

"And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in the manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

The Countdown Is On!

Ask practically any boy or girl how many days there are left until Christmas Day and you're sure to receive a quick and excited response! Maybe you'll even find out how many hours are left, too! Yes, soon the joy of Christmas will be here, with family get-togethers, meals, decorations, familiar heart-warming songs, and so much more, including, of course, presents! But, Christmas is not here yet, first we have the season of Advent.

The season of Advent has been referred to by some as the "Rodney Dangerfield of Church Year Seasons." That's because it "gets no respect!" In the crazy rush leading up to Christmas, the church's season of Advent can get pushed to the side like hapless shoppers in the way of a bargain at Wal-Mart. When the entire world seems to be flooded with Santa, reindeer, and decorations, no one seems to care much about Advent.

But we lose a lot if we throw away Advent. It has its own special message that helps to make our faith in Christ deeper and more meaningful. Advent encourages Christians to slow down, take a step back from the rest of the world, and have a proper attitude toward possessions. It teaches us that waiting and faith are central to our Christian lives, and it prepares our hearts to receive and welcome Christ. Advent is the antidote for the commercial Christmas frenzy and serves as a pattern of how to live our lives in Christ, that is, with joyful expectation of what is to come.

So, please don't be so quick to hurry on to Christmas. Take a break from the holiday rush and hear what the hymns and Scriptures have to say this Advent season, not only as they prepare to celebrate with joy the first coming of our Lord Jesus, as the precious baby of Bethlehem, but also as they prepare us to be ready for Jesus' promised second coming on the Last Day, as our triumphant Savior. That is when He will bring all who trust in Him to eternal joy in heaven. Happy Advent!

~ In Christ, Pastor Dan Welch



"Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending!"

Special Advent Season and Christmas Eve Services

A large part of our focus this Advent season at First Lutheran will be listening to the Apostle Paul as he speaks to us today through his very first letter to a Christian church. That letter is also known as the book of 1 Thessalonians.

The main theme of this letter is Christ's Second Coming. So, even, as we prepare to celebrate Jesus's first coming at Christmas, I invite you also to come and sit at the feet of the blessed apostle, as he points us to the sure and certain hope that Jesus will come again "with clouds descending!"

Advent 1- **Wednesday**, Nov. 29th 7 PM (with Comm.)
Our Two Minute Drill (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

Advent 2 -**Wednesday**, Dec. 6th 7 PM
Praying Like Paul (1 Thess. 3:10-13)

Advent 3- **Wednesday**, Dec. 13th 7 PM
You've Got a Ticket to Ride! (1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Advent 4-**Sunday** Dec. 24th 9 AM (with Comm.)
Faithful Watching and Waiting (1 Thess. 5:1-11)

Christmas Eve -**Sunday**, Dec. 24th 2 PM and 5 PM
Rejoice Evermore! (1 Thess. 5:16)



CELEBRATE Christmas WITH US!

WED. Nov. 29 7:00 PM
Advent Worship Service with Holy Communion

SAT. DEC. 2 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Quilt & Craft Sale (sponsored by FLC Quilting Ladies)
Bake Sale (sponsored by FLC LWML)
Brunch (sponsored by FLC LWML)

WED. DEC. 6 7:00 PM
Advent Worship Service with Choral Concert
Soup & Sandwich Supper – 4:45 – 6:45 PM – proceeds Wolf Ridge Trip

WED. DEC. 13 7:00 PM
Advent Worship Service

SUN. DEC. 17 10:30 AM
Sunday School Christmas Service

WED. DEC. 20 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM pre-service music @ 6:30)
FLS Children's Christmas Service (Preschool – Grade 8)

SUN. DEC. 24
Divine Worship w/Holy Communion 9:00 AM
Christmas Eve Song & Praise 2:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 5:00 PM

MON. DEC. 25 9:00 AM
Christmas Day Worship w/Holy Communion



We are especially thankful for all you do to bring glory to God through the various ministries here at First Lutheran Church!

Sun. Dec. 3 8:00 AM – Mike Cisewski / Doug Dahlke
10:30 AM – Dan Nikolaisen / Roger Schmidt

Wed. Dec. 6 7:00 PM – Dean Dahlke / Dave Sell

Sun. Dec. 10 8:00 AM – Joel Goche / Warren Wilcox
10:30 AM – Jason Oelfke /

Wed. Dec. 13 7:00 PM – Don Hepner / Dave Sell

Sun. Dec. 17 8:00 AM – Brian Grochow /
10:30 AM – Dan Nikolaisen / Roger Schmidt

Wed. Dec. 20 7:00 PM – Brian Grochow /

Sun. Dec. 24 9:00 AM – Mark Schmidt / Joel Goche
2:00 PM –
5:00 PM – Jason Oelfke/ Doug Dahlke

Mon. Dec. 25 9:00 AM – Dennis Wolter /

Sun. Dec. 31 8:00 AM –
10:30 AM –



E-Giving

Members and Visitors – We thank all givers for supporting our mission with your gifts.

For those who choose to give electronically, in just seconds you can make weekly offering contributions or pay for events/activities.

E-Giving allows you to give anytime and anywhere, donate to your favorite funds, and make your gifts recurring. You can give via a smartphone app, texting, or online.

Vanco Mobile Faith – Mobile App (purple V logo)
Text \$ (your \$ amount) to 855-976-9619
Give online via www.firstglencoe.org

GIVE+Church

Note from the office

If you have plans to travel over the holidays, set up your recurring contributions now through our online, app, or text options. Thank you for all you do to support our mission during the holidays and throughout the year!





First Lutheran Church

Craft, Quilt, Brunch & Bake Sale

Sat, Dec 2nd
9:00 am – 12:30 pm




Beverage & Pastry – \$5
Coffee Only – Free Will Donation
Brunch – Egg Bake, Fruit, Pastry, Juice, Coffee – \$10

Sponsored by Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML)
& First Lutheran Quilters



First Ev. Lutheran Church
 925 13th St., Glencoe
www.firstglencoe.org



Donations are needed and welcomed. Non-perishable items may be brought to the Fellowship Center a day or two before and perishable items on Friday afternoon or morning of event. Please help spread word of this event to others. All proceeds will be used to proclaim Christ crucified at missions far away and missions right hear at FL. Please join us!



Angel Seeds



The McLeod Emergency Food Shelf has been selected as the Angel Seeds recipient from October through December.

The McLeod Emergency Food Shelf (MEFS) is a non-profit agency which was organized in 1983 to assist residents of McLeod County, MN in hunger relief.

MEFS receives financial donations and food support donations from the individuals, organizations, civic groups, businesses, food rescue partners, and faith partners of McLeod County.

Since 1983, millions of meals have been provided by the generous support of the local community. In the first year, 109 were served with the number stretching over the years to as many as 1,857 district households. More than a half million pounds of food are distributed each year!

Thank you for prayerfully considering donating to this important mission endeavor!

Advent Soup & Sandwich Supper

On Wednesday, Dec 6, the 7th & 8th graders, and their parents, will be serving the annual soup & sandwich supper. This meal will take place from 4:45 – 6:45 PM (prior to the Advent Choral Service). The menu will include chili, beef vegetable soup, turkey wild rice soup, chicken noodle soup, and sauerkraut soup with diced bratwurst. Along with the delicious soups, there will be ham and turkey sandwiches on wheat or white bread, chips, carrots, desserts, and beverages. This is a Thrivent Action Team event with proceeds going toward the upcoming 7th & 8th grade trip to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center. A free will donation will be taken. Please come and enjoy a great meal followed by wonderful music!

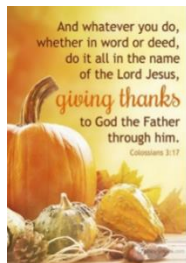


Red Kettle – Ringers Needed!



The Salvation Army is in need of Red Kettle Bell Ringers. Businesses and individuals are welcome. Ringing continues till Dec 24th. Shifts are 2 hours. Bell ringing is at

Coborn's or Dollar Fresh. All donations stay in McLeod County. To ring, contact Annette at 320-864-5231 or 320-510-3006 text only.



Blessing Bags Donated

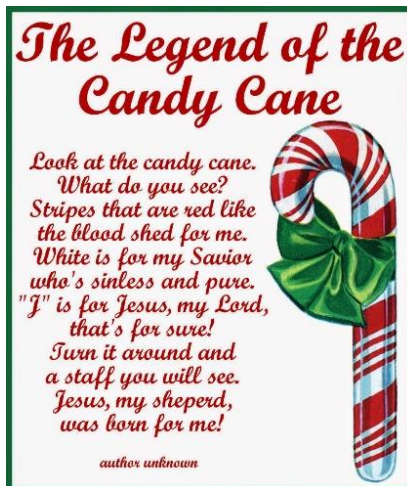
Thank you to all that donated items and helped pack the Thanksgiving Blessing Bags. We brought in 33 bags which equaled 279 pounds of food for the McLeod County Food Shelf. Keep the families that will be utilizing those bags in your prayers during this holiday season.



The Cemetery Board

The First Lutheran Church Cemetery Board is accepting bids for lawn mowing, weed spraying, and fertilizing at the First Lutheran Church Cemetery for the 2024 calendar year. The bid should include mowing,

trimming, and blowing off headstones before five major holidays: (Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day). In addition, please include pricing for spring and fall spraying, as well as spring fertilizing. A copy of liability insurance and applicator's license should be included with the bid. Sealed bids will be accepted until December 31st and should be submitted to the church office.



The Board of Evangelism will be putting out the "Legend of the Candy Cane" along with a candy cane starting on Advent through the New Years Eve Holiday. They will also be available on Wednesday, December 20th for the FLS Christmas program. Look for them in baskets on the stands

at each of the entrances. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to take one. The Board has put together around 1,000 – please read the "legend" and enjoy!



Seasons of the Church Year

As Christmas services approach, the Board of Evangelism will place booklets in baskets at each of the

entrances for both young and old to pick up: The booklets are entitled: "

A Simple Explanation of the Church Year" & "The Christmas Journey."

Altar Guild

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help at church? The Altar Guild can use your Time, Talent, and Treasures! We welcome all new members to join. We will provide training. You work one month out of the year with 2 other members. If interested in serving the church through helping to prepare the altar, occasionally decorate the church for holidays, and set up for Communion for our church services, please contact Charleen Engelmann.

The Altar Guild will meet on Jan 2 at 5 PM for "undecorating" the church, followed by our scheduled AG meeting.

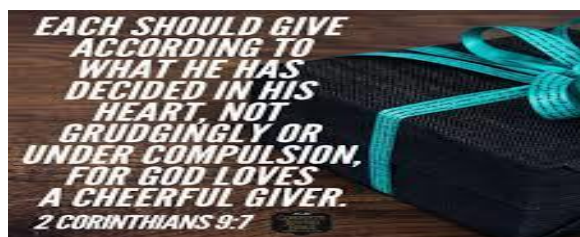


Give From Your IRA

If you have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and are 70-1/2 years old or older, you can take advantage of a unique tool - a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) - to support First Ev.

Lutheran Church's mission in sharing the love of Christ within our church, school, and community.

Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution through your IRA is just another way to support FL with an asset you already own. A QCD transferred directly to an eligible charity like FL can also help you reach your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) up to \$100,000.



Year-end Giving (& Receiving) Options

For many, giving back is a priority. Giving creates a positive change in people, institutions, and communities. Plus, it makes us feel good to know we can do our part to make our world a little better place for future generations. And whether your goal is to make a big impact or a modest gift, charitable giving can play an important role in your year-end planning too.

In fact, there are a number of ways to make charitable giving part of your overall financial plan and choosing wisely among them can be the key to making the biggest impact while also minimizing present and future tax liability. Outright gifts of cash or stocks, naming charities among your life insurance beneficiaries, creating trusts that produce income for yourself and your favorite causes, and even establishing private foundations are among the many ways to give smartly.

Giving can mean Saving. With the right approach, you can support your favorite causes and, in return, get:

- A reduction in your taxable income
- A reduction in your capital gains tax liability
- A reduction in your taxable estate

Talk to your financial advisor about your options, especially now as you begin your year-end planning. Because when done right, giving can help satisfy required minimum distributions (RMD's) without increasing your tax situation!

We are also here to assist you with your questions and concerns. Please contact the office at 864-5522 if you would like a confidential and personal meeting.

2023 Endowment/Finance Committee – Wayne Ahlbrecht, Joyce Aul, Cindy Eggersgluess, Roger Gronholz, Ryan Ortloff

Young Investors

The Young Investors Club from Lutheran Church Extension Fund helps young investors learn to be good stewards of their money and other God-given gifts. The Stamp-saver program offers more opportunities to grow up learning the habits of saving and sharing.



Each week at the conclusion of First Lutheran School's chapel, students can participate and contribute to their LCEF Young Investors savings account. For more info, visit lcef.org



To ensure your prayer request is included in our weekly bulletin notes and the prayers of the church during Sunday worship services, please contact the office by 4:00 PM on Thursdays.

FLC Prayer Chain

Is the Holy Spirit touching your heart regarding the Prayer Chain? New leaders AND new members are needed to keep our PRAYER CHAIN going!



Participation is simple, but so very powerful! The Bible says in Phil 4:6, "But in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let you request be known to God." Thank you to all our current members for their commitment to prayer – to confidentiality, discretion, and listening to the Holy Spirit.

How does it work?

E-Mail Chain – Simply receive the email from the prayer chain leader and pray immediately.

Phone Chain – Simply receive a phone call from another prayer chain member with a request. When you receive the call, write down the prayer request word for word as dictated to you. Pray immediately and then call the next person on your chain passing on the dictated info. If you are unable to reach that person, leave a message relaying the information. Continue phoning on down the list until you reach a person or the end of the chain. **(NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED IF THE PHONE CHAIN IS TO CONTINUE)**

Have questions, want to join, or have a prayer request? Prayer requests are confidential and may even be made anonymously. Feel free to contact the church office or Cindy at 612-840-6308.



Stories of Faith

The Public Relations (PR) Team invites members to share their stories related to situations or events in which they experience God's love and providential care. (New Team members are needed)

Cindy Eggersgluess 612-840-6308 eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com



"In the morning, prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God's mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under His protection and safeguard." – Billy Graham



First Edition Book Club

First Edition Book Club will meet on Tuesday, January 9th, at Brenda Birkholz's home. Meet at 6 PM for a potluck dinner followed by a discussion

of the book "Every Good Gift" by Urcelia Teixeira. First Edition Book Club reads Christian fiction books and welcomes interested women to join in the discussion.



LIBRARY NEWS

Are you a fan of suspense novels? If so, stop by and check out the new additions to the Church Library. "Every Good Gift," "Every Good Plan" and "Every Good Work" by Urcelia Teixeira

are perfect for fans of page-turning Christian suspense. These inspiring tales of grace, faith, and resilience will keep you guessing with unexpected twists and turns.

Men's Network Bible Study

The Men's Network Bible Study meets on the third Tuesday evening of each month (Sept thru May) from 7-8 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Plato. Pastor Mastin, from St. John's, is the group leader. All are invited to join as we read from God's Word through video and written materials to learn how to live our lives.

Senior Choir

The First Lutheran Senior Choir meets on Wednesday evenings in the church balcony for rehearsal. Practice begins at 6:15 PM and ends at 7:00 PM, except during Advent and Lent when it is 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM. The choir sings at about three worship services a month. Returning and new voices are always welcome! Won't you consider being a part of this group for all or part of the church year?



To God Alone Be the Glory!



Office - Phones

If you would like to volunteer an hour or more of your time to answer phones in the church office, please sign the signup sheet available at the Welcome Center entrance. We need help weekdays between 9 AM and 4 PM. You may want to bring a book with you to read in-between calls.

Website – Help Needed

There are many ways you can serve Jesus and others here at FL. One way is to assist with reviewing and keeping the FL website updated. No special knowledge needed – just regular computer skills.....you'll learn things specific to the web site while doing the work. It will not take tons of time, but we are looking for someone who is willing to consistently be available to update weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters, and upcoming events, photos, etc. You would work as a team with one or two others. If you are interested in helping or learning more, please call Cindy at 612-840-6308.

Youth Programs - Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help lead "Fun in the Sun" and "Twins" youth programs. If you are willing, please contact Taylor Bernstein or any member of Christian Ed Board.

Lutheran Social Services – Help Needed

Lutheran Social Services of MN is seeking volunteers age 18 and older to provide a break for family caregivers. Share your skills and talents, meet new people, and make a positive impact in your community by giving a few hours weekly. No prior experience required and training is provided. Learn more by calling 866-787-9802 or visit lssmn.org/volunteer/caregiver



Lutheran Women in Mission | Christmas Lunch

Monday, December 4th, 2023 Fellowship Center | 12 PM

Yvonne Schuette will lead an opening devotion. After a Christmas lunch, we'll have a short program "Why is Jesus better than Santa Claus." As always, guests are welcomed.



2023 Mission Grants \$4800

With great pleasure we announce the selected grants for 2023. Requests and needs of various missions were evaluated. Only donations that are dear to us and proclaim Christ crucified were selected.

Two KDUZ Lutheran Hour broadcasts "Bringing Christ to the Nations"	\$200
Orphan Grain Train "Relief for Human Need Worldwide"	\$500
Concordia Seminary "Adopt a Student"	\$500
First Lutheran School 7 th and 8 th Wolf Ridge Trip	\$400
Lutheran Heritage Foundation – Christian materials in many languages	\$500
First Lutheran Church Window replacement (east side)	\$500
Trinity First Lutheran School, Minneapolis	\$400
Haiti Lutheran Mission Society LCMS	\$500
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch	\$500
Dr. Fung Lo, Mission of Christ Network, Thailand	\$500
Vicar Jon Chapa (son-in-law of Pastor Welch) Seminary expenses	\$300

Happy December Birthday to honorary "Lutheran Women in Mission" members Lilah Mackenthun and Verdella Moehring. A \$5 gift to LWML mission grants (mites) has been given in your honor.



Some Bible verses for Advent:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Genesis 3:15 (God speaking to Satan) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.

Isaiah 11:1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me, to bring good news to the poor, He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Micah 5:2 But you O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, for you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from old, from ancient days.

Isaiah 40:11 He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He shall gather the lambs in His arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

I Peter 1:13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.





Christmas Gift Boxes

For Children

First Ev. Lutheran Women in Mission LWML, partnering with Orphan Grain Train, is assembling and shipping Christmas gift boxes for underprivileged children. Many children living in poverty areas around the world may never receive a Christmas present. When parents and grandparents are struggling to provide daily food, gifts at Christmas (or any time) are not a high priority.

Would you like to help with this project? Families, individuals, and groups are welcomed to participate. You will bring smiles to the faces of children all around the world. The approximate cost of one box is about \$32. You may:

- Assemble a box yourself
- Use this as a family project
- Work together with a friend
- Work together with a grandchild
- When Grandma says, "Oh, I don't need another Christmas present," give her a completed Christmas Box. And then deliver it back to church for her.
- Complete your box and deliver it back to the church by January 7.
- If you want to participate, but don't have the time to shop, you may drop off a check at the church office. Make it payable to First Ev. LWML with "Christmas Box" in the memo line. Any amount.
- Most important – PRAY for the recipient of your box.

Pick up a box (specially designed for this project) and instruction sheet from the display near the Fellowship Center. It's important that you follow the instructions carefully. Do not decorate the box in any way. Include ONLY the items listed on the instruction sheet. The instruction sheet is very clear on what to include. Boxes are categorized for "Boy" or "Girl" with items appropriate for either age 2-7 or 8-12. Each box WILL INCLUDE a beautiful Christmas card with a printed Christmas message provided by Orphan Grain Train.

Do not be tempted to add "extras." **No additions, deletions, or substitutions. Do not add money, photos, or personal notes.** Orphan Grain Train has relationships and permission with the countries/areas where the boxes are delivered. Officials at the drop-off points will spot-check the boxes. If they find a discrepancy in even one box, the entire shipment may be discarded.

After being quality checked, our boxes will be delivered to an Orphan Grain Train storage facility in Mayer. Then a volunteer will deliver them by pick-up truck and trailer to the large Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Norfolk, Nebraska. Volunteers there will send them by semi-truck or ocean barge to their next destination. The Christmas Box project is a year-long project.

"Orphan Grain Train" is an RSO "Recognized Service Organization" of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed item to people in over 71 different countries including the USA. They have a 4 Star 100% rating from Charity Navigator. Nearly all of their workers are volunteer. No big-name celebrities earning high, executive salaries. Motto: Relief for Human Need Worldwide. You can read more about them at www.ogt.org.



Lutheran Hour 2024 Rose Parade Float

Under the theme of "Celebrating A World of Music," the 2024 Rose Parade will take place at 8 AM Pacific Time on January 1st in Pasadena, CA. The Lutheran Hour Ministries float "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord" will be entered as the only Christian float in the parade to carry on its mission of providing a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere, from along the parade route to televisions worldwide.

For Farmers & The Rest Of Us

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty. Proverbs 21:5

But ask the animals what they think - let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth - learn the basics. Listen - the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn't it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that He holds all things in His hand? Job 12:7-12

Give thanks to God - He is good and His love never quits.
1 Chronicles 16:34

Listen to the Lutheran Hour



A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Hear the Good News of the Gospel on the Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 9:00 am on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio. During the month of December, you will hear the following program topics:



Dec 3 **"Before They Call"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). SOS and Mayday are distress signals that cry out for rescue. So is "Lord, have mercy!" (Isaiah 64:4)

Dec 10 **"A-T Walker"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). A wilderness can be scary, but if someone is with you who knows the way out, you're not really lost. (Isaiah 40:3)

Dec 17 **"Life After Landing"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). What happens when a passenger suddenly has to be the pilot? Dr. Michael Zeigler talks about the power of words to save. (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Dec 24 **"Community and Conversation"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler](#). Message based on John 1:1.

Dec 31 **"Of Entrances and Exits"** with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes. Message based on Luke 2:27-28.

The cost to sponsor a broadcast in 2024 will not change and will remain at \$96.00 per broadcast. Thank you for your support. Broadcast sponsors can dedicate a sponsorship in memory of a loved one, in honor of a birthday or anniversary, or sponsor a broadcast as a service project for their congregation organization.

Please contact Rich Streufert at 320-864-6884 or e-mail richstreufert@embarqmail.com to verify a date to sponsor the broadcast. Checks should be made out to "KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast." Send checks to "KDUZ Lutheran Hour Supporters," % First Lutheran Church, 925 13th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336.

God's Word provides the light we need. Psalm 119:105



✓ **Thrivent Choice** – Thank you Thrivent members for continuing to designate your Choice \$. We received \$60 (Nov) & \$114 (Dec) for FLC and \$208 (Nov) and \$27 (Dec) for FLS. We also received a \$650 donation from a donor-advised fund for each month. Visit (www.Thrivent.com/choice) or phone 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." Have your Thrivent ID# handy. You can phone Mon – Friday from 7 am to 6 pm.

✓ **Thrivent Action Teams** – A Thrivent Action Team is a simple, flexible way for you to bring people together to make a positive difference.....you might hold a fundraiser, conduct a service activity, or hold an educational event. Each year, every Thrivent member has (2) Action Teams to use!

Visit Thrivent.com/actionteam to complete an online application (minimum 3 weeks before your event). If you are unable to make your request via computer, you can phone Thrivent and make your request via Customer Service – call 1-800-847-4836.

When your project is approved, Thrivent will provide resources (Action Team Kit) to help plan the event, promotional items (including Thrivent T-shirts to increase your visibility), and seed money to cover promotional and material expenses (\$250 Community Impact Card).

EVERY Thrivent member is eligible to lead two Action Teams per calendar year. **IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR ACTION TEAMS, PLEASE LET CINDY OR THE OFFICE KNOW! All Thrivent members have 2 Action Teams!** Involve others – it's all about your friends, family and community coming together to make a positive impact!

✓ **Facebook page for Thrivent Network** – Be sure to check out and "Like" to stay updated on exciting new opportunities and newly created events!

✓ **Thrivent Member Network - Twin Cities Region** works hard to create fun and educational content that you can engage in from the comfort of your own home. There are also some great on-demand webinars (variety of topics) that you can view anytime. **Guests are welcome!** Please feel free to share these events with your friends, family, and community. See all the info and resources at: <https://www.thriventfinancial.com/member-network/twin-cities/>

✓ **If you're a Thrivent Member who is interested in sharing Thrivent info and news/Congregational Volunteer for Thrivent, please notify the church office.**

✓ **Thank you to Brenda Birkholz, Barry Boesche, Loren Engelmänn, and Deb Tessmer for recently sharing their Action Teams!**

Cindy Eggersgluess – 612-840-6308 / eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com
– Congregational Volunteer

Homegrown! **It's a Good Thing!**

The Farm to School Dept of Ag grant monies we received are used to purchase locally grown and raised foods (beef, pork, poultry, eggs, vegetables, fruits) for our FLS lunch program. We have recently submitted an application for additional future funds.



The October 12th Homegrown lunch featured Hamburger Cabbage Cheese Casserole, Sweet Corn, Zucchini Bread, Apples, and fresh pressed Apple Cider. The beef was purchased at Brownston City Meats, the Busse family supplied the super-sized head of cabbage, the Sweet Corn from Seneca Foods in Glencoe, Zucchini from the Diers family, Apples from Shimanski Orchard of Silver Lake, and the fresh pressed Apple Cider from Faxon Farms of Blakeley. Together we celebrated Minnesota Apples with the BIG CRUNCH – we all counted down and then bit into our delicious apples! Once they bit into their apples, the students were asked to think about....What flavors did you taste? Tangy, sweet, sour, tart?.....What was the texture? Crisp, crunchy, juicy, soft?.....Did you hear a noise?

On October 26th, the Homegrown lunch included Delicata Squash and fresh Apple Crisp. The Delicata Squash came from Dave & Tammy Anderson of Hamburg and the Apples from Sam McNellis of Glencoe. Delicata Squash has a creamy flesh and a thin edible skin – it's high in potassium and Vitamins A & C. They are sweet and delicious and the skin tastes great – plus they are super easy to prepare! We hope everyone tries this MN squash!

On November 2nd, the Homegrown lunch included Egg Salad Sandwiches (eggs donated from Michael Foods), Carrot Sticks (Tangletown Gardens), and Pumpkin Cake. Did you know that carrots (a root vegetable) come in both orange and yellow colors? The students were surveyed to see if they thought the yellow tasted differently than the orange – no clear decision was reached about that! The cake utilized pumpkins raised in Mrs. Donnay's sister's garden. We cooked and mashed the pie pumpkins and baked them into a delicious cake!

On November 16th, we featured a hotdish with MN Beef (Brownston Meat Market) and Tomatoes, Onions, Peppers that were preserved from the garden. We served Sweet Corn (Seneca) that we earlier froze and carrot sticks from a FLS family. Students also enjoyed homemade zucchini bread. Did you know that zucchini is a member of the squash family; like carrots, zucchini also has a lot of Vit A.

On November 20th, we surprised the students with bison burgers. The bison meat, purchased from Horseshoe Grove Bison in Paynesville, is a delicious meat which cooks fast, due to its leanness. Bison is always free of antibiotics and hormones. It's naturally rich and sweet, high in Zinc, Selenium, phosphorus, and Vitamin B12. Horseshoe Grove Bison is owned by Mrs. Michelle Alsleben's uncle; she has a fascinating video of a recent bison roundup. If you'd like to view this, just contact Michelle and she'll forward to you! Along with the bison burgers, we served roasted

potatoes and a yummy sweet potato casserole – all from the School Garden.

Do you have a favorite MN grown food menu item? Share your recipe with us and we'll invite you to lunch that day! We need your ideas!

After each Homegrown meal, the students sing a little ditty:
Homegrown's all right with me
Homegrown is the way it should be
Homegrown is a good thing
Plant that bell and let it ring!

Our students are enthused to eat local and we are using this program as a teaching tool so they learn about what they are eating, how it was raised, and how it was prepared. We continue to source local vendors whom we can purchase from. We are also tasking our students to work on composting and less food waste.

If anyone would like to help or has any questions, please reach out to First Lutheran School Secretary Michelle Alsleben at 864-3317 or Program Coordinator Cindy Eggersgluess at 612-840-6308 or eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com. We look forward to continuing this "Good Thing!"



Recovering from surgery? Homebound? Difficult to shop? Just can't cook for yourself? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, Meals on Wheels may be for you!

Volunteer drivers deliver nutritious, well-balanced hot meals for lunch Monday – Friday. Each meal consists of a cooked meat; potato, rice, or pasta; a vegetable; bread; butter; salad; and dessert. Special diet meals are also available.

Meals may be free, at a reduced cost, or for a free-will offering. Please call 320-864-5728 for more information and details. If answered by voicemail, leave a message and your call will be returned.

17th Annual FLS **Silent Auction & Meal**

Plans are underway for the Annual Silent Auction and Meal taking place in early March. The Auction will be held on-line again this year so you will have a full week to bid on the fantastic items! Details will be coming soon for the meal. Mark your calendar for early March & plan to support FLS!

Donations are being accepted for this year's event now and can be dropped off at the Church Office from 8 AM – 4 PM Monday – Friday. All donations are appreciated and will help to ensure this year's event a great one! To volunteer or make a donation, please contact the Church Office at 864-5522 or a member of the Flame Boosters Club.





Giving Tuesday Results



Giving Tuesday - It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have

to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to contribute toward building the better world we all want to live in.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Giving Tuesday on November 28, 2023 at FL! Throughout the day, more than (80) people expressed their generosity in many ways. More than (246) hours were logged and \$220 were donated to the Cemetery Association. A list of accomplishments:

- Prepared (600) Christmas cards (for our shut-ins, Glencoe senior centers, and McLeod area Veterans)
- Christmas Decorating throughout entire church
- Quilting
- Service Project – Transformed Plastic Bags into Sleeping Mats
- Worked & Closed FLS Book Fair
- Served Refreshments & Meals
- Stuffed mailing for Keep It Happening
- Monetary contributions were received
- Received donations of (68) pairs socks, (1) long john, (1) sports bra, and (47) pair underwear for Orphan Grain Train
- FLS students rang the Bells at Coborn's from Noon till 3 pm for the Salvation Army Red Kettle
- Reading with FLS Students
- Labels cut from bread bags at Grand Meadows
- Cards also written at Orchard Estates
- Chairs cleaned in Fellowship Hall
- Pews cleaned in Sanctuary (week prior)
- Poinsettias delivered and organized for pickup
- Enjoyed friendship and fellowship

All this activity is just an example of what happened on one day at FL and it was a wonderful way to "kick off" the Giving Season!

Thank you to the Thrivent Action Team program for supplying money to purchase postage for the Christmas cards and snacks, food, and refreshments for the volunteers! All through the year, our numerous volunteers log countless hours and help in a multitude of ways. We thank you!



Enjoy some snapshot photos taken throughout the day!





Look

Have you noticed the gorgeous winter pots outside of the south entry? Thank you to Dawn Schauer for this generous gift! Take some time to look at all the decorations inside the church too. Thank you to the Altar Guild (and friends) and to Myrna Frauendienst, Rosie Karg, Sandy Kunkel, and Dennis Wolter for so beautifully decorating! Be sure to stop at the Remembrance Tree and view the ornaments of members who passed this year (families are welcome to pick up the ornaments after Christmas). Everything looks so festive and ready to welcome our Lord and Savior!





Summaries from Our Boards and Committees

Church Council | November 16th

No Summary Submitted

Christian Education Board | November 14th

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday December 17th. The youth that are planning to attend the National Youth Gathering in 2025 have been busy planning fundraisers. Thank you to all who ordered poinsettias!

Day School Board | November 7th

First Lutheran School Marathon brought in approximately \$16,000. Students will enjoy a pizza and pool night as well as a lyceum program. Grandparents/Very Important Persons day planning is underway for November 22 with a half day of school. Students and grandparents/VIPs are encouraged to enjoy lunch at local businesses that have offered a coupon for the day. Christmas concert will take place Wednesday December 20 with a 9am and 7pm services. Fall sports - soccer, volleyball and cross country have all finished the fall season.

Board of Deacons | November 3rd

The new door code was given out. The deacons and elders still need to fill out some of the church service sign up schedule. The deacons will be serving Fellowship on November 12th. Motion made and seconded to have the children's Christmas program at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 20th. Carried. Motion made and seconded to approve having the funeral of Randy Withus at First Lutheran. Carried. All Saints Sunday will be on November 5th and the veteran recognition will take place on November 12th.

Board of Evangelism | November 7th

At our November meeting we looked at our new visitor bags; recapped the hayride, Trunk or Treat, and Thanksgiving Blessing Bags events; and finalized the candy canes with Legend of the Candy Cane to be distributed during the Christmas season.

Board of Stewardship | November 7th

No Summary Submitted

Board of Trustees | November 6th

The Board of Trustees accepted a bid from Town and Country Glass to replace the cracked window in the fellowship hall. Quotes will be obtained for the repair and maintenance of the rooftop duct work. This work will not take place until spring. The church secretary has resigned from her position as of November 8th.

ATTENTION – ALL BOARD MEMBERS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR
BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING ON
THURSDAY, JANUARY 4TH AT 7 PM.



Please keep the church office updated with your current contact information (address, phone, and email). We email out weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters and want to make sure you're included in these mailings!

Will you please take a moment to make sure you're receiving our news? E-mail us at office@firstglencoe.org

THANK YOU, LORD...

...for Your grace
...for Your mercy
...for Your forgiveness
...for Your protection
...for Your guidance
...for Your friendship
...for Your peace
...for Your unfailing love
...for being my Savior



AFFIRM YES!

FLAMES OF FAITH KIDS CLUB

Flames of Faith Kids Club is the before and after school student care program at First Lutheran. It is for children Age 5 through Grade 6. Your child does not have to attend FLS to participate. The morning (6:30-7:45 AM) session is \$8.00 and the afternoon session (until 6:00 PM) is \$10.00 or both sessions are \$15.00. Our program director and contact person is Madison Mathews. To register or for more information, you may contact Madison through the following contact information:



1. FLS FAST DIRECT
2. Madison's PERSONAL CELL NUMBER: (320) 298-2546
3. PERSONAL EMAIL: mrmathews01@gmail.com
4. Visit the church/school website at www.firstglencoe.org for more information or to register.
5. Flames of Faith Kids Club Handbooks are available to pick up at each of the entrance stands.

Sunday School Offerings:

This year our offerings are donated to Heifer International. These animal gifts, are like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs, and more.



FIRST LUTHERAN FINANCIAL REPORT

2023-2024 Financials: July - October (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME (July - October)	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Offering Envelopes	\$ 249,660.39	\$ 220,033.20
Debt Reduction	3,515.00	4,499.00
Thrivent "Choice" Member Elections	3,281.00	1,688.00
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	4,180.00	100.00
School Tuition & Aid Received	115,157.64	87,391.25
Miscellaneous Income	<u>20,380.95</u>	<u>12,493.09</u>
	\$ 396,174.98	\$ 326,204.54
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (July - October)	<u>Current Year</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Staff	\$ 297,574.09	\$ 292,994.75
Employer Payroll Expenses	702.89	1,375.30
Buildings	28,877.28	26,396.61
Operations	6,785.51	10,206.29
Interest On Line of Credit	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 333,939.77	\$ 330,972.95
2023-2024 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:		
	\$ 5,308.00	\$ 3,909.00
October 31st GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS:		(\$ 60,414.06)
Last Year's October 31st General Fund Indebtedness:		(\$ 154,111.91)



December, 2023

"Nurturing Spiritual and Academic Growth"



- **December 6** | Wolfridge Advent Meal | 5:00-6:45
- **December 6** | 3-8 Choral Service | 7:00 p.m
- **December 20** | Christmas Service | 9:00 am & 7:00 p.m. (Preservice music starts 30 minutes prior)
- **December 25** | Jesus' Birthday
- **December 21-January 1** | No School | Christmas Break
- **January 2** | Parent Drive Day



Please Pray For:

- For those who are experiencing any form of loss this Christmas season
- Thankful hearts, that we may never take what we have been given by our Heavenly Father for granted.
- Those people whose lives are in need of a kind word and the message of Christ's love during the Christmas season. Help us to share that message.
- The families of friends and relatives who can't be with a loved one during this holiday season.
- The Christmas Service, that the message of our Savior would be shared and the Holy Spirit would work through the students and in the hearts of anyone who might be hearing this message for the first time.
- All of us - that we would be reminded of the real reason we celebrate Christmas!



- All the people who supported the 7th and 8th graders in their Trunk or Treat German meal. A little over a \$1,000 was fundraised for Wolf Ridge.
- The wonderful people who donated to our Nonpublic School Marathon. More than \$16,000 was raised to continue teaching the Gospel at First Lutheran School.
- All the thoughtful people who supported the 7th and 8th graders by purchasing take and bake pizzas from Unhinged.
- Cindy Eggersgluess for her continued work to make our Home Grown meals a reality.
- Andy, Randy, Loren, and Gary for their continued hard work in keeping our school maintained and running!
- Glenn Cohrs for tilling the school garden!
- Everyone who came out to enjoy and volunteer at our Grandparents/VIP Day!
- Our teachers who continue to make teaching God's children their priority!



Preschool Donations

Preschool brought items to the food shelf before Thanksgiving. They carried over 130 pounds of food! Way to have a servant heart, preschool!



5th Grade

Time flies, it's already almost Christmas! 5th grade enjoyed their field trip with 6th grade on November 10th to the MN History Center. In religion, we are working our way through our third unit, which is about topics included in the First Article. We are using models for adding and subtracting decimals in math, as well as practicing our problem solving with money. In social studies we learned about the history of Native Americans in our nation and are researching different tribes for a project. We have read different fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as a novel. As we read we are practicing comprehension skills and finding literary elements throughout the text. With joyful hearts, we remember and celebrate Christ's birth this Christmas season. Joy to the world, the Lord has come! - Ms. Payton Lilienthal, 5th grade teacher



Advent Meals

You are invited to come enjoy soup and sandwiches made by our 7th and 8th grade families on the evening of our Choral Service, December 6th. All proceeds from this meal directly benefit our students going to Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center.

mthiesfeld@1stglencoe.org

First Ev. Lutheran School | 1015 14th St. E, Glencoe MN 55336 | 320-864-3317

December, 2023

"Nurturing Spiritual and Academic Growth"



Chapel Offerings

November marked our final month for chapel offerings. Over \$1,400 will be going to the Lutheran Church and School in Maui as they continue to rebuild their local communities after the devastating fires that occurred over the summer.

Next trimester our chapel offerings will be going to missionaries in Australia. This is part of a program called "Gospel Adventures" that LCMS puts on for students. During National Lutheran Schools Week our students will be learning about Australia and the work that God is doing there.



Christian Characteristic - Team Player Award

Every month, First Lutheran students have a Christian characteristic that they work on developing, based off of what is being talked about in our Friendly curriculum. This month's Christian characteristic is based off of 1 Peter 4:10, which says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

We continue to learn how God has blessed each of us with our own talents and we use them to serve Him in various ways. What talent has God given you that you can use to be a good steward?

mthiesfeld@1stglencoe.org

Cost of Education

By the Grace of God and through the generous support of First Lutheran Church, First Lutheran School has been able to educate children in the Love of Christ for 139 years. It is estimated that it costs about \$6500 to educate one child at FLS for a year. Tuition pays between 10% and 38% of that cost. Our many fundraisers pay some of the bills; however, the vast majority is supported by First Lutheran Church. To that end, we ask all members of FLC and especially those who send their children to FLS, to consider these figures when they are donating to their church. Thank you to all of your support as we grow the kingdom of God through the work of the Holy Spirit!

Great things are happening at FLS. Let's keep it happening for another 139 years!



Christmas Wish Tree

FLS Wish Tree ~ A Great Way to Donate
A Christmas Wish Tree sponsored by First Lutheran School to help provide items for the classrooms and school has been put up next to the Church Office with paper "ornaments". Each ornament has a "wish item" & cost written on the back. Choose your ornament(s), put it in the provided envelope with your donation & place the sealed envelope in the box under the tree.

Checks may be made payable to First Lutheran School or First Lutheran Church.



School closings and late starts are carried on KDUZ, KARP, and WCCO radio stations and on television stations WCCO (4), and KARE (11). First Lutheran follows the Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools for all weather closings. Parents should use their own best judgment on travel safety during poor weather conditions. During inclement weather, parents may take their children home at any time during the day by reporting to the school office by phone or Fast Direct. The dismissal time announced on radio and TV stations is the time the first building dismisses. If the announced time is 12:00, First Lutheran dismisses at 11:50. On mornings with late starts, scheduled classes (band, chapel, etc.) that meet before 10:10 are canceled for the day. You may dial 320-864-2499 (1) for cancellation or postponement of the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District. Parents should have a plan devised in advance with their children on what to do when school is dismissed early due to weather.



Grandparents/VIP Day

On Wednesday, November 22, FLS welcomed almost 200 Grandparents for Grandparents/VIP Day with their grandchild. They enjoyed a morning of fun activities including a service project, a craft, and the book fair. Over 100 fleece hats were made for a service project to be donated!!

First Ev. Lutheran School | 1015 14th St. E, Glencoe MN 55336 | 320-864-3317







The CHRISMONS that decorate our CHRISTMAS TREE

Chrismon, is a combination of two words: **CHRIST** and **MONogram**. A Chrismon is an ornament (always in white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God), which depicts some divine attribute of Christ or reminds one of a divine gift that Christ bestows. The Chrismon Tree is a visual sermon in which the believer sees the blessed message of the Christmas Gospel – that Christ came as man's Savior. It is our hope that this brief description of some of the various symbols used on the ornaments will make our Chrismon Tree more meaningful.

The earliest symbols for our Savior are *letters* from the Greek alphabet. Examples are:

- X** -The first letter (chi) of the word Christ.
- IHC** or **IHS** -The first three letters of JESUS.
- ΑΩ** -Alpha and Omega, first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Rev. 22:13 calls Jesus the alpha and omega, the eternal God.
- INRI** -an abbreviation for the Latin inscription on the Cross, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews". Iesus, Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum.

A **cross** is a reminder of our Lord's sacrifice to redeem us from our sins. The different forms of the cross point to the various aspects of our Saviors work. Some examples are:

-  **TAU Cross**, salvation promised, but not yet accomplished.
-  **Cross CROSSLET**, the spread of Christianity to the North, East, South and West, to the ends of the earth.
-  **LATIN or PASSION Cross**, cross of suffering; with pointed ends it reminds us of the nails, thorns and spear.
-  **Cross in GLORY**, the rising sun behind the cross symbolizes the new day, when our Lord conquered death by His resurrection.
-  **Cross TREFLEE**, three circles on each of the ends symbolize the Holy Trinity.
-  **GREEK or LORD'S PRAYER Cross**. All four arms of equal length.

Other *symbols* for our Lord and God include:

- CIRCLE** - eternity, God who is eternal.
- TRIANGLE** or **THREE INTERWOVEN CIRCLES** - Our Triune God; the Holy Trinity.
- STAR** - symbolizes the close relationship between the birth and death of our Lord; also the prophecy of His coming.
- FISH, IXOYC** - the Greek word for fish is an acrostic on the first letters of "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior". The fish was a secret sign used between early Christians during times of persecution.
- BUTTERFLY** - Symbol of the Lord's Resurrection.
- ROSE** - Nativity of our Lord. He was called "the Rose of Sharon".



HAND OF GOD - This is perhaps the most outstanding symbol of God the Father. God's hand is extended to give us His blessing and to supply our needs.



LAMB OF GOD - The white pennant represents the body of Christ which is attached to the cruciform staff, representing the cross on which the Lamb of God died and thru which the Risen Christ saves the world. When the Lamb is depicted lying down, reference is made to the suffering Christ. When the Lamb is standing, suggestion is given that the Lamb of God is risen triumphantly.



THE CROWN - The Kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ as He sits at the right hand of the Father and rules over the world and His church on earth. It also can represent the reward of the faithful Christian life.



THE DESCENDING DOVE - The most usual symbol of the Holy Spirit, reminding us of how the Holy Spirit appeared upon Jesus at the time of His baptism by John the Baptist.



THE SHELL on the 8-POINTED STAR - The shell is a symbol for Holy Baptism, as the shell was used for pouring water. The 8-pointed star is a symbol for the regeneration of the Christian through Baptism.



THE CHALICE & WAFER on 8-POINTED STAR - A symbol of the Lord's Supper. The 8-pointed star is called the Creator's Star, reminding us that thru the Body and Blood of Jesus we are brought back into harmony with God.



THE WHEAT and GRAPES - Another symbol of the Lord's Supper.

THE FIERY CHARIOT - As Elijah ascended into Heaven on the Fiery Chariot, so, this Chrismon reminds us of the Ascension of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

[illegible]