

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH BROOKINGS



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God’s grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehiel Curry'.

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

—Colossians 2:6-7

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Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in Christ's name! This year reminded me that the Church is always a blend of plumbing and poetry. The steady, unseen pipes that keep ministry flowing, and the surprising grace that breaks in when we least expect it.

And together, across South Dakota, you lived both.

Because of your faithfulness:



- The **\$1.1 million** Lilly grant continues to strengthen rural ministry through an expanding rural ambassador program and brings learning to your recliner at home through Pasque (<http://www.sdsynodlearns.org/>). Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) experience intentional community with peers, and seminarians get to experience rural ministry through a paid immersion program.
- **1/4** of all SD Synod congregations have received a STAR (Small Town and Rural) grant through funds raised in SD for South Dakota congregations. These grants have helped to cover unexpected expenses across our synod.
- **\$1.3 million** supports children and families through the "Holy Playground" Initiative, reminding us that every child deserves to flourish.
- **Micro-grants** to alleviate hunger in our communities have been a tangible way to multiply Christ's compassion, feeding the stranger, stocking shelves, warming homes, and empowering congregations to respond in real time.
- **New pastors, deacons, and lay leaders** stepped into their callings, shaped by your encouragement and the Spirit's persistence.
- **Congregations in transition** found guidance, courage, and companions on the path.
- **Partnerships with Native, immigrant, and global communities** deepened our witness and expanded our imagination for what the body of Christ looks like.



South Dakota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

These are numbers and facts, yes, but behind every number is a story, a face, a kitchen table, a worshiping community, a moment when the Gospel became flesh again in South Dakota and across our world.

And that is the poetry.

Thank you for granting me the gift of serving another six-year term as your bishop. I receive it with humility and with deep gratitude for the trust you place in me. The work before us is honest and holy, and the Spirit is already ahead of us.

As we enter a new year, may we continue to be a synod that holds plumbing and poetry together, a church grounded enough to meet the needs of today, and bold enough to imagine what God can do next.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA

PROPOSED ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Opening Liturgy and Meal Blessing
3. Recess for Lunch
4. Reconvene for Business
5. Report of Registration and Declaration of Quorum
6. Approval of the Agenda
7. Approval of Minutes (*September 28, 2025 Annual Meeting*)
8. Pastor's Message
9. Acceptance of Written Reports
10. Report of the Nominating Committee
11. Elections
 - Appointment of Tellers
 - Cemetery Committee (1 position)
 - Nominating Committee (1 position)
 - Congregation Council (3 positions)
12. Financial Business
 - Balance Sheet
 - Ministry Spending Plan
 - Resolution D: Resolution to authorize an Operating Line of Credit
13. Constitutional Resolutions
 - Resolution A: Resolution to update Constitution to adopt required provisions of ELCA Model Constitution
 - Resolution B: Resolution to update Constitution with recommended provisions of ELCA Model Constitution
 - Resolution C: Resolution to change the First Lutheran Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions
14. Resolution E: Resolution of Remembrance
15. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

MINUTES FROM 2024-2025 ANNUAL MEETING

2024-2025 First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting

Opening Liturgy

- I. Call to Order and Welcome – Council President Ross Abraham
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. From the September 29, 2024 Annual Meeting
 - b. From the May 4, 2025 Special Congregational Meeting
 - c. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Julie Abraham and seconded by Stuie Lewis. All approved.
- III. Pastor's Message
- IV. Acceptance of Written Reports
 - a. A motion to accept the written reports was made by David Meyer and seconded by Julie Abraham. All approved.
- V. Audit Committee Report
 - a. A motion to accept the audit committee report was made by Tim Pederson and seconded by Barry Dunn. All approved.
- VI. Ministry Spending Plan
 - a. A motion to approve the ministry spending plan was made by Kathy DeKraai and seconded by Dale Tidemann. All approved.
- VII. Elections
 - a. Council
 - i. Jim Pederson was nominated from the floor. Nominees for the two open seats are Andrew Sogn, Carleen Holm, and Jim Pederson.
 - ii. Andrew Sogn and Carleen Holm were elected.
 - b. Cemetery Board – Brad Dahl was elected.
 - c. Audit Committee – Erik Dahl was elected.
 - d. Nominating Committee – Doris Hornby and Tiffany Lewis were elected.
 - e. Lay Voting Members to 2026 Synod Assembly
- VIII. Resolutions
 - a. Resolution of Remembrance
 - b. A motion to approve the resolution of remembrance was made by Julie Abraham and seconded by Hannah Fleming. All approved.

Closing Prayer

LETTER FROM PASTOR JESS, HEAD PASTOR

On Solid Ground

Psalm 40:2 "He set my feet on solid ground."

One of my most treasured parts of ministry is laying a beloved Child of God to rest. In those tender spaces, I am honored to listen closely as a family shares memories of a life well-lived. I am humbled to always find the Holy Spirit's gift of a profound connection between the faithful departed's life and the ongoing story of God in Scripture. I am awestruck to utter the words of commendation as we remember the promise of God they received in baptism, a promise now complete. And I am continually resolved to the absolute import of the Gospel when they are lowered into the ground, the literal, solid ground of the earth we walk, and we say and believe with our whole hearts that this is not the last we will see of them.

The solid ground of God's promise carries us through life and holds us firmly in the face of death. This singular promise centers our shared life together, and from it flows absolutely everything else we might do. It is the very reason why, together as First Lutheran, our mission is unequivocally focused on *Fostering faith. Creating community. Loving all.*

During our stewardship appeal earlier this fiscal year, we spoke about a vision for the future, a vision of doing ministry on solid ground. Now, several months later, we are no longer just hoping for a stronger foundation; we are actively standing upon it. But to ensure those profoundly sacred moments of ministry can happen seamlessly, to ensure we are fully present for the grieving, the joyful, and the seeking, we must also faithfully tend to the practical, daily operations of our church.

SUSTAINING EXCELLENT MINISTRY

Impactful ministry requires a strong framework, and this year we prioritized organizing our operational life to better serve the Gospel. The addition of a new, more robust business manager position has successfully taken a significant percentage of financial and administrative work off the Senior Pastor's plate. Paired with a straightforward, user-friendly accounting system that creates accurate reports and makes information accessible in the moment, the daily reality of our church office has been changed for the better. Council and staff have spent much less time solving mysteries and far more time moving forward in mission.

Because of this crucial operational support, I have been able to spend more time doing what I was called here to do: teaching children, youth, and adults, directly visiting members, preparing to preach the Gospel, coaching our incredible staff, helping leadership teams grow, and facilitating a vital grief group this year. Furthermore, when our internal structures are secure, our capacity to live out the "Loving all" portion of our mission multiplies. It frees us to look outward, ensuring the Good News reaches our neighbors right here in Brookings, while also sustaining our continued connections with ministry partners near and far.

Crucially, less time spent on administration meant more time devoted to strengthening the spiritual practices of our congregation, especially the core practice of discernment, which is listening to God and each other to take the next most faithful step. This year, we shepherded a fresh Council election process. Rather than relying on standard recruitment, we built a process grounded in worship, prayer, Scripture, and caring conversation. It was designed to help congregation members genuinely consider who God is calling to congregational leadership for such a time as this, and whether that person might be them.

Over two Sundays in May, we took part in an ecclesiastical nomination during worship. Current Council members shared what it is like to serve, lifting up the qualities of spiritual leadership we hope to see in those who serve next. The impact of this process was perhaps best summarized by a surprising voice. After worship one morning, a little girl, about five years old, who always has much to contribute during the Children's Message, came up to me and said, *"Pastor Jess, I want to be the leader."*

I was confused at first and looked to her mother for translation. Her mom explained, *"She wants to be a spiritual leader for our church and serve on Council."* This young girl had listened closely to the qualities we emphasized in the Children's Message that center on loving our neighbors. She saw those qualities in herself, and she was not wrong. She is already a leader in our congregation, and one day, we can hope she will serve on a congregation's Council. That is the kind of legacy we are building when our ministry is grounded in spiritual discernment.

INCREASING FAITHFUL ACCOMPANIMENT

We have also joyfully expanded the ways we walk alongside our families. We envisioned a future where Faith Steppingstones would reach more children, and today, we are thrilled to be experiencing a Steppingstone with children each and every year they are in elementary school. These Steppingstones are vital times to learn and grow in faith at a developmentally appropriate milestone in their lives.

What has been a beautiful bonus of this expansion is that the children are not the only ones learning and growing. The caring adults who are asked to attend these milestones alongside the youth remark often that they have learned something entirely new, or have been deeply refreshed in a theological truth they had forgotten over the years. We are witnessing firsthand that adults are greatly benefiting from marking time with these milestones. Because of this hunger for lifelong faith formation, we look forward to continuing to expand the life moments for which our congregation provides particular, intentional accompaniment well into adulthood.

STRENGTHENING SACRED STRUCTURES

To stand on solid ground spiritually, we must also faithfully steward the physical ground we have inherited. We previously shared the giant steps taken to preserve our building, including the new sanctuary roof, modernized electrical panels, and leveled sidewalks. Now, we are feeling the daily, tangible impact of those investments. It is often the seemingly little things that make the biggest difference.

This winter, reliable, consistent heat created a warm and comfortable space for funerals, Sunday worship, faith formation, fundraisers, and service projects, all thanks to our newly installed boilers. We also finalized the installation of newly updated exit signs and emergency lighting throughout the historic portion of our building. We pray we will never need to use them, but we can rest assured that they will serve us well if we ever do.

Beyond safety and comfort, we have also tended to the beauty of our sacred space. Jesus' welcoming arms continue to reach out and embrace all those who pass by and enter, as the beloved artwork mosaic belonging to our congregation and community was lovingly restored this year. We can take a little pride in the thoughtful way we are stewarding our historic building to serve the mission of the Gospel for generations to come.

NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS AND EQUIPPING LEADERS

Finally, our solid ground relies on the people who carry out the daily work of the church. In our preschool, we welcomed our new director, Kami, who brings delightful energy, deep knowledge, and fresh ideas. She is continuing to transform how our preschool serves the families in our congregation and the broader community as their needs shift and change.

To ensure that all our staff members thrive, we have called forth a new Personnel Task Force. This dedicated group has been commissioned to steward the incredibly important gift of our staff and their diverse talents. Their primary goal is to ensure our team is well-aligned and supported in their daily work to carry out our congregation's ministry faithfully. Furthermore, the task force is already busy dreaming about the future, anticipating the staff structures we may need as new and creative ministries emerge through our ongoing, congregation-wide discernment.

LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER

All this work, from the preschool to the task forces, from the boiler room to the baptismal font, is built upon the solid ground of the basics of our life together. None of this happens without you. Thank you for your continued financial generosity, your steadfast prayers, and the countless volunteer hours you give to First Lutheran. You are the living stones God is using to build up this church.

As we look to the year ahead, I invite you to consider: How is God calling you to step out onto this solid ground? Whether it is joining a Steppingstone, volunteering in the Mission Coffeehouse, serving on a task force, or simply showing up to worship, there is a place for you here.

We step forward together not in our own strength, but held by the grace of God. May Christ's loving presence continue to give us abundant life as we work, worship, rest, and play on the solid ground of God's promises.

LETTER FROM PASTOR TREY, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Deep in the Old Testament, tucked among the minor prophets in a corner of the Bible few of us ever visit, sits a short book named Zephaniah. It opens with a rather frightening description: "a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of darkness and gloom."

With some serious biblical whiplash, the same book ends with God singing a love song. God singing. Not people singing. God singing a love song... over you.

"The Lord your God is in your midst," Zephaniah writes as he closes; "he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will quiet you with his love, he will exult over you with loud singing".

A few verses before this, the people are commanded to sing. Then the book turns and it is God who is singing before they ever open their mouths. Whatever songs we manage to raise in this place, we are only joining a song that was underway long before we arrived.

Years like the one we just had are filled with easy days: days of light, clarity, and life. Moments where things were, as they say... vibing. The year, like other years, also had difficulty: wars and rumors of war, financial instability, political gridlock, personal distress. To people with weary ears, Zephaniah's word is not try harder but a proclamation: the Lord will quiet you with love. It is God, like a parent hushing an anxious child, holding us in safe shelter.

As I give thanks for this year, I give God thanks for what God does through our congregation, and all-the-more, through you, who are sent into the world each week to live lives transformed by the Good News. None of it is ours to boast of. All of it is the fruit of the God among us and it has been my privilege to witness it.

We step into the upcoming year carried by a promise: the same God who has been in our midst will be in our midst still.

In Christ,

Pastor Trey



Pastors
Trey and
Jess on
Easter
Morning
2026

LETTER FROM HANNA HOLMQUIST, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Congregational Council,

The arrival of fall brings excitement and new beginnings. Children and youth programming, ministry group gatherings, and Sunday services resume regular rhythms. Fall also brings our church's annual meeting, which is a time to reflect on the life of our congregation and look ahead to where God is calling us. In that spirit, I want to highlight some of the Council's work from the past year.

The Council's regular work includes important tasks of day-to-day church operations. We review the church's finances, assess building needs, and shape policies. We see membership reports, hear updates from committees, and support the ministries of the congregation. We also consider long-term planning and create new teams and partnerships. Most importantly, we think about how we as a congregation can live out our mission of fostering faith, creating community, and loving all.

One of the ways we are currently working toward that mission is through a "Leadership Framework" vision and planning process. For several years, our congregation has been rebuilding teams and committees, and it has been amazing to see people using their gifts to serve our church in so many unique ways—from addressing physical needs of our building to creating new service opportunities with ELCA ministry partners. As these teams solidify, we are now focusing on creating formal structures and consistent practices. Last spring, the Council and pastors outlined a multi-year plan that will allow us to continue evaluating the needs of our congregation, test new processes and operating procedures for teams, and draft committee descriptions and bylaws. This will ultimately result in a comprehensive vision for our church's ministry that is intentionally shaped by the congregation.

Serving on the Council has given me a greater appreciation for all the work that goes into creating and sustaining our community of faith. I encourage you to consider your role in supporting these efforts. We are blessed with incredible pastors, staff, and congregational leaders—thank them for the work they do that often goes unnoticed. We have children and youth eager to learn more about the Word of God—offer your support as a leader and mentor. We have a property that needs care—invest in maintaining our worship spaces. Sing in the choir. Welcome new members. Volunteer at the coffeehouse. There are things each of us can do to foster faith, create community, and love all, and most importantly we will do this work together.

With gratitude,
Hanna Holmquist

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY, ROSE BAERENWALD, DIR.

Let's dive into the acronym of CYF (Children, Youth, and Family) to reflect and set goals for the year ahead!

CHILDREN

This past year was filled with so many activities for our children in the congregation! We started up Junior Journey- which is a ministry for our 0 to 3 year olds through the Nursery and we had a total of 7 little ones join in on the fun! They joined Journey for their opening worship then headed down to the Nursery for active play. This past year the theme in Journey was All Creation, with a focus through the Lectionary. What I found out was that the kids retained a lot and were participating in the Children's Message more in service. In December we had our Journey Christmas Program, under the direction of Tiff Lewis. A special thank you to her for her amazing leadership with the Wednesday Journey Music and leading the Christmas Program. I also want to give a huge shout out to all the amazing volunteers who made Journey possible this year!

Vacation Bible School was from July 20th through the 23rd. We used the curriculum from Group VBS 'True North' which we borrowed from Ascension Lutheran here in town. We averaged around 50 kids each night and they learned through games, crafts and story stations! On that Thursday our 4-year-olds through 5th graders made dog treats that were donated to Humane Society here in town. We offered a new thing with Vacation Bible School this year, with the curriculum 'True North' they provided a preschool specific curriculum that the First Lutheran Preschool staff used and they had 10 kids participate! Thank you to FLC Council, FLC Mission Quilters, FLC Belize Team, and Creation Care Team for your support in all the ways you did. A huge thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made this happen as well.

YOUTH

This past year in Confirmation our 6th through 8th graders learned about the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. We did a month and a half deep dive into the Lord's Prayer, and throughout the year we took some time to dive into New and Old Testament stories as well as two service-learning opportunities in our church. During Lent we focused on the theme 'A Love that is Stronger' and talked about each character who shared a different perspective on the stories we know. In October we had fifteen 10th graders affirm their baptismal promises that were made when they were baptized.

In Youth Group we had a lot of fun! We dove into lots of activities, discussions, and time together. A huge thank you to Diane Almos and Emily Johnson for being mentors this past year.

In November we had a Confirmation and Youth Group Retreat at Camp NeSoDak for a weekend. This year we dove into the theme of 'Mindfulness', and we talked about how we can be mindful in our faith.

A new Steppingstone we offered this past year that was added into the Steppingstone ministry is an 11th grade Steppingstone- Life of Service. Our 11th graders got the chance

to talk with our FLC Mission Quilters and learn more about their 'why' and a chance to make a connection with a quilter in preparation for 12th grade year. We are continuing to grow this ministry to offer a Steppingstone for each age from birth to 12th graders.

On the last week in July, we had 2 high schoolers attend Camp Amnicon for an outdoor wilderness experience. We spent Monday through Friday in Voyager National Park- being joined by 2 guides; 2 youth from Duluth, MN; and 2 youth from Minneapolis, MN. We had a blast canoeing throughout the park, encountering at a safe distance some amazing wildlife. During our time on trail, we dove into the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 and more, with a lot of discussion on the significance of it during that time. Thank you all for your support and prayers in preparation for this trip. Next year, we will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering which will be held in Minneapolis, MN, and I can't be more excited!

FAMILY

A couple of things to highlight on the family section is the update made to the Family Care Room, huge thanks to FLC WELCA for taking on this project. And during VBS we had a combined evening at the Pool with Ascension with around 100 people in attendance!

I'm very appreciative for all of the helping hands, prayers, and financial support of our congregation members. Thank you for your support in children, youth and family ministries here at First Lutheran. I'm excited to see where this next year will take us as a congregation.



Above (L) the Affirmation of Baptism class from the fall of 2025 and (R) the graduating class of 2026



EVENTS AND FACILITIES, DORIANE PASO, DIR.

A YEAR OF SERVING THROUGH EVENTS, FACILITIES, AND HOSPITALITY

The Events & Facilities Ministry at First Lutheran Church plays an important role in creating a safe, welcoming, functional, and inviting environment where worship, ministry, fellowship, learning, and community activities can take place.

Throughout the past year, the Events & Facilities team worked behind the scenes and alongside staff, volunteers, ministry leaders, and community partners to ensure our facilities were ready to serve both the congregation and the broader community. From preparing rooms and maintaining the building to caring for our grounds and supporting special events, this ministry is about creating spaces where people can gather, connect, and grow.

EVENTS AND MINISTRY SUPPORT

A significant part of our work throughout the year was preparing spaces for the many activities that take place at First Lutheran. Worship services, fellowship gatherings, meetings, educational programs, special events, community activities, and outside groups all require thoughtful preparation and attention to detail.

Room setup and tear-down, furniture arrangements, equipment needs, cleaning, building access, scheduling coordination, and responding to last-minute needs are all part of making events run smoothly. We are grateful for the flexibility, cooperation, and support of staff and volunteers who help make these events possible.

FACILITIES OPERATIONS

Maintaining a large and active church facility requires daily attention. Throughout the year, regular cleaning, maintenance, inspections, repairs, grounds care, snow removal, landscaping, equipment maintenance, and building operations remained priorities.

Particular attention has been given to high-traffic areas, restrooms, preschool spaces, Mission Coffeehouse, entrances, meeting areas, and other frequently used spaces. Our goal is to ensure that everyone who enters First Lutheran encounters a facility that is clean, safe, functional, and welcoming.

The Property Team, Facilities Coordinator Dan Thayer, and I have worked together to maintain high standards throughout the building and grounds. A special thank-you goes to the Property Team - Dale Nussbaum, Dale Tidemann, Tim Pederson, and Dave Lenander - who are always willing to provide consultation, expertise, and hands-on assistance. Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated!

SAFETY, SECURITY, ACCESS, AND BUILDING SYSTEMS

During the year, continued progress was made in developing consistent procedures for building access, keys, key storage, security, and facility use. Clear policies and procedures help ensure that access to the church is managed responsibly while allowing ministries, staff, volunteers, and approved groups to use the building effectively.

The operation of our HVAC and other building systems also remains an important responsibility. Regular monitoring, maintenance, troubleshooting, and coordination with service providers help protect the building, maintain comfort, and support efficient operation. Continuing to develop clear and sustainable procedures for these systems will remain a priority in the coming year.

GROUND AND OUTDOOR SPACES

Our church grounds are an important part of our ministry and community presence. We are especially grateful for the many volunteers who generously give their time and talents to care for the lawn, landscaping, borders, gardens, playground areas, and other outdoor spaces.

Special thanks go to Doug and Judy Odegard, Ron Langner, and Lyle Anderson for their continued work caring for the lawn and borders. We are also grateful to Stuart Little for his work with the community garden located south of the playground. The flourishing raised-bed garden has become a wonderful addition to our property and provides an opportunity to share fresh produce with members of the congregation and the surrounding community.

The community garden is a meaningful example of how our facilities can support ministry beyond the walls of the church. Community members are invited to enjoy produce when it is ready for picking. The garden provides fresh food while also offering a welcoming reminder that our church property can be a place of generosity, connection, and community.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look toward the coming year, Events & Facilities will continue to focus on:

- Maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming facility.
- Supporting worship, ministry, educational, and community events.
- Strengthening building access, security, and key-management procedures.
- Continuing preventive maintenance and oversight of building systems.
- Supporting staff and volunteers who use and care for our building.
- Maintaining and improving our outdoor spaces.
- Looking for opportunities to use our facilities more effectively in support of First Lutheran's mission: fostering faith, creating community, and loving all.

MANY HANDS

The work of Events & Facilities is truly a team effort. Much of what happens is noticed only when something is not ready. Behind every clean room, prepared gathering space, maintained lawn, functioning building system, and successful event are people who have given their time, energy, skills, and care.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff, volunteers, grounds volunteers, Property Team, and everyone who helps care for First Lutheran Church. Your work, whether seen or behind the scenes, makes a meaningful difference.

Thank you for helping make First Lutheran a place where people can worship, gather, serve, learn, grow, and feel welcome.

FIRST LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL, KAMI BARTELS, DIR.

First Lutheran Preschool has many exciting things happening as we begin a new school year!

After more than 27 years of dedicated leadership, SueAnn Mouw has retired as Director of First Lutheran Preschool. We are incredibly grateful for the many years SueAnn devoted to First Lutheran Preschool and the countless children and families she served.

Photo @ right: Pastor Jess thanks SueAnn for her many years of service, dedication and love for FLC Preschool during her final Graduation Ceremony as Director



I am honored and excited to step into the role of Director and Lead Teacher. While I know I have some big shoes to fill, First Lutheran Preschool is a familiar and special place to me. This year will mark my 11th year at FLP, although there was an 11-year break between my time as a teacher here and returning in this new role. It is wonderful to be back!

Although there have been some changes in staffing and leadership, our commitment remains the same. Our number one goal is to provide each child with a safe, loving, Christ-centered, and nurturing environment in which to learn and grow.

Every child comes to us with different strengths, personalities, experiences, and ways of learning. Our staff work hard to recognize those differences and meet children where they are developing. We continue to adapt to the changing needs of our students and families while also helping prepare children for a successful transition into elementary school.

An important part of that preparation goes beyond learning ABCs, numbers, and how to write their names. We believe some of the most valuable lessons during the preschool years come through relationships and play. Building strong connections with children and their families helps children feel safe, secure, and ready to learn. We also focus on developing important social and emotional skills, including problem-solving, resilience, self-regulation, independence, communication, and learning how to be part of a classroom community.

We are excited to implement mixed-aged classrooms as part of our learning environment this year. Mixed-age learning gives younger children opportunities to learn by observing and interacting with older peers, while older children have opportunities to practice leadership, patience, and confidence. It also allows children to learn and develop at their own pace rather than feeling that everyone must be at the same level simply because they are the same age. Our goal is to create a classroom community where children learn with and from one another.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we hope to leave a lasting and positive impression on both our students and their families. We want children to leave First Lutheran Preschool with a strong educational foundation, confidence in themselves, meaningful relationships, and the knowledge that they are loved and valued.

The preschool staff and I would like to thank the First Lutheran Church staff and congregation for your continued encouragement and support. Your commitment to this ministry allows us to continue serving young children and families in our community. We are grateful to be part of a church that recognizes the importance of investing in children during these foundational years.

We look forward to continuing the traditions of First Lutheran Preschool while also embracing new opportunities to learn, grow, and serve together.



The Preschool once again took part in the tree contest put on by the Brookings Arts Council with their "Gingerbread Man" tree. They were voted #1 tree again this year. Above is the tree they decorated and to left are photos of the morning and afternoon groups of students who got to go on field trips to see their tree and all the others.

MISSION COFFEEHOUSE, LADEANE HARRISON, MGR.

It is time to reflect on the past year at the Mission Coffeehouse. Another prosperous year to be thankful for. We need to take a moment and pat ourselves on the back for our continued efforts that are paying off in so many ways.

We have seen an increase in sales and in tips jar totals. Our amazing volunteers are the heart of our coffeehouse, and they keep our customers coming back. To our loyal customers, thank you for your continued support and sharing your time with us! We appreciate you so much!

2026 is the 20th anniversary of Mission Coffeehouse. We keep the coffeehouse chairs filled up and keep smiles on our customers' faces. We support our community with the Mission of the Month tips and having a wonderful space to enjoy your time. I can't think of a better place to enjoy coffee, homemade caramel rolls, lunch and fellowship.

September 2006 is when MCH was added on and what an amazing success story. In September, we will be doing some celebrations to show our love and support for 20 years of changing lives, one cup of coffee at a time! HAPPY BIRTHDAY MCH 😊

Thank you, First Lutheran Church, for your continued support. Thank you, Kurt Osborne and Kool Beans Coffee, for delicious coffee beans and dedication over the years. My heart is filled with joy as we move into the next year of our coffeehouse ministry. God bless you all!

2025 - 2026 TIP JAR TOTALS



MONTH	ORGANIZATION	TIP JAR TOTAL
September	BSD Child Welfare Fund	\$1,597.07
October	Sioux Falls Midwest Street Medicine	\$1,744.10
November	Project Joy	\$2,014.87
December	ELCA Good Gifts (\$1112.42) Heifer Int'l (\$350)	\$1,462.42
January	New Dawn Learning Center	\$1,435.85
February	Brookings Chapter-Nat'l Foundation for the Blind	\$1,574.90
March	SD FFA Foundation / Feeding Brookings	\$1,686.58
April	Brookings Camp Adventure Program	\$1,612.36
May	Brookings Regional Humane Society	\$1,454.42
June	Kingdom Boundaries Prison Aftercare	\$1,371.46
July	Lutherans Outdoor of South Dakota	\$1,406.57
August	Lutheran Disaster Relief	
	TOTAL	\$17,360.60

MUSIC DEPARTMENT, PAT ANDERSON, DIR.

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. O my soul praise Him for He is your health and salvation." ELW 858

The First Lutheran Church choir did, indeed, praise Him in worship three Sundays out of four September through April; rehearsed Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The choir also provided special music for Christmas Eve, Good Friday, and Easter.

As the coordinator, I schedule the Choir, Handbells, and instrumentalists from September through April and part of May.

As part of my responsibilities, I also meet with Pastor Trey to choose liturgy and hymns for worship throughout the year and write bi-monthly newsletter articles. I also schedule piano and organ tunings, which happen twice a year as the seasons change.

This year, as scholarship students, Lewis Jenkins sang in the choir and rang handbells and Madisen Crowe rang handbells. We are so grateful for their musicianship and dedication to First Lutheran Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choir.

Barbara Horten directed the First Lutheran Handbell Choir. They rehearsed Wednesday at 5:45 pm and played in worship once a month.

Dr. Mary Ermel has served as the organist and pianist this past year. Besides Sunday worship, she has played for multiple funerals and weddings. We are very blessed to have Mary.

And now, *"let all who hear now to His temple draw near, joining in glad adoration."* ELW 858.



Above: (L) the Handbell Choir at Christmas-time; (R) the Sanctuary Choir at Easter-time.

STATISTICS

	Baptized Membership	Baptisms	Funerals	Weddings
As of 08/31/2025	2017	17	18	4
As of 08/31/2026	2015	14	22	1



Children listen intently as Pastor Jess leads a children's sermon during worship.

ALTAR GUILD

Deb Bortnem and Diane Almos, Co-Chairs

We currently have sixteen members, and each person typically serves two to three times per year on a Sunday morning, helping prepare and serve the sacraments. The monthly chairperson, along with one additional member, covers both services during the month and one service during the summer. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Deb Bortnem, Diane Almos, or the church office.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Members: Patrick Mulloy (Sexton), Mark Foster (Chair), Kathy DeKraai (Sec), Bob Algood, Brad Dahl

For those that don't know, my name is Patrick Mulloy. I assumed the Sexton position in January 2026 following Dan Billet's retirement. Over this year I have worked to get up to speed with all the information that goes with being the caretaker for First Lutheran Cemetery, Pioneer Cemetery, and Sterling Cemetery.

The major project that has been undertaken this year is the modernization of the records that we have for the First Lutheran Cemetery. I, with the help of Cyndi Johnson, digitized the burial location records that were previously only kept in paper form. We now have a complete electronic list of all who are buried in First Lutheran Cemetery. This improvement has made it much easier to locate burial information and provides quicker access to records when needed.

In addition to the burial records, I, with the help of the Cemetery Committee, have updated and digitized the rules and regulations, area maps of the cemetery, Columbarium maps, and other documents associated with the Sexton position. **We also now have an address for First Lutheran Cemetery: 1318 W 8th St S.**

Looking ahead to the coming months, the Cemetery committee will help with the installation of signs that were purchased from Outlaw Graphics to aid in navigation of the cemetery. I am also working with CYF Director, Rose Baerenwald, and others, to set up a **Cemetery Care Day on Sunday October 4th at 1PM**. During this event, volunteers will help remove debris, clean headstones that have accumulated moss, and prepare the cemetery for the winter season.

As for longer term goals, I am collaborating with Pastor Trey to update the website with information that will allow for better navigation of First Lutheran Cemetery and would allow the Cemetery to be searchable online. The Cemetery Committee and I are working to identify grave markers that, due to age, are damaged or at risk of falling over. Cemetery committee will work to identify families associated with the damaged markers and will work to repair the markers. If no family can be identified, then other measures will be explored.

Also a sincere thank you to Lonnie Bayer for filling in when I have been gone. Your help has been invaluable.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Mulloy
Sexton First Lutheran Church

BELIZE MISSION TEAM

Members: Debbie Pederson (Chair), Jean Gentry (Vice Chair), Mary Moeller (Secretary), Jim Schade (Treasurer), Melody Thompson (Council Liason)

On behalf of the Belize Mission Team, we thank First Lutheran Church and everyone who has contributed to our mission through fundraising, donations, volunteering, prayer and participation in the Belize mission to support students' education at Alvin L Young Nazarene High School (ALYNHS). Your continued commitment and belief in these students and our mission have changed lives for the last 14 years.

Your generosity has fostered lasting relationships with families seeking educational opportunities for their children. Whether supporting scholarships, the student food program, Dee Shanley's sewing program, or launching a cooking program, each contribution is part of a larger story.

In March of 2026, Mary Moeller and Jim Schade guided 14 volunteers to Belize. (photo to right). They joined FLC missionary and volunteer sewing teacher Dee Shanley to serve at our adopted school. And wow! They enjoyed fun, fellowship, and faith-sharing every day!



Mr. Bay, school principal, had requested that the team teach a lesson on food preparation to introduce a new fall culinary arts class. They were excited to showcase the new kitchen classroom by helping students learn basic kitchen safety, explore new recipes, cook, fry, peel, chop, and design creative food flavors and presentations. By shopping for ingredients at the local farmers market, the team learned about food along with the students. *(left a student learns to make deviled eggs)*

Meanwhile, another FLC crew headed to the elementary school to teach interactive lessons on penguins. The children delighted in learning how to protect their vulnerable eggs and run races penguin style. After two days in those classrooms, the arrival of dangerous Africanized bees on the playground cancelled school hours until the hive could be removed!

Now we invite you to join our 2027 team for another Spirit-filled adventure, serving others and learning about God's beautiful world together. Watch for details in the bulletin with a fall 2026 sign-up date! Contact Mary at 605-690-8862 if interested.

A MESSAGE FROM DEE SHANLEY

I see the face of God present in our Belize Mission at ALYNHS and back here at First Lutheran Church and our community. We are connected in faith, relationships, and share the value of how an education makes a difference in these students. Truly, the greatest blessing is watching the hands of Jesus in those who serve, and in the hearts of those who support the Belize Mission.

Bringing back the success stories to you shows the spirit of serving others. In the faces of the teachers, students, families, and through your continued support of the Belize Mission, I see the face of God.

See you December 4th for the Annual "Purses for a Powerful Purpose" Event!

BELIZE MISSION TEAM FINANCIAL REPORT	
Fiscal Year 25/26 As of August 11, 2026	
Revenues from Fundraising	
Purses for a Powerful Purpose	\$13,595.73
Deck the Halls for Belize	\$2,560.00
Scholarship Donations	\$21,420.75
Belize Mission Donations	\$6,591.82
Total Revenue	\$44,168.30
Expenditures	
Alvin Young Nazarene High School	
High School Scholarships	\$20,000.00
Family Projects	\$9,500.00
Feeding Program	\$400.00
Cooking Class Program	\$8,000.00
Sewing Program	\$3,560.00
Travel Scholarship for Students	\$1,500.00
Visa and Travel Expenses - Dee Shanley	\$3,740.20
Victorious Elementary - Windows	\$262.50
My Neighbor	\$1,000.00
PFPP and Appreciation Luncheon Expenses ***	\$5,471.10
Total Expenses	\$53,433.80
*** Some of the costs of the Purses event and Celebration Luncheon were covered by the donations of Thrivent Gift Cards	



FINANCE TASK FORCE

Members: Tyler Holmquist, Pam Collins, Sue Hegg

The Finance Task Force was created in 2024 and given four primary goals:

1. Assess finance software needs and recommend a solution.
2. Review finance staffing needs.
3. Review FLC's financial processes and make recommendations.
4. Assess the need for an ongoing finance committee and, if needed, recommend the establishment of a Finance Committee to the Council.

At this time, we have met the goals set before us and have recommended to the Council the establishment of an ongoing Finance Committee. The proposed Finance Committee would serve in an advisory role to the Council. Its responsibilities would include overseeing the congregation's financial health, assisting with development of the annual budget, and recommending financial policies to the Council.

Throughout the past two years, our focus has been on seeking efficiencies, creating uniform practices, and minimizing risk while promoting transparency and faithfully stewarding the church's financial resources. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and believe the establishment of a Finance Committee will provide ongoing support, accountability, and financial guidance for the ministry of FLC.

Pam Collins



Left top: Some members of the Tuesday bible study;
Left bottom: some of the students who helped serve the Palm Sunday brunch;
Right: Chuck and Mary Lou Berry were two of the volunteers who helped give the education wing an update over the summer.



FLC FOUNDATION

Members: Keith Rounds, Lisa Bergmann, Jim Schade, Lyle Anderson and Robb Rykhus

The **FLC Foundation** allows the management of the Church's long-term assets to be separated from the day-to-day management of the Church. This ensures the demands of the present do not cause the opportunities of the future to be neglected.

The Foundation currently has Endowment Funds designated in support of:

Youth	Cemetery	Preschool
Scholarships	Sabbatical	Seminary Scholarships

The Endowment Funds are invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust and managed by the ELCA Endowment Fund to provide perpetual support to each of their designated areas. All gifts to the FLC Foundation are invested with only the earnings being used each year. If you are interested in supporting these programs in a perpetual way, we encourage you to contact any of the Foundation Board members.

The ELCA Pooled Trust posted the following annual returns as of July 31, 2026

1 year = 17.1%

3 years = 13.8%

5 years = 7.3%

10 years = 8.7%

*Performance figures were obtained from the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust second Quarter of 2026.

Report. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

On 7/31/2026 the Foundation had total assets of \$2,582,499.00. For the twelve months ending 5/31/2026 the Foundation made distributions totaling \$111,092.00.

Details of the distributions made during the last year are as follows:

- \$12,095.00 was distributed in support of the FLC Cemetery
- \$16,654.00 was distributed to our youth through the FLC Scholarship Fund
- \$ 9,776.00 was distributed in support of the FLC Youth Program
- \$22,472.00 was distributed via the Seminary Scholarship Fund
- \$ 2,269.00 was distributed via the Preschool Fund
- \$ 2,077.00 was distributed via the Sabbatical Fund
- \$45,749.00 was distributed via the Undesignated Fund

These distributions are only possible because of the generous support received from the many people who care deeply about the ministries of First Lutheran.

If you have any questions about the FLC Foundation or would like to make a gift that will have a perpetual impact on the ministries of First Lutheran, you can contact Pastor Jess Daum or the Church Office.

FLC Foundation Board members:

Keith Rounds, Lisa Bergmann, Jim Schade, Lyle Anderson, Robb Rykhus

INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: Chris Larson, Margy Brenden ,Mole Zarpeleh, Lon Moeller, Teresa Christensen (Lake Whitewood) and Deb Miller (Lake Whitewood)

First Lutheran Church hosted Hannah Reeves-Fleming as a Pastoral intern from February 2025 until January 2026. During this time, she served the FLC and the Lake Whitewood congregations.

Her duties included preaching, working with church committees and organizing participation in ELCA activities. She was the prime organizer for working with the Laundry with Love and the Church on the Street activities. Her organizational skills brought FLC members to Sioux Falls to facilitate these activities on three dates.

Intern Hannah engaged on a personal level with bible studies, youth and adult activities. Church members commented on her skill with presenting children's sermons.

Intern Hannah was ordained on July 28 at FLC and has accepted a call to serve as an ELCA missionary in Liberia, Africa.

FLC was blessed to have Intern Hannah with us.

Photos from
Hannah's
ordination:

Top left:
Hannah & her
husband,
Henrique;
middle: with
her family;
right: with
Bishop
Hagmaier;
Bottom left:
with some of
the FLC
members who
attended; right:
with the
rostered
ministers who
attended.



MINISTRY PARTNERS TASK FORCE

Diane Spencer, Chair

Over the past few months, the Ministry Partners Task Force has been involved in two meaningful service projects. This ministry was started at First Lutheran Church by then-Intern Deacon, now Pastor, Hannah Fleming. Current task force members include Mary Moeller, Debbie Pederson, Karla Gnirk, and Diane Spencer, along with many wonderful volunteers who help make these projects possible.

Laundry With Love

On May 26, our group traveled to Sioux Falls to participate in Laundry With Love, an ongoing ministry that serves individuals experiencing homelessness or financial hardship. Participants schedule appointments between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. and come to a designated laundromat to wash and dry their clothing.

During this event, we provided quarters to cover laundry costs. The laundromat also reduced the cost of washer and dryer loads to just 25 cents during the service hours. While attendees completed their laundry, they were offered a meal consisting of sloppy joes, fruit cups, chips, cookies, and water. This meal was made possible through your generous donations and the support of a Thrivent Action Team card. Attendees were also able to receive free socks, sports bras, and T-shirts as supplies allowed. Records are maintained to help ensure these items are distributed fairly throughout the program's schedule.

Church on the Street

On an extremely hot Saturday, July 11, we participated in Church on the Street, a Sioux Falls ministry that provides worship services and fellowship opportunities for those experiencing homelessness or other hardships. First Lutheran Church partnered with Roseni Lutheran Church of Beresford to provide a meal for those attending.

The event began with an outdoor worship service and Holy Communion. During the service, Jim Pederson and Mark Foster grilled more than 200 hot dogs. The hot dogs were wrapped in foil to keep them warm and were served along with chips, dessert, and water. We also hosted a crowd-pleasing game of Bingo that encouraged attendees to meet and interact with one another. Participants filled their Bingo cards by talking with others and answering questions. Donated prizes were awarded to those who completed their cards. The activity was a great success, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity for fellowship and fun.

Looking Ahead

We hope to continue participating in these mission projects if there is interest and volunteer support. If you would like to be involved, please contact one of the task force members or sign up at the Outpost Desk. **All are welcome!**

MISSION QUILTERS

"Quilters and Kit makers share God's love with our neighbors locally and around the world."

With faithful support from First Lutheran Church (FLC) members and friends, FLC Mission Interest Quilters made and distributed more than 475 quilts and other items to agencies locally and to 15 countries world-wide:

Donations included:

400 quilts to Lutheran World Relief	16 quilts to FLC graduating seniors
5 thank you gifts (lap robes & home décor)	25 lap robes to FLC members
50 LWR Personal Care Kits	6 blankets/quilts to Salvation Army
6 items to Church on the Street	12 quilts/stuffed toys to Marissa's House in SF
16 quilts/stuffed animals to Sleep in Heavenly Peace	5 back packs & quilts to foster children in Brookings schools

Income: Throughout the year, Mission Interest Quilters received income from memorials, personal monetary donations, and proceeds from the sale of quilts and other items in the amount of \$ 6,552 to cover the expenses for quilting supplies, special mission projects, and the shipping of the quilts to Lutheran World Relief countries. Two quilt raffles were held that raised \$1,000. In addition, donations of gift cards from Thrivent Action Team Projects amounted to approximately \$3000.

Expenses: Total expenses for the year equaled \$6,871. These expenses included purchasing fabric and supplies for the 400 + quilts and home décor items that were given out or sold through a craft sale in the community. Shipping costs for the Lutheran World Relief items were also covered at the cost of \$4.35 per quilt and \$4.35 per personal care kit to transport, process, store, and deliver from our hands to theirs.

Additional expenses and donations included a \$500 scholarship for a Belize Mission student to cover tuition, school supplies, and transportation. The quilters also donated \$500 to Lutherans Outdoors in SD as well as sending pot holders, towels, and pillow cases at the request of Outlaw Ranch. A donation of \$500 was given as a school scholarship to a FLC member and a \$500 donation was given to the FLC campership fund and \$200 was given for FLC church repairs.

Special Projects: A Quilting Bee was held on Saturday, June 20th for the fourth year when FLC members were invited along with the local community and area churches in the Medary conference to work together to sew and tie quilts for the Lutheran World Relief quilting project. Approximately 35 individuals representing intergenerational members completed enough quilts to fill six more "banana boxes". Additional fabric for quilts as well as the cost of the noon meal for all workers was covered by a Thrivent Action Team Project. During the year, the quilting group also worked with the confirmation classes in a service project and assisted with the members of the Senior Stepping Stones students.

Further projects this year of the FLC Mission Interest Quilters group included helping organize a FLC collection of 500 food items as well receiving a \$500 monetary donation from the local Lions Club to match a \$500 monetary donation from Thrivent to support the local Brookings food pantry. The group also sponsored a Monday evening Harvest Table meal and prepared and served a meal for the VBS students and their families.

FLC Quilting Members: Two quilting groups meet weekly throughout the year: a Monday evening "Sew What" group and a Tuesday morning group with approximately 25 members working each week. We welcome new members at any time to either of the quilting groups – no matter what the skill level or past sewing experience is! We always look for volunteers to help cut fabric squares, assemble and tie quilts, bind or hem quilts, enjoy the fellowship, and support the mission outreach program of First Lutheran Church. Fabric donations including sheets/pillowcases, tablecloths, etc. are always welcome.

We are most appreciative of the fabric items and monetary donations that members of our church and community have provided us for the many projects completed throughout the year. Reaching our neighbors in crises takes a monumental effort, but love is a powerful thing. Our gifts make the journey of your love possible.

We have been blessed!



L: Students from the SDSU University Lutheran Center helped load hundreds of quilts from First Lutheran Church and surrounding communities onto a semi-truck bound for a Lutheran World Relief distribution center.

R: Jean Gentry displays a quilt she made to help raise funds for the Mission Quilters' outreach and service projects.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members: Brenda Algood, Kay Dahl, Doris Hornby and Tiff Lewis

The Nominating Committee of Brenda Algood, Kay Dahl, Doris Hornby and Pastor Jess met in July. The fourth member of the committee, Tiff Lewis, was unable to attend, and was kept abreast of the committee's discussions.

The Nominating Committee is instructed by the Constitution to prepare a list of nominees for the Nominating, Audit and Cemetery Committees. For the upcoming year, we have one opening for each of the above-mentioned Committees.

In addition to the above committee openings, there will be three council positions to be filled. This year, the Nominating Committee is bringing names to the annual meeting for the council openings through an expanded process. The Church Council has brought forth "Raising Up Leaders for Church Council," in which church members were given the opportunity to nominate a member for the council position. Individuals nominated were then contacted by Council and Nominating Committee Members and provided pertinent information to assist the member in his/her decision process. Members who have accepted the call to serve will be voted on at the annual meeting scheduled for September 27, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted: *Brenda Algood on behalf of the Nominating Committee*

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Members: Lyle Anderson, Jane Dunn, Gail Gullickson, Lyla Hanson, Randy Richards and Ellen Sandager

The Hospitality Committee meets approximately twice each year. The committee's primary role is to support new member meal meetings by planning, preparing, and serving food for informational gatherings with prospective members interested in joining First Lutheran Church. During these meetings, Pastor Jess shares information about church membership, including the opportunities, responsibilities, and benefits of becoming a member.

Committee members also participate by introducing themselves, sharing their personal experiences and reasons for joining First Lutheran Church, and highlighting what they value most about the church family. They are available to answer questions and help prospective members feel welcomed and informed.

On New Member Sunday, the Hospitality Committee hosts a welcome reception for new members in the Mission Coffee House between services, providing an opportunity to celebrate and warmly welcome them into the congregation.

PERSONNEL TASK FORCE

Members: Wendy Dailey, Rachel Meyer, Andrew Sogn (council liaison), Pastor Jess

I. Task Force Mandate & Overview

The Personnel Task Force of First Lutheran Church was established in the spring of 2026 by the Church Council to conduct a thorough review and modern transformation of the church's operational structure, human resources documentation, and staffing alignment. As First Lutheran Church continues to fulfill its mission in Brookings, having clear organizational frameworks, updated staff policies, and forward-looking personnel planning is critical to supporting our pastors, administrative and program staff, and congregation.

II. Key Accomplishments & Progress (2026)

Since its creation, the task force has convened multiple times to address key operational and administrative needs:

- **Employee Handbook Overhaul:** Completed a comprehensive review and rewrite of the First Lutheran Church Employee Handbook to modernize policies, align with legal and church guidelines, and reflect modern HR best practices.
- **Organizational Chart & Job Descriptions:** Thoroughly reviewed the existing organizational structure and evaluated staff positions, beginning the work of updating and standardizing job descriptions across all roles.
- **Future Staffing Assessment:** Initiated strategic discussions regarding the future trajectory of the church, evaluating long-term staffing models and structural needs to support congregational growth and ministry goals.

III. Priorities for the 2026–2027 Fiscal Year

- **1. Council Vote on Handbook:** Present proposed changes to the overhauled Employee Handbook to the Church Council for official approval and adoption.
- **2. Refining Staffing & Organizational Structure:** Further explore and finalize recommended updates to the church's organizational chart and staff roles.
- **3. Standing Committee Recommendation:** Assess and determine whether to present a formal recommendation for a Council vote to establish the Personnel Task Force as a permanent Standing Committee of First Lutheran Church.

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

Brenda Hayne, Chair

The WELCA group has had a busy year. All women of First Lutheran in Brookings are automatically members of this group. We are a faith-based service organization that exists to serve women and families. The benefits of membership in this group include fellowship and friendship with other women.

Our service projects this year have included:

- Monthly Bible study using Gather Magazine which meets the third Thursday of every month in the Parlor at First Lutheran at 10:00 am
- We prepared frozen meals for anyone who needed a hot meal.
- We baked, decorated and delivered Valentine cookies to members who are shut-ins.
- We held a painting pots and planting house plants event for families.
- We collected a Thank Offering for the national WELCA.
- We hosted the Spring WELCA Medary Conference luncheon and meeting.
- We have provided rolls between church services.
- We have updated and created a more beautiful Family Care room at the rear of the sanctuary.
- Three members of First Lutheran attended the National WELCA Triennial Conference in Des Moines in July.



Left: Julie Bell and Reba Gayne worked together to plant a house plant in the giraffe planter;
Right: Julie Bell, Brenda Hayne and Mary Moeller attended the national WELCA conference



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

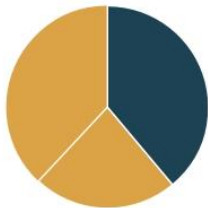
MISSION SUPPORT: WHAT DOES MY OFFERING DO?

South Dakota Synod

Every week, Lutherans across the country gather to worship. Many of us give to our congregation as part of this experience. ELCA members give about \$1.6 billion annually as regular offerings to ELCA congregations and worshipping communities. When you give your offering, most of it stays with your congregation to fund its vital work. A portion — about 5%, on average — becomes Mission Support, given by your congregation to your synod. In FY2024 the South Dakota Synod shared \$698,143 in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. Because of Mission Support, our hands can do God's work in more places than any one person or congregation could alone. Together we experience the way of Jesus; discover community, justice and love; and help more people experience the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.



Your **MISSION SUPPORT** funds a variety of churchwide ministries.

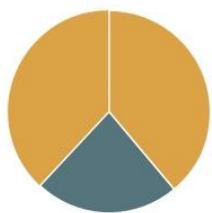


38% BUILDS CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES in the United States by enabling us to:

Thank you for \$265,294 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Plant and support hundreds of worshipping communities.
- Revitalize congregational ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.
- Promote leadership opportunities, discernment and education through leadership initiatives.
- Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 27 ELCA colleges and universities.
- Host events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.
- Support regional work through directors for evangelical mission as well as candidacy and leadership managers.
- Prepare and implement a system for recruiting and assigning rostered ministers.

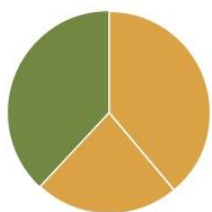




Another **23% GROWS THE GLOBAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** and addresses issues around the world, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$160,573 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries and train leaders and evangelists.
- Send missionaries to accompany communities around the world.
- Address social inequities and work for justice.
- Cultivate and maintain relationships with 149 other churches through the Lutheran World Federation to strengthen the church and its global work.
- Foster relationships between ELCA synods and 65 companion churches, for a total of 127 official relationships.
- Work with leaders and members of our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latiné communities.



Finally, **39% STRENGTHENS AND SUSTAINS THE MINISTRY and MISSION** of the whole church, enabling us to:

Thank you for \$272,276 from the South Dakota Synod for these ministries!

- Offer ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- Develop social messages of the ELCA as topical documents to focus attention and action on timely, pressing matters of concern to church and society.
- Sustain ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- Partner with congregations and ministries across the church as they explore new, innovative ways of being church in a constantly changing world.
- Invest in technology and communications.
- Engage in research and strategic planning.
- Create and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.



Thank you for your ongoing support and faithful partnership! For stories of your impact, visit LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA. To find additional Mission Support resources, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA. Scan the QR code to view the new Mission Support video "What Does My Offering Do?"



RESOLUTION A

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE CONSTITUTION TO ADOPT REQUIRED PROVISIONS OF ELCA MODEL CONSTITUTION

SUBMITTED BY: The First Lutheran Church Congregational Council

WHEREAS, First Lutheran Church, upon becoming a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, agreed to keep its constitution in line with the required components of the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations; and

WHEREAS, new updates to the ELCA Model Constitution were adopted in 2025;
And

WHEREAS, the First Lutheran Church Constitution was last updated in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the First Lutheran Church Council has spent considerable time reviewing and revising our constitution to conform with the model constitution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that First Lutheran Church adopt the required changes to our constitution as mandated by our membership with and connection to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

(Complete Governing Documents Available for Review: To view the full text of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the complete member-submitted packet for Resolution C, please refer to the official 30-day notice email sent on August 27, 2026 or view the printed copies available at the Office Outpost. Copies will also be available for reference at the Annual Meeting.)

RESOLUTION B

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE CONSTITUTION WITH RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS OF ELCA MODEL CONSTITUTION

SUBMITTED BY: The First Lutheran Church Congregational Council

WHEREAS, the First Lutheran Church Council has spent considerable time reviewing our constitution and comparing the current provisions to the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations; and

WHEREAS, there are several recommended provisions of the model constitution that would add clarity to the First Lutheran Church Constitution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that First Lutheran Church adopt the following recommended constitutional provisions from the ELCA Model Constitution for Congregations:

- C10.09. "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.
- C11.01. The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
- C11.01. (d.) If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council. If the treasurer is not selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council, the treasurer shall have voice but not vote at the meetings of the Congregation Council.
- C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor(s), officers of the congregation, and not more than four members of this congregation. Any voting member of this congregation may be elected, subject only to the limitation on the length of continuous service permitted in that office. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from two successive meetings of the Congregation Council without cause following review by the Congregation Council. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.
- C12.05. (c.) The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to 2.5% of the annual budget for items not included in the budget.

(Complete Governing Documents Available for Review: To view the full text of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the complete member-submitted packet for Resolution C, please refer to the official 30-day notice email sent on August 27, 2026 or view the printed copies available at the Office Outpost. Copies will also be available for reference at the Annual Meeting.)

RESOLUTION C

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE FIRST LUTHERAN CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

SUBMITTED BY: Jim Schade, Member

WHEREAS, a packet of constitutional amendments, bylaws, and continuing resolutions was submitted to the First Lutheran Church Congregational Council by a member of the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the proposal followed the process for proposed constitutional amendments outlined in constitutional provision C16.01,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, First Lutheran Church adopt all constitutional amendments, bylaws, and continuing resolutions included in the proposal.

(Complete Governing Documents Available for Review: To view the full text of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the complete member-submitted packet for Resolution C, please refer to the official 30-day notice email sent on August 27, 2026 or view the printed copies available at the Office Outpost. Copies will also be available for reference at the Annual Meeting.)

RESOLUTION D

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AN OPERATING LINE OF CREDIT

SUBMITTED BY: The Finance Task Force
TO: The Congregational Council
DATE: August 11, 2026

WHEREAS, our congregation is deeply committed to fulfilling its mission, fostering community, and expanding our creative ministries; and

WHEREAS, natural seasonal fluctuations in giving and standard operational expenses can occasionally result in tight financial margins; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing pressure of managing these short-term cash flow challenges creates unnecessary administrative stress, diverting valuable time, focus, and emotional resources away from our core mission; and

WHEREAS, establishing a secure financial buffer would proactively alleviate this operational anxiety, thereby opening up our collective creativity, joy, and energy to focus on the spiritual growth and outreach of the church;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Finance Task Force formally recommends that the Congregational Council be empowered to establish a responsible financial safety net for the congregation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Congregational Council is hereby authorized to open a revolving line of credit with a trusted financial institution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the maximum borrowing limit of this line of credit shall be set at \$120,000, which represents one month's average operating expenses, to be utilized strictly as a tool for bridging temporary cash flow gaps and sustaining the vital, ongoing ministries of the church.

RESOLUTION E

RESOLUTION OF REMEMBRANCE

Origin: Church Council

Whereas: the following persons connected to First Lutheran Church died in the faith in the past year (September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026) and have been committed to the Lord of Life:

*Donna Anundson
Jeremy Deutsch
Ed Higgins
Karen Nelson
James Selleck*

*Marvin Bebensee
Rev. George Gehant III
Arvella Johnson
Gary Olson
Greg Silva*

*Steve Berseth
Doris Glatzel
Jerry Johnson
Omar Olson
Rick Stoebner*

*Glen Bren
David Gullickson
Duane Kendall
Harold Peterson
Vernon Voelzke*

*Robert Coulson
William Hackett
James Mannerud
Marian Rude
JoAnn Weiland*

Therefore: Be it resolved that we commend our siblings in Christ to the eternal care of a gracious and loving God.



BIO INFO FOR NOMINEES FOR COUNCIL POSITIONS

Answers have been transcribed exactly as written on forms returned to office; nominees are in alphabetical order by last name

NAME: Judy Alickson

FAMILY MEMBERS: Sister (Karen) brother (Gary)

OCCUPATION: retired

COMMUNITY SERVICE: delivered meals on wheels
visited nursing homes took people shopping

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 1978

FLC INVOLVEMENT: I've been on 2 boards, altar guild, did home visits, was a Befriender, delivered bulletins to nursing homes, helped with nursing home communions, a custodian for over 20 years, volunteer in the coffee house, helped serve Wednesday night meals

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: serving people in the coffeehouse greeting people so they feel welcome teaching children about God through Preschool and Journey everyone can take communion



NAME: Julie Bergan Abraham

FAMILY MEMBERS: spouse – Ross kids – Lucas + Ellie

OCCUPATION: retired educator

COMMUNITY SERVICE: I served on the Brookings Community Theatre executive board for 10 years, directing, producing & acting in various shows. Taught Theatre workshops for community youth through the Brookings Arts Council & the Brookings School District. I also co-direct the Brookings One-Act Play. I've volunteered for Girl Scouts of America teaching theatre workshops, and I've volunteered for Sleep In Heavenly Peace. I also worked a variety of community service projects through my daughters "Face of Grace" initiative here at FLC.

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 1998

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Choir member, FLC Quilter, former staff member, Journey 2 Discipleship Music Leader, K-12 Drama Director, Alive in Christ! Youth Musical Director



I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: Whenever people gather here at church to serve our community & fill the need of God's people, I see God at work. I strive to be open to God's call to use my gifts to serve those around me.

NAME: Julie Gullickson Bell

FAMILY MEMBERS: Robert Bell

OCCUPATION: Retired from SDSU

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Food pick up for Brookings Food Pantry; volunteer usher at SDSU basketball games; volunteer usher/greeter at SDSU Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 1978

FLC INVOLVEMENT: FLC Quilters Mission; prior member of Youth & Family Committee; Board member of WELCA; Finance Team counting member; prior Journey teacher; assist with communion; assisted with Wednesday evening meals; scholarship committee member; help serve Christmas dinners



I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: I see God at work – through the smiles of the children as they run down the aisle to gather for the Children's Sermon; in the smiles of the quilting team members when another "banana box" of 5 quilts is completed; in the smiles and greetings from the guests in the morning as I walk through the Mission Coffee House; through the warm wishes of FLC members as Christmas dinner is served to members of our community; through the hand shakes, fist bumps and greetings during the passing of the peace to all members; in the morning greeting from the ushers as one enters the Sanctuary; through the "thank yous" from the children and families as Wednesday evening meals are served. God is at work through all ages and at all times if we look for it.

NAME: Keith Corbett

FAMILY MEMBERS: Roxanne Corbett, Melissa Corbett

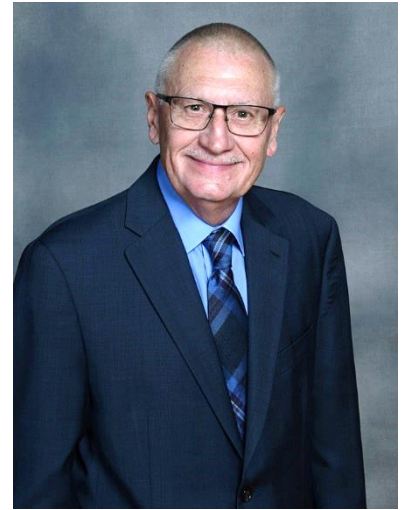
OCCUPATION: Retired

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Retired Brookings City Council
Retired Brookings Mayor

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 1979

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Church Council

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: The members, friends and pastors @ church are there for you!



NAME: Mary Kleinjan

FAMILY MEMBERS: Chris Larson, Jace Larson, Zander Larson

OCCUPATION: Chiropractor

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Meals on Wheels, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Educational Station for Early Childhood through United Way, Volunteer teaching at our local Doula training program, speaking at the Optimist Club and other local organizations, and speaking at the Junior Achievement ethics class.

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: June 2001

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Journey, Good Friday Interactive Walk Through, Stepping Stones, Theology on Tap, Bible Study

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: At First Lutheran Church, I see and feel God's presence in many ways. I experience God through the music as people lift their voices together in worship. I see God in the children, whose curiosity, joy, and hope remind us of God's promise. I witness God through the children's drama programs, where faith comes alive through creativity and storytelling. I also see God in the connections and fellowship shared before and after services in the Mission Coffee House, where relationships are nurtured and community is strengthened.



NAME: Doug Kopecky

FAMILY MEMBERS: Karissa Kopecky, Shaelynn Kopecky, Dylan Kopecky

OCCUPATION: Information Technology/Business Systems

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Bobcat Backers Board
Volunteer for Brookings County Youth Mentor Program
Volunteer for Brookings Backpack Project

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 2017

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Participating member of the congregation

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: I see God's work through the way the community comes together to hear his word through the scripture and fellowship. I also see it in my daughters eyes in the way they light up when we enter church and the curiosity that our church brings to her.



NAME: Christine Larson

FAMILY MEMBERS: Mary Kleinjan, Jace Larson, Zander Larson

OCCUPATION: Professor of Mathematics in Honors @ SDSU

COMMUNITY SERVICE: SDSU Women's Basketball Official Scorekeeper; helped build beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, served at the Harvest Table, served Thanksgiving dinner at Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls, volunteered at the Domestic Abuse Shelter

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: June 2001

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Sunday School teacher, Journey leader, Confirmation Mentor, Steppng Stones teacher/leader, Reader (scriptures and prayers) at church services, women's retreats, Good Friday "Walk through Jesus's life"

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: I see God in many simple but meaningful ways. I see him in the children's programs, in the excitement of the kids as they learn about His love. I see Him in the fellowship at the Mission Coffeehouse before and after services, through conversations, laughter, and people simply being there for each other. I also see God at the women's retreats, where we can slow down, share our hearts, pray, and encourage each other. These moments



remind me that God is present not only in worship but also in the relationships and love we share with each other.

NAME: Michael J. Nelson

FAMILY MEMBERS: Daughter Kari (Jim) Allen, Eau Claire, Wisc.

OCCUPATION: Laborer / Small Land Rental Business

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Farm life...It's a whole different community!

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: fall 2024

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Ushering, Christmas Caroling, Attendance Charcuterie and connection meetings

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: coming from a very small very conservative church, I am still grasping the spider web of First Lutheran at the Center but having enough members to still have many different projects going. This was especially true last year with all of the Big projects that needed done and how everyone stepped up and got them done. Thanks Mike

NAME: Jim Pederson

FAMILY MEMBERS: Debbie Justin Jazlynn

OCCUPATION: Retired

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Boy Scouts Cub Scouts
Board of Adjustment City of Brks
Adult Ed Instructor

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 1972 or 73

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Boy Scouts Wed night meals
Cub Scouts St Dysmas

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

Purses event Great Volunteers
Belize Mission
Youth participation
Coffee House



NAME: Gavin Smith

FAMILY MEMBERS: Nick, Laurie, and Thomas

OCCUPATION: Student at SDSU

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Project JOY setup: 2022-2026
Washing dishes/serving food at First United Methodist
Volunteering with the BHS Choir
Setting up trees for FLC christmas

MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: 01/02/2008

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Preschool, Journey, confirmation, youth group, and planning on joining the choir



I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

The kind and welcoming environment and people.
Having a community that cares about you and are there for you in times of need.

NAME: Mike Twedt

FAMILY MEMBERS: Wife – Dawn Twedt;
kids – Tessa (21), Michael (19), Taya (17)

OCCUPATION: Mechanical Engineer. I teach in the ME Dept. at SDSU.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: I have been a volunteer at ADVANCE; a baseball, softball, and flag football coach for a number of my kid's teams as they were growing up, and I serve as an advisor to an SDSU engineering society to help mentor students as they transition into engineering roles.



MEMBER AT FLC SINCE: Approximately 1998

FLC INVOLVEMENT: Currently, I have been serving on the Congregation Council, filling in for a vacancy on the Council since January. I have also served as a confirmation mentor for about 8 years and I had the honor of mentoring 3 graduating classes of confirmation students as they navigated their confirmation growth through the 6th-8th grades.

I SEE GOD WORKING THROUGH FLC IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS: I see God at work in our church when I see our youth in Journey and confirmation and youth group. I see God at work in our church when I see these youth grow in their faith. I see God at

work in our church when I see the loving effort that so many of our members give to make our church a better place to be. I also see God at work in our church when I walk into the coffee shop area and I see people smiling and enjoying fellowship with each other.

NOMINEES FOR CHURCH COUNCIL

THREE POSITIONS (Two 4 year terms and one 3 year term); nominees are in alphabetical order by last name

_____ 1. Judy Alickson

_____ 2. Julie Bergan Abraham

_____ 3. Julie Gullickson Bell

_____ 4. Keith Corbett

_____ 5. Mary Kleinjan

_____ 6. Doug Kopecky

_____ 7. Christine Larson

_____ 8. Michael J. Nelson

_____ 9. Jim Pederson

_____ 10. Gavin Smith

_____ 11. Mike Twedt

_____ 12. Write in candidate _____

NOMINEES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

One position for a three year term; nominees are in alphabetical order by last name

_____ 1. Randy Richards

_____ 2. Write in candidate _____

NOMINEES FOR CEMETERY COMMITTEE

One position for a three year term; nominees are in alphabetical order by last name

_____ 1. Jean Stoebner

_____ 2. Write in candidate _____

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OPENING LITURGY

Recognizing that our faith is a living, busy, active and mighty thing, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each of you.

And also with you.

Teach us to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Descend on our hearts, that we may love others in the ways Jesus loves us.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Empower us to be enthusiastic in pursuing your vision for our congregation.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Move us to engage issues in our community in Christlike ways, and to pursue deep and authentic relationships with those with whom we serve and partner.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Strengthen us to face the barriers we encounter in doing your work, learning to work with others amid disagreement.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Give us the ability to adapt to the cultural, economic and social changes that occur in the neighborhoods we serve.

Receive our prayer, O God.

Guide us to be a healthy congregation that learns from its failures as well as its successes and offers wisdom to others.

Receive our prayer, O God.

As we strive to become the church that we proclaim to be, raise up leaders who focus on the gospel of freedom, forgiveness and reconciliation as given to us through God's indescribable act of love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Renew us daily in our baptism, that we may discover vitality in our relationships with you, each other and those we serve in the world.

Amen.

Founded on Faith



1 Found - ed on faith, the church— a - live by grace—
2 Your cross, O Christ, re - news our life each day.
3 E - quipped by prayer, we live the Spir - it's call.
4 Grow - ing in grace for God's cre - at - ed earth,
5 Found - ed on faith, called forth, em - pow'ed to serve,



pro - claims the gos - pel here and ev - 'ry place.
Bap - tized in you, we learn and teach and pray.
Em - pow'ed to serve with gifts, both great and small,
we yearn for jus - tice, peace, and hu - man worth;
we share God's end - less love with - out re - serve.



The word of God re - sounds through time and space:
Fed by your love, with thank - ful hearts, we say:
we bring the liv - ing hope of God to all.
a world re - stored; a faith - ful, car - ing church.
Then let us shout a - loud the liv - ing Word!



Al - le - lu - ia!

All Creation Sings, 1048

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THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY, GOD IS AT WORK ACROSS THE ELCA.

MISSION SUPPORT

A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger testifies to our hope for and commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. ELCA World Hunger walks alongside communities in more than 60 countries — including the United States — to create unique solutions to hunger and poverty.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

WHERE NEEDED MOST

Where Needed Most supports the powerful ways we work together around the world — supporting leaders, inspiring young people, fueling ministries and championing global mission. Gifts to Where Needed Most support and sustain the people, congregations, synods and ministries working around the world to realize the hope-filled future God promises.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Sign up to hear more stories of impact from the ELCA churchwide organization at [ELCA.org/subscribe](https://elca.org/subscribe).

Read about Mission Support and learn more at LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA.