



FIRST NEWS

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

October 2026

October 2026

Time with Tom

Church stuff is really happening in our community. Sunday School, confirmation, worship and planning meetings of all kinds have filled our calendars. We should begin the fall season of the church with a reminder in October of Ignatius, the second bishop of Antioch in Syria. Ignatius is believed to have been one of the children that Jesus took in his arms and blessed. Becoming a follower of Jesus at a young age and later along with his friend Polycarp, followers, and disciples of John the apostle. Later Ignatius will be named Bishop of Antioch, in Syria, this is where the name Christian was first used to describe the followers of Jesus. Ignatius would die as a martyr around the year 115, thrown to the lions for his belief in Jesus. Ignatius is noted for saying; "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth... Do not stand in the way of my birth to real life." We remember Ignatius this month along with all the martyrs as a reminder that even today Christian's face death because of their faith in Jesus. Do we take for granted the privilege we have in this part of the world, the freedom to worship? We have churches that declare the love of God in Jesus Christ every Sunday, and most of them are not under attack. In some places however, the followers of Jesus have been feeling the pressures of those outside the Christian faith. What can we do in our communities to protect the faith practices of Jesus' followers? Do we risk our life by being a Christian? Ignatius and Polycarp, both martyrs, giving their life so we can hear the words of the first Apostles that followed Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are given the opportunity to share the Good News without the fear of death, at least for now. With Sunday School and confirmation fully underway, and worship regularly available, we can stand on our faith and declare the love of God through Jesus Christ. Let us call out to all people and all nations, telling them that God loves us and sent his son to give his life so all might have life. Live a life that declares your faith so others may come to know the truth of God's love for them, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Live in Peace and the God of Love and Peace will be with you!
2nd Corinthians. 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.

Lord,
grant us
the wisdom to
understand Your will
and the strength to
walk in Your ways.
Keep our hearts
unified in love and
focused on
glorifying Your
name. Fill us with
boldness to share
Your good news with
the world. May our
actions reflect Your
every grace.
Amen.

CHURCH OFFICE



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."**

PRESIDENT:

Karla Hyberger

VICE PRESIDENT:

Harriette Connor

SECRETARY:

Mattie Baumgartner

TREASURER:

Jim Cottington

Team Representatives:

**Christian Education/
Family and Youth:**

Karla Hyberger

Alexis Engelke

Harriette Connor

Duane Farmer

Evangelism:

Sabrara Evenson

Karla Hyberger

Harriette Connor

Stewardship & Finance:

Jim Cottington

Julie Bredeson

Martha Christensen

Endowment/Memorials:

Julie Bredeson

Jim Cottington

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

Worship:

Meredith Elj

Alexis Engelke

Scout Charter –

Organization Rep.

Tanner Eberling

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.

Council Meeting

September 15, 2026

Devotions: Alexis

Additions to Agenda: None

Secretary Report: Motion made to accept Secretary by Alexis seconded by Harriet Motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Motion to accept made by Alexis seconded by Meridith to accept report, with the following change to move both Pastor's expense for Fall Conference to different line item in budget. Motion carried

Pastor's Report Pastor Tom, Pastor Michael, please see written reports. MST international for 2028 looks encouraging.

Team Reports:

Worship Team: Please see full written report.

Property Team: Dick Farmer and Dennis Gardner both presented a strategic plan for the church and will decide with the property committee the order of importance of each plan.

Christian Education Team: Please see written report

Endowment Team: no meeting

Personnel Committee: no meeting

Social Ministry: No Meeting October 14 Fall Luncheon, October 15 New Member Orientation and October 18, New Member Sunday.

MST Team: See Full report MST USA and INTERNATIONAL looking strong.

Evangelism Team: No Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS;

New Missionary Support: The Council voted on two new missionaries to sponsor they are Bayo and Mary Beth Oyebade in Nigeria and Dr Stephen J. and Dr. Jodi Lynn Swanson in Tanzania.

Caring Visitor Team, Pastor Tom is currently working on increasing volunteers to this program.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor Tom has officially requested a sabbatical leave from March 1, 2027 to May 31, 2027 for rest renewal and break from the church. Discussion followed and Harriet made motion to approve Mattie seconded Motion carried.

Prayer Request led by Pastor Michael

Closing and adjourn 835 pm

Dates To Remember:

October 14 Fall Luncheon

October 15 New Member Orientation

October 18 New Member Sunday

October 25 Confirmation Sunday

Meeting Adjourned

Respectively Submitted:

Mattie Baumgartner, Secretary

2027: Betty Allan, Tanner Eberling, Sabrara Evenson, Karla Hyberger

2028: Jim Cottington, Julie Bredeson, Alexis Engelke, Meredith Elj

2029: Harriette Conner, Duane Farmer, Martha Christensen, Mattie Baumgartner

**Operation Christmas Child
(Shoeboxes) Update** – after careful consideration, we have decided that we will not continue this program. Thank you.

	August	YTD
Offerings:	34,507.10	263,262.70
Dedicated Funds Used:	4,497.44	183,624.91
Expenses:	(40,732.51)	(512,921.49)
Net:	\$ (1,727.97)	\$ (66,033.88)

Hello fellow parishoners: August is the start of our 3rd quarter for the financials at First Lutheran. Our expenses are tracking close to budget. The various teams are monitoring thier respective expenses and doing a good job of keeping on track. Income is under but typical with the summer months as attendance tends to be lower. Each month I am reporting the funds we use to pay for qualifying expenses from the dedicated accounts, which is aiding in our cash flow needs. Jim Cottington, Treasurer



Our GLOBAL MISSIONS offering for the month of October: ELCA - World Hunger

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: Bayo & Mary Beth Oyebade, Nigeria; Dr. Stephen J. & Dr. Jodi Lynn Swanson, Tanzania.

Meeker Area Ministries (M.A.M): includes emergency housing

Roblealto: Costa Rica Bible Home



Please join us for our

Fall

Communion Luncheon

at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
703 South Sibley, Litchfield, MN

Wednesday

October 14, 2026

11:00 am Worship Service

Lunch and Fellowship
will follow in Chilstrom Hall



NEW MEMBERS

New Member Orientation
with all people who are
planning on joining FLC

Thurs., Oct. 15, 2026
at 7:00 pm in Chilstrom Hall.

We will receive new members on

Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:00 am Worship Service w/Communion

Welcoming New Members

10:00 am Fellowship in Honor of our

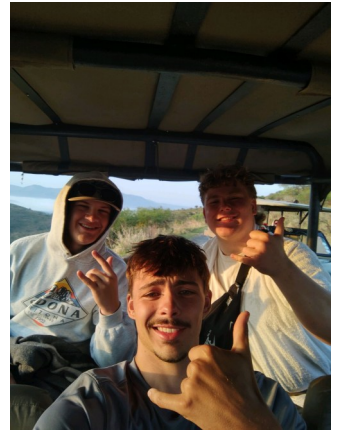
New Members

All are welcome!

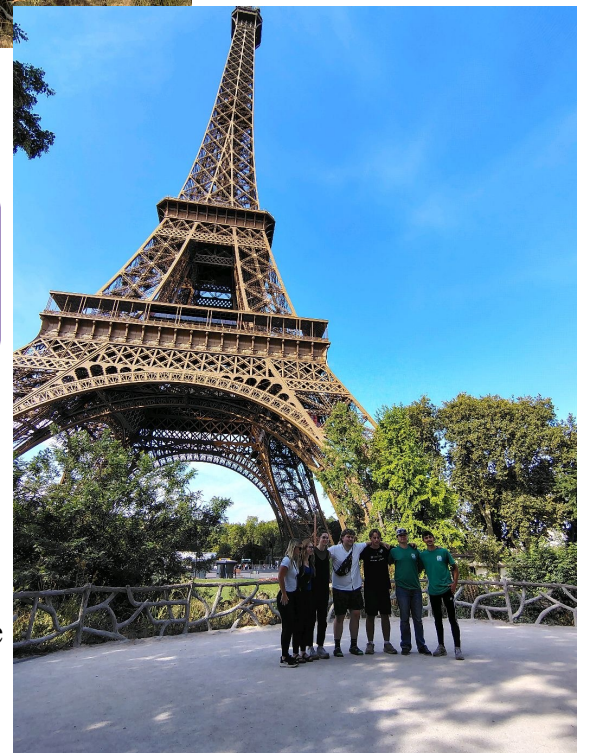
Youth Pages

ELCA Co-op MST 2026 Trip to Umphumulo, South Africa





On their trip home, they had a long layover in Paris, which gave them the opportunity to get out and explore a little.



Youth Pages



BABY AND ME

New class for young ones and an adult

Bible fun with your 0- to 3-year-olds

2nd Sunday of the month

10:00 to 10:45 am

First class: Sunday, October 11th

(We will meet in the corner classroom in the upstairs preschool room)



FELC Children, Youth & Families Facebook & Instagram Pages

Keep Up-to-Date by following these new pages!

Keep current on information that affects our Children, Youth & Families:

*Education Schedules & Changes

*NEW Events & Changes

*Event Recaps & Pictures!

Facebook

To access (then save to your device), select one of the following:

1. URL Address: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61593859070078>

OR 2. Search in your Facebook account for: "FELC Children, Youth & Families"
Look for the picture that looks like this:



OR 3. Search for the page using the following QR Code:



Instagram

To access, look for @childrenyouthfamilies & this logo:



Most importantly, and once you've located the page, please insure you:

1. "FOLLOW" & "LIKE" the pages &
2. "SHARE" & "INVITE" Friends

Please contact Heidi or the church office with any questions.

Thank You

All the equipment has been put away, the burger stand cleaned up for the winter so we would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to everyone who said **YES** to working at the County Fair Burger Stand as well as everyone who donated for fruit and cookies.



The stand was able to raise more than \$15,000 for MST 2028.

Thank you from the food stand committee: Judy, Holly & Karla



Starting Sept. 28th through Oct. 18th
MST-USA 2027 will be taking orders for

Butter Braids.

(Delivery date is Mon. Oct. 26th.)

Orders may be placed with any MST-USA youth (online or in person), or through the church office. Online ordering options will be available on the start date, customers are able to visit the on-line "store", place an order and pay all in one spot! Your Butter Braids will then be available for pick up at church or delivered by one of our youths. If you'd like to place an order online, you can either visit the First Lutheran Facebook page for the link - or call the church office for the link.

Thank you for your support of MST-USA!



*This baptism is the start to a wonderful
and long lasting faith.*

Congratulations on this milestone!!

Baptized: Sunday, August 30, 2026

Evan Lucas

Parents: Austin and Ashley Lucas

Sponsors: Jason and Holli Kells



Volunteer needed: to lead our Grief Support Group, Grief Share. All of the materials and resources needed to lead the group are provided, so you do not need to create your own curriculum. If you have a compassionate heart and would like to help support others through their journey of grief, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the church office if you are interested or would like more information.

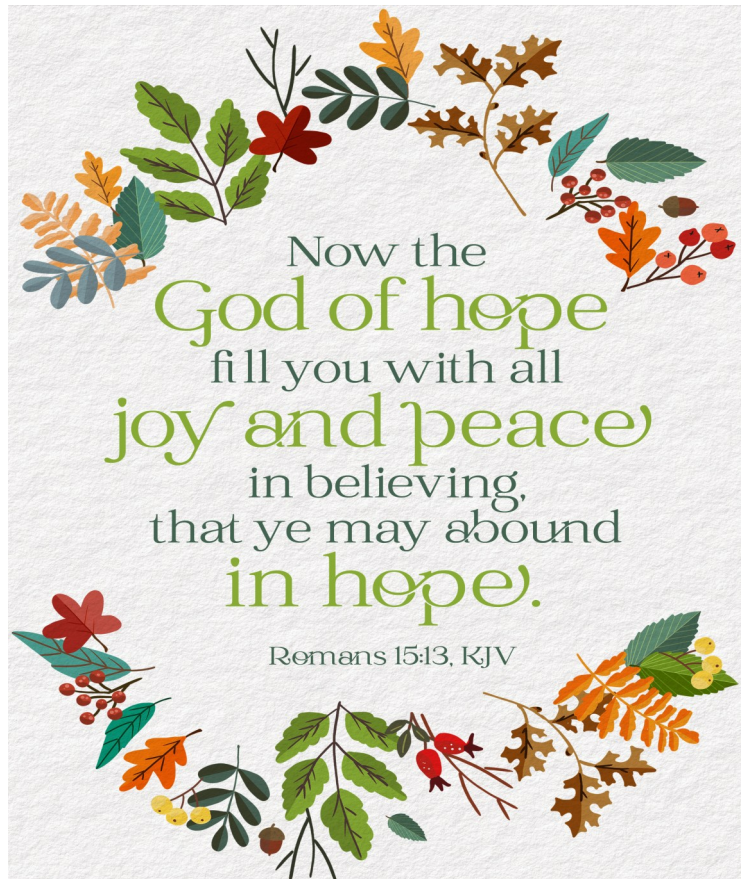


FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Donald Hokanson

September 28, 2026

Please keep his friends and family in your thoughts and prayers.



Churchwide



October Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 4, 2026

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

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

6:00 pm Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, October 11, 2026

9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Baby and Me Class

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

11:00 am Communion Luncheon
No Confirmation & Faith Followers - MEA Break
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, October 18, 2026 *New Member Sunday

9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
No Sunday School - MEA Break

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

No Faith Followers
6:00 pm Confirmation Banquet, Chilstrom Hall
No Evening Worship Service

Sunday, October 25, 2026 * Reformation Sunday

9:00 am Worship w/Communion & Confirmation
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

6:00 pm Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Special Dates for October 2026

- Pastor Appreciation Month
- World Communion Sunday, *October 4, 2026*
- Pastor/Clergy Appreciation, *October 11, 2026*
- Columbus Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Indigenous Peoples Day, *October 12, 2026*
- Reformation Sunday, *October 25, 2026*

Luther and the Bible

Reformation Day is celebrated by many Protestant churches on October 31.

It commemorates the Reformation and honors leaders such as Martin Luther, whose courage and conviction helped shape church history.

Luther's life was threatened because he spoke out against practices he believed did not reflect the true mission of the Church. Forced into hiding, he found refuge at Wartburg Castle as the guest of the ruler of Saxony.

While there, Luther took on an enormous task: translating the Bible from the original languages into German. This was no simple project. At the time, Germany was made up of many regional dialects, making communication difficult from one area to another.

Luther wanted ordinary people to clearly understand God's Word. To make sure his translation used everyday language, he is said to have listened carefully to common speech, even consulting the castle's butcher for familiar expressions and wording.

Luther's translation became a tremendous gift to the German people. Not only did it place Scripture into the hands of everyday readers, but the language he used also helped unify the many German dialects. In that sense, Martin Luther is often considered one of the fathers of the modern German language.



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, October 17, 2026

5:00 p.m. Holy Word Theater, FLC

Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 S. Sibley Ave Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-2487				1 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	2	3 8:00 am Men's Group
4 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting	5 Donation drop-off for Rummage Sale begins 6:30 pm Scouts	6 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 2 pm Worship, Mkr Manor 5:30 pm Worship Mtg. 6:00 pm Scout/ Parent Mtg 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings	7 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship -Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm TBI – Peaces of Mind 2:00 pm Eden Vista Worship, Bethany Chapel 7:00 pm Scout Leaders, Chilstrom Hall	9	10 8:00 am – 12:00 pm MST Rummage Sale, Chilstrom Hall
11 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Baby and Me, Upstairs Sunday School Room	12 6:30 pm Scouts	13 7:30 am BREW 5:30 pm Pack Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel	14 11:00 am Communion Luncheon 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. No Faith Followers – MEA No Confirmation – MEA 6:30 pm Worship - Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	15 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 1:30 pm WELCA Meeting 7:00 pm New Member Orientation, Chilstrom Hall	16	17 8:00 am Men's Group 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater
18 New Member Sunday 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee No Sunday School – MEA	19 6:30 pm Scouts	20 7:30 am BREW 9:00 am Martha Circle 6:00 pm Den Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg	21 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. No Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation Banquet No Worship Service 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm TBI – Peaces of Mind	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. & Confirmation Service 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School	26 6:30 pm Scouts	27 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 5:30 pm MST Comm. Mtg. 6:00 pm Den Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel	28 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship - Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	29 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study	30	31 8:00 am Men's Group

Serving Group & Birthdays

OCTOBER 2026 SERVING GROUP

Chairs

Chuck & Karen Eberhard

Sue Fenton

Corey & Kris Cervin

Gary & Kathy Cervin

Martha Christensen & Jon Nelson

Clinton & Shelly Christians

Brad & Harriette Connor

Jim & Holly Cottingham

Wendy Danzeisen

Ali and Steven LaVine



LaVerne Decker

Ernest & Jackie Defries

Jenny Defries

Steve & Julie Dengerud

Douglas & Mary Desens

Brad & Krista DeWolf

Charles & Alison DeWolf

Will & Kim Dolan

Mike & Dawn Doty

October Ushers

Tony Berglund

David Meidal

Bob Hall

Norma Hall

October Altar Guild

Harriette Connor



OCTOBER Birthdays

OCTOBER 1

Steven Isaacson

Axel Koelln

OCTOBER 2

Camden Gabrielson

Derek Isaacson

Makennon Lokken

Shawn McClay

Eleanora Miller

Becca Prechel

Kenneth Shoutz

OCTOBER 3

Alex Berglund

Mitchell Kleinschmidt

Wyatt Koelln

OCTOBER 4

Rodney Engfer

McKayla Huikko

Steve Kraushaar

Christopher Lease

Ronald Piepenburg

Sarah Stradtmann

OCTOBER 5

Kimberly Dolan

Judy Freitag

William Hannan

Larry Hanson

Liv Hanson

Melissa Hanson

OCTOBER 6

Veronica Escen

LaVonne Huso

Levi Hickman

OCTOBER 7

Anna Bos

Troy Elam

Will Herzog

Sheryl Nelson

OCTOBER 8

Wyatt Kaping

Andy Miller

Hanna Miller

OCTOBER 9

Joan Anderson

Tonia Beavers

Peggy Farmer

Sandra Mielke

OCTOBER 10

Robert Gilberts

Lenora Nelson

Laurie Pierce

Roxanne Rueckert

OCTOBER 11

Mark Elam

OCTOBER 12

Lindsay Ballard

Jesse Carlson

Cole Hoff

Riley Hoff

OCTOBER 13

Brianna Garrison

Adam Kotelnicki

Lylie Miller

Kyren Peterson

OCTOBER 14

Carli Gabrielson

Maxwell Hyberger

Shannon Jepson

Penny Silverberg

Marjorie Streed

Tasha Sutter

OCTOBER 15

Elaine Lenhard

Patrick McCormick

OCTOBER 16

Sabrara Evenson

OCTOBER 17

Willow Bailey

April Fitzloff

Misty Marotte

Timothy Trettin

OCTOBER 18

Julie Bredeson

Steven Carlson

Tait Christensen

Erienne Fawcett

David Johnson

Sharon Johnson

Gloria Koehn

Miles Kerstein

OCTOBER 19

Nicholas Walker

OCTOBER 20

Laurie Boll

Judy Farmer

Hunter Grotto

Karen Keller

Kamryn McWherter

Autumn Mickelson

Paige Polzin

Kristi Ziegler

OCTOBER 21

Camron Jones

OCTOBER 22

Iris Holmgren

Samantha Miller

Sara Romero

Beau Rogers

OCTOBER 23

Mark Beckstrand

Desiree Birch

Matthew Defries

Carol Dragt

OCTOBER 24

Allene Lachelt

Christine Walker

Michael Worden

OCTOBER 25

Jason Gordon

Breanna Olson

Bernita Quast

OCTOBER 26

Vincent Ableidinger

Patrick Hoecke

Denise Langmo

OCTOBER 27

OCTOBER 28

Fay Kjolsing

Joel Michaletz

Darin Mahlow

Ava Slinden

Kieran VanVleet

OCTOBER 29

OCTOBER 30

Gary Larson

Donovan Slinden Jr

Katherine Spanos

OCTOBER 31

Charles Eberhard

Jessica Gabrielson



Do you enjoy puzzles?
Instead of buying more please check out
the new Puzzle Exchange Bookshelf
in Chilstrom Hall.

Bring a puzzle or two that you've
completed and are ready to pass along,
and take home a new one or two to
enjoy! Located near the kitchen
by the west wall.

Our Church Directory is Online!

You can now view our church directory online or
through the FREE mobile app.

To access the directory online, go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com
and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click on "Send Secure
Sign-In Link." Then check your email and click on the "Log in to Instant
Church Directory" button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the **Apple® App Store** and the **Google
Play™ Store**. Just search for "Instant Church Directory" to download.

Important: Your email address **must be listed in the directory before you can
log in.**

Need help or have questions?

Please contact [Church Office 320-693-2487](tel:320-693-2487)

SAVE THE DATE.....

Beer, Hymns & Christmas Carols

Sunday, November 29th, 4 - 6 pm
Hilltop Tavern, Manannah, MN



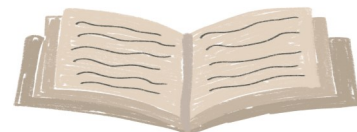
Church/WELCA Handbook for 2027

We are in the process of updating the
Church/WELCA Handbook for 2027.

If you would like your name added to the
Prayer Chain (phone or email), Volunteers
Who Will Bake for Any Event, or Volunteers
on Call for Serving Funerals, etc.

Also, if your **phone number has changed**,
please notify the office at 693-2487.

Thanks!



gather together

CHURCH SOCIAL

Celebrating families...

Sunday November 1st

4:30 pm Meet in sanctuary

*We will gather for a time of appreciation and praise for God, our
church, our members and our missions.*

5:00 pm POTLUCK -Chilstrom Hall

Please bring a dish to share...a Hot Dish Extravaganza!



Churchwide

Sunday, September 13th - Making gifts packets for residents of Assisted Living and Care Facilities.

God's Work Our Hands



Projects



A Letter from Christ

Paul the Apostle gave a beautiful compliment to the believers in Corinth. He wrote:

"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts" (2 Corinthians 3:3, ESV).

What a meaningful picture. A letter carries a message, and Paul reminded the church that their lives were sharing the message of Christ with others.

The same is true for us today. Through our words, actions and faith, people can see evidence of God at work in our hearts. None of us is perfect, but living faithfully can point others toward Him.

What a wonderful goal for every Christian: to be known as "a letter from Christ."



WELCA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

WELCA met on September 17, 2026, in Chilstrom Hall with Lana Johnson calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Lana.

We delayed the business meeting to hear from our guest speaker, Melissa Sonsalla of Bloomin Grace Boutique.

For Melissa, starting Blooming Grace Boutique was not simply a career change. It was a leap of faith and a calling to help women who are “stuck” in human trafficking. Melissa had worked as a trainer for a well-known financial company, a job that required a great deal of travel. Then, a good friend challenged her to consider using her experience to help women who were trapped in human trafficking. That includes not only sex trafficking, but also the more prevalent problem of labor trafficking. After praying about the decision, Melissa took a leap of faith, left her financial career and joined Blooming Grace Boutique with a mission much bigger than selling products.

They say they aren't the makers — they're the curators.

At Blooming Grace Boutique, you'll find handbags, leather goods, jewelry, baskets, home goods, bath and body products, coffee, accessories and much more.

But for them, it has never been just about the products.

Behind those products are relationships.

Behind those relationships are opportunities.

And behind those opportunities are women earning an income through meaningful work.

Blooming Grace Boutique works with a group in La Paz, Bolivia, where women who have escaped trafficking are given the opportunity to learn a skill and develop their abilities as artisans. After extensive training and hard work, they are able to create products that can be sold, providing them with an income and a sustainable way to support themselves rather than being forced into trafficking or low-paying labor. The goal is not simply to provide temporary help. Blooming Grace Boutique strives for **sustainability**, so its partners can continue working and earning an income month after month.

Melissa also wanted a place where these products could be shared with the community. After working with Noah Barka, she turned to Facebook to ask whether others might be interested in opening a storefront where local vendors could sell their crafts together.

That idea grew into **North Sibley Collective**.

Beginning October 1, North Sibley Collective will open in the Barka Building, the former Sward Kemp location. The collective will feature 17 vendors, bringing together a variety of handmade products, gifts, crafts and other unique items under one roof.

North Sibley Collective will be open **Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

For Melissa and Blooming Grace Boutique, the storefront represents much more than a place to shop. Each purchase can help support a larger mission — creating opportunities, building relationships and helping women achieve a sustainable livelihood through meaningful work.

Continues on page 14

WELCA

Business Meeting: There was no secretary's report as in August we attended *The Church Basement Ladies* as our August Funday.

The treasurer's report was approved by a motion by Karla Kadelbach and a second by Lana Johnson. Motion carried.

The Lucia Breakfast will continue! Darlene Meidal, Valda Thomas, Venita McCormick and Gina Lokken have stepped up to carry on the tradition along with Nichole Geffre who will continue to serve on the committee!

DATES TO REMEMBER: Oct. 14 – Communion Luncheon
Oct. 15 – WELCA 1:30 – serving, Norma Hall & Karla Kadelbach

Thanks to Marlys Elam and Valda Thomas for serving.

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

Respectively submitted,

Sue Lemmer, Secretary

Garden Produce Sharing



The Social Ministry Team invites you to drop off or pick up, fresh garden veggies and fruit during the summer and fall growing season. Let us once again share our produce with one another!

A table is located in the southeast (Sunday School) entrance, Door #4.

Thanks to all who participated last season.
Enjoy the harvest!

Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with God to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.





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



Thursday
October 15, 2026
1:30 pm
Chilstrom Hall



**PEACES
OF MIND**
Support • Educate • Empower
Stronger Together

BRAIN INJURY SUPPORT GROUP

Healing Together

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

All Are Welcome!

Survivors • Caregivers • Providers



SHARE

Your experience in a respectful,
understanding space.



LEARN

Tools to help with everyday life
and personal growth.



CONNECT

Hear how others are coping
and making progress.



GAIN

Encouragement & support
without judgment.

MEETINGS ARE HELD:

THURSDAYS • 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**Christ the King
Lutheran Church**

1040 South Grade St
Hutchinson, MN 55350

**First Lutheran
Church**

703 Sibley Ave. S
Litchfield, MN 55355

*Rotating Locations Each Thursday
(Please check for the current location)*

No pressure — just support, at your pace.



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



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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

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.

PFC Raigan Miller, MN Army Nat'l Guard Aviation,
St. Paul, 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!

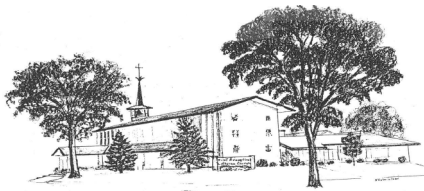
They can be recycled! They will take the whole
card or you can cut off the signed names, if you
wish. I will drop them off at the Senior Center in
Hutchinson. **No Christmas Cards please.**
Thank you! Elaine Lenhard

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703 S. Sibley Ave. Litchfield, MN 55355

Please send submissions to: The Church Office by October 20, 2026

For the NEXT ISSUE: November 2026

Email: firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org



FIRST NEWS

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

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55355



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Joan Anderson, Choir Co-Director

Jodi Findley, Organist

Kipp Kleinschmidt, Media Director
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Scott Nelson, Custodian

Joel Ramthun, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487
LIKE us on Facebook/ Follow us on Youtube!



MST Rummage Sale
Saturday, October 10, 2026
8:00 AM - Noon

Starting on Monday, October 5th

we will accept your donations of gently used clothing, household items, toys, books, games, etc.

Please place these items in the South Sunday School entrance (Door #4).

Please understand that we are unable to accept the following:

Electronics, large furniture, car seats, crib mattresses exercise equipment, and encyclopedias.

Thank you! MST 2028