



FIRST THINGS

First Lutheran Church of Brookings, SD
...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.
Volume 24 Issue 5 October November 2023

Dear Church,

There's a phrase floating around that resonates with me. Maybe you'll find a bit of your own experience described by this phrase as well. That phrase is: "decision fatigue." An article at Psychology Today online reports that the average adult makes 35,000 at least semi-conscious decisions a day! Another study, held by the app Noom, revealed that adults make an average of 122 informed choices each day.

No wonder we become tired of making decisions. From small, perhaps inconsequential choices like what to wear or whether to scratch an itch, to choosing very important things like yes or no to a new job opportunity or medical treatment, we're deciding all the time. How do you make decisions? What factors do you consider? What voices do you value? How do you know if you've chosen correctly?

As we move step by step into God's promised future as a congregation in our strategic planning process this year, we will make decisions along the way. Thank goodness we do not make these decisions alone. We make them together. We do not make them without guidance and inspiration. We believe God is speaking to us through the Word in Scripture and in the Living Word, Jesus. We trust that we can tune our hearts to the Holy Spirit's movement in and around us. We have faith that where two or more of us are gathered in conversation, worship, or prayer, God is with us. So, we know that God is with us as we listen faithfully and as we prepare to make decisions.

A couple of years ago, I was amid deep discernment, listening for the Spirit's particular call for my life. I was wondering what I was supposed to do next, and the decisions felt big, huge. It didn't help that the world was in upheaval in the height of the Pandemic. I couldn't see the path ahead. The future felt hazy. My sister-in-law sent me a book, "The Next Right Thing: A Simple, Soulful Practice for Making Life Decisions." The author, Emily Freeman, presents a method for making big decisions. She says that we should practice familiar but often forgotten advice: simply do the next right thing. This simple approach, she suggest, will clear the decision-making chaos and quiet the fear of choosing wrong.

Taking this approach and adding one ingredient became my way forward. Here's that ingredient: whatever we may choose, we know the ending and it is good.

God has taken care of the future. God has overcome the biggest fear we face, death itself, and every little fear-inducing thing beneath that. God's relentless love and resurrection power secure for us and all creation a future that is full of freedom, peace, joy, and the life that is truly life. It's the world's biggest and best spoiler alert. And it frees us from fear that our decisions may make or break us. We are free in Christ to make our little choices because Jesus has decided that we are His.

So, as we embark on listening to how we might share what we have as a congregation, how we might speak and be good news for those around us, and how we might be called to live and move and have our being, we do so wrapped in a promise. We do so resting in the reality of God's love for us and for our neighbor. We listen, not in fear, but in freedom. We trust that, while we may not be able to see the whole path spread out before us, God will give us a glimpse we need to take the next right step.

Fear not, and be not fatigued, the Lord our God is with us,
Pastor Jess

LISTENING TO GOD: Our Fall Sermon and Scripture Series

“Who are we as a faith community? What unique things does God call our ministry to act upon? How can the Holy Spirit guide us in the coming years? These questions lay at the heart of this strategic planning process. Strategic Planning. Those words can feel so corporate, so far away from the life of a faith community. At the heart, strategic planning is a discernment process of listening. In the coming months we will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to God through Scripture
- Listen to God through the Congregation
- Listen to God through the Community

We will engage in a very intentional process of discernment. Trusting that the Holy Spirit speaks through every person, listening to many voices will play a central role. There will be opportunities for group conversation and dreaming... In every step of the process we will ask, “What do we hear God saying to us?” At several points in the process the Strategic Planning Team will gather us together and share what they have heard as a way of ensuring that they are on the right track. All this listening will lead to a final document, clarifying our identity and providing a clear path for the coming years.

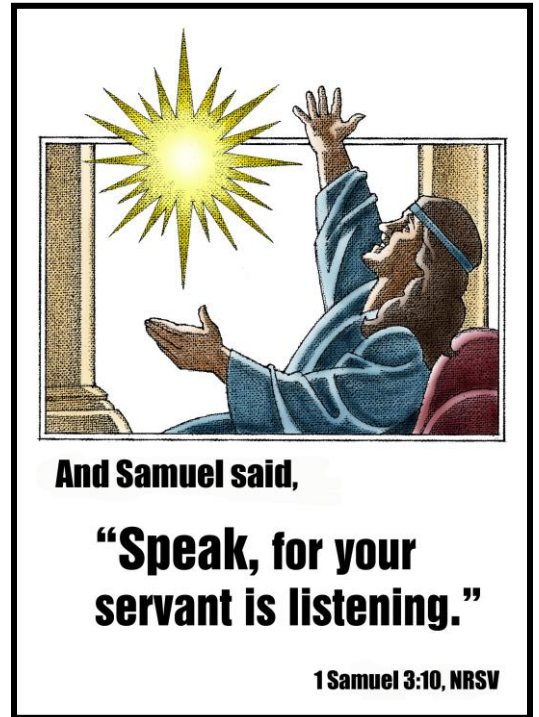
As we begin this journey together, one of the voices we will listen to is the voice of God in the Bible. Through weekly readings we will encounter many people of faith who heard God’s call. Some of these stories will resonate and make you say, “That sounds like our community of faith!” Other stories may feel foreign and distant. God speaks in many ways to many people. Experiencing a wide range of Biblical stories will aid our discernment process. We invite you join us on this journey.

Every week (in October and November) we will provide one story of a person or community who discerned God’s call for them. After reading the background to each passage, take some quiet time to read through the passage three times. After each reading, reflect on the following questions:

- How do the people in the story hear God’s call to them?
- How open are they to God’s call?
- What might this passage say to our community of faith?

We will provide opportunities for you to share your reflections on the ways these passages relate to our community of faith. Welcome to this journey of discernment. Together we will gain clarity about our ministry and boldly follow God into the future.”

(from Listening to God: A Congregational Devotional by Rev. Peter Reuss)



October 1	Abraham & Sarah - Genesis 12:1-9
October 8	Moses - Exodus 3:1-12
October 15	Samuel - 1 Samuel 3:1-21
October 22	Gideon - Judges 6:36-40
October 29	Elijah 1 Kings 19:1-18
November 5	Jonah – Jonah 1:1-17
November 12	Seven Chosen - Acts 6:1-7
November 19	Peter - Acts 11:1-18
November 26	Mary - Luke 1:26-38



CONNECTION CORNER



*"God called us into connection daily
as we sought love notes from God"*

Madison McCabe
Youth Director

The summer youth Trip in 2022 had a change of plans from being in urban Minneapolis to being in the Boundary Waters of rural northern Minnesota. An important part of our youth trip is connection: to God, to each other, to ourselves, to nature. In a way, this journey started off with disconnection: we turned off our phones and left them at camp so we could be completely present and open to the world around us. On our drive north we learned about the indigenous people who have and do still reside on the land we were going to be on. We wanted to know how our visit would drip into the connectedness of history in that sacred space. Our crew leaned into the new connections with the land and water as we traveled by canoe and portaged all our gear in sun and rain. The reflection on how the land protects and provides permeated our trip as well as the notion of how we should strive to be better ancestors and stewards of the land. God called us into connection daily as we sought love notes from God; something that felt special just for ourselves in the jaw dropping creation. From one to another we created friendship

bracelets and filled them with prayers for the person we gifted them to as a reminder for that moment in time we shared together, in a space where we felt the significance of each person's movement. To be in a space of openness to something greater than we are, is one of the reasons I am called to youth ministry: humans crave connection deeply, as youth seek and experience things like our summer youth trips or our confirmation retreat a connectedness to faith, peers and, the world around them is cultivated and that is hard to replicate elsewhere.



I've learned so much watching Mary Moeller's quiet, willing servant ways, always on target and making an outstanding difference wherever she serves. Mary has long been active in the Belize mission and is passionate about our quilting group. She is co-leader, with Pastor Trey, in the Tuesday afternoon Bible study and active in the children's ministry team, always serving with exceptional skill and insight.

An SDSU college student from out East, whose name is Summer, came to our church services and was quickly welcomed and adopted by Mary. They have a grandmother/granddaughter relationship for which Summer's parents are so grateful. That's going the extra rewarding mile for another.

God gives Mary intelligence and grace to lead with joy and Christian love. I so appreciate her fine example and treasure our friendship.

**"GOD GIVES MARY INTELLIGENCE AND GRACE TO
LEAD WITH JOY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE."**

--CONNIE QUIRK





Ellie Abraham

Midshipman 1st Class, US Naval Academy

My favorite thing about First Lutheran Church is connecting with community members of all ages and generations. Growing up surrounded by this community of faith provided me with excellent role models for the type of Christ-follower I want to be when I get to their age. No matter at what age, First Lutheran provides people with opportunities to stay involved in their faith community outside of Sunday services, and it is this involvement that has led me to remain part of a welcoming network of fellow Christians even after leaving for the Naval Academy. I started singing in the children's choir when I was 4 years old, played guitar for Confirmation worship in middle school, and sang in the adult choir in high school with my family and other singers from college-age to grandparents. My confirmation mentor, a National Guard soldier, was one of the people who inspired me to join the military, and I have met some wonderful FLC members in retirement age who are still eager to do community service work out in Brookings and in the church. It was here at First Lutheran where I discovered that worshipping through music is the best way for me to maintain and grow my relationship with God. Each Easter and Reformation Sunday, I had the privilege of blasting my trombone from the balcony in a resounding brass quintet with the Ropp family, and each Christmas Eve, I sang with the Ropps and my brother and parents at the late service, which was always my favorite part of that holiday. Each Wednesday in high school, I would come home from cross country practice and bike to choir practice with my parents after dinner, and I sang in the alto section next to my mom. Now that I am at the Naval Academy, I realize what a blessing I have been given in being able to come home for Christmas and sing on Christmas Eve with my family like always, and be greeted by the quilting ladies whom my mom has told all my sea stories to. Even after months away from Brookings, when I come back to First Lutheran, some congregation members have come and gone, but that multi-generational faith community and sense of home has never left.

We moved to Brookings in 1975. My two small boys and I joined First Lutheran Church - my first connection with FLC. I had many more FLC connections over the years. My third child was born in Brookings and then baptized at FLC. My three children were confirmed at FLC. Both my boys went through the scouting program with Troop 4 supported by FLC. My oldest son had his Eagle Scout Award Ceremony at FLC. My daughter was married at FLC, I feel connected to First Lutheran Church.



My most recent connection with First Lutheran happened after I retired - as I was looking for...something! One day at the church, I talked with a friend, Julie Bell. I asked her about the Mission CoffeeHouse and if they needed help. We walked to the CoffeeHouse and I met Deb Bortnem. Before I knew it, I was washing dishes! And I volunteered to "work" every Thursday. That was before covid happened, and it was a great decision and a great connection. I have renewed old acquaintances as friends from my past have come to the CoffeeHouse for lunch or for one of Jeanne's delicious caramel rolls. I have also made many new and fun friends as we work together in the CoffeeHouse kitchen. We have had so many fun times together, and I so enjoy those new friends and new connections. If you are looking for a new or a different connection, I suggest you look no further than being a volunteer at the CoffeeHouse. You won't be disappointed and you, too, can make some new connections.

I am thankful to First Lutheran Church for the connections I have made with God. And I am thankful for the connections I have made through God as he helps me along my journey. I am thankful to the many great connections I feel through First Lutheran Church.

---Diane Spencer

“Living among God’s faithful people” Pastor Trey Daum

Each month, I have the privilege of visiting local care facilities to share God’s Word with residents there. Some of them are members of First Lutheran, some are from area congregations, and others are guests who have joined for the day.

Together, we pray, hear God’s Word, join in song, and share the gifts of Holy Communion. I frequently let the group know that even though the whole First Lutheran Church community can’t fit in our small room, we are nevertheless there together in spirit as the body of Christ. It’s a joy to be part of it!

Each month someone will share with me how much they feel connected with FLC. And while they appreciate my visit, it’s not because I’m there that they feel connected. Instead, it’s often because you, First Lutheran, stay connected with them every week by delivering bulletins, sharing devotional books, and including them in the newsletter mailings. These are some of the lesser-known but vital ministries of our congregation. These ministries of connection warm the hearts and share the burdens of those who receive them. In the midst of many high-tech and faithful ways that we can connect with God and others, I regularly hear how delighted people are when they receive a paper copy of our “First Things” newsletter in the mail. Still others have a pocket-sized Christ In Our Home devotional book on the top of their stack of reading materials. The activities director at Edgewood shared that she even uses our devotional books to lead regular Bible studies there

Although they may not make great photo opportunities, these ministries help people connect with God, and they serve our commitment (as we say in baptismal services) to “live among God’s faithful people.”

I’m so proud to be part of this church that cares for those whom we may not see. Thanks for connecting our church with them, connecting them with God, and through these holy connections, blessing the world.



Memories! Service! Connections! By Julie Bell

Memories -- I remember my mother talking about going to quilting at my home church. Her quilting group worked closely together and were willing to help each other out if the need arose. I always wondered how that group developed and became such good friends. One Christmas, Bob and I received a quilt that had been made by her church quilting group. It is a special quilt and to this day, I can actually visualize and name many of the hands of these ladies as they were sewing our quilt together.

Service -- When I retired from working at SDSU, I decided that the FLC mission quilters was a group that I wanted to join just as my mom had done earlier in her church. At the time I joined, there weren’t many members in the quilting group and each member of the group had a specific task. But I remember an important focus of the group was in deciding where the mission quilts should be distributed when they were completed. Those minds and hands were always serving others in every way.

Connections - I did join that quilting group at FLC. That group has now grown to be much larger in number compared to my beginning experiences and has been a way to connect with several individuals that I had never worked with before. I have found this group to be a welcoming group of individuals and in addition to providing a service to the Brookings community and worldwide, they help each other out when the need presents itself. I believe that FLC Mission Quilters has provided many memories, has provided a service in distributing a warm quilt to thousands, and has provided a way for me to make connections to those in our church and the community in many, many ways.

"One of the things I appreciate most about First Lutheran Church is the variety of ways people can connect with the church and one another--whether or not they are members of the congregation. The Mission Coffeehouse is a great example of this. When I started attending First Lutheran, talking to people in the coffeehouse after services is how I made connections, and it's something I still enjoy doing (when my small children allow).

I also enjoy having lunch at the coffeehouse and often suggest it when meeting friends or coworkers. Usually the people who join me for lunch have never been to the church, so being there provides a natural way for me to mention my involvement and why I enjoy being a member. I recently had lunch with a friend who doesn't attend church, and being in the coffeehouse sparked a discussion about faith and raising children that I don't think we would have had anywhere else. It was a great moment of connection for our friendship.



First Lutheran Church has provided me with many new connections and new ways to deepen existing connections, and I look forward to seeing how these connections continue in the future for myself and my family."

written by
Hanna Holmquist



MISSION COFFEEHOUSE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

My name is LaDeane Harrison and am the new General Manager of the Mission Coffeehouse. I

have trained for almost a month with Jeanne Eclov and couldn't have asked for a better person and trainer to help me get started. Thank you so much Jeanne and wish you much happiness in your retirement.

Being a part of the Mission Coffeehouse for only a short time thus far, I cannot express how welcoming and helpful everyone has been. The atmosphere and warm sense of welcome is just incredible. I have worked with several of our volunteers and it is just amazing how everyone just comes together like family to make the coffeehouse as amazing as it is! I have already met many of our customers that come in frequently and look forward to meeting many more in the future.

The delicious caramel rolls that Jeanne has made over the years I will continue to make on Tuesdays and Thursdays. What a wonderful way to get together and enjoy coffee, a caramel roll and conversation.

As the season changes and we head into fall, I will be continuing to learn and grow within my position. I have learned of the many activities and events that fill up the fall season and look forward to seeing how everything ties together. I am excited for this new chapter in my life and couldn't be happier to be a part of the Mission Coffeehouse and First Lutheran Church team!

Sincerely,
LaDeane Harrison
T



New Mission
CoffeeHouse Manager,
LaDeane Harrison.
Be sure to stop by and
introduce yourself.



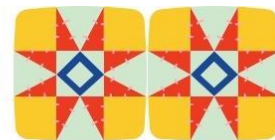
MISSION COFFEE HOUSE
TIP JAR DONATIONS
JULY 2023

BROOKINGS
BACKPACK
PROJECT
\$1,202.74

(R: JEANNE PRESENTING
CATHY CHING OUR
DONATION)



AUGUST 2023
GIRLS ON THE RUN
\$1,354.97



Quilters hit goal of 400 quilts this year



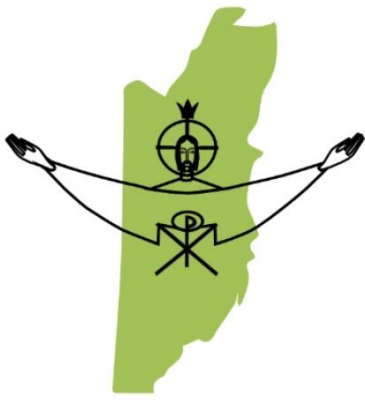
Faye Dahl challenged the quilters to produce 400 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and they reached that number by filling box #80 on September 5.

Faye then gifted each quilter with a tube of "advanced repair" hand lotion in recognition of the work!

Fall weather and activities are in the air! The First Lutheran Church (FLC) quilters are wrapping up a successful and active time of the year. On October 1st, 400 quilts from Brookings FLC will be loaded and shipped to Minneapolis as part of the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) world mission projects. The FLC quilters continue to create quilts from the fabric that has been donated by members of the congregation, area community groups, and/or purchased through Thrivent Action Project gift cards. In addition to the LWR project, quilts have also recently been donated to area agencies such as Sleep in Heavenly Peace and the Salvation Army, and lap robes have been gifted to care center residents or shut ins.

Remember to **put Saturday, October 28th on your calendar to attend the Up Town Girls Craft Sale in the FLC activity center.** The FLC quilters will be hosting a booth and selling quilts, lap/nap robes, pot holders, seasonal table runners, baby blankets, aprons, and more. Profits from these sales will be used to purchase fabric, help cover the shipping costs for the LWR mission quilts, and buy the special fabric used in quilts given to our high school graduating seniors this spring.

On behalf of the quilters, thank you to everyone for donating fabric, bed sheets, and blankets used for the quilts made this past year. We continue to need supplies and welcome all types of donations including memorials given throughout the year. We welcome additional individuals to help us rip, press, cut, create, sandwich, tie, and sew quilting projects! Thanks be to God!



belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize



On a rainy day Dee and an overflowing load of students gift a welcome ride in our Belize school van.

Dee Shanley FLC Missionary & Voluntary Sewing Teacher in Belize

Students, teachers, and Ms. Dee have arrived back for the 2023-2024 school year at our partner school, Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School in Belize. Our scholarship students send notes of appreciation, gratitude, and thanks for your support and generosity.

FLC members, family and friends currently sponsor 32 high school students, 5 night-school students and 4 higher education students.

Thanks be to God for these gifts from you that make such a difference in students' lives!

Dear Ms. Dee,
Greetings, love and Blessings sent to you and your family. My name is Caylee Manzanero. I am 14 years old, I am 3rd form, one fun fact about me is I like reading books. I'd like to thank you so much for this scholarship that you have given me. Thank you so much for allowing me to achieve my dreams. My promise to you is that I will work hard to prove myself worthy of this opportunity you have given me. I am looking forward to the day I can help other students just as you have helped me.

May God bless you and your family.

With sincere thanks,
Caylee Manzanero.

Belize students send sincere Thank You notes for FLC support.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Preschool 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 of the classes will be going on a field trip to the fire station. Others will have Firefighter Pete come to the classroom to talk about fire safety. 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.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held the week of October 30-November 3. This is a great opportunity for the parents and teachers to learn more about each individual child. There will be no preschool classes on November 1, 2, and 3.

Have a Fabulous Fall!
SueAnn



"Now thank we all our God..."

Singing favorite hymns and songs of the congregation was a great way to celebrate worship in the summer months. I heard so many positive comments about the hymns we sang, so many beautiful memories associated with these songs of faith. Thank you for your participation in the summer of Psalms and Songs.

It is my joy to assist the pastors in choosing hymns and liturgical choices for Sunday worship. Setting three in the ELW will be the Sunday liturgy until December. Members of the choir will continue to be cantors and song leaders.

It is with a thankful heart that I can say Hand bells and Sanctuary Choir are off and running, or should I say ringing and singing?

The choir will be singing October 15th, 22nd, Reformation Sunday October 29th, November 5th, and November 19th. This year the choir is purchasing new robes and will be singing from the front of the sanctuary most of the time.

We are looking forward to offering one or two college scholarships, so if you know of someone that likes to sing, send them my way. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals will be Wednesday evenings at 7:00 in the Mission Coffeehouse Meeting Room.

Barbara Horten is the Handbell Director and would welcome one or two people to be substitute bell ringers. She can be contacted at: 605-695-1147. Bells rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:45 in the Music Office and will be calling us to worship October 22nd and November 19th.

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all your lands!" Psalm 100
Pat Anderson, Music Coordinator and Sanctuary Choir Director*

*Music Newsletter
October and November 2023*



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our children's ministry is off to a GREAT start this year. We are so excited to see our children and families back with us. We are excited to announce that many new friends have joined our Children's Ministry programming. PLEASE take the time to greet all our children, helping them to feel comfortable and welcome at FLC.

It often feels as though we are still coming out of the fog that was COVID. We work to navigate the "new" world formed from that experience. Despite the brief slow down in people's lives while practicing some caution, we find that lives have become even more full of activity. We continuously work to provide options that will allow children and their families the ability to make their faith journey a regular part of their routines. Currently some of the options provided by our ministry include Wednesday evening meals (open to everyone), Faith Steppingstones, Journey to Discipleship (wed. & Sun.), Faithful Family Events, Vacation Bible School, Lock-ins, Nursery Care, Children, Youth & Family Team (CYFT) and Sanctuary Bags. We welcome those who may have some extra time, talents, or gifts, to share with those walking their faith journey. Currently FLC employees one full-time person to operate these programs. It is always a blessing for the children/families of our community to see representation of our church family through many faces. If you are curious how you can support our ministries, contact the Director of Children's Ministry at faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org.

Programming is in full swing and chugging right along. In August volunteers were trained, several steppingstones were celebrated, and we hired a new Nursery Coordinator – Michelle Eykamp.

In September we began our Journey to Discipleship programs. Families joined us for our opening singing/worship time followed by a parent meeting. Pastor Jess, along with a few volunteers did a great job of entertaining all the children during this time.

It has been so renewing to see the number of new children join our programs this year. Many have been watching their siblings come to church, just waiting to join in, others are brand new to our programming. The night we all come together, kids from other towns, different schools, other teams, all in one spot is electric. The smiles, the joy, the excitement to come back together again the next week, is so moving.

The fall will see us juggling regular programming with several steppingstones' classes. We are beginning to bring back more steppingstone classes. It is wonderful to see the families learning, discovering, sharing in God's word together.





The Children, Youth, & Family Team is committed to transitioning to a more active role in forming/creating/implementation of programming. As staff we believe that this is the people's church, staff are here to support the people. The Team Mission: We strive to strengthen the relational fabric of faith with God and others for our children, youth, and families. If you are interested in joining the team OR helping with a specific piece of programming, please contact someone on the team.

WHO ARE THE TEAM MEMBERS?

Mary Moeller, Aimee Deckert, Ashley Becker, Darian Bush, Kelsey Bowman, Lizzy Milton and Staff Members Pastor Jess, Kari York and Madison McCabe

ALL are WELCOME.

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



Journey to Discipleship

This year's theme: Connections

First Two Stories: Creation - Adam & Eve

Thank you to all the groups who are sharing spaces with us this year. With the number of students to number of volunteers we are combining groups, which requires bigger classroom spaces.

Blessed and Grateful to have Pastor Cassandra, Tiffany Lewis, and friends directing our weekly music AND our Christmas Program this year. Words can't express what an important piece music is in our programs or how much their service is appreciated.

Please consider: Occasionally running an activity such as craft, story time, science, etc. **OR** subbing to help guide a class of students with another adult. This helps to ensure safety, an opportunity for relationship building, and so much more. There is no planning, no set up.



How to keep up with All things Children's Ministry

- ♥ www.firstlutheranbrookings.org/children scroll to the files & forms header, click to find the information you need.
- ♥ "The Church App" (find in App store) Turn on Faith formations notifications
- ♥ Church Bulletin
- ♥ Bi-Monthly Church Newsletter (via email or print)
- ♥ Journey to Discipleship email updates
- ♥ Christian Education yearly Calendar
- ♥ The CYF Ministry Hub (bulletin Boards outside East Entrance of Sanctuary)
- ♥ First Lutheran Brookings (FB page) *Manage your FB settings to see all new posts from FLC
- ♥ First Lutheran church weekly emails (sent on Mondays)

Kari York, Dir of Children's Ministry faithformations@firstlutheranbrookings.org or 605-697-2751



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!

IT'S THE SEASON OF PUMPKIN SPICE LATTES AND CHAOTIC CALENDARS. I AM SO EXCITED TO HAVE FOLKS AROUND AND A NEW RHYTHM OF ACTIVITY ENLIVENING THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH. ANYWHO, LET'S GET TO WHAT IS ON THE DOCKET THIS FALL.

YOUTH GROUP



THE NEWS THAT REALLY POPS OUT, THAT ANY YOUTH WHO HAS BEEN ABOUT THIS FALL WILL TELL YOU IS... WE ARE REGULARLY USING THE POPCORN MAKER DURING YOUTH GROUP! YOUTH GROUP BEGAN GATHERING ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN SEPTEMBER AND WILL TRANSITION OVER TO WEDNESDAY NIGHTS ON OCTOBER 18TH. BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN WE NEED TO MAKE A TRIP TO A CORN MAZE! THE CORN ADVENTURES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 15TH (CONFIRMATION SUNDAY). THIS FALL WE WILL BE DIVING INTO HOW FAITH AND SCIENCE NOT ONLY COEXIST BUT ALSO COMPLEMENT ONE ANOTHER!

CONFIRMATION:

6-8TH GRADE CONFIRMATION IS ROLLING IN FULL FORCE. THANKS TO ALL THE PARENTS WHO JOINED US FOR OUR BEGINNING MEETING, YOUR SUPPORT MAKES YOUR CHILD'S FAITH EXPERIENCE HOLD GREATER DEPTH! THIS YEAR WE ARE CREATING MORE SPACE TO CULTIVATE A COMMUNITY DYNAMIC WITH COMMUNITY BUILDING NIGHTS ALONG WITH OUR STANDARD DOCTRINE AND TEXT STUDIES. THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY WE WILL FOCUS ON IS THE CREATION STORY FROM GENESIS WITH THE LENS OF ITS RELATION TO SCIENCE (SOUND FAMILIAR?). IN NOVEMBER WE WILL UNPACK THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LUTHERAN SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION.



THIS YEAR WE WILL BE TAKING A BREAK FROM HOSTING A FALL FESTIVAL. WE HOPE FOLKS WILL BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THE ABUNDANCE OF OTHER SIMILAR OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR AREA! (IF YOU ARE FEELING LIKE THIS IS A BIG LOSS OR HAVE HOPES FOR NEXT YEAR PLEASE CHAT WITH MADISON, PASTOR JESS, KARI YORK OR ONE OF OUR FRIENDS ON THE CYF TEAM:

AIMEE DECKERT, ASHLEY BECKER, DARIAN BUSH,
KELSEY BOWMAN, MARY MOELLER, OR LIZZY MILTON)

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

OVER VETERANS DAY WEEKEND WE WILL BE HOSTING A RETREAT AT NESODAK BIBLE CAMP FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS TO EXPLORE THEIR FAITH IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT!

9TH GRADE



9TH GRADERS FIT INTO A FUN AREA OF YOUTH MINISTRY WHERE THEY ARE PART OF THE YOUTH GROUP BUT ALSO HAVE SPECIAL CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCES. THIS YEAR THEY WILL EXPLORE THEIR FAITH IN THE LENS OF THE WELLNESS WHEEL WITH 8 EXPRESSIONS OF WELLNESS AND HOW THEY ARE ALL PARTS OF OUR FAITH AND HUMANITY. WITH PANELS, FIELD TRIPS, SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS, AND DEEP DISCUSSIONS, IT IS A FUN PART OF FAITH EXPLORATION AT FLC.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 14TH FROM 6:30-8:30 YOU ARE INVITED TO COME EXPERIENCE FAITH PROJECTS OUR 10TH GRADERS HAVE CREATED TO REFLECT UPON THEIR FAITH JOURNEY SO FAR. OUR 10TH GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS WILL CELEBRATE THEIR CONFIRMATION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE. PLEASE JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION WITH A RECEPTION IN THE COFFEEHOUSE TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE.



SUMMER YOUTH TRIP 2024:

WE ARE HEADED TO NEW ORLEANS NEXT JULY! THE CITY OF JAZZ IS ONCE AGAIN HOSTING THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING! FUNDRAISERS ARE ON THE HORIZON, KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED ON HOW TO HELP OUT, THIS WILL BE MY BIGGEST GROUP TRIP YET!



ADVENT FEST

THE CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY TEAM (CYFT) WILL BE HOSTING AN INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT FEST TO KICK OFF THE SEASON. WE WILL BE HOSTING A WELL KNOWN ELCA MUSICIAN TO LEAD US IN CHRISTMAS CAROLS, AS WELL AS OTHER FUN EXPERIENCES FOR FOLKS OF ALL AGES. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 6:30 ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH!

**IN PEACE AND PRAYER,
MADISON MCCABE
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

→ **COMING SOON** ←

FIRST LUTHERAN BROOKINGS
DROP LOCATION:
237 8TH STREET, BROOKINGS, SD

FUNDrive

CLEAN OUT, RECYCLE,
& HELP US RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR YOUTH



ACCEPTED ITEMS
ALL CLOTHES, COATS, SHOES, SCARVES, HANDBAGS, WALLETS, FASHION ACCESSORIES, TIES, BELTS, BACKPACKS, BEDDING, COMFORTERS, BLANKETS, SHEETS, TOWELS, LINEN, TABLECLOTHS, CURTAINS, PILLOWS

PLACE CLEAN ITEMS IN 30 GAL TRASH BAGS

SAT 28 OCT 1:30-5:30PM
BRING TO THE THE SEMI IN THE PARKING LOT AT FIRST LUTHERAN
SUN 29 OCT 9:30AM-1:30PM

2nd Annual Mission Coffeehouse
First Lutheran Church

Deck the Halls for Belize

Silent Auction Bidding on 15 Beautifully Decorated Christmas Trees

November 18-29, 2023

From the Heart (craft sale) through FLC Advent Fest

BELIZEMissionPartners in Service and Learning FLC



2023 PURSES
for a **POWERFUL PURPOSE**

Shopping

December 8-10, 2023
First Lutheran Church Activity Center



You are a blessing! Thank you for all your prayers, support, & donations for the Brookings School District Child Wellness Fund Spring Clothing Drive. Through the support from all of you, bags of gently used clothing & new socks and underwear were distributed to the Brookings elementary schools & intermediate school before school started. Members of our church helped sort clothing for the schools, & some other members coordinated a Bombas socks donation of 500 pairs of socks for the youth. Thank you for your generosity, caring hearts, & being a blessing to all those around you.

Thank You,
Carleen and Dana and Chaundra



The Membership Records of
First Lutheran Church from
June to August 2023

Baptisms

Landon Bolt Shaw

Child of Michael & Shondra Shaw

Nolan Holmquist

Child of Tyler & Hanna Holmquist

Winnie Kay Sonnenburg

Child of Tatum & Nolan Sonnenburg

Knox Griffin Hall

Child of Hayden & Brooke Hall

Oliver Matthew Kurtz

Child of Matthew & Anna Kurtz

Passings

Erin Link

Arlie Steenson

New Members

Andrew and Alex Sogn

Zach and Anna Gebhart

Tatum and Nolan Sonnenburg



In memory of Marge Sorenson

Joy Bretsch

Mildred Huggins, Dale & Paulette Heesch

In memory of Clayton Bakke

Dave & Marcene Lenander

In memory of

Pastor James Thuedt

Dawn Taylor

In memory of Erin Link

Brad & Jennifer Erickson, David & Patricia Meyer,

Bob & Julie Bell, Brenda & John Hayne,

Vernon & Cathy Voelske, Ross & Julie Abraham

In memory of Arlie Steenson

Joy Bretsch, Bob & Julie Bell, Dale & Paulette Heesch,

Loren Haufschild, Mildred Juel, Helen Jones,

Douglas & Anne Kallesen, Barbara Horten,

Lyle & Pat Anderson, Brad & Kim Dahl,

Brett & Kathleen Wawers



Adults and Journey Students used the time between services on a Sunday morning to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief



First Lutheran Church
PO Box 300
Brookings, SD 57006

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

Return Service Requested

www.firstlutheranbrookings.org
 Phone: 692-6251
 Fax: 697-2760

X

If you have an article or information for the October & November Newsletter, please have it to the church office no later than 5:00pm Nov 9th.

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

JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP PARENTS!!
IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE THROUGH DECEMBER

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

- 8-Wed 6:00pm **3rd Grade Communion Steppingstone Class (parent participation)**
- 15-Wed 6:00pm **3rd Grade Communion Steppingstone Class (parent participation)**
- 19-Wed Both Services **3rd Grade Communion Steppingstone Blessing**

DECEMBER

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

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

X

X

X



OCTOBER

1 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am ANNUAL MEETING 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC 4:00pm Youth Group	2 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	3 8:30 am Quilters 10:00 am Cemetery Clean up 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	4 1:30 PM Edgewood Communion NO SANCTUARY CHOIR PRACTICE	5 6 7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #ffffcc; text-align: center;"> WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE (unless otherwise noted) 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group (starting Oct 18) </div>		
CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS IN ACTIVITY CENTER						
8 NO JOURNEY NO YOUTH GROUP 8:30 am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service	9 1:00 pm ULC and Parkplace Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What" MCH & OFFICES CLOSED	10 8:30 am Quilters 9:00 am Staff Mtg 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	11 6:00 pm 4 th grade Bible SS 7:00 9 th Grade Night	12 6:30 Church Council	13	14 5:30 pm Confirmation Reception
CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS IN ACTIVITY CENTER						
15 8:30 am Festival w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC & CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 4:00 pm Youth Grp	16 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	17 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	18 6:00 pm 4 th grade Bible SS 8:00pm Youth Group moves back to Wednesdays	19 5:45 pm New Member Class	20	21
22 4TH GRADE BIBLE BLESSING SS AND PRESENT NEW MEMBERS AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30 am Festival 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise 4:00 pm Youth Grp	23 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	24 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	25	26	27	28 Uptown Girls Craft Fair
29 SANCTUARY CRAWL AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service	30 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	31 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study	<p>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject tochange.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</p>			



NOVEMBER

<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 1:30 Edgewood Communion NO SANCTUARY CHOIR</p>			
<p>5 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NO JOURNEY 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC</p>	<p>6 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>7 8:30am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>8 6:00 pm 3rd grade Communion SS Class #1 7:00 pm 9th Grade Night - No Youth Group</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Church Council</p>	<p>10 Dunmire/ Erdmann Wedding Rehearsal Confirmation Retreat</p>	<p>11 Dunmire/ Erdmann Wedding Confirmation Retreat</p>
<p>12 8:30am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service Confirmation Retreat</p>	<p>13 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm ULC and Parkplace Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>14 8:30am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>15 6:00 pm 3rd grade Communion SS Class #2</p>			<p>18 From the Heart Craft Fair</p>
<p>19 3RD GRADE COMMUNION SS AT BOTH SERVICES 8:30am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC</p>	<p>20 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>21 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>22 NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH ACTIVITIES NO CHOIR REHEARSALS</p>	<p>23 MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p>24 MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 NO JOURNEY 8:30 am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service</p>	<p>27 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"</p>	<p>28 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>29 5:00 pm Meal 6:00 pm ADVENT FEST</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE (unless otherwise noted) 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group (starting Oct 18)</p>	