

Happy New Year and God’s Richest Blessings to You!

Dear friends in Christ, I pray that the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus was joyful and refreshing for you. As we come down off of the emotional high of the Christmas season, we can still be filled with joy as we look forward in faith that the Lord Jesus Christ who humbled Himself to come as a baby to be our Savior is with us now every step of the way through this year ahead. As the seasons change, we go and grow with Him as He goes and grows with us.

We have no idea what the year 2024, A.D. (*Anno Domini, the year of our Lord*) will bring. Prayerfully, we will have times of great joy with family, loved ones and friends! Hopefully, the economy will improve, and earthly peace will prevail in our own country and around the world. While we pray and hope for the best, what actually lies in store for us, only our omniscient and omnipotent Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit knows for sure.

Will our days be productive, or will they be painful? Will the nights be restless, or will they be refreshing? Come what may, we have absolutely no need to worry, because through it all the blessing of God **will** rest upon us!

Our **loving** Triune God has put His name on us in our Baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection for us. We are His forgiven children blessed with the gift of eternal life. We are His, no matter what the new year brings. Jesus has overcome the world and all that stands against us, and nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. (Romans 8:28-39)

So, with faith, hope, and trust, we can rejoice confidently in His blessing in this new year:

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:24-26)

To which we respond with a resounding “Amen!”

In Christ, Pastor Dan Welch



The Altar Guild will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 5:00 pm to take down Christmas decorations, followed by a meeting addressing many important topics. All members are asked to attend, since our next regular meeting is scheduled in May 2024.



meeting

2024 All Board and Council Re-organization Meeting
Thursday, January 4th at 7:00 PM

--- **Who should attend?**

- ALL** current board members not up for another term
- ALL** current board members who have another term
- ALL** newly-appointed board members
(letters will be sent from church office)

--- **Business Conducted at the meeting:**

- Determine** board officers
- Determine** 2024 meeting schedule
- Determine** 2024 Council Representative



Don't Miss



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

Sunday Jan. 7

- 8:00 AM – Mike Cisewski / Doug Dahlie
- 10:30 AM – Jason Oelfke / Kermit Terlinden

Sunday Jan. 14

- 8:00 AM – Brian Grochow / Lars Ide
- 10:30 AM – Dean Dahlke / Dan Nikolaisen

Sunday Jan. 21

- 8:00 AM – Brian Grochow / Mark Schmidt
- 10:30 AM – Dan Nikolaisen / Lars Ide

Sunday Jan. 28

- 8:00 AM – Fritz Schulz / Dave Sell
- 10:30 AM – Dean Dahlke / Jason Oelfke

17th Annual FLS Silent Auction & Meal

The Flames Boosters Club is gearing up for the annual Silent Auction and we need your support! The auction will be held on-line to allow for a full week of bidding. Make sure to share the auction site with your family and friends, it's a great way to support our students and staff and FLS! Last year we raised over \$32,000 and we couldn't have done it without YOU! Last year's proceeds were used to update technology in the classrooms, including purchasing new Chromebooks. Bidding will start February 24 and end March 2. Details for the meal are in the works. Mark your calendar & get ready to bid!



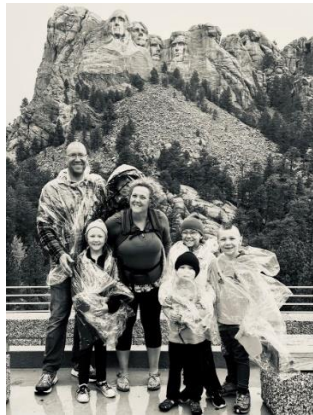
Donations are being accepted for this year's event now and can be dropped off at the Church Office from 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday – Friday. Donation deadline is Feb 16th. All donations are appreciated and will help to ensure that this year's event is a great one! To volunteer or make a donation, please contact the Church Office at 864-5522 or a member of the Flame Boosters Club.

WELCOME!

FROM OUR NEW DCE – MEGAN POLZIN

Kiddos of the congregation (and all the adults too!), I am so very happy to be joining the team of First Lutheran and look forward to growing in my faith alongside you as I work with your parents to guide and direct you as you grow in yours. There are so many things you could learn about how God made me, but the most important things are as follows: I love Jesus, and my husband, and my gaggle of children. I am fascinated by the Bible and how there is so much that we will never stop learning. I call everyone “toots” and I like taking naps. I really like things to be pretty and decorative and to read a good book in the warm sunshine. I’m super competitive and look forward to whooping y’all in whatever games we play. I’m excited to learn more about each of you as you join me at the various upcoming youth activities and events!

Deaconess Megan Polzin graduated from Concordia University—Seward, Nebraska with a Bachelor’s in Middle Level Education in 2006. She received her Master’s of Theology and Deaconess Certification from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne in 2022. She and her husband, Bryan, have been blessed with five children (Piper, Willa, Milo, Breck, and Laurel). After teaching in various classrooms for just over 15 years she is excited to join the staff at First Lutheran and looks forward to getting to know the members better as she works with the many age groups in all areas of Christian Education.



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.



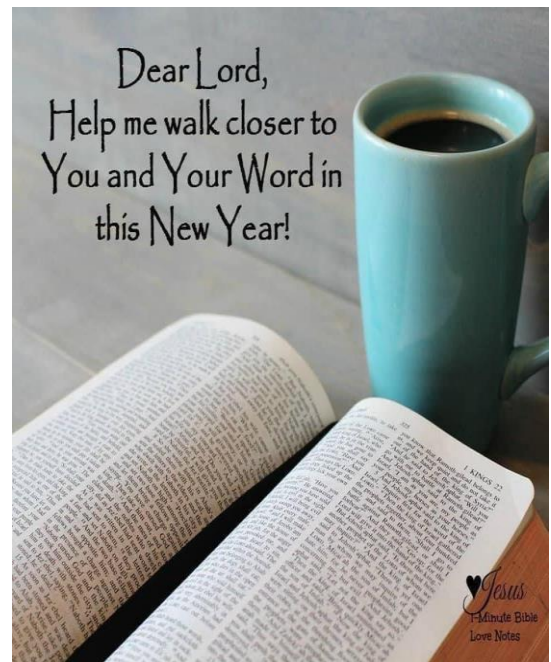
Vanco Mobile Faith – Mobile App (purple V logo)
Text \$ (your \$ amount) to 855-976-9619

Give online via www.firstglencoe.org

WELCOME!

OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY- LAURA SCHMALZ

We welcome Laura who began her new position on December 4th. Laura has been a member of First Lutheran Church since she was 2. Laura also attended FLS, Pre-School through 8th Grade. She then attended and graduated from Mayer Lutheran High School. Laura is extremely grateful for her new position here at church and is looking forward to building relationships with the congregation. Laura and her husband, Brent, live in Buffalo Lake with their two sons, Henry (7) and Roman (6). Both boys attend FLS, Henry is in 1st Grade and Roman is in Kindergarten.





LIBRARY NEWS

Enjoy the new series by USA Today Bestselling Author Valerie M. Bodden. "Pieces of Forever", "Songs of Hope", and "Memories of the Heart" Fall in love with the Calvano

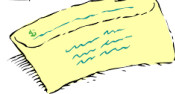
family as they find forgiveness, second chances, and new beginnings in the small town of River Falls, Tennessee. Filled with faith, humor, and heart, this series will draw you in, make you part of the family, and leave you wanting to stay in River Falls forever.

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.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

have been mailed to members' homes. If you have not yet received your 1st quarter envelopes, please contact the church office. Generic offering envelopes are available at each of the Welcome Stands for your convenience. Please write your name or your envelope number on the outside of these envelopes.

Offering Envelopes



2023 OFFERING STATEMENTS

We continue to make efforts to reduce the cost of mailing contribution statements to our members.

You can now receive your contribution statement by email. Not only does this help to reduce costs, but you also receive your statement in a timelier manner. Please contact the church office to confirm the email address you wish to have the statement sent to.

Paper statements will be placed outside the workroom in alphabetical order. They will be available for congregation members to pick up in late January. Should you need them prior to this time period, please contact the church office and we'll be happy to help!

How to Watch Facebook WITHOUT Having an Account

Did you know that you can watch Worship Services, Events, Bible Studies, Videos and see Pictures and Posts on First Ev. Lutheran's Facebook page without having your own Facebook account? Here is how you do it:



From your computer's internet browser, go to the First Lutheran website at: www.firstglencoe.org

From the home page, click on the slide "Watch Worship Services Online" on our Facebook page. The First Ev. Lutheran Facebook page will open in a new tab, and you will see a picture of the south entrance of our building (to properly identify). On the left-hand side of the page, you will see "videos." Click on videos and scroll down until you see the specific video (Divine Services, Behind the Hymn, Children's Messages, etc.).

You can also search for First Ev. Lutheran School and see School related posts. These are "public" pages and so you can peruse without becoming a Facebook member.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Laura for further direction.



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES in Glencoe is looking for volunteers for their meals-on-wheels program, to help deliver approximately 10 meals to the elderly and homebound individuals in the Glencoe community. If you have a vehicle and 40 min to spare, between 11am and noon, please consider volunteering once a week or once a month. Drivers are especially needed on Fridays. To find out more please call or text Theresa at 320-864-5728.

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



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.

Radio Broadcasts --- Help get our Sunday

Services heard!

Do you listen to the Sunday morning radio broadcast aired once a month on KDUZ?



Did you ever notice that often times a member will sponsor these broadcasts to honor a special occasion or in memory of a loved one?

If you've ever thought of sponsoring a broadcast, now is the time...we still have some unsponsored broadcasts in the coming months. Can you help?

The cost to sponsor the broadcast for one month is \$195. The sponsorship announcement would include the words "Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by..." If you are interested in sponsoring, please call or stop in the church office.

This ministry is possible thanks to the generosity of our sponsoring members as well as the Edwin and Ella Ponath Radio Broadcast Fund.



Happy January Birthday to "Lutheran Women in Mission" honorary members Lorraine Krumm and Ida Rutske. A \$5 gift in honor of each of you has been given to LWML Mission Grants "Mites."



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Lutheran Women in Mission "LWML" will meet Monday January 8 at 2:30 p.m. We will continue with the Jeremiah Bible Study "I Know the Plans I Have for You." Refreshments will be served. GUESTS are always welcomed. You don't have to be a regular attendee – just come when you can. (No, we won't make you speak out loud or beg you to lead a committee!)



THANK YOU

Thank you to the many quilters, bakers, crafters, servers, helpers, eaters and purchasers who participated in last month's Brunch, Bake, Craft Sale. Over \$5000 was received. ALL will be used for Christ centered mission projects here at First Evangelical Lutheran Church and School as well as mission projects far away.



CHRISTMAS BOXES for CHILDREN Orphan Grain Train

Thank you for the many Christmas Boxes completed and returned to church! For many children in poverty areas around the world, your box will be the ONLY present they receive for the entire year. As you know, each box includes a beautiful Christmas Gospel message.

Here at First Evangelical Lutheran this project will conclude mid-January. If you have boxes at home, please complete and return them to church. For Orphan Grain Train, this is a year-round project. For more information go to www.ogt.org or contact Glenda Schuft. Jesus said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of these the least of my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:37-40

Children's Duties

Bible Verses About Children's Duties

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20

My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. Proverbs 1:10

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Proverbs 23:22

Parents' Duties

Bible Verses About Parents' Duties

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4

Be careful and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and your children after them. Deuteronomy 4:9

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road (in 2024, when you drive in the car) when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 11:19

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not part from it. Proverbs 22:6 (*This is the motto of First Evangelical Lutheran School*)

MAT MAKERS

A New First Lutheran Service Group

2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m.

"Mat Makers" is a new service group here at First Evangelical Lutheran. Men and women meet to craft and crochet plastic grocery-type bags into sleeping mats. You DO NOT need to know how to crochet to be a part of this group. There are MANY steps involved before crocheting begins:

- Smooth and flatten the bag
- Fold the bag
- Cut the folded bag into about 2" loops
- Loop the loops together to form a long chain
- Wind the long chain into a ball (Some of the men really enjoy this step. They wind the balls very tightly and neatly.)

Crocheters then use a large hook to crochet the balls into sleeping mats. EACH STEP is very important.

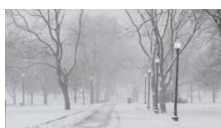
Mat Makers meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 1:30 p.m. for a short devotion, crafting, laughing, and visiting. Then we clean up and enjoy a little snack before going home. Some of the Mat Makers choose to the crafting at home.

Women and men of First Lutheran, if this is a service project that appeals to you, PLEASE COME and see what it's all about. Bring a scissor. Bring a friend if you want. It's a fun afternoon of serving the Lord by making sleeping mats for His dear children.

Snow Plowing During Storms

REMINDER: Church members need to be aware that parking lots at the church are not plowed during snowstorms but done after the snow has stopped. The exceptions to

this are worship services and special events, such as weddings and funerals. Please be cautious if you need to come to the church during a snowfall!



Estate Planning in 2024

Happy New Year! A new year gives a fresh opportunity to respond to all of God's gifts, applying them to every circumstance and relationship in the hope of sharing Jesus. ALL OF LIFE IS ABOUT



USING GOD'S GIFTS IN DOING GOD'S THINGS. That is true for our estate plans as well. Our estates are full of God's gifts. An LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you in planning your estate. She will explain ways you can leave estate gifts to your heirs, you church and other ministries you love while avoiding many expensive estate taxes. She is confidential and professional. Her gift-giving advice is of no charge to you. For more information contact:

Carol VonSoosten Carol.vonSoosten@lfn.org 800-471-4138
 Mary Kay Mages mary_schuft@hotmail.com 507-345-2460



A Message of Hope heard on The Lutheran Hour

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 January, you will hear the following program topics:

Jan 7 **"As We Forgive"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't. (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

Jan 14 **"How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Dr. Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

Jan 21 **"Topic not available at newsletter deadline"** with Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler.

Jan 28 **"Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"** with Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. Topic based on Psalm 103:11-12.

2024 - A new year for broadcasting The Lutheran Hour on KDUZ 1260 AM Radio, Hutchinson, MN. With God's blessing and with your continuing support we are excited to share the Gospel each week in the KDUZ radio listening area. Thank you for your financial support and prayers this past year. We pray that you will join us in sponsoring a program or programs during 2024. The cost for sponsoring a broadcast will be \$96.00.

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 that the Sunday date you would like to sponsor is open before sending a donation.

Checks should be made to "KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast". Send your checks to: KDUZ Lutheran Hour Broadcast Supporters, % First Lutheran Church, 925 13th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336. You will receive a confirmation in the mail with the dedication you will hear at the beginning of the broadcast.

***And let us not grow weary of doing good,
 for in due season we will reap,
 if we do not give up.
 Galatians 6:9 ESV***



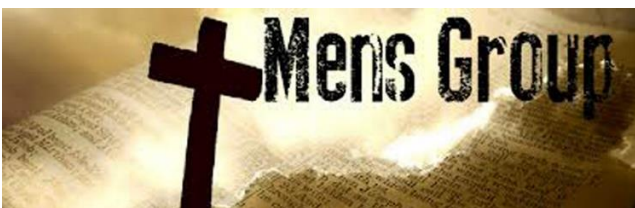


Daily Devotions Delivered Each Day to You

Daily Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device

through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, and friends. Go to:

<https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/> to sign up for the devotions.



Men's Network January 16th | 7:00-8:00 PM

The Men's Network meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 7-8 pm, led by Rev. Tyson Mastin, at St. John Lutheran Church in Plato. All sessions are at St. John Lutheran and are open to and being attended by men from area congregations who are interested to learn more about defending the Christian faith.

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 your 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.

Cindy Eggersgluess 612-840-6308

eggsgluecsscindy@gmail.com

Did you know the verse "it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven," does not mean a sewing needle? In ancient times those gates had two large leaves and a smaller door called the eye of the needle intended only for the passage of pedestrians. When the large gates were closed, getting a camel through the eye of the needle required the camel to shed its load and bend its legs and neck. It was a difficult task that often left scratches. Jesus' teaching was not impossible for a rich man to get into heaven but a reminder that whether you are rich or poor you must shed your burdens, bend your necks in obedience, kneel before God and acknowledge Him that He is the only way to salvation. And on this journey you will get scratches along the way.



√ **Thrivent Choice** – Thank you Thrivent members for continuing to designate your Choice \$. This past month, we received \$15 for FLC and \$414 for FLS. We also received a \$650 donation from a donor-advised fund. 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. If you would like assistance, please contact Cindy or the church office.

√ **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!

√ **Virtual Christmas Concert** - We hope you enjoyed "Home for the Holidays" concert featuring Chris Tomlin!

√ **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 Miriam Randt for sharing her Action Teams recently!)**

Cindy Eggersgluess – 612-840-6308 / eggersgluesscindy@gmail.com – Your 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 school lunch program. We are currently working on application of some future funds.

The December 7th Homegrown lunch featured and Egg Bake with pork sausage and cheese and pumpkin cake. The eggs were from Doug Schultz and the pork sausage from Brownston Meats. The students were asked to guess how many total eggs were cracked and used – the answer was 102! After browning the pork sausage, it was mixed with the scrambled eggs and other ingredients and then baked in the oven about 1 hour. The cake was made from the pumpkins we froze this fall (pumpkins came from Mrs. Donnay's sister's garden). We defrosted the frozen pumpkin and then mixed it with chocolate chips and other yummy ingredients before baking at 350 degrees for about an hour.

On December 14th, we tried something that the Student Council had requested – Chicken Alfredo. We purchased 6 chickens from the Gruber Family and baked them. These free-range chickens grew up and were butchered on the farm, then were frozen till we were ready to cook them. We used sliced chicken breasts for our delicious Chicken Alfredo meal – we'll have the rest of the chicken in a future meal. Chicken provides vitamins and minerals involved with brain function, helps build muscle, strengthens bones, and promotes heart health!

Our final meal for 2023 featured Chilidogs. The wieners were purchased from the Brownston Meat Market and were topped with beef chili and cheese. This lunch also featured home-made fries from the Sweet Potatoes grown this summer in the school garden. Finally, the students enjoyed a yummy yogurt parfait topped with sliced strawberries that were picked by Victory Produce in Cokato. We froze these berries back in June! Strawberries are very healthy, containing many antioxidants and vitamins – it was quite a treat to have this for a December meal!

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!"

2024 Officers & Board Members

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President: Bill Brickzen

Vice President: Jon Lemke

Treasurer: Ryan Ortloff

Secretary: Joyce Aul

BOARD MEMBERS

Cemetery: Charlie Czycalla, Bruce Donnay, Tom Hueser, Harlan Mathews, Stuart Selchow, Jerry Strobel, Marilee Vacek, Louie Tessmer

Christian Education: Taylor Bernstein, Melissa Cisewski, Cindy Mathews, Madison Mathews, Laura Schmalz, Amy Welch

Day School: Eric Dahlke, Mindy Dressel, Shauna Gruber, Sarah LaMott, Jodi Michaelis, Kari Nikolaisen, Erik Plath, Jennifer Pokornowski, Lori Schiroo

Deacons: Michael Cisewski, Will Freberg, Joel Goche, Brian Grochow, Dan Nikolaisen, Jason Oelfke, Justin Petterson, Mark Schmidt, Dennis Wolter

Elders: Doug Dahlke, Dean Dahlke, David Hoese, Lars Ide, Richard Jannusch, Jon Lemke, Tim Schauer, Dean Scheele, Jan (Fritz) Schulz, Kermit Terlinden

Evangelism: Carrie Donnay, Lynn Exsted, Sheila Scheele, Travis Uecker, Betty Witthus

Stewardship: Janet Betsinger, Keenan Dummer, Sue Schulz

Trustees: Mark Ahlbrecht, Arnold Brinkman, Randy Bussler, Lesa Hueser, Vernon Lindeman, Gary Schauer, Lester Schauer, Dave Uecker

WELCOME to all newly appointed board members, and re-appointed board members. We are thankful you have chosen or are continuing to serve here at FIRST! To those who are in the middle of their term, keep up the good work! We see all you are doing to bring glory to God through the various ministries of First Lutheran. Our heartfelt thanks to all whose terms of service ended in 2023. Your faithful service during this time is what continues to make First Lutheran a wonderful place to worship, fellowship, and serve together --- Sharing Christ, Changing Lives!

Summaries from Our Boards and Committees



Church Council | December 14th

No December Meeting

Christian Education | December 12th

The Board of Christian Ed is looking forward to working with the new DCE Megan Polzin! We have also started looking ahead to plan for 2024.

Day School Board | December 5th

Grandparents day/VIP was well attended on Nov 22. Students have begun practicing for the Children's Christmas service on Dec 20 at 9 AM and 7 PM. Board members will be providing treats bags for all children after the service. First Lutheran Robotics team will be having their first meet on Jan 13 in Otsego. Students in 7th & 8th grade served soup and sandwiches before the choral concert on December 6 Advent service to raise money for the Wolf Ridge trip planned for Feb 7-9.

Board of Deacons | December 7th

The new door code was given out.

The deacons and elders still need to fill out some of the church service sign up schedule.

There was discussion about the reconciliation Bible study.

Board of Evangelism | December 5th

Board of Evangelism -- It was another busy yet fun year for our Board! A 2023 recap: Three Bingo & Bake Sale events, Easter Palms for Palm Sunday, funding our church/school website, funding our church's membership at the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce, participation in the FLS Silent Auction, serving Fellowship (March, April, September), sponsoring Pack the Pews food shelf drive (March-April), re-starting the Greeters signup, donations for FLC/FLS walkers at the Glencoe Parade, supporting the KDUZ Radio Broadcasts, purchased FLC visitor bags, participated in Trunk or Treat, sponsored food/drink for the FLC/FLS hay ride, sponsored Thanksgiving Blessing Bag event for our local food shelf, and sponsored candy canes with Legend of the Candy Cane holiday handout. Any other ideas to engage our congregation in Fellowship and fun? Let us know!

Board of Stewardship | December 5th

No Summary Submitted

Board of Trustees | December 4th

No Summary Submitted

First Lutheran Financial Report

2023-2024 Financials: November (YTD)

GENERAL FUND INCOME ONLY (November):	<u>Last Year</u>	
Offering Envelopes	\$ 308,225.78	\$ 272,994.96
Debt Reduction	3,830.00	5,234.00
Thrivent "Choice" <i>Member Elections</i>	4,045.00	1,790.00
School "Keep It Happening" Fund	4,205.00	250.00
School Tuition	131,124.46	99,202.64
Miscellaneous Income	<u>27,979.19</u>	<u>14,936.01</u>
	\$479,409.43	\$ 394,407.61

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES (November):	<u>Last Year</u>	
Staff	\$ 375,521.50	\$ 374,584.66
Employer Payroll Expenses	888.58	1,625.45
Buildings	35,940.77	38,165.05
Operations	9,693.01	12,291.59
Interest (Line of Credit)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>- 0 -</u>
	\$ 422,043.86	\$ 426,666.75

2022-2023 MISSIONS & ANGEL SEED OFFERINGS:
\$ 6,528.00 \$5,015.00

November 30th GENERAL FUND INDEBTEDNESS: (\$ 61,151.08)
Last Year's November 30th General Indebtedness: (\$ 190,616.30)





- January 1 | New Year's Day
- January 2 | School Resumes and Drive Day
- January 6 | Epiphany
- January 13 | Robotics Tournament in Otsego
- January 15 | Parent Drive Day
- January 21 | All students sing in church
- January 21-26 | National Lutheran Schools Week
- February 7-9 | 7th/8th Grade Wolf Ridge Learning Center Trip



Please Pray For:

As we go into this New Year, we are thankful for all that God has given us. We pray for:

- Thankful hearts, that we may never take what we have been given by our Heavenly Father for granted.
- Those less fortunate in our world, including religious and political refugees, those who lost loved ones from sickness, the homeless, and repressed people everywhere.
- Those in Australia and the missionaries that share the Gospel, that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts.
- The strength to trust in God above all else.
- A blessing for Laura in our church office and Mrs. Polzin as our new DCE

mthiesfeld@1stglencoe.org



"A" Honor Roll

Congratulations to these 5-8 students who averaged an A letter grade this past Trimester!
 Back Row (left to right): Kryptan, Cole, Isaiah N., Gemma, Hadley, Clara W., Connor, Isaiah D., Erika, and Ivanna
 Middle Row (left to right): Oliver, Griffin, Lilly, Clara H., Autumn, Madison G., Brady, Claire, Oscar, and Emme
 Front Row (left to right): Dawsen, Madison P., Nora, Novah, Kinley



"B" Honor Roll

Congratulations to these 5-8 students who averaged a B letter grade this past Trimester!
 Back Row (left to right): Evalyn, William, Ryland, Summer, Beau, Avery, Ruby, Harper, Kira, Bria, and Yandel
 Front Row (left to right): Cecelia, Natallie, Landon, Trystan, Macie, Caylee, Traevin, Priya, and Kyler



4th grade

Happy New Year! We had a great time celebrating the birth of Jesus and everything Christmas here at First Lutheran! Now it is time to jump into the new year with more fun and new opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus. In religion, we are in the middle of unit 3 discussing how God is with us even through our toughest battles. In math, we are working on long division! In social studies, we are learning about the southeast region. Specifically discussing the early colonial days all the way up to the present. In science, we have recently started chapter 7 where we are learning about rocks and minerals. In reading, we have read a couple novels like Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and Winn-Dixie. We are currently reading Little House in the Big Woods! We are also discussing all different genres. We are reading examples as well as practicing predicting, summarizing, and comprehension! We are excited to see what God has planned for us in the year 2024! Blessings on your New Year!
 - Ms. Zoey Flemming, 4th grade teacher



More Rewards
 Thank you to everyone who has designated their Coborns Rewards to First Lutheran School. Earlier this year we recieved \$1,200 from them which goes back to the students.

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



Chapel Offerings

During the second trimester our chapel offerings will be going to missionaries in Australia. This is part of a program called "Gospel Adventures" that LCMS organizes for students. During National Lutheran Schools Week our students will be learning about "Awesome Australia" and the work that God is doing there. We will look into the day-to-day lives of people like us in Australia through music, videos, and fun characters with Gospel Adventures.



Christian Characteristic - Kind Speaker Award

Our school goal this month is for all of us to understand the importance of what we say and the effects that those words can have on people. We want students to understand that we need to think before we speak. Of course, we weren't the ones that came up with this, God did. His Word says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" - Ephesians 4:29. There are 26 letters in the alphabet. Those letters make up millions of words. We have the choice to say words that build others up instead of tearing them down.

mthiesfeld@1stglencoe.org

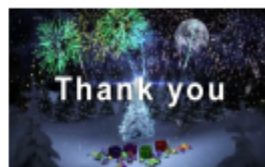
CONNECTED

JOHN 15:1-5

NLSW

At the end of January, First Lutheran will celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week. This is a fun and special week as we celebrate our Lutheran School, as well as the LCMS Schools around the world. In 2021 there were 1,885 LCMS schools, with 142,469 students who were enrolled in a LCMS school, early childhood-high school, and more than 22,000 teachers!

What a blessing it is to serve at a Lutheran School where we get to share the Good News of our Savior to those we serve. Thank you for all of your donations that you make to keep our church and school connected!



A big thank you to the following:

- The School Board for providing goodie bags to all the children during this wonderful time of the year.
- All the great folks who supported the seventh and eighth graders by attending the soup and sandwich supper.
- For everyone who so kindly donated items to our classroom from the Wish Tree.
- All of our teachers who put in many extra hours during the Christmas season.
- Michelle for her hardwork in November as she also helped in the church office during a secretary vacancy



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.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to these students and staff in the month of January!


- Isaiah N. (8) | 2nd
- Elaina W. (PK) | 2nd
- Claire D. (K) | 4th
- Breck P. (PK) | 7th
- Leena W. (PK) | 9th
- Harper S (4) | 17th
- Nash B. (1) | 18th
- Erin H. (4) | 21st
- Riley L (3) | 21st
- Nora J. (K) | 26th
- Lauren L. (PK) | 27th
- Ethen P. (1) | 29th
- Ms. Flemming (4) | 31st

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2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALTAR GUILD WORKERS Elaine Haus (320) 510-0966 Judy Rowan (320) 864-5467 Tonya Christensen (320) 510-1869 	Church Contacts: 925 13th St. E. Glencoe, MN 55336 (320) 864 - 5522 office@1stglencoe.org	School Contacts: 1015 14th St. E. Glencoe, MN 55336 (320) 864 - 3317 rlthiesfeld@1stglencoe.org				
www.firstglencoe.org						
71 INSTALLATION SUNDAY 8:00 AM - Divine Service w/Communion 9:00 AM - Fellowship: OPEN 9:15 AM - Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM - Divine Service	Church Office Closed - No School 1:00 PM - Quilt Tying 2:30 PM - LWML	FLS - School Resumes 9:30 AM - GlenFields 1:30 PM - Mat Makers 6:00 PM - Flames Boosters 6:00 PM - First Edition Book Club	10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 3:30-4:45 PM - Public School Confirmation 6:15 PM - Senior Choir	8:10 AM - FLS Chapel (Joel Landstkrener) 2:00 PM - Grand Meadows 7:00 PM - Cemetery Board		
14 8:00 AM - Divine Service 9:00 AM - Fellowship: OPEN 9:15 AM - Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM - Divine Service w/Communion	15 1:00 PM - Quilt Tying	16 3:00-4:30 PM - Fun & The Son 7:00 PM - Men's Network @ Plato	17 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 3:30-4:45 PM - Public School Confirmation 6:00 PM - Senior Choir	18 8:10 AM - FLS Chapel (Mrs. Welch) 7:00 PM - Church Council		
JANUARY 21 - 27 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK						
21 8:00 AM - Divine Service w/Communion 9:00 AM - Fellowship: OPEN 9:15 AM - Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM - Divine Service	22 1:00 PM - Quilt Tying	23 3:30-4:45 PM - Public School Confirmation 6:00 PM - Senior Choir	24 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 3:30-4:45 PM - Public School Confirmation 6:00 PM - Senior Choir	25 8:10 AM - FLS Chapel (Camp Omega)		
JANUARY 21 - 27 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK						
28 8:00 AM - Divine Service 9:00 AM - Fellowship: OPEN 9:15 AM - Bible Study & Sunday School 10:30 AM - Divine Service w/Communion	29 1:00 PM - Quilt Tying 6:00 PM - Endowment Committee	30 11 AM to 12:30 PM - Common Cup Diaper Distribution at City Center	31 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 3:30-4:45 PM - Public School Confirmation 6:00 PM - Senior Choir			