



FIRST THINGS

First Lutheran Church of Brookings, SD
...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.
 Volume 24 Issue 4 August September 2023

Members and Friends of First Lutheran,



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
 (Psalm 119:105 NRSV)



A little-known fact about one of your pastors: Did you know that I have stubbed and dislocated my little toe more than five times?! This recurring phenomenon in my life started after I had children, and I assume is a result of being overloaded with many things to keep track of and the speedy way I sometimes rush around trying to get things done. But almost every single time I've stubbed my toe, it has been in the dark, navigating my bedroom floor without light to illuminate the obstacles in my way.



Stubbing your little toe is so very painful. When it happens it becomes the only part of my body that I can feel, and it demands all my attention. That's a message for another day (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)! The worst part about my toe-stubbing incidents, though, is that they put me out of commission. All the things I might have been rushing around trying to do... well, now I could do none of them as I was stuck on the couch with ice and elevation until my toe would return to normal again.



As people of God, as a congregation, and as the entire Church in our Western context, we sometimes rush around in a dark room trying to get this and that done. When, all of a sudden, we stub our toe. We step on a good relationship and harm it. We exclude someone whom we have overlooked. We make a mistake and miss an opportunity. We pass up the chance to savor a moment with someone who needs our full attention. We forget to listen, to others or to God, and we end up headed in the wrong direction with consequences for our missteps.



This school year we are going to slow down and turn on some lights. We are going to be listening together. We're going to do a little less and take a little more time to be ***in the moment***. We will be doing all of this in order to discern (prayerfully discover) a set of values, priorities, and plans for the future. God has promised us a future. God has promised a safe place to set our feet as we move in faith together. We do have to turn on the light switch and slow down to avoid stubbing our toes in the process.



You are invited around the table to be a part of this great listening. Beginning on September 10th in fact. We will all worship together with one service at 9am. Let's pack the sanctuary and fill it with all of our congregation's gifts! Then we ask you to come contribute to and enjoy a good old Potluck, brunch style. After we eat, we will stay a while at tables and answer questions about who we are, what we care about, and how we hear God calling us to set our feet into the future. We need your head, your heart, your ears around the table. Without you, we will shed less light on the ground ahead of us and we will make less confident steps into God's promised future. Please, plan to be there, to slow down, to listen to each other and God's still, small voice that speaks through Scripture as well as within and among us and our Neighbor.



Until then, God guide your footsteps and cast light on your path.
 Pastor Jess



RAISED SENSORY GARDEN BED

Stuart Little
and a crew of
other
volunteers

built and filled this raised garden bed in the grassy area by the playground. They planted tomatoes, jalapenos, carrots and more. The hope is to give away the fruits of their labor (or vegetables in this case) and donate some to the food shelf. They also planted marigolds and petunias to attract pollinators and repel pests. The straw mulch helps maintain moisture. If you are interested in learning more or helping tend the beds, contact Doriane Paso in the welcome center.



The Membership Records of
First Lutheran Church

BAPTISMS

Suttyn Grace Tupper
(Child of Derek and Samantha Tupper)

NEW MEMBERS

Jon and Andrea Kieckhefer
Noah and Lexa



GREAT BIG *Sunday*

9am - One Great Big Worship Service

10am - A Great Big Potluck Brunch

10:45am - Great Big Dreams:
Strategic Planning Input from Everyone
& Children's Activities

SEPTEMBER 10TH

CUB SCOUTS PACK 4

CUB SCOUT PACK 4 IS LOOKING FOR FAMILIES THAT WOULD LIKE TO HELP GET THIS PACK GOING. KINDERGARTEN-5 GRADE ARE ALL WELCOME. WE PROVIDE AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE OUTLET FOR KIDS OUTSIDE OF THEIR SCHOOL CLASSROOMS. KIDS GET TO LEARN HANDS-ON SKILLS AND EARN LOOPS OR BADGES AS THEY COMPLETE A LESSON. THE BEST PART IS YOU, AS A PARENT, CAN WITNESS THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. YOU CAN DO ALL THE FUN THINGS TOGETHER WITH YOUR KID. YOUR KID WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE QUALITY BONDING TIME AND MEMORIES WITH YOU. WE GUIDE OUR SCOUTS TO MAKE MORAL AND ETHICAL CHOICES AND BE GOOD CITIZENS. OUR MISSION IS TO OFFER A FUN, ENRICHING, AND SUPPORTIVE PROGRAM TO BUILD GOOD CHARACTER, TEACH RESPECT, PROMOTE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND DEVELOP LEADERSHIP

TO GET INVOLVED OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL LORETTA CRAPSER AT 605-690-8439 OR EMAIL LORETTA.CRAPSER@GMAIL.COM



CONNECTION CORNER



Performing and Connecting

Long-time First Lutheran Church member Millie Juel and choir members Don and Kay Norton perform monthly for residents of five Brookings long-term care residences, presenting a unique musical program each month. The programs are designed around a specific theme (EG: "Broadway Showstoppers," "The Music of World War II"), a composer (EG: Richard Rodgers, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter), or a fun opportunity to feature songs the residents will know and remember (EG: songs about colors, or songs about cities around the world.). After each program, the trio personally greet each resident and share a warm handshake or a loving hug. Improved cognitive reactions to music are very powerful, and the residents often find themselves singing along! Many in the audience are members of First Lutheran, and many others are members of other local congregations, but all appreciate the familiar music and fellowship. (Side note: The audiences and staffs are blessed by these programs, but so are the three performers: NOBODY has more fun than these three rehearsing and performing!)



"They have become like family to me"
--Deb Bortnem

Today I am writing about a blessing we received almost 9 years ago at First Lutheran Church. Our Mission Coffeehouse was in need of a Manager and we interviewed Jeanne Eclov and the committee was so excited that she fit exactly what the mission of the coffeehouse was all about. We wanted someone who had experience in ordering, preparing food, baking, keeping records, managing experience but most important a person who cares about people. Well, Jeanne could do all that and more. Our coffeehouse has grown over the 9 years into a popular place for people to gather for coffee every day and her delicious rolls twice a week and for many groups to gather for lunch on a regular basis. The other thing Jeanne has done is obtain wonderful, committed volunteers to help run the place during the week and Sundays. The coffeehouse wouldn't be here today without our awesome volunteers. They have become like family to me. It feels good to be involved with the MCH and First Lutheran Church. A special thanks to our volunteers Roberta Wagner, Jennifer Erickson, Nancy Schade, Lana Harmelink, Marcene Lenander, Lyla Hanson, Kathy Nussbaum, Carol VanLiere, Lyle Anderson, Lavonne Kurtz, Diane Spencer, Betty Hintz, Pam Janson, Mark Foster & Luanne Bebensee.





*God's timing
was perfect*

Music & drama were my first two connections to First Lutheran. I began as an accompanist for Matt Nesmith & the Drama Department. When my husband, Lyle, & I began attending worship here in the early 2000's, my interest was in contemporary worship music. I played piano & sang with the praise band for a few years. During this time, Dr. Charles Canaan was the organist & choir director. Dr. Canaan frequently reminded me that I would be welcome in the choir anytime. I did join the choir & when Dr. Canaan retired, Pastors Dave & Nyla Schoeld offered me a position as Music Coordinator. God's timing was perfect as I had just retired as an Elementary Music Specialist at Sioux Valley Schools. In this position I have assisted in worship planning, directing multiple choirs & scheduling music groups for worship. It has been a blessing to be a part of such dedicated, committed musicians & volunteers.

--Pat Anderson, 8:30 Service Music Director

When Jim & I moved to Brookings three years ago we started visiting churches in the Brookings community. We found ourselves being drawn to First Lutheran Church. We experienced a friendly, caring, Christian community where we could serve, make a difference, and connect with others.

WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*Jim and Nancy with their
scholarship students*

This year in March, we joined the 2023 Belize Mission Travel team to better understand the scope of the Belize ministry. We wanted to meet the 37 scholarship students sponsored by members of FLC and other supporters of the Belize ministry. One of the most important aspects of the mission trip was meeting the students that we are sponsoring. After our meeting, Evelyn sent us a personal note saying, "Thank you, God bless you, thank you for praying for me and thank you for the great opportunity you gave me to go to school." Daniel's note said "Thanks for your help. I will give my 100% to get through this school year. I will work harder and I will not disappoint you, I just want to say thank you very much." Meeting our sponsor students in person was such a blessing! There is no doubt that the scholarships we are providing are making a difference in the lives of these two young people! The opportunity to participate in secondary education is changing the lives of the students that FLC members and others are sponsoring. They have hope for the future because they too want to make a difference!

FLC has over thirty-five areas of ministry opportunities available to help all of us grow in our faith and connect with others. We are called to make a difference! --Jim and Nancy Schade

This poem is about how I see my connection (our connection) by golden threads to all who have gone before and all who will go after, Now.

Stanza of the Communal Heart

(inspired by Pastor Cassandra Lamb, sermon May 6, 2023)
Gospel of John 1: 1-14

d.e. paso

Connection protection place
Open arms at the end of the
avenue (at the rope's end)

Room space time
Communion with all the Saints
(all are Saints and Sinners)

All directions of space and time
Connecting by golden
souththreads
(Creator sews souls into)

One Heart.

Here our room our place
Our space and place and time
(here is our now)

Commune together again again again
Time and again with all
(sinners and saints all)

Again again again until
We are the room
(Godprepared for all)

Our Communal Heart.

For as long as I can remember, my mother was an avid seamstress. She learned to sew in high school and continued to use her skill all through her life. Each fall she made me school clothes in the latest fashion, and every Christmas & Easter I had a fabulous new ensemble to wear to church. She even made my bridesmaid dresses, and when I was in theater productions, she made my costumes. Throughout her life she demonstrated her love of others by sewing clothes, costumes, fabric crafts, but most of all . . . quilts. She LOVED making quilts! She made special quilts for both of her grandchildren, for me and for my sister, for her friends and relatives, but also for people she didn't even know as an avid member of St. John Lutheran Church's quilting group. But even as I admired my mom for her sewing skills—and benefitted from them immensely—I adamantly refused to learn how to sew myself. One of the items I asked my mother to make for me most often was a set of personalized pillowcases that I would give as gifts, especially to my students who were graduating from high school. However, the year after my mother passed away, I suddenly realized that my never-ending font of handmade gifts had ceased to exist as suddenly as she had. I was stumped. What would I do now? And then my eyes fell on my mom's old war horse of a sewing machine . . . and I knew what I had to do! I would have to teach myself how to sew! And I did. It certainly wasn't pretty, at first. But as I continued to practice, I felt my mother's presence surround me. And with every completed project and handmade gift, I grew more confident in my skills and felt more connected to my mother's memory. I hadn't really thought of quilting as I was learning how to sew. That seemed quite beyond my meager skills and level of experience! But one day I decided to see what it might be like to join other sewers, so I attended the Monday night "Sew What?" group here at church. I was instantly welcomed by warm, enthusiastic, and passionate women who were excited that I was there and who were happy to show me all kinds of new techniques to try on my machine. Soon, I started attending the Tuesday morning quilters as well as the Monday night group. And not only did my confidence at the sewing machine grow, but so did my relationship with these kind, compassionate, hard-working women!

--Julie Bergan Abraham



Levi Silva , Doriane Paso, Deb Peterson, Tiff Lewis and Geoff Gayne represented FLC at the assembly

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!
 "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." -**John 4:35**

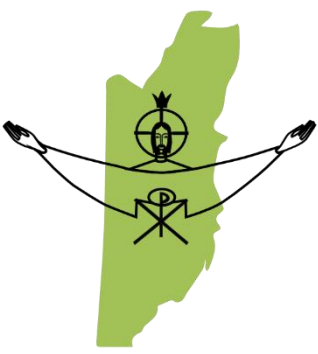
The theme of this year's 2023 South Dakota Synod Assembly was *Cultivate*. I had the pleasure of attending on behalf of First Lutheran Church. We had a great time of worship and reflection. We also witnessed a great moment in which Woyatan Lutheran and the Wambli Ska Community Center were given back to the indigenous community.

We heard plans for a new way in which lay persons can receive education on the faith.

One of the stories that really stuck with me was that of a 5-year-old girl. She is truly a disciple and evangelist. She has a ministry of handing out Smarties candies to children at school and inviting them to church and Sunday school with her. The church has seen an increase in church attendance that can be directly traced to her. I had one such experience at First Lutheran Church. A former friend invited me over to take part in the great choir we blessed with here at FLC. That was the beginning of my time at FLC.

Can you think of anyone in your daily life who could be blessed with the ministry at First Lutheran Church? I encourage you to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and invite them to encounter Christ with us. The fields are ready for harvest.

-Levi Silva



belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize

With 62 supporters in attendance, the FLC Belize Mission Team found much to celebrate at a July 20 gathering in the Mission Coffee House: Dee Shanley's return home with updates from her ministry as a volunteer sewing instructor, strong scholarship support locally for her high school students, stories of student achievements, and an FLC travel team returning after a safe and successful mission last spring.

Jim Schade led the presentation by reviewing mission trip activities with slides illustrating the ease and joy of travel to Belize as a group. Worship activities with children at a mission site included singing, crafts, fellowship, eating and just plain fun! The team also completed several construction projects, attended the morning chapel, and met the scholarship students at Dee's school. In addition, the team served at Camp SeKonsa, helping to clean and prepare the camp for the first overnight stay for children with disabilities. They all enjoyed a day of worship/learning, play, crafts and celebrating God's love for them.

Dee began by thanking sponsors for their support of the students, whether through scholarships or general donations. She then provided an update on the scholarship students, using their theme of Dreaming Big, by reaching their goal of graduating high school. Dee's Big Dream is to increase the number of scholarships from 32 students to 50 at the high school for the upcoming year. Nancy Schade followed Dee with examples of worship experiences at Camp SeKonsa. She especially appreciated the opportunity to share the promise of God's love and care, forever! (Isaiah 62:3).



After Pastor Trey's luncheon blessing, attendees enjoyed authentic Belizean cuisine. Deb Pederson and Kimberly Retterath prepared a main dish of chicken, beans, and rice with a side of fried plantains and coleslaw; Jean Gentry (pictured at left) and Mary Moeller fried fresh corn tortillas, Jim Schade made "pawda" buns; and Jen Swartz baked coconut tarts and meat pies.

The 2023 Belize travel team had also prepared poster and story boards illustrating their mission work. Kathy Greenlee, her grandchildren Kaya and Channing, contributed photos highlighting their experiences. Dee Herrig's display included local Belizean arts and crafts, plus placemats Shanley's students had sewn at school. The luncheon provided a wonderful way to Celebrate, Connect and Reflect on God's goodness through FLC opportunities in Belize.



THANK YOU

from *Dee Shanley*

I look forward to returning for another year of volunteer service at the High School in Belize. Thanks to the generosity of FLC members, family, and friends, we will continue supporting high school students with scholarships. Thank you to each and everyone who has in some way supported the Mission in Belize. Your help, support, and prayers have blessed me, the students, teachers, and this community. You are a blessing.



Featured Student Caylin Cocom


Caylin received a scholarship to attend her first year of high school at Alvin L. Young. During her second year, she suffered from a serious kidney disease. Unable to continue her education, she stayed home with her family and joined a sewing group. Deb Peterson, Caylin's sponsor visited Belize and gifted her a sewing machine, giving her the opportunity to sew from home, sewing small items to sell. Feeling better and learning of a new on-line night school offered by Alvin L. Young High School, Caylin asked for help. Thanks to the generosity of her sponsor and others at First Lutheran, Caylin received a tuition scholarship and a computer to continue her education.



Caylin showing Deb Peterson items she has sewn.

Scholarships Do Change Lives!

BELIZE Mission Partners in Service and Learning FLC



2023 PURSES

for a **POWERFUL PURPOSE**
with
Christmas Tables

\$25
advanced tickets only

Salad & Dessert Luncheon
Friday, December 8, 2023
11:30am

First Lutheran Church, 337 8th St, Brookings, SD
Doors open for shopping at 9:00am

- inspirational talks by
Stephanie Herseht Sandlin
President of Augustana University in Sioux Falls SD
Dee Shanley
First Lutheran missionary in Belize, Central America

- donations to benefit local and Belize ministries



PURSES & DECORATION DONATIONS

Janice Vanderwal (above) prices donated purses, and she wants to be kept busy! Please bring your gently used purses, as well as jewelry and Christmas decor, to the Mission Coffee House welcome desk. Thank you for your support!



These summer days are moving way too fast. We have continued to stay busy and have many new customers. The word keeps spreading about the positive dining experience and welcoming atmosphere. Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we are still a favorite hot spot for caramel roll fans. Complimenting the caramel roll experience is the best coffee in town by Kool Beans. Thank you for your continued support. Thank you to everyone contributing to the Mission of the Month Tip Jar for the brewed coffee. It is deeply appreciated by all recipients, and we post their sincere thank you notes on our board for all to enjoy.

August is the month we say goodbye to summer and start making plans for September. The school calendar goes up and along with it the church activities calendar. Bible studies and book clubs start their new schedule. Fall seems to encourage all kinds of get togethers.

MCH is the perfect place to enjoy food, coffee, and each other. **I will be retiring at the end of August, and I look forward to training a new manager soon.** Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all for nine years. Thank you to all the volunteers for all you do. This is only possible with your service and love every day! Thank you to FLC for all their continued support.

Sincerely, Jeanne



**MISSION COFFEE HOUSE
TIP JAR DONATIONS**

May 2023


Samaritan's Purse

\$1,523.84

June 2023

St. Teresa's Orphanage

\$1,340.15



HELP WANTED
We're looking for the next General Manager of the Mission Coffeehouse. This is a full-time job with benefits including health insurance and paid vacation. If you are interested or know someone who might be, check out the full job description here: <https://www.indeed.com/job/mission-coffeehouse-general-manager-d5b13da76fa3b73f> and email your resume to pastorjess@firstlutheranbrookings.org.



Pictures 1-12

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Pictures 13-17 & 19:
Photos from the quilters "Tie One On" event. Lots of quilts were started or completed. Lots of good food was consumed. Most importantly, lots of fellowship took place.



Pictures 18, 21-24:
Photos from the youth camping trip at Flathead Bible camp in Montana. 7 students and 2 adults enjoyed a week communing with God and each other while exploring His amazing creations. More photos on the Youth page



Picture 20: Johanna came to Tuesday morning quilting with her grandma and they found a job for her. She tore the sheets that are then rolled up and used as bandages. **SEE...no matter your age, you can always volunteer!!**



Music News

*"Worship the Lord with gladness; come into
His presence with singing."
Psalm 100:2*

I cannot believe I am writing a newsletter about the beginning of Fall activities! It seems like summer just started. However, I am joyful about the summer we have had. Singing so many favorite songs during worship has been a joy. Thank you to all the cantors, song leaders, and folks whose special music offerings have enhanced our worship. Thanks to: Craig Long, Tyler Holmquist, Mary Ermel, Betty Beer, Matthew Dulas, Michele Nielson, Pat Anderson, Ross and Julie Bergan Abraham and Kay Norton.

It is with excitement that I announce Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir will be returning to their rehearsal schedules on Wednesday, September 13th. The Bells will meet at 5:45 in the room labeled Music Office and Sanctuary Choir will meet at 7:00 pm in the MCH meeting room. Anyone interested in joining the Bell Choir, please send a message to Barbara Horten at bjhetal@hotmail.com. The Sanctuary Choir would be delighted to add new members-no special music training is required, just a desire to sing and become a part of our music family. I am the choir director and can be reached by email, patandlyle67@gmail.com, or at 605-731-6433.

Let us all "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Psalm 100

Pat Anderson
Music Coordinator 8:30 service



To my First Lutheran family,
Please accept my grateful &
humble thank you to all who
prayed for me following
my accident.

The prayers were most
certainly heard and His
mighty hand has carried
me through. I am doing fine!

Thank you again and
Pray always -

Gwen Pickett

Dear Members of First Lutheran

Our sincere thanks
for your donation to
Frederig Brookings

We appreciate
your thoughtfulness

Sincerely
Gloria

Your sympathy
and kind thoughts
will always be held in
grateful remembrance.

The Family of
Reverend James Everett Thved

First Lutheran,
Thank you for your donation to
this amazing place. We have made
amazing community and sharing
God's grace and love.

Thank you so much!
Gods peace,

Rose B.



UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CENTER
Searching, Serving, Supporting

1404 Eighth Street
Brookings, SD 57006

www.sdulutheran.org
(605) 692-4880

SCHOOL YEAR PREVIEW



PRESCHOOL NEWS

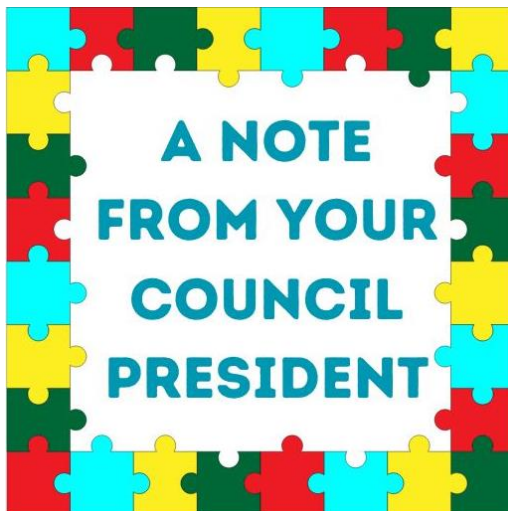
Well it is that time of year again. School will be starting soon! The First Lutheran Preschool staff is anxiously anticipating the upcoming school year! We are happy to get back to what we love, teaching and nurturing God's greatest gifts.

We are looking forward to seeing all the returning students and families and meeting all the new ones at our **Fall Open House**. This is a special night for currently enrolled students to come in, meet the staff and familiarize themselves with the classroom. The families will sign up for a 15-minute time slot on Wednesday evening, **August 23rd**.

We have **a few preschool openings** for the upcoming school year. Please contact the preschool office for more information at 605-697-2756 or sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

The **first day** of preschool classes is **Tuesday, September 5TH**.

The staff and I look forward to seeing everyone soon!
SueAnn



School is fast approaching. Yep, I said it, are you ready? Time is flying by and it is time to start looking at schedules and ramp up the busyness in the world. Our own Church schedule will soon be full to the brim again with Pre-School, Journey, Confirmation, Youth Group, 2 Sunday worship services, and Wednesday night meals. Have you thought or prayed on how you can be a part of all the fun? There are so many volunteer opportunities and remember, *this is Your Church*. How can we be a part of your life and connect you with others feeling the same as you? Ever dream of being a teacher? A barista? A reader? We've got you covered! Join the volunteer Journey teachers, volunteer to work in the Coffeehouse on Sunday mornings, or read Bible verses at one of the services. We have that and so much more to fill your heart with happiness. Reach out and CONNECT! Kris Seas, Council President



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Following a few years of COVID and changes in Pastors and staff, First Lutheran Church is experiencing a wonderful season of new families along with those who are returning. There are so many opportunities to meet and connect with each other. We hope to see you all soon. If you would like more information or have any questions about First Lutheran's programming for children ages infant to 5th grade feel free to contact Kari York, Director of Children's Ministry at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org or 605-697-2751.

Summer has flown by, and we are gearing up for a full year of fun. August will begin trainings for our volunteers and nursery workers.

Did you know that First Lutheran has paid nursery workers?

Our nursery is for children 0-3 years old. We also provide care for various classes and events which can be extended to older children in a separate room. If your group is interested in more information on securing nursery care, contact Cyndi in the office or scan the QR code to submit a request



Journey to Discipleship is our Christian Education programming starting with children who are 3 years old by September 1 and are fully toilet trained and going through the age of 5th grade. We have 2 options for Journey to Discipleship. Sundays we have a multi age setting from 9:40-10:20 am. Wednesday programming is from 6-7 pm with an opportunity for a meal at 5 pm. These programs are only possible with the help of volunteers. Volunteers range from 6th graders to older adults. Volunteers do not need to prepare lessons or supplies; these are done for them. It is helpful to be familiar with the story & lesson provided prior to class. All volunteers are required to attend 1 training course in August.

Those over age 18 are background checked. God asks us to serve, God asks us to share his love with others, volunteering with the Children of our church family is a fun, engaging, and very rewarding way to live out God's word. PLEASE consider volunteering to help with Journey to Discipleship. There are so many ways to volunteer with this program.

Note something New: A parent session has been added to the beginning of Journey programming this year. (See September dates) We ask that one or more parent/guardian attend this session. Families will receive information on the calendar, policies & procedures, lessons for the year, Christmas program, meet your child's teacher's, learn about upcoming events, and so much more.

If you need to register a child/children do so as soon as possible by using this link

<https://forms.office.com/r/dLQz9DYL5a>.

For more information contact Kari at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

Steppingstones are classes or events that educate, support, and celebrate faith milestones in the lives of your child with your family. These are most often a class or activity with the child and at least one parent/guardian. At the closest church services, we, as a congregation, recognize the milestone and bless the children. This year we have added several steppingstones to our calendar. You may receive a letter inviting your family to the steppingstone, but it is always best to keep an eye on bulletins, church calendar, Journey calendar, newsletter, or emails for updates. (See dates for September for the first two events).





The Children, Youth, & Family Team is a group of people who work collaboratively to make decisions, create, and implement the overall programming for the children, youth, and families of our local church families. The mission: "We strive to strengthen the relational fabric of faith with God and others for our children, youth, and families." We are always looking to grow our team with people who are interested in supporting our families.

ALL are WELCOME.

If you are interested in joining the team or would like more information contact Kari YorK at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORLD IS A BUSY PLACE FULL OF CHOICES FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. WITH THAT CALENDARS ARE ALREADY FILLING UP FOR THE YEAR. HERE ARE A FEW IMPORTANT DATES (THIS IS NOT THE FULL CALENDAR) TO HELP YOU TO MAKE CHOICES FOR YOUR FAMILY'S TIME AND PARTICIPATION. MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.

Children's Ministry Events August – September

AUGUST

13-Sun	TBD	Tentative date for Nursery training
20-Sun	Both Services	Back to school Blessing
27-Sun	2:00pm	Journey to Discipleship training (snacks provided, nursery available)
20-Wed	6:00pm	Journey to Discipleship training (light meal provided, nursery available)

SEPTEMBER

10-Sun	Both Services	3-year old Welcome Steppingstone
	9:30-12:30	Rally Sunday (start of Church wide educational year)
13-Wed	5:00pm	Meal
	6:00 – 7:00pm	1 st Wednesday Journey gathering and PARENT MEETING
17-Sun	9:40-10:20am	1 st Sunday Journey gathering and PARENT MEETING
	11:45am	Kindergarten Steppingstone Class
20-Wed	5:00pm	Meal
	6:00-7:00pm	Journey to Discipleship
24-Sun	Both Services	Kindergarten Steppingstone Blessing
	9:40-10:20am	Journey to Discipleship
27-Wed	5:00 pm	Meal
	6:00-7:00pm	Journey to Discipleship

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE THROUGH DECEMBER

OCTOBER

11-Wed	6:00pm	4th Grade Steppingstone Class
18-Wed	6:00pm	4th Grade Steppingstone Class
22-Sun	Both Services	4th Grade Steppingstone Blessing (parent participation)
29-Sun	Both Services	4 year old Steppingstone

NOVEMBER

8-Wed	6:00pm	3rd Grade Communion Steppingstone Class (parent participation)
15-Wed	6:00pm	3rd Grade Communion Steppingstone Class (parent participation)

DECEMBER

6-Wed	6:00Ppm	Christmas Program Practice for ALL Journey kids
9-Sat	9:30-11:00am	Christmas Program Practice for ALL Journey kids
10-Sun	10:30am	Christmas Program ALL Journey kids

Please check bulletins, App notifications, and emails for updates on locations, sign-up genius, and more.

All Journey volunteers must attend 1 training course.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Happy August! This summer has been passed in the blink of an eye!

What have some of the highlights of the summer been so far?!

I had the amazing opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the

HOLY LAND! How do you unpack an experience that you will reflect upon for the rest of your life in a way that it is formatted into a nice little package? Poetry? Story telling? Picture shows? Music? I suppose all of the above. To see places of the Bible in person will forever influence my experience of faith and story telling. There are moments every day that the experience seep into and musings there might not be answers to about the lived experience of Mary, Jesus, and the other folks of significance from our sacred texts. I am so excited to share more as the “year goes on. Pay attention to announcements this fall for when I will present again, or ask me about it! (Right: Madison meditating while taking in the amazing view)



Confirmation folks had a fun day where we met at the **Dakota Nature Park**, talked about land stewardship, and worked through a nature scavenger hunt. Then we rented equipment from the Nature Park facilities. We all ended up on the water in kayaks and found a turtle!

The time we had been awaiting had finally come: our **summer youth trip!** We traveled by train to Montana to attend Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp to go backpacking! After 18 hours on the train we had the space to rest up for the week to come. Sunday brought brunch, worship, low ropes and high ropes, as well as prepping our community gear for our out back experience. Monday morning, we piled into a van to head out for the trail with all the goods and gear we needed for 4 days! Highlights from trip include: peaking a mountain, Dr. Bronner’s, mountain goats, and white water rafting! If you want to hear more about our trip **join us on August 13th at 9:30 for Sunday service led by the youth who went on the trip!**



What is coming up?

Confirmation:

- August 15th Confirmation students who have completed 6th–8th grade are invited to Wild Water West! We will leave at 3pm and plan to return to Brookings at 9pm. Please bring a school supplies donation of 2 matching for this day.
- August 20th –Confirmation Mentor training 4:30–7:30
- September 13th – 9th grade student parent meeting
- September 17th – 10th grade faith project wrap up day – 12–2:30 with lunch
- September 20th – 6–8th grade confirmation begins at 7pm – parents are asked to join us this evening.
- There will be a confirmation retreat this fall, keep your eyes peeled for more information once the semester starts.

Youth Group:

- September 10th– Youth Group on Sunday evenings for the first quarter, beginning Youth Group Rally Sunday at 4pm.

Youth Summer Trip

- August – 13th Summer trip folks lead worship and share about their trip
- August – 13th – National Youth Gathering interest meeting after church service (10:30)
- September 24th – Second interest meeting for National Youth Gathering
- We will be headed to **New Orleans next July** for the National Youth Gathering which will be open for this year's 8th graders– 12th graders. There will also be a young adult experience!

In peace and Prayer, Madison McCabe, Director of Youth Ministries

Photos from
the
confirmation
trip to the
nature park
and the
youth
camping trip





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If you have an article or information for the October & November Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm Sept 14.

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

JOIN US

September 17th

when we go back to
two services every Sunday



Traditional Festival Worship
8:30 a.m.



Contemporary Praise Worship
10:30 a.m.

Join us for Sunday service on Facebook Live when you are out of town.

X

X

X



August



		1 8:00 am Preschool Summer Camp 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study	2 8:00 am Preschool Summer Camp	3 8:00 am Preschool Summer Camp 1:30 pm Edgewood Communion	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship Service w/HC	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	8 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 am Cemetery Board Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00 om Bible Study offsite	9	10 6:30 pm Church Council	11	12
MISSION COFFEEHOUSE CLOSED						
13 9:00 am Worship Service with rolls for sale in the MCH after service 10:00 am Nat'l Youth Gathering Interest Meeting	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm ULC Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"	15 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 3:30 - 9:00 pm Confirmation trip to Wild Water West	16	17	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship Service w/HC & Back to School Blessing 4:30 pm Confirmation Mentor Training	21 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	22 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship Service with rolls for sale in the MCH after service 12:00 pm Journey Leader Training	28 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	29 8:30 am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00 om Bible Study offsite	30 6:00 pm Journey Leader Training	31	<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</p>	



SEPTEMBER

<p style="text-align: center;">Only church activities are included on this calendar. 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HC = Holy Communion (Calendar subject to change.)</p>						
3 9:00 am Worship Service	4 5:30 pm "Sew What" MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED	5 8:30 am Quilters Meeting 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Bible Study	6 1:30 pm Edgewood Communion	7	8	9
10 GREAT BIG SUNDAY 9:00 am Great Big Worship Service with 3-year-old blessing & HC 10:00 Great Big Potluck Brunch 10:45 Great Big Dreams: Strategic Planning Input 4:00 pm Youth Group	11 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm ULC Communion 5:30pm "Sew What"	12 8:30 am Quilters Meeting 2:00 pm Bible Study	13 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm 9 th Grade Parent Meeting 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30 pm Church Council	15 Schwader/Wiederrich Wedding Rehearsal	16 Schwader/Wiederrich Wedding
17 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC 11:45 am Kinder Steppingstone 12:00pm 10 th Gr Faith Project Wrap Up 4:00 pm Youth Group	18 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	19 8:30 am Quilters Meeting 2:00 pm Bible Study	20 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
24 Kinder Blessing at Both Services 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service 11:30 am Nat'l Youth Gathering Meeting 4:00 pm Youth Group	25 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30pm "Sew What"	26 8:30 am Quilters Meeting 2:00 pm Bible Study	27 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30