

FIRST NEWS

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

May 2026

MAY 2026

Moment with Michael

There's a certain restlessness in the air right now. The world feels unsettled in ways that are hard to name and even harder to fix. There are conflicts that seem far away, yet somehow close enough to weigh on us. There are tensions, uncertainties, and a steady hum of "what's next?" that never quite seems to go away.

And then, right in the midst of all of this, something else is happening.

The ground is softening. The days are getting longer. Farmers are watching the fields, waiting for the right moment to plant. Lawns that looked tired and lifeless, just a few weeks ago, are slowly turning green again. Life is returning, quietly but steadily.

This is the strange and beautiful tension of this season. The world can feel uncertain, even chaotic, and yet creation itself keeps moving toward new life.

This is where Easter meets us. Easter doesn't ignore the reality of the world. It doesn't pretend that everything is suddenly easy or peaceful. The resurrection of Jesus directly follows the cross, directly following let down, abandonment, fear and loss, following directly after a world that looked like it had come undone. And yet, God brings life where there was death.

Not loudly. Not all at once. But faithfully. This is how resurrection tends to work..., a lot like planting.

No farmer plants a seed and expects instant results. Rather, planting requires patience and trust. A willingness to bury something into the ground and wait, believing that something is happening beneath the surface long before anything can be seen.

Faith, in many ways, works the same way.

In a time when it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the state of things: globally, nationally, even personally, Easter invites us into a quieter confidence, a deeper trust that God is still at work, bringing life out of places we might have already written off.

You may not see it right away.

You may not feel it every day.

But that doesn't mean it isn't happening.

Resurrection is already at work in you. In your relationships. In this community. In the small, faithful acts of love and care that often go unnoticed. And just like the fields being prepared for planting, God is always preparing something new within you.

So, as we move from the unpredictability of winter into the promise of spring, hold onto this:

The same God who raised Jesus from the dead is still bringing new life into this world.

Even now.

Especially now.

And this is good news worth holding onto.

Michael

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.

Heavenly Father, as we look around us, you have once again shown us all your blessings. We know that you have provided much more than just our daily needs. We thank you for generously giving us your Son, our Lord. Through him you have showered us with the blessings of forgiveness, a purpose in life and eternal life in paradise - with no strings attached. For all these blessings, may we truly be thankful, dear Lord. Amen

CHURCH OFFICE



hours

Monday - Thursday:
8 AM - 4:30 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 12 PM
320-693-2487

Email:
firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org

WEBSITE:
www.firstlitchfield.org

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 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.

TREASURER:

Jim Cottington

Pastors Reports: See written reports

Team Representatives:

Christian Education/ Family and Youth:

Karla Hyberger

Alexis Engelke

Harriette Connor

Duane Farmer

Team Reports:

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

Evangelism:

Sabrara Evenson

Karla Hyberger

Harriette Connor

Property Team: I t 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

Stewardship & Finance:

Jim Cottington

Julie Bredeson

Martha Christensen

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

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.

MST:

Sabrara Evenson

Martha Christensen

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.

Personnel:

Karla Hyberger

Tanner Eberling

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

Property:

Mattie Baumgartner

Betty Allen

Tanner Eberling

Duane Farmer

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.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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

Social Ministry

Meredith Elj

Betty Allen

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

Worship:

Meredith Elj

Alexis Engelke

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

Scout Charter –

Organization Rep.

Tanner Eberling

Prayer Requests: Pastor Michael

Closing Prayer: Pastor Michael

Adjourn: 905 pm

Council minutes continued on page 3....

<u>March 2026 Financial Report</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income: \$58,508.63	108,428.73
Expenses: \$47,075.32	127,661.26
Net Income: \$11,433.31	(19,232.53)

Happy Spring. FLC has implemented a new process for distribution of donations made to Roblealto Mission Support. All donations made, either through the clip board or in your offerings will be held in our dedicated savings account and every quarter of our fiscal year we will advance, via Wire Transfer, an amount above our minimum holdings of \$5000. This quarter we wired to Roblealto Association an amount of \$2000. It has been determined to keep back a balance of \$5000 which will be distributed closer to the actual travel period to pay towards the specific project at the time. If you have been sending payments directly to Roblealto, you can utilize our Wire Transfer process to advance those funds as an alternative. Contact the office or myself with any questions or concerns. Thank you. Jim Cottington

Psalm 106:1 *Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Gracious Giver of all: Thank you for loving us so much that we don't need to be afraid to ask for more than we deserve. Help us to remember to follow the example of your perfect Son. Help us to pour out an abundance of love. Guide us to be patient and kind. Place it on our hearts to see the needs of the world and to act as we have the ability. Give us a spirit of humility. Amen

Our GLOBAL MISSIONS offering for the month of MAY: Lutheran World Relief

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.....

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 24 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

Submitted by, Mattie Baumgartner



MST USA Papa Murphy's Pizza Fundraiser

Students will be
selling May 1st through
Sunday, May 24th.

Delivery date is
Sunday, May 31st at 10:30 am
during coffee hour.

Pizza order forms will be available
with any MST USA Student
or the church office.

Thank you!

Churchwide



FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Beverly Anderson
April 1, 2026

Maragret "Marge" Hellzen
April 23, 2026

Jerry Urdahl
April 25, 2026

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



COMMUNION *Service*

Please join us for the
Spring Communion Luncheon
at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
703 South Sibley, Litchfield, MN

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch and Fellowship to follow the service.



SUNDAY MAY 31
8am-12pm

SUMMER KICK OFF

**ENJOY FELLOWSHIP, FAMILY FUN,
& A FULL BREAKFAST!**

GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP
9916 Lake Ave. S, Spicer, MN

FRENCH TOAST BREAKFAST

French toast, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee
Adults \$10 | Children 5-12 \$6 | 0-5 Free
Proceeds to camp scholarships!

8:30am WORSHIP @ STAVE CHAPEL
with Faith Lutheran, Spicer



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

Organizational Meeting

Thurs. May 14 - 3:45-5:00 p.m.

All Ages and All Skill Levels Welcome

Guitar Chord sheets/songs provided

Bring your song ideas & suggestions

We'll gather for music, fellowship & learning (from each other.) Future meeting dates, times and frequency will be determined at this meeting.

Unable to make the first meeting?
Contact Brad Connor (320-905-5661) or leave your name, phone & email address with the church office. An email will be sent to those expressing interest on 5/11/26 requesting confirmation of attending. If there are no responses, a different date will be set.

We hope to see you there!

WELCA MINUTES April 16, 2026

WELCA met on April 16, 2026, in Chilstrom Hall with Betty Allen calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Betty.

Karen Eberhard made a motion with a second by Marilyn Swanson to approve the secretary's report from March as printed. Motion carried.

Sue Lemmer made a motion with a second by Dianne Thorp to approve the treasurer's report from March as printed. Motion carried.

Old Business: As of now the dishwasher is working! A switch, fuse and a microchip were replaced and a loose wire was soldered. There is no guarantee how long it will work or if it will work forever!! A discussion followed. A motion was made by Betty Allen to ask the church council to bring to the congregation a vote to get bids and raise money to purchase a new dishwasher. Karen Eberhard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Once a dishwasher is ordered, it could take several months for the order to arrive. The approximate cost will be in the \$20,000+. The current dishwasher is in the range of 36 years old. By law, we need a commercial dishwasher or the kitchen could be shut down.

Virgil Rick will be purchasing and installing a new faucet for the kitchen sink.

Soup suppers were discussed and it was decided that WELCA is only one of the five groups that serve. It should be the Church Council's decision. If it were to go to monthly serving groups through WELCA, it would be harder to get co-chairs for each month. Therefore, the council should decide.

New Business: Karen Eberhard talked to Amy Nelson about moving WELCA's checking and savings accounts from Well's Fargo to Center Bank. As long as it is approved by WELCA that can be done. Jackie Kraushaar made a motion for treasurer Karen Eberhard to move WELCA's funds to Center Bank. Dianne Thorp seconded the motion. Motion carried. Karen will take care of the transfer of funds.

Dates to Remember:

Senior Quilt Presentation — May 3rd 9 am

Communion Service & Luncheon — May 13th 11 am

WELCA Meeting – May 21st 1:30

(servers will be Dianne Thorp and Dee Bollin)

New Member Potluck — May 17th

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

Thanks to Jackie Kraushaar and Sue Lemmer for serving today.

Respectively submitted,
Sue Lemmer, Secretary



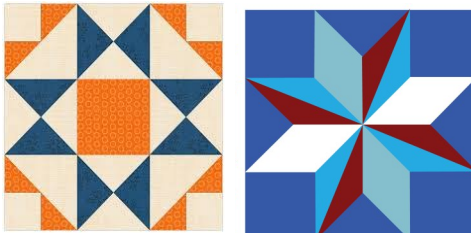
Thankoffering



“... gifts from individuals in
gratitude for blessings.”

- Women of the ELCA Constitution

Churchwide



High School Senior Recognition
& Quilts Service
Sunday, May 3, 2026, 9:00 am.
Join us for cake and coffee
after worship

FLC & Stingers Baseball Night!
Summer Fellowship Evening
June 15th, 6:00PM

Sign Up by:
5/15/26

\$19 for Game Ticket and Meal Voucher

Sign up/Questions/Remit To:
FLC Office
Tickets Handed out at game time

Invite Friends & Family!

It's time for Baseball!

Join us for summer fun and fellowship at the Willmar Stingers game on June 15th. Sign up at church by 5/15/26 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!*

Welcome, New Members



New Member Orientation:
Thursday, May 14th at 7:00 PM

New Member Sunday:
May 17th at 9:00 AM
Potluck Brunch following service
in Chilstrom Hall



Noisey offering total collected
on Palm Sunday: **\$746.98**
Raised for Roblealto
Child Care Association
THANK YOU ALL!!!

WELCA THANKOFFERING (All women of FELC are members of WELCA)

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings. Each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on , the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. In gratitude for all God has given to us, together, we do more than we could ever do apart.

The Thankoffering supports the WELCA Gathering Magazine, Bible studies for women, and cross cultural activities. These offerings are used to assist victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and to support Katie's Fund (assisting women in leadership) and Voices for Justice (Ex: promoting the 1000 Days Movement which supports child and maternal health for the first 1000 days of a child's life).

Please return your THANKOFFERING envelope (or use a regular envelope and label it THANKOFFERING) to the church office (or offering plate) so that we can continue our outreach. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives.

MAY Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 3, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/First Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, May 10, 2026 Mother's Day

9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, May 17, 2026 New Members

9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Potluck Brunch

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, May 24, 2026

10:45 am ELCA COOP Worship Service,
Windmill Park, Grove City
No worship service held at FLC

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, May 31, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour

Cable TV Broadcast Schedule

Cable TV broadcast worship services from the prior week. There is a Lutheran 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, MAY 16, 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.

Special Dates....

- National Day of Prayer, May 7, 2026
- Mother's Day, May 10, 2026
- Ascension of the Lord, May 14, 2026
- Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2026
- Victoria Day [Canada], May 18, 2026
- Day of Pentecost, May 24, 2026
- Memorial Day, May 25, 2026
- Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026



Memorial
DAY WEEKEND

Sunday, May 24th

ELCA COOP Worship
Windmill Park, Grove City
10:45 a.m.

Bring your lawn chair

(no service held at First Lutheran Church)

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

NEVER GIVE UP
ON SOMEONE
WITH MENTAL
ILLNESS.

WHEN THE "I"
IS REPLACED
BY "WE"

—
ILLNESS
BECOMES
WELLNESS

- Shannon L. Alder

Memorials, Gifts & Thanks

Gifts were given to the Quilters, FLC Kitchen and Meeker County Food shelf in memory of Gladys Johnson from Eric and Kayla Hulterstrum, Dan and Brenda Johnson, Gary and Kathy Cervin, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, John and Shirley Lekander, Faye Kjolsing, Corey and Kris Cervin and family, Mark and Julie Bredeson, Marlys Elam, Chuck and Karen Eberhard, Douglas and Benita Rueckert, Diane Thompson, Cary and Pamela Smasal, and Dennis and Delores Pomije.

Gifts were given to MST INT'L and the Quilting fund in memory of Millie Soder, Jackie Kraushaar's mom, from Cecil and Janice Fawcett, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Gaylene Thomas, and Dan and Brenda Johnson.

A Gift was given to the General fund in memory of Katie Johnson, Jerry and Lana Johnson's sister-in-law, from Chuck and Karen Eberhard.

Gifts were given to the General fund and Blessing Table in honor of Dorothy Euerle's birthday from Jerry and Lana Johnson, Richard and Betty Allen, Paul and Sue Lemmer, and Kirk and Dorothy Lundin.

A Gift was given to the Dishwasher fund in honor of Dorothy Euerle's birthday from Vaughn and Joan Eurele.

Gifts were given to the General fund and Blessing Table in memory of Jerry Urdahl from Jerry and Lana Johnson, Richard and Betty Allen, Paul and Sue Lemmer, John and Shirley Lekander, Russell and Shirley Kronbeck, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, John and Jo Carlson, and Jim and Elaine Lenhard.

Gifts were given to the General fund, the Blessing Table and Music fund in memory of Marge Hellzen from Jerry and Lana Johnson, Richard and Betty Allen, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, and Michael Devereaux.

Gifts were given to General fund, Quilters, Faith Chests, VBS and Sunday School in memory of Beverly Anderson from Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, Corey and Kris Cervin, Karla Kadelbach, Dianne Thorp, Marlys Elam, Kendall and Mary Lawson, John and Shirley Lekander, Bryan and Linda Larson, Jeanette Erickson, Ralph and Gloria Elj, Russell and Shirley Kronbeck, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Jerry and Lana Johnson, Darlene Lundin, Mark and Judy Hulterstrum, Richard and Betty Allen, Mark and Julie Bredeson, and 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

Here are the Grand Totals from Da Great Lutheran Food Fight of March of 2026.

All Saints Lutheran of Darwin & Ostmark Lutheran of rural Forest City – 50 lbs. of food, \$1,000 in donations (500 lbs.), totaling 550 lbs.

Gethsemane Lutheran of Dassel – 1,051 lbs. of food, \$1,428 in donations (714 lbs.), totaling 1,765 lbs.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Litchfield, 1,150 lbs. of food, \$3,516 in donations (1,758 lbs.), for a total of 2,908 lbs.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cokato & Stockholm Lutheran of Rural Cokato, 1,388 lbs. of food, \$3,817.71 in donations (1,908.9 lbs.), for a total of 3,296.9 lbs.

Da NEW Grand Champion of Da Great Lutheran Food Fight:

Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, with 1,038.5 lbs. of food, \$4,703.25 in donations (2,351.6 lbs.), for a total of 3,390.1 lbs.

Total Food Collected: **4,677.5 lbs.**

Total Monetary Donations: **\$14,464.96** (converted to 7,232.5 lbs.)

Total Pounds Given: **11,910 lbs.**

Congratulations to Zion for claiming the traveling Grand Champion banner and the well-earned bragging rights that come with it.

More importantly, thank you to each of you and to all of the congregations. What we have done together will make a real difference for our neighbors who rely on the Litchfield, Dassel, and Cokato food shelves!

May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 South Sibley Ave Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-2487</p>					1	<p>2 8:00 am Men's Group 8:00 am Women's Convention & Men in Mission, Calvary Lutheran, Willmar 6:00 pm HS Senior Rehearsal</p>
<p>3 HS Senior Quilts/Recognition 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 5:00 pm Scouts Honor Court, Assembly Room 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting</p>	<p>4 Accepting MST Garage Sale Donations 6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>5 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 2 pm Worship, Mkr. Manor 5:30 pm Worship Team Mtg. 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings</p>	<p>6 1:00 pm TBI Supp. Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p>7 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Den Mtg., Chilstrom</p>	8	<p>9 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM MST – Garage Sale</p>
<p>10 Mother's Day 9:00 am Worship w /Comm 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm Scouts</p>	<p>12 7:30 am BREW 6:30 pm NA – Chapel</p>	<p>13 1:00 pm TBI Support Group 11:00 am Comm. Luncheon 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle, Jan Wagoner's Home</p>	<p>14 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Scout Parents Mtg. 7:00 pm New Member Orientation</p>	15	<p>16 8:00 am Men's Group 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater</p>
<p>17 New Member Sunday 9:00 am Worship w /Comm., Baptism, Charlotte Underwood Welcome New Members 10:00 am Pot-Luck Brunch</p>	<p>18 6:30 pm Scouts – last one</p>	<p>19 7:30 am BREW 9:00 am Martha Circle 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 7:00 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>20 1:00 pm TBI Supp. Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p>21 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 1:30 pm WELCA, Chilstrom Hall 6:00 pm Den Mtg. Assembly</p>	22	23
<p>24 10:45 am ELCA COOP Worship Service, Windmill Park, Grove City <i>No service held at FLC</i></p>	<p>25 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed</p>	<p>26 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 6:30 pm N/A, Chapel</p>	<p>27 1:00 pm TBI Supp. Group 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel</p>	<p>28 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 2:00 pm Ecumen Worship, Bethany Chapel 5:30 pm Pack Mtg, Assembly Room - last one</p>	29	<p>30 8:00 am Men's Group</p>
<p>31 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee</p>						

Serving Group & Birthdays

MAY 2026 SERVING GROUP	Lil Madson
Chairs:	Chad & Judy Mahlow
Betty Allen	Darin & Renee Mahlow
Jenny Lundin	Misty Marotte
Craig & Gina Lokken	Sacia Matheson
Sadie Ludowese	Tim Matheson
Robert & Amy Nelson	Deborah Maurer
Darlene Lundin	Thomas McCormick
Kirk & Dorothy Lundin	Venita McCormick
Janice Madden	Joel & Dawn Michaletz
Chris & Jennifer Madsen	Jason & Andrea Michels
Gayle Madsen	James & Autumn Mickelson

May Ushers
 John Lekander
 Brian Findley
 Jim Asmus
 Nick Benson



May
 Meredith Elj



i am...
LOVED [ROMANS 5:8]
worthy [1 THESSALONIANS 2:12]
cherished [EPHESIANS 5:29]
forgiven [1 JOHN 2:12]
chosen [COLOSSIANS 3:12]

MAY 1
 Andrew Desens
 Samuel Gruenke
 Emma Hoff
 Noah Hoff
 Robert Kadelbach
 Nicole Schmitz
 Nicole Hable/White

MAY 2
 Ashley Holmgren
 David Jacob
 Kalkbrenner
 Lori Larson
 Jesse Lundin
 Laila Mickelson

MAY 3
 Richard Elam
 Christina Guza
 Levi Hanson
 Linda Holtz
 Bruce Lee
 Gaylene Thomas

MAY 4
 Mark Bredeson
 Arlo Prechel

MAY 5
 Audrey Desens
 Benjamin Miller

MAY 6
 Eric Hein
 Judy Hulterstrum
 Kiera Olson
 Gary Pierce
 Leo Roush
 Jill White

MAY 7
 Henry Adams
 Lisa Barto
 Richard Farmer
 Donna Gilsrud
 Aurora Haas
 Myra Johnson

MAY 8
MAY 9
 Heather Burdick
 Emily Driver
 Matthew Sook

MAY 10
 Susan Elam
 Jude Ludowese

MAY 11
 Betty Allen
 Nicholas Graff
 Megan Lundin

MAY 12
 Alex Carlson
 Cade Cervin
MAY 13
 Sandra Bostrom

MAY 14
 Ryan Block
MAY 15
 Megan Boyle
 Jerry Freitag
 Coralynn Gabrielson
 Millard Hickman

MAY 16
 Marlys Elam
 Darlene Meidal
 Amy Nelson
 Amanda Polzin

MAY 17
 Kristen Nelson
 Jeffrey Olson

MAY 18
 Will Dolan
 Larry Griffin
 Chad Mahlow
 Daryn Worden

MAY 19
 Tamara Borowicz
 Darla Johnson
 Tamra Thompson
 Carter Zeppelin
 Trevor Zeppelin

MAY 20
MAY 21
 Carol Heath
 Jean Larson

MAY 22
 Esmee Boll
 Angela Larson-Weimer
 Leah Wilson

MAY 23
 Matthew Carlson
 Paul Martin
 Emily Sommerfeld

MAY 24
MAY 25
 Isaiah Matheson
 Lukas Wahl

MAY 26
 Brian Findley
MAY 27
 Dustin Nelson

MAY 28
 Jacob Bredeson
 Kris Cervin
 Debra Cziok
 Jane Hickman
 Michael Husmann
 Gladys Johnson
 Lisa Steichen

MAY 29
 Wayne Carlson
 Colby Christensen
 Hudson Gabrielson
 Bridget Judes
 Emily Michels
 Zachary Piepenburg

MAY 30
 Travis Hanson
 Timothy Pierce
 Katie Silverberg

MAY 31
 Joshua Bailey
 Jeffrey Ballard
 Charlene Garrison
 Dalen Jones
 Paxton Peterson
 Kaitlyn Moore

Congratulations Class of 2026



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



Abby Thoma
Parents: Jon and Heidi Thoma
Open House: Saturday, May 30th
4PM - 8PM at our home
910 E. 10th St, Litchfield



Kala Ziegler
Parents: Kristi Ziegler, Joe Ziegler
Open House: Sunday, May 31st. 1 - 3 PM
Litchfield Opera House
136 N Marshall Ave, Litchfield

Congratulations Class of 2026

Kierra Lease
Parents: Daniel & Heather Lease
Open House: Sunday, May 31st at 3PM
931 Ames Ave, Litchfield



Quintin Berube
Parents: Joe and Amy Berube
Please join us to celebrate
Sunday, May 31st
11AM - 2PM
Our home -
24685 608th Ave, Litchfield



Cade Cervin
Parents: Corey and Kris Cervin
Please join us in celebrating
Saturday, May 23rd
3PM - 6PM
At the farm, 67785 275th, St. Darwin, MN



Raigan Miller
Parents: Andy and Sara Miller
Please join us in celebrating
Sunday, June 7th
11AM - 2PM held at
Miller Automotive
323 W Depot St, Litchfield

Congratulations Class of 2026



Grant Dengerud
Parents: Steve and Julie Dengerud



Joshua Blomberg
Parents: Robert and Jennifer Blomberg
Open House: Sunday, May 31st
11AM - 2PM at our house
24835 608th Avenue, Litchfield



Matthew Defries
Parents: Ernie and Jackie Defries
Open House:
Saturday, June 6th from 2 - 5PM
At our home:
19792 611th Avenue, Litchfield



Wil Herzog
Parents: Kathy Herzog, James O'Brien
Open House:
Friday, June 5th from 5-8 pm
4-B'z Event Center
905 W 5th St. Litch

Congratulations Class of 2026



Chance Rodriquez
Parents: Jason and Esmerlda Giang
Open house: Saturday, June 6th
Bernie Aaker
114 N Holcombe Ave., Litchfield
1-5 pm



Claire Gabrielson
Parents: Todd and Jessicah Gabrielson
Open House: Friday, June 5th 4-7pm
Darwin Rod and Gun Club
68350 US-12, Dassel

Graduation: Faith for the Road Ahead

Graduation marks both an ending and a beginning. As we celebrate students stepping into new seasons, we give thanks for the growth, perseverance and calling God has placed in their lives. May we surround our graduates with prayer, reminding them that God goes before them and walks with them wherever the journey leads.



Allison Hoffmann
Parents: Andy and Samantha Hoffmann, Melissa Hoffmann
Open House: Saturday, May 30th
Noon - 4 pm
Litchfield Fire Dept.
227 Ramsey Ave N., Litchfield

Not pictured:

Charley Estrada - Parents, Becky Estrada, Daniel Estrada
Aiden Heid - Parents, Josiah and Elizabeth Wig
Hayden Peterson - Parents, Jesse and Samantha Peterson
Katelyn Guggemos - Parents, Chris and Shelly Guggemos
Chole Kowalczyk - Parent, Terri Kowalczyk



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

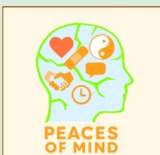


May 21, 2026

1:30 pm

**BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP:
HEALING TOGETHER**

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



- Wednesdays
- 1 pm-3pm
- First Lutheran Church
- 703 Sibley Ave. S. Litchfield, MN 55355

If you're interested in joining or have questions, Please reach out:

Martin Engelke -President, Peaces of Mind
Findpeacesofmind@gmail.com
Peaces of Mind, a 501(c)(3)/LLC



**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, 934th 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

Grief-Share Support Group

is currently taking a break.

We plan to resume in the future.

Please watch for updates.

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,
703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by May 15, 2026

For the NEXT ISSUE: June 2026

Email: firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org

