



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS

Volume 26 Issue 4  
August - September  
2025

Fostering Faith. Creating Community. Loving All.

Fellow Followers of Jesus,

In the summer I'm reminded that I have the best job in the world because I get to go to Bible Camp as a part of my work. It's refreshing to be in God's creation for hours on end. It's inspiring to circle around a campfire and hear children and young adults praise God at the top of their lungs. It's rewarding to hear confessions of faith spoken by those who've been immersed in God's Word. It's energizing to bask in the proclamations at pick up time, "I'll be back next summer!"

This week of concentrated community let loose in creation, soaking in the Word, refuels me for a year of ministry in our congregation. The best part is that I'm not the only one refueled, as camp multiplies those who are ready to bring this energy to the life we share together through First Lutheran.

The 2025 theme for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries has been: God's Word Comes Near. And it sure does! Not only at camp. Daily, God's word encounters us, interrupts us, guides us, redirects us. As folks put together the Bible study for camps across the ELCA this summer, they thought of ways God's Word comes near, highlighting these:

**God's Word Comes Near in Trusting**  
**God's Word Comes Near in Listening**  
**God's Word Comes Near in Following**

**God's Word Comes Near in Blessing**  
**God's Word Comes Near in Serving**

On Friday, as counselors and staff prepared to send the crew of reenergized 4th through 12th grade disciples into communities like Howard, Sisseton, and Brookings, they focused on the way God's Word comes near in following. In the closing campfire the counselor sharing the message said we often talk about faithful leadership. Camp makes leaders. God has created you to lead others in the way of Jesus, a way of love, light, and life. But, he said, we sometimes forget God also needs us to be followers. If we are to lead anyone, we must first follow. Follow...of course, ultimately: Jesus.

It matters who we follow. In the realm of social media "following" takes on a new meaning. When you follow a content creator, you'll see their face, hear their words. They'll pop up in your newsfeed, and you'll tune in and begin to adopt the message they're sending you. We call those we follow in this way "influencers." What a powerful role to give someone. Whether you're on social media or not, there are voices you tune into. There are people you look to for advice, as an example, to find a way and even, sometimes, a sense of identity.

The Word of God comes near in our following. When we're following Jesus, God's Word guides our actions and fosters our identity. As we follow Jesus, God's Word is in our metaphorical newsfeed, and it leads us to love others with open minds and open hearts, to share what we have without fear, to stand up for justice, and to serve in ways that are Good News for those who need it. When we're following someone or something else—an influencer, a political party line, a salesperson with a silver bullet—well, then God's Word comes near to return us to the only one worthy of our followership.

You are called to follow Jesus and invited to notice the way God's Word Comes Near. May we do this with all of the energy and enthusiasm as a camper returning from the best week ever.

Following Jesus with you, Pastor Jess







I hope to find everyone enjoying the summer months! The coffeehouse has stayed busy, and we continue to see our wonderful regulars as well as new faces. Thanks to all our customers for enjoying their time with us at MCH!

A year ago, a young gal, Angelica, (photo on right page) from Columbia started volunteering with the Mission Coffeehouse and is still doing so to this day! Her daughter attends the First Lutheran preschool, and her husband is employed at SDSU. She took the opportunity to volunteer and learn more of the English language. It has been very rewarding for me and our regular volunteers to be able to work along with her and see her expand her English knowledge. She will soon reach her English Duolingo score and be able to study for her engineering master's degree.

Another volunteer has come our way! I am pleased to introduce Jeryl Israel (photo on right page). Jeryl and his wife Susan come from India and recently started attending First Lutheran Church. Susan is employed at SDSU and Jeryl is waiting for his employment criteria to be completed. I am sure many of you have made their acquaintances. Jeryl was introduced to me by Lyle Anderson inquiring about volunteering to meet people and learn more of the American culture. Welcome, Jeryl, to our Mission Coffeehouse team of volunteers! We are happy you are here!

As always, our amazing caramel rolls are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. Kool Beans coffee is served daily with a free will donation that goes toward our Mission of The Month. The generosity of the community is what makes the Mission of The Month continue allowing us to contribute to other non-profit organizations.

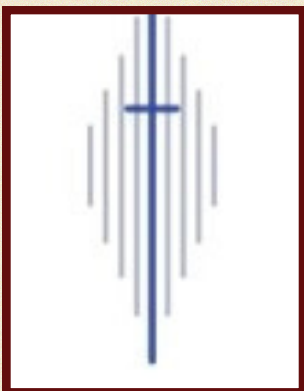
The Mission Coffeehouse is a unique ministry of the First Lutheran Church and is enjoyed by so many. Joan Hogan, a member of the Brookings Women's Club and a customer at the coffeehouse, reached out to me asking me to speak to the group about our Mission Coffeehouse. I gladly accepted and was pleased to share the Mission Coffeehouse history and where we stand today (photo on right page). In preparation for my presentation, it made me realize even more how grateful I am to be employed and be a part of the coffeehouse as well as FLC.

The volunteers dedicate their time and continue to make the coffeehouse what it is today. Without ALL OF YOU it would not be possible. Thank you, volunteers and First Lutheran Church, for the support needed to continue to enjoy our coffeehouse. An amazing place with a welcoming atmosphere and friendly faces. Making a difference one cup of coffee at a time!

As we are near the end of the summer months, we will end our summer schedule also. Starting September 2nd, we will be open on Fridays once again. Let us all enjoy the rest of the summer warmth as we stroll into fall and enjoy the next season of change.

LaDeane Harrison

## Mission Coffeehouse Mission of the Month



The May Tip Jar raised \$1,509.64  
for the St. Dismas of South  
Dakota Prison Ministry.

A check in the amount of  
\$1,294.97 was given to Samantha  
Turnquist with Friends of the  
Brookings Public Library from our  
tip jar donations in June.







## The Membership Records of First Lutheran Church for June and July 2025

Baptisms: Xavier Kirk, son of John and Shawna Kirk

New Members: Samuel and Alissa Amundson

Deaths: Kermit Bortnem, Mavis Krogman,  
Barbara Telkamp and Kent Kiepeke

Gifts given in memory of: Leona Krogman, Ken Ahartz, Russ Larson,  
Lillian Osvog, Barbara Telkamp and Kermit Bortnem



L: LaDeane with new  
volunteer Jeryl Israel.

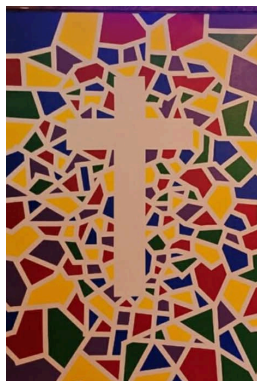
R: LaDeane with  
volunteer Angelica.



LaDeane  
speaking to the  
Brookings  
Women's Club  
about the  
Mission  
Coffeehouse  
and what it  
offers and  
supports







## MINISTRY PARTNER VISIT: UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CENTER

Special guest Pastor Cassandra Lamb will preach and share about our Ministry Partner: University Lutheran Center on August 17<sup>th</sup>! Join her for a forum after worship (10:10am) in the MCH Meeting Room to learn more about the ministry we share. Knowing more about our ELCA Ministry Partners expands our view of the Body of Christ and how we can be church together. Coffee and treats will be provided.

## SHEPHERD'S TABLE

### Ministry Partner Visit: Shepherd's Table

Special guest Pastor Sawyer Vanden Heuvel will be with us on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> to preach and share about our Ministry Partner: Shepherd's Table. Join him for a forum at 9:35am between worship services in the MCH Meeting Room to learn more about the ministry we share. Getting to know our ELCA Ministry Partners expands our view of the Body of Christ and how we can be church together. Coffee and treats will be provided.



### Laundry with Love

3-7pm, Tuesday, August 26th, 2025  
701 Cliff Ave, Sioux Falls South Dakota

First Lutheran and Lake Whitewood Lutheran Churches are serving at Laundry with Love, a ministry of the SD ELCA Synod. You are invited to help to serve (welcome guests, prepare a meal, serve the meal, and distribute donations) on that day. Scan the qr code above for more information



## LUTHERAN PLANNED GENEROSITY OF SD

### SAVE THE DATE!!

Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota comes to FLC on October 19! Kathy McHenry, the Executive Director, will preach at both services and do a forum on making planned gifts. Look for more information in the bulletin as we get closer to 10/19!



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Just reminiscing on the month of July, with the NC trip and VBS and wow it was amazing! During the trip and VBS we really dove into how to serve our neighbors, even when you least expect it. I want you to think about a time where you saw God in a place where you didn't expect. How did that make you feel? How can you help our neighbors?

In July, I had the opportunity to help out at Shetek Lutheran Ministries in their Sharing Our Services Camp which is a camp for adults with disabilities. Every year that I help out with that camp I get surprised. I had a lot of amazing conversations and experiences with the campers and how thankful they were in anything I was able to help out with, from assisting in the bathroom to the activities. If you ever have the opportunity to help someone out in any way, take it!

Looking into August and September, all the things will be starting back up. This year we are going to do Journey, Confirmation, and Youth Group starting in August and then go into May!

In Journey we are going to be following the Lectionary (which is the Gospel readings from worship) with a rotation of story, game, and craft! Also, we are going to add "Journey Together" which is an opportunity to meet as a large group to do some fun games, crafts, activities and songs!

When we start Confirmation, we will dive deep into Baptism and Holy Communion. I'm so excited to dig into what these mean!

For Youth Group, we have a lot of fun things planned for the year! We are going to take some time to go into Bible Studies throughout the year while having fun!

If you haven't registered for education yet, find the ad in this newsletter and scan the QR code to complete a registration form.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!! ROSE

Pictures of FLC members at camp



3 sneak peek photos from the North Carolina Trip







Rose and one of her campers from Sharing Our Services Week at Shetek Lutheran Ministries



USA

BROOKING'S  
4<sup>TH</sup> OF  
JULY  
PARADE  
FUN



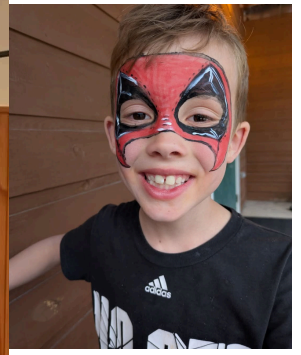
Independence  
Day




# Important Dates in August and September

- Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>: Journey, confirmation and youth group volunteer training
- Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>: Welcome to Worship Steppingstone (3 years old); Back to School blessing
- Sunday August 24<sup>th</sup>: Welcome to Journey Steppingstone (4 years old) and Rally Sunday
- Wednesday August 27<sup>th</sup>: First Wednesday Journey w/ Parent Meeting, First Confirmation w/ Parent Meeting, and First Youth Group
- Sunday August 31<sup>st</sup>: Journey Together
- Wednesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Meeting w/ Parents
- Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>: Learning to Pray Steppingstone (Kindergarten)
- Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup>: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Night w/ Parents
- Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>: Learning to Pray Blessing (Kindergarten - both services)

God  
Bless  
You







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

We are looking forward to seeing all the returning students and families and meeting all the new ones at our Fall Open House. This is a special night for currently enrolled students to come in, meet the staff and familiarize themselves with the classroom. The families will sign up for a 15-minute time slot on Wednesday evening, August 20.


We still have some preschool openings for the upcoming school year. Please contact the preschool office for more information. 605-697-2756 or [sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org](mailto:sueann@firstlutheranbrookings.org).

The first day of preschool classes is Tuesday, September 2.

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

---

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS



Lutheran World Relief is a ministry serving communities living in poverty around the world. We are again collecting and packing personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief to be distributed around the world. We ask for your help in collecting the required items. Please find the collection box in the Narthex. You can help now by donating a personal care kit or a donation of money to help cover shipping costs. Please make checks out to First Lutheran Church (please write "care kits" on memo line.) All items should be new. Please wrap all the items in the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn OR you can donate individual items and we will assemble the kits.  
THANK YOU!

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH KIT

**ONE** dark color, light-weight bath size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27")

**TWO** or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

**ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging (multipacks may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-sized envelope; no plastic bags or wrap)

**ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging

**ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Collection boxes can be found at the Welcome Desk in the Mission Coffeehouse or in the Church Narthex.



Dear friends in Christ, thank you for your donations to help our students in Belize. Your generosity has provided scholarships for students enabling them to accomplish their dreams of finishing high school. In 2025 all 12 of our 4th Form scholarship students graduated with their classmates! We have received donations to help students again for the 2025 -2026 school year. We will help 32 students with tuition, supplies, and/or school lunch at Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School in Belize. We are grateful and blessed for the support from FLC members, friends, and families.

Thanks be to God for your gifts and your care,  
Dee Shanley, the Belize Mission Team, and our students in Belize.

# Thank You!

Hello my name is Oscar I am 19 years old. I work at school every weekend. I am glad that I got the scholarship it helped my family because we did not have the money for me to continue school. Thank you for this scholarship because of that I am finishing my studies. I am soon done this is my last year and I'll finish studying. But I want to continue my studies. And I am getting close to achieve my dreams.



Hi My Name is Karimi I am 18 years old. I am a 4th form class. I just want to say thank you for helping me for so long, and I really appreciate all that you have done for me, and I will never forget all that you have done for me. I am were I am thanks to you and that is something I will never forget.  
Karimi-Ramirez.



Mr. Bay, the principal of the school in Belize, visited First Lutheran in July for the Belize donor luncheon (middle top photo). He also spent some time with the quilters, who gifted him with a quilt (above).



Above, a couple of the quilters show Mr. Bay how to tie a quilt. During the quilters' snack break, Mr. Bay has a discussion with Faye Dahl (middle bottom photo)



# Creation Care

## Faith That Sees the Earth Anew

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran,

This fall, as the natural world begins to turn in color and pace, we're spending a few weeks in worship and in life-together as a Season of Creation. From mid-September through early October, we're intentionally focusing on God's good creation in the natural world and our call to care for it.

This Season of Creation invites us to open our eyes to God's glory, not just as it is in heaven, but also on earth: in soil, sky, sea, and creatures of every kind. The scriptures we hear this season in worship tell of God's joy in finding what is lost, God's challenge to unjust systems, and God's entrusting us with a "good treasure". And as always, the Good News of Jesus, the forgiveness of sin, frees us to see the world (and all that is within it) with clearer vision and leads us to live differently in it.

Our seasonal focus is supported by a Creation Care Team that has been newly gathering. This team is discerning and discussing opportunities for engaging creation care in the ongoing ministries of our congregation, in new ministries that might lift up God's vision for a just and flourishing world, and even in the ministry you are personally involved in at home, work, school, and society. Consider joining in the work of this team and opening your heart, mind, and spirit to the ways God might be calling you and our congregation to care for God's world.

A small faith, even a mustard seed's worth, can reshape our relationship with the earth and with one another, that we might, by God's grace, see all things made new.

The peace of Christ be with you always, Pastor Trey

### GROUP WORSHIPS AT ST. DYSMAS



On July 10<sup>th</sup>, this group from FLC traveled to Sioux Falls and worshipped at St. Dismas at the state penitentiary. Those who made the trip include pictured: Susan Zacher - St. Dismas Secretary, Pat Anderson, Deb Pederson, Jim Pederson, Kay Dahl, Pastor Jeff Backer - St Dismas, Karla Gnirk, Stuie Lewis, Lyle Anderson, Tiff Lewis, Emily Johnson and Pastor Trey.



PLEASE NOTE:  
WE WILL RETURN  
TO TWO  
SERVICES  
STARTING  
SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>.

TRADITIONAL @  
8:30 AND  
CONTEMPORARY  
@ 10:30.



**ARE YOUR KIDS SIGNED UP FOR 2025 - 2026 EDUCATION YET??  
IF NOT, PLEASE DO SO NOW.**



**Welcome to the  
One Stop  
Registration Spot!**



*Scan the QR Code above NOW to Register  
for all your 2025-2026 CYF Needs!!!*

If you have questions please see Rose or Emily.



Purses for a Powerful Purpose is again taking donations of used and in good condition purses, jewelry and Christmas decorations. Donations can be brought to the Welcome Center desk Monday – Thursday from 8am-2pm or on Sunday mornings. If you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please contact Mary Moeller at 605-690-8862 or Jean Gentry at 605-695-0389.



**JOIN US AT THE  
FLC JOURNEY FAIR  
ON RALLY SUNDAY**

**Sunday August 24  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
Activity Center**

**WALKING  
TACOS**

**SNO CONES**

**PRIZES**

**FACE  
PAINTING**

**GAMES**





FIRST  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
BROOKINGS

PO BOX 300  
BROOKINGS, SD 57006

FIRSTLUTHERANBROOKINGS.ORG  
605-692-6251

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Brookings, SD  
Permit No. 87

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

X

If you have an  
article or  
information  
for the Oct/Nov  
newsletter,  
please have it to  
the church office  
no later than  
5:00pm on  
Sept. 11th

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
between services in the Activity Center. Please plan to attend.

# SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

X

X

X



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship w/HC	4 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	5 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	6 6:00pm,Church Council	7	8	9
10 9:00am Worship led by youth from NC trip 10:00am Journey leader, confirmation mentor, youth group leader training	11 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	12 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	13	14 *5PM - ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE*	15	16
17 9:00am Worship w/HC, 3YO SS - welcome to worship, back to school blessing 10:00am Mission Moment - ULC	18 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	19 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm CYF team meeting	20	21 10:00am WELCA bible study	22	23
24 9:00am Worship 4YO SS - Welcome to Journey 10:00am Budget Forum 10 - 12 RALLY SUNDAY	25 9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Book Club 5:30pm Sew What	26 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 3:00pm Loads of Love in Sioux Falls	27 5:00pm Meal 6:00pm Journey starts (with parents) 7:00pm Confirmation starts (with parents) Youth group starts	28	29	30
31 9:00am Worship 10:00am Journey starts	<div>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled.  (Calendar subject to change.) HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</div>					

# AUGUST



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> <b>LABOR DAY - CHURCH OFFICES AND MISSION COFFEEHOUSE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 8:30am Quilters 9:30am Staff meeting 2:00pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Meal 6:00pm Journey group; 10 <sup>th</sup> grade meeting with parents, Confirmation	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>MISSION COFFEEHOUSE OPEN ON FRIDAYS AGAIN</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30am - Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40 Journey Mission Forum - Shepherd's Table 10:30am- Contemporary worship w/HC 11:30am Kindergarten SS - learning to pray class	<b>8</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	<b>9</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	<b>10</b> 5:00pm Meal 6:00pm Journey group; 9 <sup>th</sup> grade meeting with parents, Confirmation	<b>11</b> *5PM Oct/Nov newsletter deadline *Blood drive	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Kindergarten SS at both services 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary worship	<b>15</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	<b>16</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30pm CYF team meeting	<b>17</b> 5:00pm Meal 6:00pm Journey group; 2026 summer trip interest meeting, Confirmation	<b>18</b> 10:00am WELCA bible study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship w/HC 9:40 Journey 10:30am- Contemporary worship w/HC	<b>22</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Book Club 5:30pm Sew What	<b>23</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5:00pm Meal 6:00pm Journey group; Confirmation	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:40 Journey, Annual Meeting 10:30am- Contemporary worship	<b>29</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Sew What	<b>30</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study	<div> <p><b>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</b></p> <p><b>HC = Holy Communion</b> <b>SS = SteppingStone</b></p> </div>			

# SEPTEMBER