



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS

Volume 26 Issue 5
October-November
2025

Fostering Faith. Creating Community. Loving All.

Grace and peace to you,

Recently, Pastor Trey and I gathered with colleagues for the South Dakota Synod's Fall Theological Conference. Our theme was "Cornucopia! Preaching Christ in These Times." A fitting theme for fall, especially as we met just down the street from the world-renowned Corn Palace. As we found seats in the Sanctuary of First Lutheran in Mitchell, the worship band played the song "God of the Harvest" by Dakota Road. The smooth sound of the piano and guitars cast a peaceful welcome. The words of the song reminded me of the special ways we can notice God's goodness in this harvest time of year.

We sang, "You are God of the seed, God of the soil, God of the hope, God of the toil. You are God of the rain, God of the sun, God of the harvest with blessings for everyone." Memory brought me scenes of summer having just begun, and it feels like those first warm rains of May and June were only days ago, not months. Through the heat and plentiful rain this summer, the seeds that loving hands and miraculous heavy equipment had sewn have grown. The fruit of creation is now ready for harvest.

The song continued, "From the fields and the gardens come your blessed gifts of life. Colors blossom, vines are dancing, roots uplifted with our thanks." What a mystery that seeds planted become each their plant with its fruit in due season. Recall pulling up earth-covered carrots from the ground as a child, dusting them on your pants, and eating them fresh, dirt and all. Nothing is better. Creation is a wonder to behold as the seasons change and growth brings abundance. So wondrous too are the seeds of faith planted in us by the generations before us.

"From the womb of all creation springs the fruit, the living light. Grace abundant, mercy flowing nourishing and bringing life." Now, these lyrics at the song's culmination are speaking about something even deeper than root vegetables growing in the hidden darkness of the earth. Christ is the firstfruit of the resurrection, the earliest and best of a great harvest of salvation and life through God's grace. We see him rise to new life, and we know that more is to come for us!

As we await the harvest of God's grace, known to us in the firstfruit Christ, we are called by the end of this song to love our neighbor, to speak for those without a voice, and to work for peace and justice. We are asked to share God's abundance widely, knowing there is always more to come. "Where there is hunger, where there is need, may we share your bounty, may we always see...You are God of the seed, God of the soil, God of the hope, God of the toil. You are God of the rain, God of the sun, God of the harvest with blessings for everyone."

May you be blessed by the God of the Harvest this season,
Pastor Jess



Fall brings crisp air, warm sweaters and colorful falling leaves. The cooler days and cozy nights are a chance to slow down and reset. May fall bring you peace and joy as we stroll into the holiday season.

The season changes and gives us proof that change is beautiful. Fall creates a new beginning and mindset. The season to thrive in thankfulness and being thankful. I am thankful for being a part of FLC and Mission Coffeehouse working with so many wonderful volunteers.

We will start to get busier with Craft Shows and holiday gatherings. The Craft Shows during the season are held on Saturdays and we are open for lunch and a latte! FLC activities are already up and running with our Wednesday night Journey classes. A free will donation meal is served from 5-6 and welcome to everyone.

Coffeehouse hours are back to the fall schedule with being open again on Fridays from 8-2. Friday is typically a slower day for us so bring your friends for a delicious lunch and socialize in the wonderful quaint atmosphere that Mission Coffeehouse offers. We offer a variety of lunch items, including warm sandwiches, flatbread pizzas, salads and homemade soups.

As always and a must, I thank all the volunteers that support and dedicate their time keeping the Mission Coffeehouse a wonderful ministry at FLC. I am also so thankful for my Wednesday Journey meal volunteers who love to help and support the meal with serving and cleaning up. THANK YOU!

Fall here we come. Thank you FLC for your continued support.
I look forward to the new season.
Sincerely, LaDeane Harrison

Mission Coffeehouse Mission of the Month



LaDeane presented Heidi Briseno of the Brookings Multicultural Center a check for \$1,243.65 for July Mission of the Month

Deb Bortnem presented a check to Arleen Weerheim from Days for Girls in the amount of \$1,453.88 for August Mission of the Month.





The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church for August and September 2025

Baptisms: Rhonin Erdmann, son of Reid and Myranda Erdmann

Gifts given in memory of: Larry Vander Wal, Kent Kiepke,
Timothy Barg, Ken Ahartz, Kermit Bortnem, Barbara Telkamp,
Lillian Osvog and Dennis Ishol

2026 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Coming soon...Get ready for the kickoff of our Annual Stewardship Appeal on Sunday, October 12th! We'll hear an exciting invitation to grow in giving this year. In the weeks following, we'll hear from congregation members about the impact of First Lutheran's ministry in their lives and the ways we're growing in faith together. All of this will prepare us for Commitment Sunday on November 9th when we'll share our commitment to give from what God first gave us and celebrate those promises in worship.



Join us for

HARVESTFEST

Wednesday, October 8

5:00 -7:00pm

Supper
served
from 5-6pm

Spoon Races

Pumpkin
Bowling

Ring
Toss

Football

Golfing

Giant Yard
Connect 4

AND
MORE!



Affirmation of Baptism and Faith Forum

Affirmation of Baptism will take place on
Sunday, October 26th during the
10:30am worship service.

Please join us at 9:30 in the
Activity Center for the Faith Forum when
the students will showcase the faith
projects they have put together in
preparation for affirming their faith.



Following the 10:30 service,
there will be a reception in
the Mission Coffeehouse
with cake and coffee to
celebrate.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Take a moment to think about what **UnRest** means to you. There are different ways to feel **UnRest**: physical, emotional, financial, spiritual, and community. Just to name a few. During our North Carolina trip our theme was **UnRest**. As a group we got to make connections with our counselors who opened up about their life experiences with housing insecurity. We split up into groups with the other churches that were there that week and we did some service-learning opportunities. Each group focused on the different ways we can serve. Did you know that there were different ways to serve? Of course, there is physical where a couple of groups worked in different gardens throughout Winston-Salem. There were a handful of groups that focused on the relationship side of serving. We all had different jobs, but we all felt **UnRest**.

With all things CYF started up, I have this feeling of **UnRest**.

There is so much to do, but also to look forward to!



In Journey, our theme for the year is "All Creation". We have started to dive into the Gospel reading using conversations, crafts, and games.

In Confirmation, we have talked about our Baptismal promises that were made and what is Holy Communion. In October and November we will be focusing on the Manna story in Exodus and the story of Jesus feeding the 5000.

In Youth Group, we have talked about our summer trip to Camp Amnicon in Wisconsin for an outdoor adventure in July 2026. We have also been talking about ways in which we can support our community here and beyond.

- October 1st: 1st Grade Steppingstone Class- Learning to Share
- October 5th: 1st Grade Steppingstone Blessing
- October 8th: 5-7pm Harvest Fest
- October 15th: 9th Grade Night - Intellectual Wellbeing
- October 26th: Faith Forum & Affirmation of Baptism at the 10:30am service
- November 5th: 3rd Grade Steppingstone Class- Holy Communion #1
- November 12th: 3rd Grade Steppingstone Class- Holy Communion #2
- November 14th-16th: Confirmation and Youth Group Retreat at NeSoDak
- November 16th: 3rd Grade Steppingstone Blessing
- November 19th: 9th Grade Night- Interpersonal Wellbeing
- November 23rd: Advent Fest
- November 28th: No Wednesday Activities

RALLY SUNDAY CARNIVAL



Kyle Gaynes puts tinsel in Rick Jensen's hair(?).



Some youth take a chance at the ring toss game.



Our wonderful volunteers helped serve up delicious walking tacos.

ministry partner awareness

PROJECT BY INTERN PASTOR HANNAH FLEMMING

Dear Siblings,

As we embrace the beauty of Fall and enjoy God's amazing creation, I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity to learn from and serve with Pastors Jess, Trey, and the wonderful children of God at First Lutheran Church. Fall season is a reminder that the end of my internship journey is not too far away. This also means a climax of my internship project (**SD Synod ELCA, Ministry Partners Awareness**) is just around the corner. We have 2-3 more ministry partners visits coming up and it is my fervent prayer that your unwavering support will continue because when Christ in First Lutheran Church shows up, wonders happen.

With Christ's guidance, FLC boldly worshipped with St. Dymas, a congregation behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls. Our good God also touched your hearts to donate, serve, and visit with our sisters and brothers at Laundry with Love, a ministry of Church in the Streets. May our God of grace keep blessing you as we do church together. I invite you to two upcoming wonderful learning opportunities:

Your Will, Your Legacy forum with Kathy McHenry on Sunday, October 19, 2025. See more info from Kathy below.

Together, We Create a Legacy: Did you know that writing a check might be the most expensive way for you to make a gift? Or how to avoid leaving a large inheritance to the government? Would you like to learn simple, no-cost ways to create or update your will, revocable trust, or powers of attorney?



Lutheran Planned Generosity
of South Dakota

On Sunday, October 19, we welcome **Kathy McHenry**, Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota, to worship with us and to lead an **educational workshop at 11:45 AM (lunch provided)**. Kathy will share practical ideas about how new tax laws can affect your generosity, and how your life's work can make a lasting difference for your loved ones, First Lutheran Church, and your other favorite ministries.

This workshop is a **gift from the South Dakota Synod, the ELCA Foundation, and all LPGSD's ministry partners**. Kathy does not sell financial products or accept commissions, nor does she charge fees; she simply offers tools and encouragement to help you create a legacy of faith and generosity.

Visit www.lpgsd for more information. To schedule a private visit, you may call or text Kathy at 605-868-8754 or email kmchenry@sdsynod.org.

Please RSVP for lunch by signing up in the church office, calling the church office @ 605-692-6251 or email hannah@firstlutheranbrookings.org



The Ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA forum with
Pastor Renee Splichal Larson on Sunday, November 16, 2025.
See more info below.

Have you ever wondered what the South Dakota Synod is, what the synod does, or why do we even need a synod? The synod does a lot of work to keep the many ELCA churches in South Dakota running. For example, the synod guides congregations through the process of calling a Pastor or Deacon. We are offering you the opportunity to learn more about our SD Synod, ELCA. Join us on November 16 between worship services for an educational forum on the South Dakota Synod. Pastor Renee Splichal-Larson, the Associate to the Bishop-Candidacy, Congregation, and Rostered Minister Accompaniment, will preach at both services and facilitate a discussion at 9:35am on the work of our South Dakota Synod, ELCA. As always, all are welcome.



Contact Intern Hannah with questions about the two upcoming events.

Blessings, Intern Hannah

A THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you for your generous donations toward the Laundry with Love dinner! Thanks to our ten volunteers for helping to make and serve a hearty meal to many of our sisters and brothers in Christ! It was an eye-opening and rewarding experience that our team of volunteers have decided to participate in annually. We will keep you posted on our next serving dates.

Enjoy the event in pictures.

Pastor Trey says it's all good



Diane Spencer serves the patrons



Pastor Trey helps hand out new socks



Dorlane Paso & Pastor Hannah prepare the food that was served



Karla Gnirk assists a patron with their laundry



Deb Pederson hands out quarters



MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

"We become what we sing. By singing together of God's beautiful creation, we shape our lives as caring creatures among other beloved creatures." Susan Palo Cherwien

Sanctuary Choir and Handbell Choirs have begun! It was so good to see everyone and use our voices and hands in praise of God's creation. New members are always welcome.

The remaining weeks of September and two weeks in October are devoted to the theme of God's creation. You will notice a new liturgy and hymns around this theme. Then, stewardship of God's creation becomes the focus, as well as thanksgiving.

Sanctuary Choir and Handbells welcome back our scholarship student, Lewis Jenkins and a few new choir members.

The choir will sing three Sundays out of four in Sept., Oct., and November. Handbells will ring in worship Sept. 28th, Oct. 26th (Reformation and Confirmation Sunday) and November 16th.

Pat Anderson Music Coordinator for 8:30 service



Sally the Seagull flew in for a special visit during VBS week in July



PRESCHOOL NEWS

School has gotten off to a great start! The children have settled into their new routines, and they are enjoying all the new activities the teachers have planned for them.

The next couple of months will be fun and busy as always! Some of the classes will be going on a fall scavenger hunt at Dakota Nature Park, some will go to the Fire station. On letter "G" week some of the classes will be trying "Green Eggs and Ham" and learning about Dr. Seuss. Some of the children will have crazy Hair or wear Hats on letter "H" week. On Fridays our Jr Kindergarten class is really having fun making their own snacks during "Kids in the Kitchen". The snacks always start with the "Letter of the Week" the children are learning about. We will have our annual "Fall Festival" the end of October. And in November the Pilgrims and Native Americans will come together for a peaceful feast to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Our Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the week of Monday, October 27 through Thursday, October 30. These conferences give the parents the opportunity to find out about and discuss their child's educational growth in the classroom.

Have a FANTASTIC FALL!

SueAnn

POOL PARTY

FLC night at Hillcrest Aquatic Center

Photos courtesy of Cody Reynolds Photography



To kick off VBS week, FLC took over the Hillcrest Aquatic Center after hours on Sunday night, July 27th. As you can see in the photos, kids and adults alike enjoyed the water slide and high dives. Though we had to cut our time a little short due to threatening weather, a great time was had by all ages. We look forward to hopefully making this an annual event.

VBS '25 "At The Table"



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</p>			<p>1</p> <p>5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey , 1st Grade Ss Class 6:15pm Lutheranism, Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Group; Confirmation; Choir</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>1st Grade SS Blessing At Both Services 8:30am Traditional Worship W/HC 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship W/ HC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00 – 7:00pm Harvestfest 5:45pm Bells 6:15pm Lutheranism, Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Group; Confirmation No Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council</p>	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey Together 10:30am- Contemporary Worship</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Native American Day – Church Offices and Mission Coffeehouse Closed 5:30pm Sew What</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Quilters 9:30am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 6:15pm Lutheranism, Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Group; 9th Grade Night, Confirmation; Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am WELCA Bible Study</p>	17	18
<p>19</p> <p>8:30am Traditional Worship W/ HC 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship W/ HC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 6:15pm Lutheranism, Bible Study 7:00pm Youth Group; Confirmation; Choir</p>	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>No Journey 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Faith Forum 10:30am- Contemporary Worship W/Aff. Of Baptism 11:30am Aff. Of Baptism Reception</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Book Club 5:30pm Sew What; CYF Team Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey 7:00pm Youth Group; Confirmation; Choir</p>	30	31	

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</p>						1
2 Daylight Savings Time Ends 8:30am Traditional Worship W/HC 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship W/HC	3 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	4 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	5 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; 3 rd Grade SS Class 7:00pm Youth Group; Choir; Confirmation	6 Dec/Jan Newsletter Deadline	7	8
9 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship	10 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	11 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	12 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; 3 rd Grade SS Class 7:00pm Youth Group; Choir; Confirmation	13 6:30pm Church Council	14 Ne-So-Dak Youth Retreat	15 Ne-So-Dak Youth Retreat
16 3 rd Grade SS Blessing At Both Services 8:30am Traditional Worship W/ HC 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship W/ HC	17 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	18 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	19 5:00pm Meal 5:45pm Bells 6:00pm Journey; 7:00pm Youth Group; 9 th Grade Night, Choir; Confirmation	20 10:00 WELCA Bible Study	21	22
23 Advent Fest 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship	24 9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00 Book Club 5:30pm Sew What; CYF Team meeting	25 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	26 No Wednesday Night Programming	27 CHURCH OFFICES AND MISSION COFFEEHOUSE CLOSED	28 CHURCH OFFICES AND MISSION COFFEEHOUSE CLOSED	29
30 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary Worship						

NOVEMBER



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please have it to
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no later than
5:00pm on
November 6th

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



X

X

X