

First News

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

November 2026

November 2026 Moment with Michael

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 (NRSVue)

I have always found it interesting how much we enjoy certain kinds of change while resisting others.

Speaking for myself, I look forward to the changing colors of autumn, the cooler temperatures, and the opportunity to bring my favorite sweatshirts out of storage. Some of us are already looking forward to the first snowfall, while others would be perfectly content if winter decided to skip us altogether this year.

Of course, change goes well beyond the weather.

School is back in full swing. Our calendars are filled with activities, church programming has resumed, and before long we will be making plans for Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and celebrating a New Year. There is something comforting about returning to familiar routines, even as they remind us how quickly another year is passing.

But not all change is something we look forward to.

Sometimes change comes unexpectedly. A relationship changes. A loved one becomes ill. A job ends. Children grow older and begin making lives of their own. Sometimes the changes are small enough that we hardly notice them. At other times they turn our entire world upside down. And if you're anything like me, you probably prefer having some say in how those changes unfold.

That is one reason I appreciate the words from Hebrews: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." There is something wonderfully reassuring about knowing that even as the world around us changes, God's love and faithfulness remain constant. This doesn't mean every change will be easy. It certainly doesn't mean we will always understand why things happen the way they do. But it does mean that whatever changes we encounter, we do not encounter them alone.

And perhaps this is something worth remembering as we settle into our familiar routines. I encourage you to pay attention to the people around you. Be patient with someone who seems a little distracted. Reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. Take a few minutes to listen to a neighbor whose life might be changing in ways you never imagined.

We cannot prevent every unwanted change, and we certainly cannot control what tomorrow will bring. But we can walk alongside one another, trusting that the same Christ who has accompanied us through yesterday will be with us today and tomorrow.

And if winter happens to arrive a little later this year, I suspect a few of you wouldn't mind.

Pastor 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
so 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 -
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."

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

FLC EXISTS TO WELCOME TO FAITH, EQUIP PERSONS WITH A FAITH THAT WORKS IN REAL LIFE; AND SEND US IN SERVICE INTO THE WORLD IN JESUS' NAME.

FLC Council Meeting
October 20, 2026

Devotions: Meredith Elj

Secretary Report: Approved as read.
Treasurer Report: Increase in salary approved in February extra expense, office equipment increases, software and copier ink.
Special Guest: Bishop Dee Peterson A special thank you from the Bishop for our support and generosity, asking for any feedback and concerns going forward. A very creative conversation.
Pastor Tom, Pastor Michael Report: see written reports

Team Reports:

Worship Team: Beer and Hymns Hilltop November 29
Property Report: The property committee has created a 5-year plan for improving the church and its property. The signs and canopy are currently the top priorities.
Christian Education Team: see report
Endowment Team: No report
Personnel Team: No report
Social Ministry Team: Fall luncheon 43 attended , November 1st Pot Luck, Rainbow Singers Nov 8 3 pm and Thanksgiving Eve Service Nov 25
MST: no meeting
Evangelism Team: no meeting

Old Business:
Confirmation: October 25
Caring Visitor Team: Looking for volunteers if interested please check with the church

New Business:
Heidi: Dad in Hospice please pray for family
Scouts-Family Scouts: Tanner would like to step down Feb 1st before renewal of charter. If interested please volunteer.
Centerpoint: Did safety check on October 15, FLC passed

Prayer Requests:
Closing and adjourn: 8:32 pm



Submitted by
Mattie Baumgartner, Council Secretary

Dates:
Confirmation: October 25
November 1 gather together 4:30
Thanksgiving Eve Service, Nov 25
Rainbow Singers Nov 28 3 - 4:30
Beer and Hymns: Nov 29 Hilltop Tavern, Manannah

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

Finance

	September	YTD
Offerings:	**29,811.11**	**293,073.81**
Dedicated Funds Used:	**2,920.19**	**186,545.10**
Expenses:	**(43,062.00)**	**(555,983.49)**
Net:	**$ (10,330.70)**	**$ (76,364.58)**



COLOSSIANS 3:15-17. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Amen.

Our **GLOBAL MISSIONS** offering for the month of November: 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



Church Christmas Decorating

For everyone's information, our church Christmas decorating will take place on **Sunday, November 22nd, at 1:00 p.m.**
It takes many hands to create such a beautiful and welcoming space for the Christmas season! Please join us for an afternoon of decorating, fellowship, and fun as we prepare our church for this special time of year.
As they say, **"Many hands make light work!"**
We hope to see you there!



Churchwide

WELCOME New Members

Welcome to our new members!
We're so glad you've joined our FLC family. May you feel God's love and friendship in this community of faith.



Center: Ken and Mary Lawson, Sponsors: John and Shirley Lekander



Center: Shelly and Jon Warnke, Sponsors: Howie and Laurie Koehn, and Iris Holmgren.



Center: Debbie Wesley, Sponsors from left: Brooks, Nathan, Amanda and Wesley Nelson.

Coffee and fellowship hour following the service.





FUNERALS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Jutta Goodrich
October 3, 2026

Steven Nordby
October 24, 2026
(at Johnson Haggland Funeral Home)

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



From the "Choralaires" to "Rainbow Singers"

A Legacy of Song 50th Anniversary Concert

Celebrating 50 years of Music,
Harmony, and Community

Sunday, November 8, 2026

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Held here at First Lutheran

Special Guests

Keith Johnson, Jackie Dennin

Reception to follow, Freewill offering

THE GREAT LUTHERAN FOOD FIGHT!

Zion Lutheran, our reigning Grand Champion, has challenged First Lutheran to a rematch:
Da Third Great Lutheran Food Fight!

From October 25 through November 25, we're collecting food and monetary donations to support our area food shelves. This time, we're offering DOUBLE POUNDAGE for special holiday ingredients like flour, sugar, cooking oil, potatoes, canned vegetables, and stuffing!

Every dollar donated count as half a pound toward our total.

So let's get those donations rolling! Bring your donations to church and place them in the back pew, where we'll collect them and deliver them to the Food Shelf each week.

Together, we can fight food insecurity, help our neighbors prepare for the holidays, and maybe bring that Grand Champion banner back home to First Lutheran! And, remember, in this Food Fight, everybody wins!

Current Food Shelf Needs:

Sugar and flour (all varieties)

Cooking oil and shortening

Baking powder and baking soda

Chocolate chips and baking chocolate

Canned pumpkin and pie fillings

Potatoes, sweet potatoes, and yams

Canned green beans, corn, and peas

Canned and dry beans (all varieties)

Stuffing and dressing mixes

Cream of mushroom soup

Broth and stock

Gravy and gravy mixes

Cranberry sauce

Oatmeal and rolled oats

Youth Pages







Congratulations 2026 Confirmation Class!
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
October 25, 2026

Drew Dengerud - Parents, Steve and Julie Dengerud
Danielle Krohse - Parents, Peter and Sheila Krohse
Katie Ziegler - Parents, Joe Ziegler, and Kristi Ziegler
Paxton Peterson - Parents, Jesse and Samantha Peterson

Front row from left: Katie Ziegler, Drew Dengerud, Danielle Krohse, and Paxton Peterson.
Back row from left: Pastor Tom Evenson, Pastor Michael Buller


Zion Lutefisk & Meatball
Dinner & Quilt Raffle
Saturday, November 21
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
(or until fish is gone)
$20 per plate, $25 Take-out
$10 for ages 5-12
(NO early ticket sales)
Zion Lutheran Church
504 N Gilman, Litchfield, MN
Proceeds will benefit Youth Camperships & MST Mission Trip 2027
Lutefisk with white sauce or melted butter
Meatballs in gravy, Mashed potatoes
Green Beans
Lefse, Flatbread
Cranberry sauce, Assorted Scandinavian Sweets
Coffee, Water, & Milk
Quilt Raffle - $2 per ticket, $5 for 3 tickets
Drawing after church on 11/22/2026

Churchwide

NOVEMBER Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 1, 2026 All Saints
9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:00 am Sunday School
4:30 pm Gather Together, Chilstrom

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
6:00 pm Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, November 8, 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, November 11, 2026
6:00 pm Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, November 15, 2026
9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
6:00 pm Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Worship w/Comm., Chapel

Sunday, November 22, 2026
9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
10:00 am Sunday School

Wednesday, November 25, 2026
No Confirmation & Faith Followers
6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Fellowship following

Sunday, Nov. 29, 2026 *1st Sunday of Advent
9:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:00 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour
No Sunday School

MOVIE NIGHT

Saturday, November 21, 2026
5:00 p.m. Holy Word Theater, FLC
Please join us for a good movie and popcorn.
Please bring your own beverage.

Special Dates for November 2026

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2026*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 1, 2026*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2026*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 22, 2026*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2026*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2026*

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!

*The Beginning of Advent: Preparing the Way

Advent begins a season of waiting, hope and preparation as we turn our hearts toward the coming of Christ. As candles are lit and familiar promises are read, may we make room for God's peace and watch with renewed expectation

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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 4:30 pm Gather Together Worship Service 5:00 pm Church Social Potluck	**2** 6:30 pm Scouts	**3** 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 2 pm Worship, Mkr Manor 6:00 pm Den Mtg 6:30 pm NA – Chapel 6:30 pm Exec. Team Mtg. 7:00 pm Team Meetings	**4** 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship -Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	**5** 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm TBI – Peaces of Mind 6—8:00 pm Rainbow Singers, Rehearsal	**6**	**7**
8 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Baby and Me 3:00 pm Rainbow Singers	**9** 6:30 pm Scouts	**10** 7:30 am BREW 10:00 am Lfd. Women's Study Group Meeting 5:30 pm Pack Meeting 5:30 pm Worship Team Mtg. 6:00 pm Scout/ Parent Mtg 6:30 pm NA – Chapel	**11** 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship -Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Priscilla Circle, Sheri Nelson's home	**12** 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Guitar Jam/Group 7:00 pm Scout Leaders, Chilstrom	**13**	**14** 8:00 am Men's Group
15 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting, Chilstrom	**16** 6:30 pm Scouts	**17** 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	**18** 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. 6:00 pm Faith Followers 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship -Chapel 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	**19** 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD 1:00 pm TBI/Peaces of Mind 1:30 pm WELCA Meeting 2:00 pm Worship at Eden Vista, Bethany Chapel	**20**	**21** 5:00 pm Movie Night, Holy Word Theater
22 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee 10:00 am Sunday School 1:00 pm Decorate Church	**23** 6:30 pm Scouts	**24** 7:30 am BREW 8:30 am Quilters 6:00 pm Pack Meeting 6:30 pm NA – Chapel	**25** 4:30 pm Staff Mtg. *No Confirmation or Faith Followers* 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve. Worship – with fellowship following service	**26** Thanksgiving Day 7:55 am "Open Gate" KLFD Church office closed	**27** Church office closed	**28** 8:00 am Men's Group
29 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 am Worship w /Comm. 10:00 am Fellowship & Coffee *No Sunday School* 4-6 pm Beer, Hymns & Christmas Carols, Hilltop Tavern, Manannah	**30** 6:30 pm Scouts	First Evangelical Lutheran Church 703 S. Sibley Ave Litchfield, MN 55355 320-693-2487				

Serving Group & Birthdays

NOVEMBER 2026 SERVING GROUP
Chairs:
Dorothy Euerle
Susan Lemmer
Steve Durkee
Mark & Jodi Elam
Marlys Elam
Troy & Julie Elam
Nate & Meredith Elj
Ralph & Gloria Elj
Martin & Laure Engelke

Jeanette Erickson
Keith & Sabrara Evenson
Richard & Peggy Farmer
Robert & Judy Farmer
Brian & Jodi Findley
Tama Fisher
Josh & Anna Fluck
Donna Forster

November Ushers

Mark Bredeson
Keith Evenson
Andrew Miller
Richard Farmer

November Altar Guild

Meredith Elj





NOVEMBER 1
Julie Dengerud
NOVEMBER 2
Chantell Andersen-Otto
Tracey Kaping
Heather Kelly
Owen Rick
NOVEMBER 3
Kenneth Bohn
Mary Burdick
Nicole Geffre
Randy Stille
NOVEMBER 4
Tucker Liestman
NOVEMBER 5
Evan Baldwin
Thomas Larson
Daniel Pecholt
NOVEMBER 6
Joshua Blomberg
Renee Gartner
NOVEMBER 7
Ann Bush
Christi Triche
NOVEMBER 8
Kathy Cervin
Joseph Elam
Diane Housman

NOVEMBER 9
Krista DeWolf
Cecil Fawcett
Pam Groskreutz
Gary Husmann
Karla Hyberger
Ethan Lease
NOVEMBER 10
Wesley Herzog
John Lekander
Kari Mahlow
Savannah Nelson
Jack Ramthun
NOVEMBER 11
Danielle Wahl
Logan Hanson
NOVEMBER 12
Marlena McGraw
Heidi Oslund
Carol Shoutz
Jacob Steichen
Marilyn Swanson
NOVEMBER 13
Amy Berube
Timothy Elam
Barbara Hannes
Adrienne Henschke
Judy Judes
Kathryn Kronbeck

NOVEMBER 14
Josiah Pecholt
NOVEMBER 15
Melanie Muske
Kate Peterson
NOVEMBER 16
Richard Allen
Chris Bostrom
Alice Branstner
Teresa Christoferson
Karianna Husmann
Gary Vollmer
NOVEMBER 17
Charley Estrada
Duane Farmer
Lynette Kleinschmidt
James Sommerfeld
Dominick Steichen
NOVEMBER 18
Ernest Defries
Madelyn Fluck
Sharon Galloway
NOVEMBER 19
Janice Madden
Tom McCormick
Vicki Rath

NOVEMBER 20
Becky Estrada
Ellen Hulterstrum
Matthew Jensen
Craig McKechney
Lauren Pater
NOVEMBER 21
James Koenig
Matthew Triche
Connor Worden
NOVEMBER 22
Brenda Flann
Sally Gilberts
Mary Hokanson
Christian Horwath
Grace Rogers
NOVEMBER 23
Gavin Hurd
NOVEMBER 24
NOVEMBER 25
Brody Quast
Katie Ziegler
NOVEMBER 26
Joanne Benfield
Patti Burdick
Von Grotto

NOVEMBER 27
Harper Judes
NOVEMBER 28
Adam Frank
NOVEMBER 29
Kendall Lawson
NOVEMBER 30


LAMP Kinship
Turkey Bingo
Food | Bingo | Prizes | Raffle
BINGO!
$20 for 20 BINGO games
Raffle Baskets
$1 (1) - $5 (7)
$10 (15) - $20 (35)
50/50
Raffle
$5 each
BINGO
20
November
2025
Eagles Club
Litchfield
Doors open at 5:00
Bingo starts at 6:00
Thank you for supporting LAMP!


Meeker Area ELCA Cooperative
Beer & Hymns
+ Christmas Carols
Join us for a festive evening of music and fellowship at the:
Hilltop Tavern in Manannah
57241 CSAH 30, Grove City, MN
Sunday, November 29th
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Dinner specials and full menu available
Raise a glass, lift your voice, and celebrate the Season.
All are welcome!


Come Celebrate
The 73rd Annual
Saint Lucia Breakfast
First Lutheran Church
703 South Sibley Avenue
Litchfield, Minnesota 55355
December 12, 2026
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Suggested Donations: Adults $10.00
Children aged 6–10 years: $5.00
Children 5 and under eat free.
Tickets are available at:
First Lutheran Church Office or at the door


Dinner Theater
WATER'S EDGE MINISTRIES
December 10-13, 2026
GLLM:
320-796-2181
Join us for a delicious four course meal and an evening of theater and music with your loved ones at Green Lake Bible Camp.
This tradition has become a special way for us to celebrate the Advent season, and we love sharing it with you!
GLLM.org/Dinner-Theater

Memorials, Gifts, and Thanks

Gifts were given to the General Fund and Building Fund in memory of Donald Hokanson from Russell and Shirley Kronbeck, Millard and Jane Hickman, Karla Kadelbach, Richard and Carol Heath, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin, Ron and Barb Piepenburg, Jerry and Lana Johnson, Bob and Norma Hall, Dorothy Stenberg, Pastor Tom and Kim Evenson, Mike and Kris Nelson, Paul and Sue Lemmer, Darlene Lundin, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, and Mark and Julie Bredeson, Dianne Thorp, Jeanette Erickson, Bryan and Linda Larson, Gary and Lori Larson, Dan and Brenda Johnson, John Smith, John and Shirley Lekander, Kathy Hantge, Jean Wieland, Valda Thomas, and Joanne Miller.

Gifts were given to the General Fund in memory of Jutta Goodrich from Gary and Janet Smith, Marlys Elam, Michael Devereaux, Steve and Jackie Kraushaar, Kathy Hantge, Pastor Tom and Kim Evenson, Charlie and Jo Ann Lindstrom, Dianne Thorp, Jeanette Erickson, Duane and Carol Sangren, Alan and Laurie Boll, Faye Kjolsing, Jean Wieland, Pastor Roy and Mary Harrisville, Kristi Potter, Dan and Brenda Johnsonson, Mike and Debra Langmo, Gary and Lori Larson, John and Katie Hulterstrum, John and Bette Jo Carlson, Stanley and Sylvia Kittleson, and Rodney and Elizabeth Engfer, Jim and Elaine Lenhard, Paul and Sue Lemmer, Kirk and Dorothy Lundin.

A Gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Jean Hoyer, who passed away October 26, 2019, from her daughter, Lisa Hoyer.

Gifts were given to the General Fund in memory of Don Hokanson, and Jutta Goodrich, and in Honor of Iris Holmgren's birthday from Chuck and Karen Eberhard.

Gifts were given to the Choir Fund in memory of Donald Hokanson, and Jutta Goodrich from Mark and Judy Hulterstrum.

A Gift was given to the General Fund in memory of Ron Johnson from Elois Johnson.

A Gift was given to the General Fund in the honor of new members, Ken and Mary Lawson, from John and Shirley Lekander.

Special Thanks

Thank you to everyone who served during the month of August. We truly appreciate your time and willingness to help. Mattie Baumgartner and Darlene Meidal

Thank you to all the September serving group members and others that helped at the funeral at the end of the month. Your time and talent were very much appreciated.
Laurie Boll, and Jo Carlson.

Property Team and Members of First Lutheran Church - Thank you for allowing me to do my Eagle Scout Project at the church. I enjoyed updating the landscaping on the east side. I hope everyone enjoys it for many years to come. Sincerely, Mason

A Heartfelt Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and memorials given to the church in memory of Jutta. Pastor Tom, Carol Dragt, serving ladies, and everyone who helped make the funeral service so meaningful. Your kindness, support, and thoughtfulness mean so much to me and our family during this difficult time. With heartfelt gratitude, Goody Goodrich

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visits and well wishes while recovering from hip surgery. Your kindness is appreciated! Bob Gilberts

WELCA MINUTES OCTOBER 15, 2026

WELCA met on October 15, 2026, in Chilstrom Hall with Jackie Kraushaar calling the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited. Devotions were given by Jackie.

We had two guests that were observing our meeting for their AP class from Eden Valley High School – Natalie and Alaina.

A motion to approve the Secretary's Report as printed was made by Karla Kadelbach and seconded by Dee Bollin. Motion carried.

Lana Johnson made a motion to table the Treasurer's Report until our November meeting. It was seconded by Kris Nelson. Motion carried.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held at First Lutheran this year. Our congregation is asked to supply 10 desserts for lunch following the service.
A motion was made by Sue Lemmer to send around a sign-up sheet on Sunday morning for volunteers. Norma Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried. A sheet will be passed around for members to sign up for desserts. ***Note:*** **NO COOKIES, BARS, or CAKE!!**

The up-coming Church Social – Hotdish Potluck will be at 4:30 on Nov. 1st.
Karla Hyberger will be sharing more information about that event.

November 8th the Rainbow Singers will be celebrating their 50-year anniversary with a concert at First. We have been asked to setup and serve the treats that they bringing for approximately 100 people. Volunteers will be needed to help.

After our meeting adjourned, we spent time cleaning and straightening closets and drawers in the kitchen.

Thank you to Norma Hall and Karla Kadelbach for serving today and Jackie Kraushaar for conducting the meeting an doing devotions.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Nov. 1st – 4:30pm Church Social and Hotdish Potluck
Nov. 8th – 3 pm Rainbow Singers Concert – First
Nov. 19th – 1:30 pm WELCA meeting,
Servers: Dee Bollin & Marilyn Swanson
Nov. 22nd – 1 pm Church Christmas Decorating
Nov. 25th – Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm – First

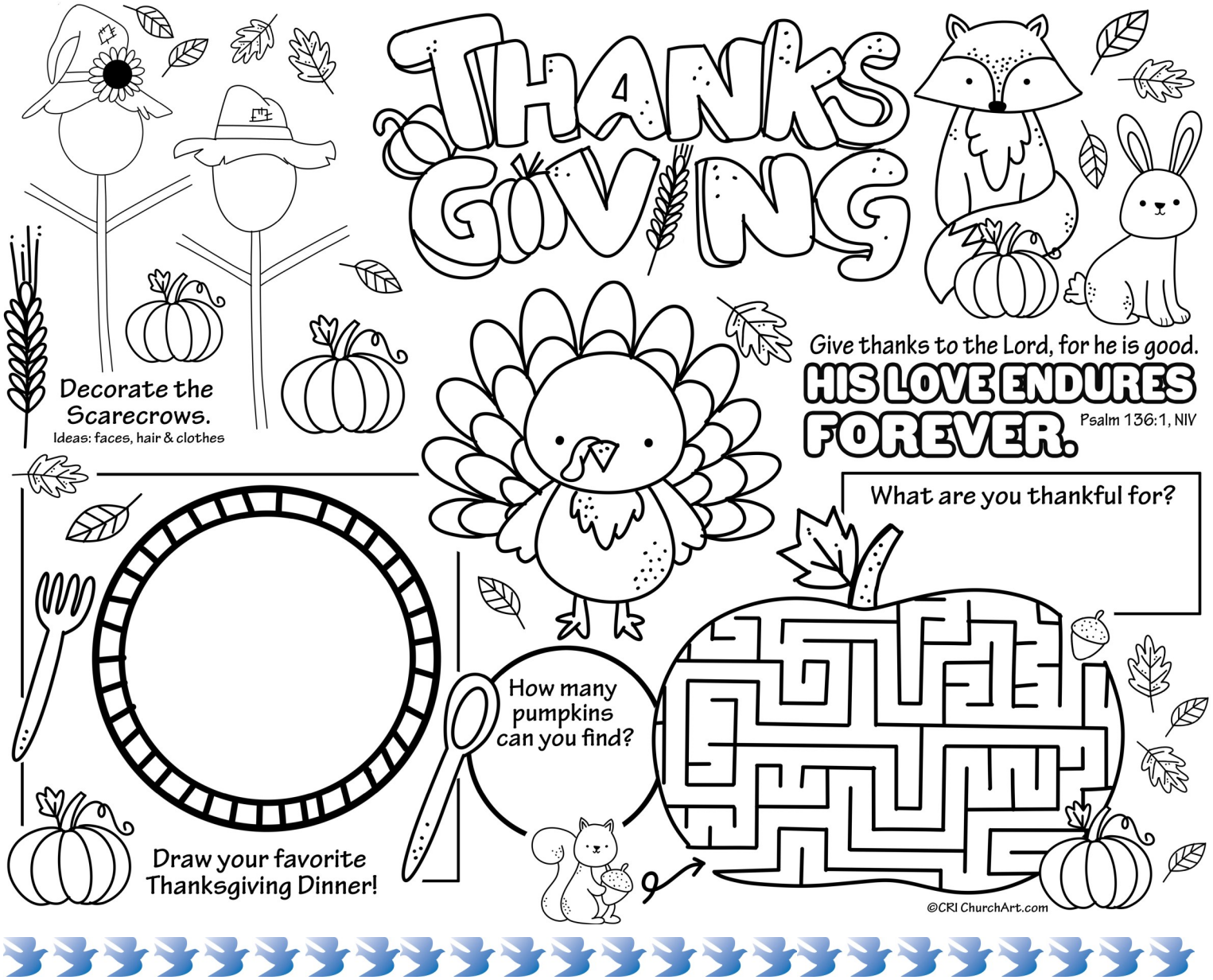


The Lord's Pray and Table Blessing were recited. Meeting adjourned.

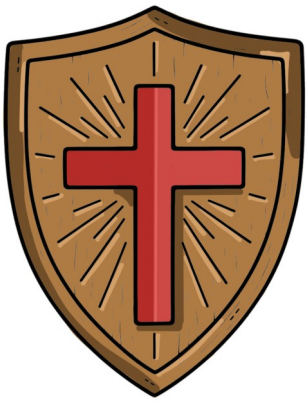
Respectively submitted,

Sue Lemmer, Secretary

Churchwide



Faithful Witnesses



Many churches observe All Saints' Day on November 1, a time to remember believers who have died in the faith and give thanks for their faithful witness.

The story of Christianity is filled with ordinary people who held fast to Christ in both joyful and difficult seasons. Across the centuries, countless believers have followed Jesus with courage, and many have even given their lives while bearing witness to God's love and the saving grace of Christ. Even today, Christians in some parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith.

On this day, take time to remember our Christian heritage with gratitude. Give thanks for those who remained faithful before us, and ask God to help us follow Christ with the same courage, hope and steadfast faith.



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

Women of the ELCA

Thursday
November 19, 2026
1:30 pm
Chilstrom Hall

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!



Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better!

Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin.

Enter your email listed in the directory, and click "Send Secure Sign-In Link." Check your email, and click the "Log in to Instant Church Directory" button.

If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact the church office.

Available on the App Store

Google play



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
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. Thank you! Elaine Lenhard

No Christmas Cards please.

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Please send submissions to: The Church Office by **November 20, 2026**
For the NEXT ISSUE: December 2026
Email: firstoffice@firstlitchfield.org



First News

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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First Lutheran Church Office: 320-693-2487
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ELCA Co-op
Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wed., November 25 at 6:30 pm.
Followed by fellowship and treats.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
703 SOUTH SIBLEY AVE
Litchfield, MN

ALL ARE WELCOME!!