



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS

Volume 27 Issue 1
February/March
2026

Fostering Faith. Creating Community. Loving All.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Give us this day our daily bread. How many times have you prayed that? It's the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer, and I imagine you've prayed it more times than you can count. It's the most basic prayer: that God would provide what we need for today. We must pray this same petition again and again because daily bread is, well, daily. Jesus didn't teach to ask God for all we need for the week, month, or year. He didn't include the request, "Give us now retirement accounts full enough to last our lifetime." Faith is trusting and relying on the God who provides and not what our God provides us.

Confirmation students are studying the Lord's Prayer in the Small Catechism. As we approached the prayer for daily bread, we were reminded of an earlier lesson on the Old Testament story of God providing manna in the wilderness. Now, that was literally daily bread. Students remembered that if you collected more manna than your household needed that day, it would spoil. The only exception to the rule of gathering just what you need for the day was the day before the Sabbath. Everyone was to collect twice as much that day so they could rest the next. Aren't these two of the greatest challenges of the life of faith still today? One: that we would trust God to give us what we need from day to day. Two: to rest. And the second flows from the first. When we fully rely on God, we can actually rest.

As a pastor of our congregation, I face these challenges regularly. Each and every month, the wide-ranging ministries of our congregation including worship, faith formation, service groups, committees and teams, Bible study, pastoral care, our preschool, the Mission Coffeehouse cafe, our cemeteries, partnerships with the Synod, camp, the University Lutheran Center, and more rely on over \$100,000 of generous monthly support. Our staff of 30 dedicated individuals, 10 full time and the rest part-time, bring immense gifts to their work. They depend on the income they receive for what they do for our shared mission. It's a huge responsibility we carry together. When the bank balance seems too small, the weight feels great and trusting God to provide is hard.

It's fairly simple math to add up the cost of our congregation's life. It's much more challenging to calculate the impact of the ministries God entrusts to us. If we tried to do the math, on the balance sheet there would be families who do not walk alone in grief. Add preschool children who are nurtured and readied for success in kindergarten. Include high schoolers who are supported through the stress of their lives to be leaders for good wherever they go. Plus, families growing a foundation of faith that is greater than anything else the world has to offer. Also, young people in Belize who can afford to go to school. Then, people of all ages who enter our building and find community and a warm meal. Include all of us empowered by worship to be the children of God we were made in baptism. If the task of accounting for it all wasn't already impossible, don't forget to add up all the ways faith formed through First is lived out in our world in hundreds of vocations and thousands of relationships!

We depend on daily bread individually and as a community of faith. God provides what we need. This has been true, and our faith assures us it will continue to be true. Lord, give us this day our daily bread. Join in this petition. Let us pray it over and over. May it strengthen our trust in the God who provides. May it sharpen our view of the abundance we have. May it inspire resourcefulness to use it all wisely. May it soften our hearts and lead us to generosity, so that we may give as freely as God gives to us, always knowing that our daily bread will be given again tomorrow.

Thanks be to God for such dependable provision and care,
Pastor Jess Daum

notes from **PASTOR TREY**

Lent 2026 at First Lutheran Church: **A Love that is Stronger**

The season of Lent finds us encountering Christ as he himself encounters an array of people, powers, and principalities that threaten to overwhelm him. We also encounter, perhaps more than at other times of the year, the love of God in Christ,
a love that is stronger.

The Lenten season has a baptismal connection as well. In the service of Holy Baptism, we ask a remarkable question to those who are being baptized, their parents, sponsors, and the gathered congregation. We ask, "Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?" Then, by God's grace, dutifully, out loud, and with pithy clarity, this response is made: "I renounce them." We echo this same dialogue at other times of baptismal renewal, like on 'confirmation' Sunday and when the congregation welcomes new members. It is a preparatory question in the baptismal service.

The season of Lent is like an extended weeks-long season of this very dialogue. Lent has always been a season of renunciation, of making-way, stripping-back, setting-aside, showing-restraint, and renouncing. The traditional practices of the season, like prayer, fasting, and alms-giving are themselves ways of renouncing those things that keep us from trusting in God's promises and then living into the confidence and freedom God gives. Just as the renunciation question is in preparation for baptism, we likewise consider the season of Lent as a time of preparation for new life proclaimed on Easter. During Lent, we hear of some of rebellious forces and ways of sin: evil, uncertainty, division, fear, despair, crooked power, and the grave itself. These are not mythological forces. Nevertheless, with the encouragement of one another, by God's grace, dutifully, out loud, and with pithy clarity we can say, "I renounce them." We renounce them because, though these forces are strong, prevalent, and seductive, the love of God in Christ Jesus is **a love that is stronger.**

Wednesday Mid-Day Gatherings:

Lunch and Community Worship in the FLC Activity Center
Soup, Sandwich, Cookie and Beverage Lunch served from 11:30am-12:10pm
Brief Community Worship 12:10-12:45
Proceeds benefit the ministry of the Brookings Ministerial Association

Wednesday Evenings – Meal and Worship

Supper served from 5:00pm until 6:30pm (**Extended serving hours for Lent!**)
Evening Worship from 7:00pm-7:35pm

These mid-week evenings gatherings offer a chance to center, pray, and receive God's Word. This year, we'll hear stories from the perspective of biblical characters sharing the ways they, in the midst of struggle, have encountered the love of God in Christ,
a love that is stronger.

Sundays During Lent

Our usual Sunday schedule continues with worship at 8:30am and 10:30am. In anticipation of the Good News of Easter, we follow Jesus on the way to the cross, hearing stories of his encounter with the 'ways of sin' in his time and ours. As Christ is made known in Word and Sacrament, we rejoice and wonder, what wondrous love is this?
Indeed, **a love that is stronger!**

Facing the Mourning

4-Session Support Group

An interactive support group designed to help with the grieving process by using visual and thought-provoking tools. During these four sessions, the participants share their story, build memorials, compose letters, write in journals and develop goals with milestones.

**Feb/March
Session
Registration
Open Now**



Mondays, February 23 to March 16 from 1-3pm at First Lutheran Church.

Facilitated by Pastor Jess.

Designed for all types of losses, individuals and family members.

Must register in advance. Register by signing up at the FLC Office Outpost at the Welcome Center in the Mission Coffeehouse or calling 692-6251.

There is space for 10 participants.

We will offer this 4-week structured support group again soon.



FINANCE CORNER

It has been a big year for our congregation for both income and expenses over the past several months. We have received many generous dedicated gifts that helped us complete several urgently needed capital projects totaling approximately \$170,000 that were not in our budget.

Our Annual Appeal surpassed its goal with 160 households committing to give this year, and we received the \$10,000 challenge gift. 18 new giving households shared intent forms totaling over \$20,000 for this year!

While we have much to celebrate, we must also share that giving to the General Fund has been about 10% lower than budgeted over the first 4 months of our fiscal year (September 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025). At the same time, expenses have been over budget due to the urgently needed property projects and many small ones as well.

The Finance Task Force lifts up the importance of giving offerings to the General Fund and the invitation for gifts above and beyond that help us take on the task of caring for and preserving our shared sacred space. There are additional needed building projects on the horizon. Giving monthly or weekly rather than annually or quarterly is a big help to our planning and cash flow if you can consider that option. Also, did you know that giving by ACH (setting up automatic bank withdrawal at the Office Outpost at the Welcome Center in the Mission Coffeehouse) avoids church-paid fees related to giving online?!

Thank you for your generosity and faithful stewardship of what God has given you!

On behalf of the Finance Task Force, Michele Nielson and Tyler Holmquist



Mission Coffeehouse Mission of the Month



Project Joy was our Mission of the Month in November. LaDeane presented a check for \$2,014.87 to their treasurer, Jean Engen.



The December Mission of the Month money was split with a check for \$350 sent to Heifer International and a check for \$1,112.42 sent to ELCA Good Gifts.

Happy New Year 2026! May the Lord shower you with his divine favor and blessings in the new year. The celebration of the holidays seems to arrive suddenly and then disappear in the blink of an eye. It may come and go quickly but leads us into another brand-new year of faith, hope and love.

It has been a successful start to the year for the coffeehouse. We continue to have our regular morning coffee groups and serve our delicious caramel rolls on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our lunch time crowds seem to be increasing in number. We have many regular customers who join us for lunch and continue to see new faces as well. Thank you all for your continued support of the Mission Coffeehouse.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

Speaking of appreciation, I cannot say enough how grateful we are to have all our dedicated coffeehouse volunteers. I am also very thankful for our soup ladies. The homemade soups are delicious and give the coffeehouse lunch a special touch!

As you may know, we offer Kool Beans coffee with the proceeds going towards our Mission of the Month. You will notice our Sumantra coffee will be changing to Java. The Sumantra coffee crops are experiencing severe challenges with climate and unable to produce. Java is an extremely close substitution with the same quality and characteristics as Sumantra.

Lent is just around the corner. Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th and we will be serving an evening soup meal that night at 6pm with worship following at 7pm. The Lenten lunches will be served on Wednesdays from February 25th through March 25th. Lunch is served in the gym at 11:30 a.m. and includes a sandwich, soup, cookie and coffee. A short worship service follows which is presented by the hosting church.

Wednesday night meals are still served before the Journey activities from 5 p.m.-6 p.m. It is a free will donation meal, and all are welcome. This year, during Lenten season, we will be serving the meal until 6:30pm to be available for those planning to attend the evening Lenten worship services at 7pm.

I wish everyone happiness and joy as we head into this new year!

LaDeane Harrison
Mission Coffeehouse Manager

REFLECTIONS FROM FACILITIES AND EVENTS

Happy 2026!

We greet a new year, moving through the heart of winter and looking forward to spring. Our FLC spaces continue to provide a warm, welcoming, and safe place for all to gather in community.

Please join us in welcoming Dan Thayer to the FLC team. Dan is tackling the custodial and maintenance duties here and helping to keep the place sparkling, the batteries charged, and the pipes warm.
We are grateful to have Dan on the team!

I would also like to thank the Property Team for all the collaboration and attention to detail as we completed our big 2025 projects. Tim Pedersen, Dale Nussbaum, Dale Tiedemann thank you! The Mosaic is golden in the winter sun, the roof is watertight, the boilers are merrily heating, and the sidewalks are level.

Thank you too, to all the volunteers who help with all the seasonal doings with nativities, raised garden beds, and snow fences to name just a few. The snow fence seems to be doing its job again this year, by keeping the snow from falling much at all!

Finally, thank you to all of you, for making our place a community where everyone can find a safe, warm welcome.

In Peace, Doriane Paso

MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

"For God so loved the world..." John 3:16

Lent is a forty-day reminder that it is God who saves us. Why?
Because He loves us. John 3:16

If you are anything like me, you are wondering how it could already be
Lent and the Easter season.

Our Wednesday Lenten services will begin February 25th at 7:00 pm. The Sanctuary Choir will meet following these services, at approximately 7:35 pm.

The Sanctuary choir will be providing special music and leadership on: Feb. 1st, Feb. 8th, Feb. 22nd, March 8th, March 22nd, and Palm Sunday, March 29th.
FLC handbell choir will be ringing in worship February 22nd and March 22nd.

Share God's love
Pat Anderson, Music Coordinator for 8:30 AM service

PRESCHOOL NEWS

First, I wanted to let everyone know that if you are interested in registering a child for preschool classes starting next fall, please call or email the preschool office (605-697-2756 or sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org) and get your name on the mailing list. I will be sending out registration forms at the end of February. The forms are sent out in the order I receive the calls, and they are accepted on a first come first serve basis. I encourage you to call soon. Our classes fill up quickly. We offer classes for children ages 3 to 5 years of age. We also provide a Junior Kindergarten class for 5-year-olds. The children must be three, four, or five years old before September 1st, and toilet trained.

There are many things going on in all the different preschool classes in the next couple of months. We have our Pastries for Parents Party, Valentine exchange, our annual Ocean Beach Party, and our Popcorn and Pajama Parties. We are also starting to plan for our Preschool Graduation Ceremonies on Monday, May 18th.

Our spring Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held during the week of Monday, March 9 through Friday March 13. This gives the parents the opportunity to find out about and discuss their child's educational growth in the classroom. There will be no school March 11-13.

Last month our Junior Kindergarten class went to visit the South Dakota Art Museum. They learned about all different types of art. The children returned with a greater knowledge of art, and they are using it to create lots of their own masterpieces. On Wednesday, April 1 our Jr K class will host their very own Art Museum and fundraiser. The children are always so excited to show off their hard work!

ART MUSEUM and PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to our Jr Kindergarten's Art Museum, Silent Auction Fundraiser, and Preschool Open House. You will get the opportunity to view all the BEAUTIFUL and CREATIVE ART created by our Junior Kindergartners. You will also be able to order T-Shirts designed by our Jr K, and bid on Silent Auction Pieces, all created by our preschoolers. We will be converting our gymnasium into a "Museum" for the day. Our Museum will be open to the public on Wednesday, April 1 from 3:30—5:30PM. You will also be able to see and bid on the Silent Auction art pieces on Sunday, March 29, during the Palm Sunday Brunch.

If you have any questions on any of these events or you would like more information on fall registration, please call the Preschool Office at (605) 697-2756 or email me, sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org. You can also check us out on our Facebook page!

Have a wonderful winter! SueAnn



PRESCHOOL WINS 1ST PLACE IN BROOKINGS ARTS COUNCIL CHRISTMAS TREE CONTEST

The Arts Council's theme this year was "A Candied Christmas" and the preschool's tree was themed "The Gingerbread Man". A photo of the tree is below along with pictures of the preschool classes when they got to take a field trip to the art museum to see all the tree entries.



thank you!

Dear First Lutheran Church,

Thank you very much for your generous donation to Feeding Brookings. Your support is especially appreciated as we have seen an increase in need.

Our Mission:

Following the example of Jesus when feeding the crowd with just five loaves and two fish, this ministry's goal is to feed the hungry of the Brookings area through a weekly grocery distribution.

In early November, you helped us provide much-needed groceries to an average of 510 households per week, and to 602 households for the Special Thanksgiving distribution. Your gift truly makes a difference!

With gratitude,
The Feeding Brookings Team

"Getting the extra food makes it possible to eat throughout the month."
-Feeding Brookings Guest

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Let's take a moment to look back at December and January.

In December, we celebrated the Journey Christmas Program, "*The Animals' Gifts*." A huge thank you goes out to Tiff Lewis and all of our Journey volunteers for the incredible work they do for our children. Confirmation wrapped up the fall semester with small-group Christmas parties, and Youth Group also concluded the semester with a Christmas celebration.

In January, we kicked things off with a Pizza and Games event, followed by Camp Night and Camp Sunday. During these events, we learned about this summer's Lutheran's Outdoors theme, based on Colossians 3:12-14 "*We Are Chosen*". We also hosted two Steppingstones in January: Anniversary of Baptism and Opening the Bible. Anniversary of Baptism is a Steppingstone for those baptized within the past year and provides an opportunity for families to connect while receiving faith-formation resources. Opening the Bible is designed for our 4th graders, helping them learn how to navigate and use the Bible.

On the youth side, Confirmation students are diving deeper into their study of the Lord's Prayer. In Youth Group, students are exploring what it means to be part of a community while learning about physical well-being and enjoying time together through fun activities.

February and March are packed with exciting opportunities! We begin with 4th Grade Steppingstone Blessings at both services. Our Confirmation students will attend Faith Fest at Augustana University—a one-day retreat bringing together youth from across the region to grow in faith and community. In Youth Group, we'll also begin diving into our Lenten theme.

As we enter the busy season of Lent, my prayer is that you are able to find peace amid the fullness of this time.

Rose Baerenwald, CYF Ministry Director

Below, the youth group gathered at Christmas and got to enjoy the gift of some new furniture in the Youth Room donated by members of the Belize group.



February 2026

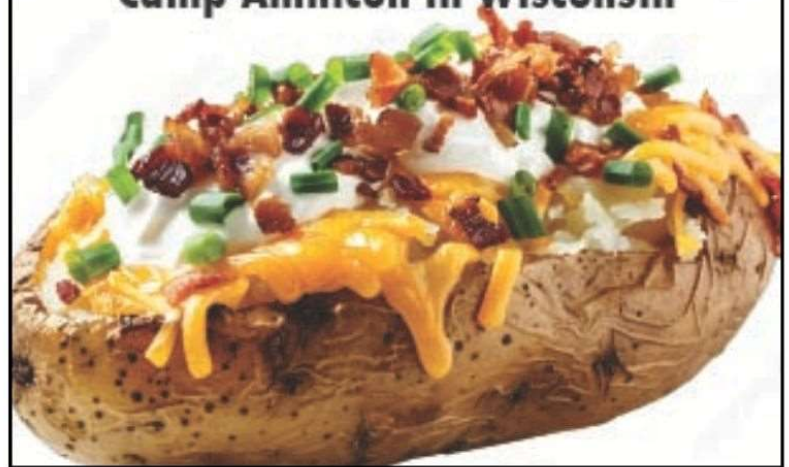
- Feb. 7th- Faith Fest
- Feb. 8th- Baked Potato Fundraiser for Camp Amnicon Youth trip
- Feb. 11th- 9th Grade Night: Vocational Wellbeing
- Feb. 18th- **NO Journey**: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 23rd- CYF Team Meeting 5:30-7pm
- Feb. 25th- 6th Grade Steppingstone- Created Good

March 2026

- March 4th- Camp Interest Night
- March 8th- Camp Interest Sunday
- March 11th- Journey Together
- March 15th- Journey Together
- March 18th- 9th Grade Night: Financial Wellbeing
- March 23rd- CYF Team Meeting

2nd Annual Baked Potato Feed Sunday, February 8th 8:30 - 12:30

**Free Will Donations going
towards the Youth Summer trip to
Camp Amnicon in Wisconsin**



PHOTOS FROM THE JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church for December '25 & January '26

New Members:

Andrew & Elissa Wenthe, Annaliese, Juliet, Cormac & Dashed
Steven & Sandra Whitaker
Barbara Gott
Seth & Morgan Greenough and Vivian

Deaths:

Rick Stoebner and Arvella Johnson

Gifts given in memory of: James Mannerud. Gary Dusharm and Vern Voelzke

A WORD FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello, I am Hanna Holmquist and I currently serve as President of the FLC Council. I want to share an improvement to our congregational life that started recently:

The Office Outpost at the Welcome Center in the Mission Coffeehouse!

Last Memorial Day we began a new practice of utilizing the Mission Coffeehouse doors intentionally as our congregation's main entrance throughout the week. Other doors are kept locked at most times, and this provides an important and cost-free layer of security for our preschool as well as all those who gather and work in our building. Thank you for adapting to this change to our life together.

Moving to a single entrance also provided us an opportunity to make visiting the church more hospitable and accessible for all, which led to the creation of **The Office Outpost at the Welcome Center**.

When you enter the Mission Coffeehouse doors, you will immediately find the Welcome Center and a staff member or volunteer present to greet you. You will also find right there: various volunteer sign-ups, forms (for baptism, membership, giving, and more), the opportunity to give an offering or pay for an event, access to the calendar, directions to any space in the building, assistance connecting with a pastor or staff member, and a friendly person to help figure out anything else that is needed.

Key information:

- +The Office Outpost is open 8am-3pm Monday through Friday.
- +The FLC Mission Coffeehouse main doors are open:
8am-3pm Mon-Tues, Thurs-Fri.
8am-8:30pm Wednesday.
- +Sundays all entrances are unlocked 7:30am-12pm from Labor Day through Memorial Day.
- +Every door is always an exit, even when locked as an entrance.
- +Staff work beyond these open door hours. Please call the office (605-692-6251) or email them directly to make an appointment whenever needed.
- +If you would like a door unlocked outside of these times for an activity or need, contact Doriane in person, by phone, or by email (doriane@firstlutheranbrookings.org) to request. At least one day advance notice is helpful.

As a Council we hope to continue finding ways to improve our life together. To that end, we will be starting monthly Conversations with Council in March where members of the Council will be available to discuss your ideas and share the work we are doing. Stay tuned for more information, and please reach out to me in the meantime if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Thank you for your partnership in building our community of faith,
Hanna Holmquist, Council President

an update from intern pastor hannah

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! As my internship concludes, I am deeply grateful to God for the strength and courage. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to reaffirm my gifts.

Before I go any further, I must begin by recognizing the profound influence of Pastors Jess and Trey Daum. Much of what I have learned, comes from their patience, wisdom, respect, and guidance. They offered me hands-on experiences including but not limited to planning and leading worship, preaching, pastoral care (hospitals and care centers visits, counseling, grief support, etc.), administrative tasks, teaching, officiating two funerals at Lake Whitewood, and navigating other ministry responsibilities. They were always available even if it meant putting aside their busy schedule.

A huge debt of gratitude goes to my internship committee, FLC staff, and members of Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church for their invaluable support! You have been my great cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1). You taught me through your lives what it looks like to run the race with perseverance.

I am especially grateful for your participation in my internship project, Bible study, and serving our neighbors. Seeing you live out your baptismal promises has deeply influenced my own understanding of what it means to be a servant leader. Thank you for the grace and kindness you extended to me as I learned and grew alongside you.

As I move into the next stage of my journey, I will carry your prayers and the lessons learned here with me. The most important insight that I gained from my internship experience is to be grounded in Scripture, intentional relationship building, and serve with humility. This immersive experience has affirmed my call by preparing for a ministry that promotes the Gospel through relationship building.

I thank my God every time I remember you (Phil. 1:3). May the good Lord continue to bless you.
Blessings,
Intern Hannah

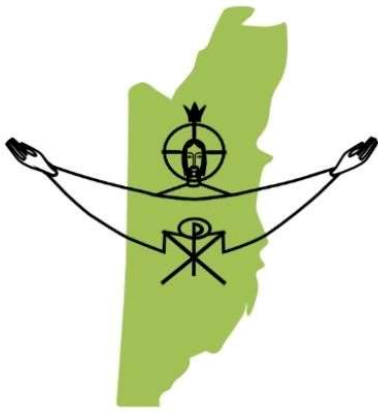
celebrating pastor hannah



As of January 31st, Intern Pastor Hannah officially completed her Luther Seminary Internship with us and Lake Whitewood Lutheran Church! What a joy and honor it has been to serve as her learning context as she prepared for a call to ordained ministry as a Pastor. Please share your thanks and congratulations with her!

What's next? During the chapter between her internship and graduation, from February 1st to May 31st, Vicar Hannah will serve our two congregations as a Synod Authorized Minister. The title "Vicar" will honor her role as a candidate for pastoral ministry. Let's try out this new title! During these months, Vicar Hannah will preach and lead worship at LWLC and FLC, offer pastoral care visits and phone calls, support pastoral acts like funerals, weddings, and baptisms, take on some other leadership opportunities of groups and teams, and more.

Congratulations Hannah!



belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize

Coach Stig Inspires with MAD Message



Melody Thompson and Dee Shanley were inspired by Coach Stig's championship ring.



This is just one of 23 uniquely themed table settings. Selected by each table's hostess(es), the themes come together to create a bright, colorful, and welcoming atmosphere for the luncheon every year.

At the December '25 Purses for a Powerful Purpose luncheon, guest speaker retired SDSU coach John Stiegelmeier brought a MAD message to the 245 guests, and they left happy! Illustrating his talk with tales of failure, turnarounds, and lessons learned, Coach Stig explained his **Make A Difference (MAD)** philosophy as a driving force in his life and work. To his football team, he defined this as "Have a positive impact in EVERY SITUATION you are in." Simply put, **Make a Difference.**

With thanks be to God for generous donations of time, talents, and treasures from FLC and community members, the 2025 Belize Mission fundraiser has achieved the **MAD** goal. A net income of a little over \$18,000 in receipts will now support several projects, including

- Belize student scholarships to attend ALYN High School,
- essential infrastructure costs to provide consistent, reliable electricity to the school where Dee Shanley serves as a volunteer sewing instructor,
- sewing program support, including an assistant for Dee's larger student numbers,
- a new cooking course under development,
- the student lunch program,
- a travel scholarship for a Belize mission trip.

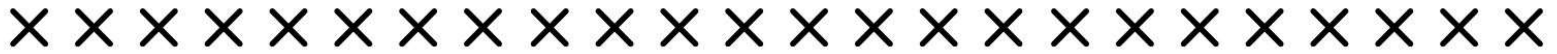
In addition, receipts from the Advent silent auction of decorated Christmas trees have already paid to replace the leaking and sagging ceiling in Dee's sewing classroom.

Beyond Belize and closer to Brookings, some unsold purses and jewelry were passed forward to brighten Christmas for residents of several abuse shelters, Advance, and local folks struggling with personal and financial issues. A monetary donation of \$1,000 to the Brookings My Neighbor fund will allow local churches to help others in emergency situations.

We are thankful for the broad support from our local community, FLC members and staff who "**MAD**" through a successful Purses event.



FLC QUILTERS NEWS



FLC quilters typically put aside their needles and scissors each Tuesday morning for 2 routines: first, to bless the hands that made and the hands that will receive a Lutheran World Relief (LWR) mission quilt as a shipping box of 5 is filled; and second, to sing the table grace when the coffee is ready! In these routines, we express our joy in serving others and our thankfulness for God's good gifts. These include your generous donations of fabric and memorial gifts. We are blessed to be a blessing to others!

Here's what this service looks like in numbers:

- 440 quilts plus 75 personal care kits were sent to LWR in fall 2025,
- 100 locally distributed quilts delivered in 2025,
- 15 quilts to Sleep in Heavenly Peace in the last month,
- Call to Freedom, a shelter in Sioux Falls, received 4 quilts, 8 lap robes, 8 stuffed animals and several Advent Calendars before Christmas,
- 80 lbs. of yarn delivered to St. Dysmas Congregation for the inmates to use; 250 knitted stocking hats brought back for Brookings Salvation Army distribution in January,
- 3 nap robes given to FLC children who were recently hospitalized,
- \$400 (quilters' personal donation) to purchase winter clothing for foster children before Christmas.

With 90 quilts completed as of January 6, we are on our way toward 2026's goals. Again, thanks for continued support by purchasing quilts, lap robes, potholders, coasters, fabric purses, etc. during this past fall's craft sales! Please keep us in mind, too, as you clean out your linen closets. (Cotton sheets and fabrics are best for this work.)

We continue to donate lap robes to FLC congregational members who are ill and/or hospitalized. Please notify the quilters or pastors if you know of these needs -- or any need for quilts in the community.

Our group always welcomes new members, with a place for all skill levels! We meet Tuesday mornings from 8:30 - 12 and Monday evenings from 5:30 - 8. Please join us for one or both.



Pictured above, Jean Stoebner and Faye Dahl are shown taking part in a blessing of a box of finished quilts.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We're grateful to welcome new staff members recently to our First Lutheran crew. They're adding their gifts to our effort to live our mission from God: Fostering faith. Creating community. Loving all.

Dan Thayer is serving as full time Facilities Coordinator with his main duties being keeping our facilities clean, safe, and hospitable. When you have requests for Dan and the facilities team, please bring them to Doriane, our Director for Events and Facilities. Patrick Mulloy is serving 5-10 hours a week as a Business Office Assistant for incoming funds and in a second as-needed role as FLC Cemetery Sexton. Kamryn Hunt is serving as a 5-10 hour a week position assisting in the business office with payables. Sarina Hanson has been doing a great job serving as our 20-30 hour a month Nursery Coordinator. Here's a bit about each of these wonderful new staff additions:



Dan Thayer, Facilities Coordinator

Hi! My name is Dan Thayer. I moved to Brookings in early November. My partner Karen works at SDSU. Our children are Sophie, age 9, and Remi almost age 7! We love it here. When I am not at work, I love being with family and friends!



Patrick Mulloy, Business Office Assistant for Receivables & FLC Cemetery Sexton

Born and raised in Iowa, Patrick moved to Sioux Falls to be a Chaplain at the Veterans Hospital and later at the Veterans Home in Luverne, MN. Patrick moved to Brookings after getting engaged and now works as a Pastor at Ben Clare United Methodist Church in Valley Springs. He also joins his wife, Cassandra Lamb, as a Pastor at the University Lutheran Center. Patrick also continues his service as a Chaplain in the Army Reserves. When not working, he spends his time at home with his wife and daughter, Mirjam.



Kamryn Hunt, Business Office Assistant for Payables

My name is Kamryn Hunt, I am a sophomore Consumer Behavior undergraduate student at SDSU. I am 19 years old and originally from Brandon, SD. I have been dancing since I was 3, love to read, bake, and spend time with family and friends

Sarina Hanson, Nursery Coordinator and Lead Care Provider

I'm Sarina Hanson, the Nursery Coordinator and Lead Care Provider here at First Lutheran. As a mom of three boys, I have a deep passion for nurturing faith from the very beginning and helped develop our Junior Journey program to support our youngest children in their walk with Christ. It's a joy to serve families by creating a loving, Christ-centered space where children are cared for while parents worship.





Left, some patrons enjoy their delicious meal, while below, wonderful volunteers serve and prepare the food for our annual Community Christmas dinner.



The quilters gave their hands a break and took time to hold a Christmas luncheon

These four amazing young people gave up one morning of their Christmas break to come help us distribute the poinsettias at the front of the Sanctuary for Christmas services. From L-R: Gavin Smith, Mack Nelson, Taya Twedt and Ava Fullenkamp.





FIRST
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CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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If you have an article or information for the Apr/May newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm on March 5th

If you would like information put in the Sunday announcements, please have it in the church office by noon the Monday before. Thank you!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please call the church office at 605-692-6251 or email office@firstlutheranbrookings.org



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FEBRUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4TH GRADE STEPPINGSTONE RECOGNITION AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30am Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/HC	9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Choir, Confirmation, Youth Group			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:30am Traditional Worship 8:30am - 1:00pm Baked Potato Fundraiser 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship	9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What; CYF team meeting	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; WELCA Ladies event 7:00pm Youth Group; 9th Grade Night; Confirmation		Preschool Closed	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
INSTALLTIO OF COUNCIL MEMNBERS AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30am Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40am Journey Together; Council member meet & greet in MCH 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/HC	CHURCH OFFICES AND MISSION COFFEE HOUSE CLOSED 5:30pm Sew What	8:30am Quilters 9:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	ASH WEDNESDAY NO JOURNEY 12:00pm Worship Service w/ ashes & HC 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Soup Meal 7:00pm Worship Service w/ ashes & HC, Confirmation, Youth Group	10:00am WELCA Bible Study		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship	9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm FLC Book Club 5:30pm Sew What	8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; 6th grade SS 7:00pm Worship Service; Confirmation, Youth Group 7:30pm Choir			
<p>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</p>						

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 6TH GRADE STEPPINGSTONE RECOGNITION AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30am Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/HC	2 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	3 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	4 11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; Camp Interest Mtg 7:00pm Worship Service; Confirmation, Youth Group 7:30pm Choir	5	6	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Journey; Camp Interest Mtg 10:30am Contemporary Worship	9 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	10 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	11 11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Worship Service; Confirmation, Youth Group 7:30pm Choir	12	13	14
15 8:30am Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship w/HC 1:00pm WELCA Planting Event	16 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	17 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	18 11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Worship Service; 9th Grade Night; Confirmation, Youth Group 7:30pm Choir	19 10:00am WELCA Bible Study	20	21
22 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship	23 9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm FLC Book Club 5:30pm Sew What	24 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	25 11:30am Lenten Lunch 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Worship Service; Confirmation, Youth Group 7:30pm Choir	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40am Journey 10:30am Contemporary Worship	30 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	31 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study in MCH Meeting Room	<div>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</div> <div>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</div>			