



# FIRST NEWS

A monthly publication for the members and friends of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

## June 2026

### JUNE 2026

### Time with Tom

Summertime is coming, some of our children will plan a fall schedule for an extended education or to join the work force and maybe some will be taking some time off. We will see our children go into the world and we want them to be safe and successful so it may be a good time to remind them of what Jesus told his disciples as he sent them out. <sup>16</sup> *"I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Remember Jesus sent them with these words also; As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'* <sup>8</sup> *Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. We are sending our children to do some of the same things. Some may become doctors or nurses, maybe some pastors and teachers and yet others, workers in the trades. They will need to be on their guard against the difficulties of this world. The world sometimes feels like a place of adventure, but for parents and grandparents we see it as a place we will not be in, so we cannot protect our children. Students and young adults, you will need to remember your parents are worried about you and so remember to check in from time to time with good reports as well as your struggles. Jesus sent the first disciples to venture out; he must have been worried because he knew them and what they were about to find. The situation may be different, these are our kids and we know where they are going, we can be in contact with them at any time if we need. We know that they do not have the same job as the disciples, but they have the same God, they will probably not be walking, or going without extra clothes or money, but they may have some of the same fears and doubts. Jesus tells us he will be with us wherever we go, we will not be alone. As our children go out, we will pray for God's protection, we will pray for strength to let them go. Jesus will give them the words they need, if confronted with trouble. Trust in the Lord and know that we are his children and as this summer progresses, enjoy time with family, be safe and know that the Lord is with you always. Amen.*

*Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you!*  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 13:11 Pastor Tom Evenson*

**Our mission:** First Evangelical Lutheran Church exists to **welcome** people to faith in Jesus Christ; **equip** persons with a faith that works in real life; and **send** us in service into the world in Jesus' name.

*O Lord:  
 Grant us patience,  
 O Lord, to follow the  
 road you have taken.  
 Let our confidence  
 not rest in our own  
 understanding but in  
 your guiding hand;  
 let our desires not be  
 for our own comfort,  
 but for the joy of your  
 kingdom; for your  
 cross is our hope  
 and our joy now  
 and unto the day of  
 eternity.  
 Amen.*

### CHURCH OFFICE



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# Church Council

**"GOD'S WORK.  
OUR HANDS."**

First Lutheran Church Exists To Welcome people to faith, Equip persons with a faith that works in real life, and Send us in service into the world in Jesus' name

## PRESIDENT:

Karla Hyberger

Council Meeting April 21, 2026

## VICE PRESIDENT:

Harriette Connor

Devotions: Karla H

Additions to Agenda: Membership by Pastor Tom

## SECRETARY:

Mattie Baumgartner

Secretary Report: Mattie B One correction includes the dates for Bible Camp June 1-3 Noted and changed Jim C Made motion to approve and Julie B second, motion carried

## TREASURER:

Jim Cottington

Treasurer Report: Jim C . Jim has a new format for the reporting of the budget and it looks great, members should find this very helpful to understand the budget going forward. Jim C made motion to accept the recommendations of the finance committee of what to do with dedicated funds . Discussion and vote to accept the recommendations of the finance committee. Motion carried.

## Team Representatives:

### Christian Education/ Family and Youth:

Karla Hyberger

Alexis Engelke

Harriette Connor

Duane Farmer

Pastors Reports: See written reports

### Evangelism:

Sabrara Evenson

Karla Hyberger

Harriette Connor

### Team Reports:

Worship Team: See Report , Brad Conner has offered to teach guitar lessons. Council was in favor of this.

Property Team: It was decided that the church secretary be more informed when we have people here so she can schedule more efficiently. Lots of projects to look forward to this year for a complete list see report.

Christian Education Team: August 15,16 camper weekend

Endowment Fund:

Personnel Committee: Evaluations almost completed and Exit interviews are complete.

Social Ministry: National Night Out August 4, Communion Luncheon, May 13 and New Member Sunday brunch May 17.

MST: Meeting Next Tuesday

### Stewardship & Finance:

Jim Cottington

Julie Bredeson

Martha Christensen

### Endowment/Memorials:

Julie Bredeson

Jim Cottington

### OLD BUSINESS

Jim C. passed code for the book every council member will read.

Devotion sign up for Council, complete.

Dishwasher: Is fixed for now Property team will price out new dishwasher and present to council.

Librarian: A new person in the library to use the computer etc. She will be working with Carol who will continue in her duties.

Thank You: A big thank you from Karla who is very much appreciative of the efforts everyone puts out for FLC!!!!

Motion made by Jim C Treasurer to utilize 131,745. 51 to pay off loan against boiler, etc. when the CD matures and to reinvest the rest back in the CD with Center Bank. This will also include the dedicated funds for that purpose. Seconded By Julie motion carried.

### MST:

Sabrara Evenson

Martha Christensen

### Personnel:

Karla Hyberger

Tanner Eberling

### Property:

Mattie Baumgartner

Betty Allen

Tanner Eberling

Duane Farmer

### Social Ministry

Meredith Elj

Betty Allen

### NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair for Council: Harriet Connor is new Vice Chair. Congrats Harriet!!!

Synod Assembly Delegates: Still one delegate short, please volunteer if you are able.

New Member Sunday Brunch: May 17 Council will provide the egg bakes ask for the members to bring a dish to share.

New Member Orientation : Asking for representatives of each council Team to attend. COOP summer worship services, Worship Team responsible to coordinate.

### Worship:

Meredith Elj

Alexis Engelke

### Scout Charter –

### Organization Rep.

Tanner Eberling

Prayer Requests: Pastor Michael

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michael

Adjourn: 905 pm

*Council minutes continue on page 3*

<u>April 2026 Financial Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>	
Offerings Income:	48,616.60	142,925.40
Dedicated Donations:	9,660.72	24,442.94
Expense:	50,461.55	178,122.81
Net Income:	\$ 7,433.31	\$ (10,754.47)

Hello congregation. We are happy to report that in April, as discussed during the annual meeting and approved by council, First Lutheran Church used funds held in reserve to pay off the balance of \$132,359.89 on our mortgage loan. Any future donations made to the Boiler/Window/AC account will be transferred to our building fund and held in reserve for future capital building improvements. Also, this month the income dollars will start to include offerings made to dedicated accounts, an amount not previously represented in our reporting. God's blessings. Jim Cottington Treasurer



*Lord Jesus, accept these gifts given in faith. Let them fuel church growth, support missions, and meet needs locally and globally. Bless those who gave sacrificially today. Amen.*

Our GLOBAL MISSIONS offering for the month of June: Lutheran Social Services

CLIPBOARD MISSIONS: this opportunity is found in the narthex, there are three clipboards to sign up on. The suggested offering to support these missions is \$40.

**World Missions:** Rev. Aaron Fuller and Kelly Schumacher Fuller, Slovakia and Hungary

**MAM: Meeker Area Ministries** (includes emergency housing)

**Roblealto:** Costa Rica Bible Home

*Council minutes continued.....*

Dates to Remember:

- May 3 High School Graduate Recognition
- May 13 Spring Luncheon
- May 14 New Member Orientation
- May 17 New Member Sunday Brunch
- May 14 Coop worship at Windmill Park Grove City 10:45
- June 1-3 Vacation Bible School
- June 6 Synod Assembly
- June 7-11 Confirmation Camp

Membership:

- 2027: Betty Allen, Tanner Eberling, Sabrara Evenson, Karla Hyberger
- 2028: Jim Cottington, Julie Bredeson, Alexis Engelke, Meredith Elj
- 2029: Harriette Connor, Duane Farmer, Martha Christensen, Mattie Baumgartner



**American Red Cross**

**Blood Drive**

June 18, 2026

12:30 - 6:30 p.m.

First Ev. Lutheran Church

703 South Sibley Ave, Litchfield

Chilstrom Hall

For more information

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS

(1-800-733-2767) or visit

RedCrossBlood.org

# Churchwide



*This baptism is the start to a wonderful  
and long lasting faith.  
Congratulations on this milestone!!*

Baptized: Sunday, April 19, 2026

*This baptism is the start to a wonderful  
and long lasting faith.  
Congratulations on this milestone!!*

Baptized: Sunday, May 17, 2026

Gabriel Edward Slinden  
Parents: Donovann Jr. and Jaime Slinden  
Sponsors: Paige Slinden, Nathan Feucht  
Joe and Kristi Walton

&

LaykeLynn Kay Black  
Parents: Kyle Black and Paige Slinden  
Sponsors: Donovann Jr. and Jaime Slinden,  
Heather Keppers, Damien Black

Charlotte Rae Underwood  
Parent: Shelby Groskreutz  
Sponsors: Sophie Burr  
Beth Groskreutz



## VBS CAMP CHAOS 2026

June 1st - 3rd | 5:30 - 7:15 pm  
Ages 4 years old - 4th Grade  
Games, outdoor fun, music & dancing  
and laughter with friends  
Location: Zion Lutheran, 504 N Gilman  
Dinner: 5:30 - 5:50 pm Free

**Jesus is the path to our peace.**  
Bring your friends and discover  
how to follow Jesus - even when  
life feels a little chaotic.



# Welcome, New Members

The prophet urges: “Come, let us go up ... to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths” (Isaiah 2:3, NRSV).  
Let’s welcome one another to the house of God.



Karen Kranz



Jason Gordon



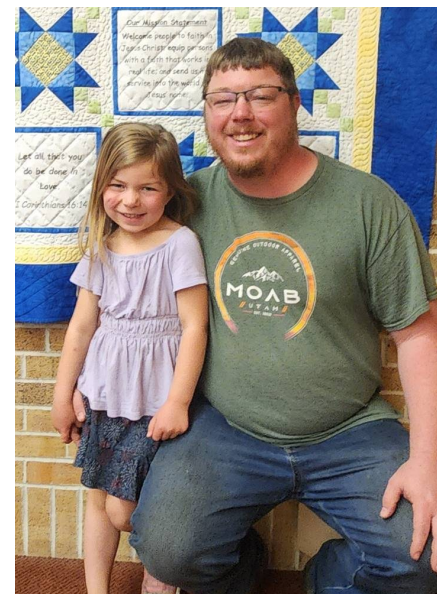
Joanne Benfield



Navasha Kieffer,  
Hailey, Klayton, and Emmett



Philip and Nancy Baalson



Tanner Bos, Anna

# Churchwide

## June Worship Schedule

### Wednesday, June 3, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

### Sunday, June 7, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion

10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, June 10, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

### Sunday, June 14, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion & Baptism, Willow Bailey

10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, June 17, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

### Sunday, June 21, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion

10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, June 24, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

### Sunday, June 28, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion

10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

## Special Dates....

- Flag Day, June 14, 2026
- Juneteenth, June 19, 2026
- Father's Day, June 21, 2026
- First Day of Summer, June 21, 2026



### Cable TV Broadcast Schedule

Cable TV broadcasts worship services from the prior week. There is a Lutheran Worship Service broadcast every day of the week at 11am except Saturday! These services are broadcast at 11am on Community Access Cable TV: Channel 7 Mediacom and Channel 13 Nuvera.

## MOVIE NIGHT

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**

5:00 p.m.

Holy Word Theater, FLC

Movie: TBD....

Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.

Please bring your own beverage.

Lord, in my work — whether at a job, at home or in a service—

*help me*  
to do it with  
**purpose** and  
**peace.**

Keep me from being overwhelmed, and remind me that my worth is not in what I produce, but in

*who I am in You.*  
Amen.



## June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>*TBI Support Group,</b> Traumatic Brain Injury, AKA., Peaces of Mind Moved to Monday at 6PM</p>	<p><b>1</b> 6:00 pm OPEN HOUSE – Pieces of Mind/*TBI Supp. Group 5:30 – 7:25 pm VBS at Zion</p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:30 am BREW 2 pm Worship, Meeker Manor 5:30 pm Worship Team Mtg. 5:30 – 7:25 pm VBS at Zion 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings</p>	<p><b>3</b> 8:30 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel 5:30 – 7:25 pm VBS at Zion</p>	<p><b>4</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b> SWMN Synod Assembly</p>	<p><b>6</b> SWMN Synod Assembly</p>
<p><b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship w Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour Confirmation Camp begins</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:00 pm *TBI Supp. Group</p>	<p><b>9</b> 7:30 am BREW 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p><b>10</b> 8:30 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p><b>11</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 3:45 – 5:00 pm FLC Guitar/ Jam Group Confirmation students return from camp</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:00 am Men's Group</p>
<p><b>14</b> 9:00 am Worship w/Comm. &amp; Baptism, Willow Bailey 10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:00 pm *TBI Supp. Group</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:30 am BREW 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 7:00 pm Church Council</p>	<p><b>17</b> 8:30 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p><b>18</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 12:30 – 6:30 pm RED CROSS Blood Drive, Chilstrom Hall 1:30 pm WELCA, Chapel</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater</p>
<p><b>21</b> Father's Day 9:00 am Worship w Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:00 pm *TBI Supp. Group</p>	<p><b>23</b> 7:30 am BREW 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:30 am Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p><b>25</b> 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 am Men's Group</p>
<p><b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship w Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6:00 pm *TBI Supp. Group</p>	<p><b>30</b> 7:30 am BREW 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p>First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 South Sibley Ave Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-2487</p>			

# Serving Group & Birthdays

<b>JUNE 2026 SERVING GROUP</b>	Janet Nelson
<b>Chairs:</b>	Jill Nelson
<b>Sheri Nelson</b>	Nathan & Amanda Nelson
<b>Valda Thomas</b>	Sara Nelson
Sandra Mielke	Scott & Carol Nelson
Andy & Sara Miller	Sylvia Nelson
Lylie Miller	Winton & Kris Nelson
Travis & Clarissa Miller	Jason & Heidi Oslund
Mildred Neitzel	Sam Oslund
Anthony & Nellya Nelson	Daniel & Kelsey Pecholt
David & Jeanette Nelson	Bud & Kate Peterson
Dennis & Susan Nelson	Darla Peterson

## June Ushers

Jerry Johnson - C  
John Carlson  
Jason Michels  
Steve Durkee  
Desiree Birch



June

Karen Eberhard



**JUNE 1**  
Ashley Christopherson  
Weston DeWolf  
Elizabeth Forster  
Christina Haas  
Leo Ludowese  
Carol Muske  
Randall Reinke  
**JUNE 2**  
Madison Hacker  
Richard Heath  
Robert Sackett  
**JUNE 3**  
Kalle Cervin  
Shannon Manning  
Stacy Sandstrom  
Elizabeth Schmidt  
John Schmitz  
Susan Steinhaus  
Breanna Whitcomb  
Merry Schmidt  
**JUNE 4**  
David Johnson  
Kyle Rueckert  
Chris Thompson

**JUNE 5**  
Jadyn Deitchman  
Clarissa Miller  
**JUNE 6**  
Taylor Draeger  
Barb Piepenburg  
**JUNE 7**  
Aaron Fitzloff  
Travis Miller  
Timothy Nelson  
**JUNE 8**  
Whitney Rick  
Carol Rowell  
Ruthann Sutter  
**JUNE 9**  
**JUNE 10**  
Casey Birch  
Jesse Birch  
Kristine Grotto  
Quinten Whitcomb  
Shane Zeppelin  
**JUNE 12**  
Lydia Asmus  
Keith Fredrickson

**JUNE 13**  
Karen Frank  
Jordan Hanson  
**JUNE 14**  
Julie Fredrickson  
Sandra Gabrielson  
Jayden Pinilla  
Robert Powers  
Brad Silverberg  
**JUNE 15**  
Tanner Bos  
Barbara Keller  
Julie Ross  
Miles Schilla  
Douglas Sherwood  
**JUNE 16**  
Liliana Larson  
Michael Watts  
**JUNE 17**  
Logan Bailey  
Tanner Eberling  
Esmerelda Giang  
Lucas Miller  
Janet Nelson

**JUNE 18**  
Devin Alsleben  
Jodi Findley  
Dr. Daniel Johnson  
Kelly Lemmer  
Justin Thoma  
**JUNE 19**  
Brooks Dengerud  
Abigail Adams  
Emily Gaulrapp  
**JUNE 20**  
**JUNE 20**  
Lisa Hoyer  
Ashton Nelson  
Tyler Peterson  
Mason Quast  
Charisse Isaacson  
**JUNE 21**  
Daniel Carlson  
Gary Cervin  
Brooks Nelson  
**JUNE 22**  
Benjamin Blomberg  
Erick Hanson  
Russell Kronbeck

**JUNE 23**  
James Anderson II  
Robert Frank  
**JUNE 24**  
Aubrey Gabrielson  
Ryan Hawes  
Lana Johnson  
**JUNE 25**  
Maisie Bemdt  
**JUNE 26**  
John Carlson  
Anna Durkee  
Jennifer Madsen  
Nickolas Peterson  
**JUNE 27**  
Allison Hoffmann  
Mark Holmgren  
**JUNE 29**  
Rebecca Elj  
Lacy Jo Johnson  
Mike Klabunde  
Alexandra Stewart  
**JUNE 30**  
Lori Ballard  
Mitchell Elj  
Kaleb Hanson  
Shirley Kronbeck  
Aliza Laidlaw  
Jeremy Sanden

## WELCA MINUTES May 21, 2026

WELCA met on May 21, 2026, in Chilstrom Hall with Jackie Kraushaar calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Jackie.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved as printed

**Old Business:** The Senior Quilt Presentation was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15 seniors received their quilts during the church service.

Communion Luncheon was held on May 13<sup>th</sup> and served about 38 people.

**New Business:** A discussion about WELCA donating money to each student that signs up for camping at Water's Edge Ministry (formerly Green Lake Bible Camp and Lake Andrew Bible Camp). Registration for camps usually starts in January and they seem to fill up fast. This year we were told that one person has signed up. Lana Johnson made a motion to pay \$100 to each camper for this year. A second was made by Kris Nelson. Motion carried.

Sue Lemmer suggested that WELCA let the campers know in January that we (WELCA) will donate toward the camp fees. This might encourage more to attend. We will discuss this next December.

June servers for WELCA will be Marilyn Swanson and Norma Hall.  
July servers will be Lana Johnson and Kris Nelson.

August Funday activity was discussed. Marilyn Swanson suggested seeing The Church Basement Ladies at the Plymouth Playhouse. The play is entitled "A Second Helping," a Church Basement Ladies sequel. Ticket price with a luncheon is \$66.10 for the lunch and the show. The bus would be extra. Every body was in favor of that idea immediately!

Karen Eberhard made a motion that WELCA pay for the bus. Lana Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The bus will hold 24 people and is open to only First Lutheran members at this time. A sign up sheet was passed around and we already have 12 signed up. Sign-up and pay \$66.10 to WELCA when you sign-up. Non-refundable, so if you can't go at the last minute, sell your ticket to someone else. First 24 to sign-up get to go!!

### **Dates to Remember:**

WELCA Meeting – June 18<sup>th</sup> - 1:30 IN THE CHAPEL

The Lord's Prayer and the Table Grace were recited.

Thanks to Dee Bollin and Dianne Thorp for serving today.

Respectively submitted, Sue Lemmer, Secretary



# Churchwide



## Graduation Open House Announcements for June:

Claire Gabrielson, Parents: Todd and Jessicah Gabrielson, Fri., June 5th, 4 - 7PM,  
Darwin Rod and Gun Club, 68350 US-12, Dassel

Wil Herzog, Parents: Kathy Herzog, James O'Brien, Fri., June 5th, 5 - 8PM  
4-B'z Event Center, 905 W 5th St. Litchfield

Ridley (RJ) Geffre & Melissa Geffre, Parents: AJ and Nicole Geffre, Sat., June 6th, 1PM to 5PM  
at our house, 59357 300th Street, Litchfield

Chance Rodriquez, Jason and Esmerlda Giang, Sat., June 6th, 1PM - 5PM  
Bernie Aaker, 114 N Holcombe Ave., Litchfield

Matthew Defries, Parents: Ernie and Jackie Defries, Sat., June 6th from 2 - 5PM  
at our home: 19792 611th Avenue, Litchfield

Raigan Miller, Parents: Andy and Sara Miller, Sun., June 7th, 11AM - 2PM  
held at Miller Automotive, 323 W Depot St, Litchfield

## AROUND THE WORLD AT BIC

### Bratislava International Church

#### Pastor Aaron...excerpts

“And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29). The Good Samaritan parable typically calls for us to be the person to help the most vulnerable and those who suffer but have we ever thought of ourselves as the one lying on the side of the road.....calling out for help. There is an isolationist trend among the world’s countries right now. The interconnectedness of our world in terms of economics, social realities, and security is crucial to allow the world to be a safer and better place for all people. This also applies spiritually. Many people are impoverished on a spiritual level. We need each other, and on a global scale. The signs of life and vitality at Bratislava International Church (BIC) reflect what happens when, in faith, we lean into this need for each other. Our clarity of our mission “we value gathering” has blossomed excitement. We gather, people representing 20 countries across six continents. We gather as expats, immigrants, and native Slovaks. We gather, because each of us recognizes life is hard and we need a Good Samaritan. We need each other. We need Christ. Rejoice in the need for each other – affirming, learning, sharing, laughing and caring for one another. The city of Bratislava is changing as the world is, and continues to bring people together in ways greater than any worldly standard of success and wealth.

LOVE  
is Patient,  
LOVE  
is Kind.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4



# 2026



June 7-11	<b>Confirmation Camp</b> at Camp House
June 14-18	<b>Youth Programs</b> at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp <b>Pastor's Family Camp</b> at Green Lake Bible Camp <b>Ordinary Time</b> at Camp House*
June 21-25	<b>Youth Programs &amp; Fishing Camp</b> at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp <b>Ordinary Time</b> at Camp House*
June 28-July 4	<b>Ordinary Time</b> at Camp House*
July 5-11	<b>Grandparent &amp; Grandchild Camp</b> (July 5-8) at Green Lake Bible Camp <b>Ordinary Time</b> at Camp House*
July 12-16	<b>Onsite Day Camp</b> (July 13-16) & <b>Youth Programs</b> at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp <b>Family Camp</b> at Green Lake Bible Camp <b>Ordinary Time</b> at Camp House*
July 19-23	<b>Youth Programs</b> at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp <b>Grandparent &amp; Grandchild Camp</b> (July 19-22) at Green Lake Bible Camp
July 26-30	<b>Onsite Day Camp</b> (July 27-30) & <b>Youth Programs</b> at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp <b>Camp Joy</b> (July 27-30) at Green Lake Bible Camp

**We can't wait to welcome you to one of our beautiful sites this summer where living stories unfold in community.**

Come and be part of the story God is telling: a story of faith, connection, and belonging shared among our staff, creation, and one another.

**Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp** New London, MN

**Green Lake Bible Camp** Spicer, MN

**Camp House** Brimson, MN

This schedule is subject to change and some programs fill quickly. Use our online registration system to view current program availability or call us at 320-796-2181.

**Youth Programs** include Half Blast, Base Camp, Trailblazers, Stargazers, and Community Guides. See pages 4-5 for program descriptions.

Grades	Program
K-5	Onsite Day Camp
1-4	Half Blast
2-5	Base Camp
5-7	Trailblazers
5-7	Fishing Camp
7-9	Stargazers
10-12	Community Guides

Program eligibility is based on the grade your camper has **completed** by the summer of 2026. Confirmation Camp is open to confirmation-aged students with a leader.

The camp week begins Sunday afternoon. Full-week overnight camp programs end Thursday evening with Campapalooza. Half Blast ends Tuesday evening with a closing worship.

## DISCOUNTS

### Early Bird Discount

\$65 off each program through February 19.

### Sibling Discount

\$25 for a full week  
\$15 for Half Blast

*No discounts apply to Ordinary Time, Onsite Day Camp, or Camp Joy.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

### December 11, 2025

Priority Registration Opens for Congregations with Blocks

### January 15, 2026

Blocks Release  
Registration Opens to the Public

### February 19, 2026

Early Bird Discount Ends

### May 22, 2026

Final Camper Payments Due

[GLLM.ORG/SUMMER](http://GLLM.ORG/SUMMER)

**Need help? Don't hesitate to contact us today!**  
320-796-2181 or [camp@gllm.org](mailto:camp@gllm.org)



\***Ordinary Time** at Camp House is June 13-July 17 & August 13-16. Get more information about this exciting opportunity on our website.

[GLLM.org/Ordinary-Time](http://GLLM.org/Ordinary-Time)



**GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES**  
*is now* **WATER'S EDGE MINISTRIES**



## **Calling All Guitar Players** *(Ukeles and Bass Guitars welcome too!)*

“For the love of music, come to the next regular meeting of the FLC Guitar/Jam Group every 2nd Thursday of the month (3:45-5 pm).

Contact Brad Connor or the church office if interested!”

## **FLC & Stingers Baseball Night!**



**Summer Fellowship Evening**  
**June 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00PM**



*It's time for Baseball!*

Join us for summer fun and fellowship at the Willmar Stingers game on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at church by 6/01/26 to reserve your spot. Friends, family and neighbors are welcome! Cost is \$19 per person (children 4 and under are free.), submitted to the church office. Ticket price includes the game and a meal voucher (tickets handed out at the game).

Questions? Please contact the church office.

*Take me out to the ball game!*

## Peaces of Mind

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUPS

# OPEN HOUSE

Join us for an evening of connection, support, and resources for individuals with brain injuries, their families, and caregivers. Together, we can build strength, hope, and a brighter future.

- Meet Facilitators**  
Connect with experienced leaders who care.
- We Offer Peer Support, Education, and Resources**  
Helpful tools and information for your journey.
- Experience Our Vision for Helping Those with Brain Injuries**  
Learn how we're creating a stronger community together.

**JUNE 1, 2026** | **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

*All Are Welcome!*  
Patients and Providers

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
703 SIBLEY AVE S  
LITCHFIELD MN 55355

Together, we can make a difference—one *connection* at a time.



## **A Hymn Mix-Up With a Message**

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.

# Memorials, Gifts & Thanks

**Gifts were given** to General fund, Blessing Box, FLC Choir, and Non-Traditional/Praise Worship, Sound fund, and Sprinkler fund in memory of Marge Hellzen from Kathy Hantge, Chuck and Karen Eberhard, Mike and Kris Nelson, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Steve and Jackie Kraushaar, Jean Wieland, Ron and Barb Piepenburg, Karla Kadelbach, Mark and Julie Bredeson, Dianne Thorp, Darlene Lundin, John and Jo Carlson, Gary and Janet Smith, Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt, and David and Darlene Meidal.

**Gifts were given** to the General fund, Baptismal Chests fund, Blessing Box, and Sprinkler fund in memory of Jerry Urdahl from Kathy Hantge, Chuck and Karen Eberhard, Bob and Norma Hall, Gary and Janet Smith, Richard and Carol Heath, Mike and Kris Nelson, Karla Kadelbach, Mark and Julie Bredeson, Dianne Thorp, Duane and Darlene Henkelman, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Gordon and Darla Johnson, Wayne and Jone Classon, Dean Urdahl, David and Darlene Meidal, and Darlene Lundin.

**A Gift was given** to the General fund in memory of Beverly Anderson from Chuck and Karen Eberhard.

**Gifts were given** to the General fund and Blessing Box, and Sprinkler fund in memory of Gladys Johnson from Jean Wieland, Nate and Meredith Elj, and David and Darlene Meidal.

**A Gift was given** to the General fund in honor of Dorothy Eurele's birthday from Mike and Kris Nelson.

**A Gift was given** to the Kitchen for the new dishwasher in remembrance of my Mother Elva Shea and her Mother Betsy Johnson with Love from Carol Rowell.

**A Gift has been given** to the General fund in memory of Robert Nelson's sister from Gary and Janet Smith

**A Gift was given** to the General fund in memory of Jodi Findley's dad, from Mike and Kris Nelson.

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Thank you** to the April serving group. We appreciate all the cakes, bars, goodies for serving funerals and coffee time after church. We have a wonderful group to work with. Thank you. Laura & Judy Hulterstrum

**Thank you** for the prayers, well wishes and cards during my two surgeries. Your kindness, support, and thoughtfulness meant so much to me and were truly appreciated. Janet Smith

**To Pastor Tom, Pastor Michael and to all friends at 1st Lutheran Church,**

Thanks so much for all of the prayers sent for me. Surgery went so well and healing is going good also. It was so good to see you all on Sunday. Thanking God for all of you. I feel good about my future and God's plans for me. God bless you each one and each day. Thanks so much for all the good wishes and lovely cards and notes. Rodney Engfer





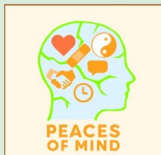
Be still, Receive God's Love, Embrace  
God's Word, Welcome the Day.  
**B.R.E.W.**  
meets every **Tuesday morning at  
7:30 a.m.** with Pastor Tom



June 18, 2026  
1:30 pm  
Meeting: Chapel  
Lunch: Conference Room

## **BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP: HEALING TOGETHER**

Living with a brain injury can feel  
overwhelming, but you don't have to  
face it alone.



**Peaces of Mind**, Brain Injury Support Group  
Open House. June 1, 2026, 6 - 8 pm,  
First Ev. Lutheran Church of Litchfield.

Join us for an evening of connections, support  
and resources for individuals with brain injuries,  
their families, and caregivers. Together, we can  
build strength, hope and a brighter future.

**Grief-Share Support Group**  
is currently taking a break.  
We plan to resume in the future.  
Please watch for updates.



## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY:**

\*Our members known to be in the military are:

**Staff Sgt. US Army, Zachary Olimb**, Fort Sam Houston,  
San Antonio, TX; grandson of Lil Madson

**Master Sgt. Austin Kleinschmidt**, 934<sup>th</sup> Airwing,  
Minneapolis, son of Kipp and Lynette Kleinschmidt

**Staff Sgt. Matthew Wiechmann**, stationed at Fort Drum,  
NY; son of Virgil and Jamie Wiechmann

**LCpl Nickolas Peterson**, USMC, Camp Pendleton,  
Oceanside, CA, son of Buddy and Kate Peterson.

**PV. 2 Raigan Miller**, Fort Rucker, AL, daughter of Andy  
and Sara Miller, granddaughter of Carol Dragt

Welcome Home! to those of you who now have returned  
to the States. Thank you all for your service!!

\*Please let the office know if titles, locations, and/or  
addresses have changed for any of the above.



**Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers,**  
Lois Rusch, Meeker Manor  
Jutta Goodrich, Litchfield, in own home  
Gordon "Bud" Johnson, Richard Allen,  
VA HealthCare, St. Cloud  
Elois Johnson, Hilltop Health Center, Watkins

## **Save your greeting cards!**

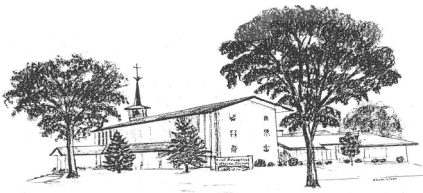
They can be recycled! They will take the whole  
card or you can cut off the signed names, if you  
wish. I will drop them off at the Senior Center in  
Hutchinson. No Christmas Cards please.  
Thank you! Elaine Lenhard

**FIRST NEWS** is a monthly publication of: First Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
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**Please send submissions to: The Church Office by June 15, 2026**

**For the NEXT ISSUE: July 2026**

**Email: [firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org](mailto:firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org)**



# FIRST NEWS

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
703 South Sibley Avenue • Litchfield, MN 55355

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