscan Spirituality, which emphasizes simplicity, humility, and a deep reverence for creation. I was also given the gift of practicing spiritual direction with others, and in doing so, I discovered more about my own story, strengths, and places of growth.

Completing this program (in July) has not only shaped me personally, but it also opens new doors for how I can serve within our community. Spiritual Direction is about noticing where God is present in the midst of our everyday lives, and I am excited to explore how this practice might bless our youth and families, parents and guardians, and the congregation as a whole. Whether through one-on-one conversations, small groups, retreats, or simply a deeper posture of listening in ministry, I look forward to integrating this training into the life we share together.

This new chapter doesn't mean anything changes dramatically in my role right now. Instead, this training gives me new tools and a deeper grounding to bring into the ministry I'm already doing. My hope is that over time, the gifts of Spiritual Direction—attentive listening, noticing God's presence, and walking alongside others—will quietly weave into the ways I serve our youth, families, and congregation.



Grace & Peace,
Michael Beckmann
First Lutheran Church
Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Join us in
celebrating the

50th Ordination Anniversary of Pastor Leroy Bradway

the weekend of
Sept. 27-28
at all three
worship services.

We will recognize his
service in worship
and have a greeting
opportunity following,
including on Saturday
Evening.

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, September 29, 2025 we will meet at 5:30 PM at Mandarin Spice Asian Grill, located in the Collins Road Square, 1412 Twixt Town Road, Marion. 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 and phone number on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Contemplative Hands

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

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



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

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**



2025 CROP Hunger Walk

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

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

The Cedar Rapids/Marion CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 12. We will hold a registration and fund raising drive at the church on the weekends of September 27-28 and October 4-5, but there's no need to wait - you can register to walk yourself, or donate to support our team at crophungerwalk.org/cedarrapidsia

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



Register
or Donate



First Lutheran's 2024 hunger-fighting walkers.

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

Guys UNO Night Tournament



Men, you love to play UNO with your kids but this is a **whole new level** of fierce competition 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20!

We'll have Papa Murphy's Take-n-bake pizza, watch various football games on the big screen, and take it up a notch with an UNO Tournament in our brand new renovated youth room.

Cost is \$20.
Sign up today at
firstlutherancr.org/men



Laughter is the Best Medicine



Join His Hands Free Clinic for a fun evening of buffet dining and comedy while supporting free healthcare for the uninsured in our community. Thursday, Sept. 25, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton in downtown Cedar Rapids.

- Enjoy a buffet-style dinner and a comedy performance by Acts of Worship.
- Mix & Mingle: 5:30-6:00 pm (cash bar available, credit/debit only)
- Dinner & Program: Begins at 6:00 pm

The funds raised during this event will help provide free healthcare to uninsured and underinsured members of our community. RSVP by Sept. 18 at hishandsclinic.org/laughter-is-the-best-medicine.

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



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

Dear fellow FLC members,

The Trust Committee has spent several months considering a new plan to grow our Trust Fund assets, which currently totals \$1,307,000. At our last meeting, we approved moving forward with a 'Trust Legacy Plan' designed to inform the congregation about the importance of legacy giving and growing the trust. A 'Legacy' gift, also known as planned or deferred giving, is a donation that is arranged during the donor's lifetime but distributed after death. Lois Buntz has graciously agreed to serve as the Legacy Coordinator and is working on finalizing several documents that will further describe and guide the Trust Legacy Plan going forward. The Church Council at their August meeting reviewed the work done thus far and gave their approval to move forward with the plan. As with the Renewing God's House campaigns, transparency is of utmost importance, and we will inform the congregation of activities and results as this progresses.

Thank you for your gracious support for strengthening this vital source of funds for all future FLC generations!

Respectfully, the Trust Committee

Renewing for God's Mission Update

Work has steadily progressed on our project to renew our facilities for God's mission to our community. Refreshing our stairwells with new stair treads and new flooring on the landings has been a focus for recent work.

Rinderknecht has also started on the process of reinforcing the bell tower; tuck-pointing inside and out, and adding structural reinforcement beams inside. Because the bell tower sits directly above all of the audio and video equipment for worship, this structural work



is taking place from the outside, in! Workers created a temporary door in the far-right white panel to keep any dust and debris away from the equipment.

The biggest area of work in just the last two weeks has been moving the entire staff out of the offices to replace the flooring and repaint

all the walls. An impressive amount of coordination went into the move. The Rinderknecht team removing flooring and leveling floors, and carpeting all the offices in just a few days, and our volunteers helping move furniture and supplies, painting and installing baseboards. Simply put; it was colossal amount of work that could only happen in close coordination, together.



For the last two weeks, the Chapel became our main office area!

Renewing for God's Mission Fund

As of August 31, 2025

	3-Year Budget	Project-to-date
Income	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 1,727,625
Expenditures	\$ 3,192,000	\$ 817,434
Surplus/Deficit	\$ —	\$ 910,191

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in September!

Edith Winistorfer, celebrating 98 years on September 4.
Eunice Halvorson, celebrating 97 years on September 9.
Alyce Lowe, celebrating 100 years on September 25.
... and in early October:
Barb Dietz, celebrating 95 years on October 2.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in September!

Dick & Jackie Johnson celebrate 63 years on Sept. 1.
LaVerne & Rose Gordon celebrate 62 years on Sept. 7.
Art & Ida Johnson celebrate 62 years on Sept. 8.
Jim & Betty Cook celebrate 62 years on Sept. 27.
Gerald & Karen Seavy celebrate 57 years on Sept. 1.
David and Michelle Westbrook celebrate 53 years on Sept. 1
Mike Sr. and Dalene Sinnott celebrate 52 years on Sept. 18

Hospital/Surgical, etc.:

Maxine Kleiman Dennis O'Brien Duane Wood
Terry Benfer

Our Sympathy to:

The Family and Friends of Jacqueline Foote

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.

FLC Financial Giving Summary

As of August 31, 2025

2025 Annual Operating Fund:	
Y-T-D Actual Income	\$ 1,039,130
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	\$ 1,003,001
Giving over (under) budget	\$ 36,129

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

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

WORSHIP GUIDE

Piano-led Traditional Worship: 5 p.m. Saturdays
Organ-led Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sundays
Band-Led Contemporary Worship: 11 a.m. Sundays
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

September 6 & 7 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown

"I Believe" Series Introduction! (see pg.1)

Scripture: John 1:1-18 NRSVue

Special Music: (5p) Several Special selections from the Adult & Youth Choirs (9a) Adult Choir

Sept. 10 - Wednesday Echo Worship Returns!

Music by the Echo Youth Band
Series details on pg. 5

Sept. 13 & 14 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
"Maker of it All"

Scripture: Psalm 104; Genesis 1:1-5 NRSVue

Special Music: (9a) Resonaré Ringers

Sept. 20 & 21 - 15th Sunday of Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
"God our Protector"

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31; Matthew 6:7-13

Special Music: (9a) Youth Choir & Handbells

Sept. 27 & 28 - 16th Sunday of Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
"Who is Jesus for Me?"

Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-3a; John 5:16-27

Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir; Handbell Ensemble (11a) Junior Choir

October 4 & 5 - 17th Sunday of Pentecost

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
"What Does Jesus Do?"

Scripture: 1 Cor. 15:3-22; Luke 23:39-43

Special Music: (5p) Resonaré Ringers (9a) Adult Choir

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on October 9, 2025

Change Service Requested

Mark Your Calendars for our Fall Concerts!

The Wolgasts in Concert!



Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025
at 3 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 at 3 p.m.

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



First Lutheran
discover more : **together**

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