The Messenger
July 2026

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Dear People of FLC,
In the podcast I co-host with Dawn Trautman, the last few weeks we have been talking about the importance of being able to pivot. To pivot means a shift in strategy, direction, or focus. Sometimes we may think life or a season is going to look one way but then if we find out that it is not, we are faced with a choice: we can resist that change (which is usually futile) or we can see what life IS offering us and look for what blessings can be found there.
It seems to me one of the most important lessons of life is to learn to pivot with grace and peace. I am not always so good at this. Sometimes I feel like a petulant child when something I had my heart set on doesn't go my way. But so far in my 56 years I have seen that 100% of the time things eventually work out. Not necessarily how I thought they would or should, but they have worked out. It reminds me of an old poem my mom used to keep pressed into her Bible:

Broken Dreams by Lauretta P. Burns

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to God because He was my friend.
But then instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.
At last I snatched them back and cried, "How could you be so slow?"
"My child," he said, "what could I do? You never did let go."

I pray as this summer season continues we all remember to bring our prayers and hopes to God and trust that all will be well. If a situation isn't working out as you hoped, may you see all that is possible in the plan B. An alternate path can sometimes hold so much more beauty than the way we originally thought we were going to travel. May God be in our plans and may God be in our pivots.

Sending you so much love -
Pastor Ruth

A publication of

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The cemetery committee would like to thank all of the volunteers that came out to help clean up at the north cemetery and south cemetery. The south cemetery had three big pines taken down this year. And a big thanks to Steve Leitte's grandson, and his scout group for assembling and securing the new benches by the columbarium! They look great!

I was rereading a wonderful book by ND born author Carrie Young, Nothing Do But Stay. She writes about her amazing mother and other women homesteaders. One of my favorite stories talked of feeding the minister after service and woe to the husband who let someone else invite him first. "The matron who had elected to feed him on any particular Sunday had to stay home that day to cook, because there was no letting the minister cool his heels in the parlor; even a half hour's wait could ruin his day's schedule. So it was up to the husband to go to church and invite the pastor home for dinner. On occasion, when the husband wasn't quick enough about stepping out into the aisle to intercept him, another husband (whose wife had been absent from the Aid the previous month and had taken it into her head all on her own to take the preacher) would invite him. The First husband's life wasn't worth much when he came home that day, nor were negotiations peaceful at the next meeting of the Ladies Aid."

This certain pastor Carrie Young writes about had four parishes and "if he drove like a madman he could get in four sermons every Sunday." Imagine, no running water OR electricity AND having to share your pastor with 3 other church congregations.

Those settlers were made of tough stuff, this is most certainly true. I like to think that we at FLC are resilient too; we've been through some Things, we've had some hard conversations, some tough losses…yet we still stand. Still trying to do the work, often with less. Sometimes with less money, sometimes with less volunteers, less staff…yet we still do the work.

The Call Committee continues to try and do the work we were 'called' upon to do. The path is not straight and it is not for the faint of heart. We prayerfully continue the process of finding a pastor for our church, will this be someone we may have to share with another congregation? We don't know. Is this something our Council is exploring? It is.

If congregational members would like to further discuss, there will be members of council, call committee and finance in the Narthex after services on June 28, July 5 and July 12…please come and share your thoughts.

CYF

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

WHERE'S KRISTY?

Dance shows, ball games, and VBS have been the places I have been spoted in the last month. As we start July, you might notice I am missing, that is because I will be in Madison, WI with 7 FLC students for our Youth Mission Trip. Don't worry, I won't be gone for long and I will be back checking out your children's games, visiting your doorstep with popsicles, and looking for how God is showing up beyond the church walls and out in the community. If you haven't gotten me your child's summer activity schedule, I would love to catch a game, practice, or performance. Feel free to text or email me.

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children, Youth, & Families' Ministries

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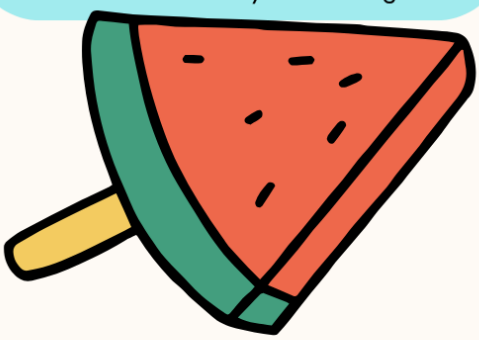
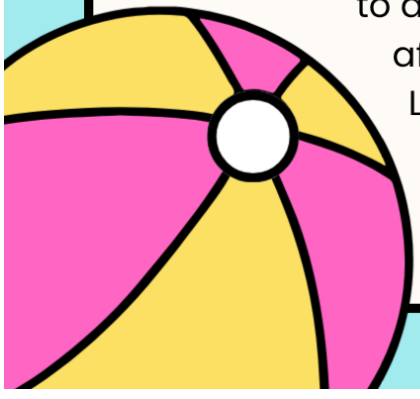


CASTLE OF COURAGE VBS

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that helped with VBS and participated! It takes a village to put on such an amazing week long experience, and we had an amazing village of people!

"Here is what I am commanding you to do. Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."
Joshua 1:9 (NIRV)

THE CASTLE OF COURAGE
BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS



CYF

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

CAMP DAY

AT LUTHER CREST

K-6TH GRADE

JULY 13TH 8AM-5PM

ACTIVITIES:

- Songs
- Swim
- Craft
- Lunch
- Games
- Worship
- Transportation Provided

$20

Register with the QR code by July 6th.

Talk with Ms. Kristy for more details.

SUMMER BOOK STUDY

For Moms of children & youth

You are invited to a book study. Join me in reading the book, *Never Alone - Bible Study Book: Parenting in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Jeannie Cunnion. We will meet at Outstate Brewing on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:00pm.

SUMMER FUN AND EVENTS

Rummage Sale Help Sign Up

July 11: Youth Rummage Sale Fundraiser. Sign up using QR code.

July 13: Day at Luther Crest 8-5pm

July 20-24: Meals by Wheels with 4th grade and up. Sign up using the QR code. 10:30-12:30

July 22: Meet up at the FF Aquatic Center 4-6pm

Aug. 14-15: 4th-6th grade camping at Moccasin Valley.

Women of the ELCA

Love Days Quilters continue to meet every Monday to sew quilts and work on Mission projects. ❣️ There is room for many more worker bees 🐝 🐝 🐝 !

WELCA Board will not meet in July.

Hannah Circle is not gathering in July

thrivent

Have you thought about FLC for your Thrivent Financial CHOICE DOLLARS or your ACTION TEAM directed dollars? If you don't know what they are or how to use them, call your local Thrivent Representative!

General Fund

Month	Revenue	Expenses	Profit/Loss
January	$ 37,977.55	$ (49,736.22)	$ (11,758.67)
February	$ 39,102.83	$ (46,962.43)	$ (7,859.60)
March	$ 28,038.06	$ (43,074.96)	$ (15,036.90)
April	$ 43,016.88	$ (42,267.84)	$ 749.04
May	$ 26,317.92	$ (39,559.34)	$ (13,241.42)
June			$ -
July			$ -
August			$ -
September			$ -
October			$ -
November			$ -
December			$ -
			$ -
	$ 174,453.24	$ (221,600.79)	$ (47,147.55)

Revenue is collected from weekly offerings. Expenses are general fund expenses that include basic operations: utilities, staff, building maitenance, worship supplies, cleaning expenses, youth support.

Lutheran World Relief School Kit Supplies

Quilters are making drawstring backpacks and are in need of these items to be donated.
The collection box is located in the Narthex.
Thank you for your generosity!

- [ ] 4 - wide-ruled notebooks, 8 1/2 x 11, (70 sheets each)
- [ ] 1 - pencil sharpener
- [ ] 1 - blunt scissors
- [ ] 1 -30 cm ruler, (with inches on the opposite side)
- [ ] 5 - ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- [ ] 1 - box of crayons, 16 or 24 count

***This year pencils and erasers are not needed.**

THANK YOU!!!

The First Lutheran Church Cancer Team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that donated to our fundraiser this year. We are so Thankful for all that you did. Maybe it was prayer, maybe you brought baked goods or a memory/honor bag, or you just gave a donation. We exceeded our goal by a lot. This year through donations we received $5,168.55 and a generous donation from Mike and Lori Wood of $3200.00 we were able to donate $8,368.55 to Lake Region Cancer Center. You are the best ever-

Thank you so much- Sue Toso, chair, and the cancer team- Sandy Kvern, Keary Toso, Marlene Wilde, JoAn Whitlock, Lyn Bladow and Leonard Hatzenbuhler

After 5 days return to
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Address Service Requested

Staff Directory

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First Lutheran Church

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Worship Times
Sundays 9:00am

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:00am -4:00pm
Friday- 8:00am- noon