

JOIN
OUR
TEAM

First Lutheran Church

Job Opening

Ministry & Media Coordinator

Creative lead on all visual aspects of online and printed advertising of events happening at our busy church/community on many platforms.

11-15 hours weekly, PTO, flexible/remote hours

Apply today @ Indeed.com or in the church office!

email: office@flc-aitkin.com or call: 218-927-2028

Come meet our NEW Youth Coordinator

We welcome
Cathy Hughes

Cathy started in her new position on 11/19. She is very excited
to meet all the youth, parents and mentors!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS AT 11 A.M.**

IN THE LIBRARY

NEW SIX WEEK ADVENT SERIES

BEGINNING DECEMBER:

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

GIFT

Gathering In Fellowship Together

**Fellowship and Bible Study for all ages of women
at FLC.**

Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 9:30am.

**December 9th - Caroling at Nursing Homes
Lunch following.**

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**9:00 & 10:30 AM
WORSHIP
SERVICES**

**DECEMBER 7
DECEMBER 21**

**9:00 AM
WORSHIP
SERVICE ONLY**

**DECEMBER 14
DECEMBER 28**

Coffee Fellowship Immediately Following 9:00 AM Service

DECEMBER 80 PLUS BIRTHDAYS

JUDY SKINNER - 12/01

JUDIE JONES - 12/06

NORMA LEHMANN - 12/08

JEAN PRICKETT - 12/08

GWENDOLYN DICKEY - 12/12

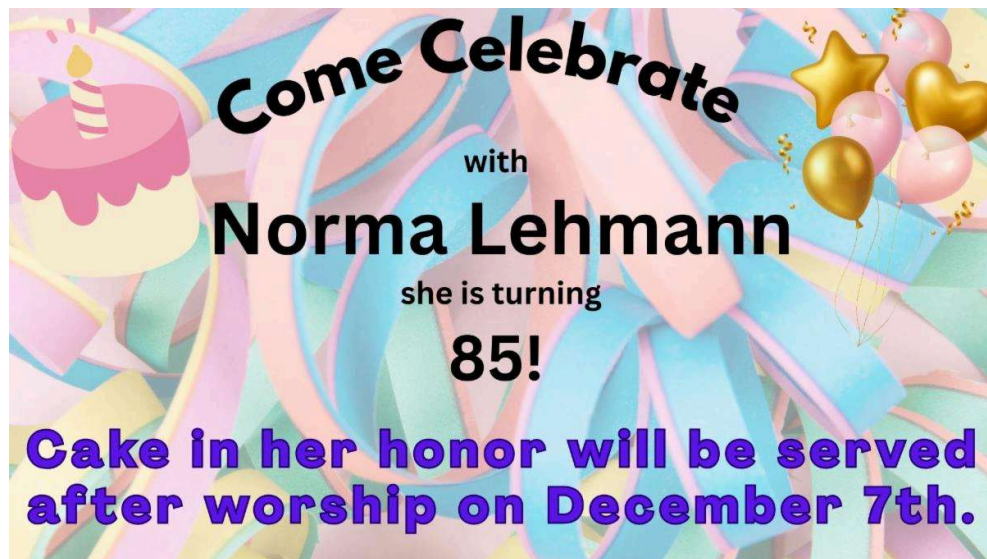
BONNIE BOHN - 12/15

DOROTHY BRANDT - 12/28

JANET GARDNER - 12/30

DARLENE MUNNEKE - 12/30

Happy Birthday







Community Gratitude Gathering

Attendance: 95

Offering total: \$718.48

\$359.24 given to each food shelf:

Aitkin Community at First Lutheran & Aitkin Area

It was a wonderful service, thank you everyone!



MISSION ENDOWMENT AS A GIFT TO GRANDCHILDREN?

REALLY! Ruth would give a significant gift to the Endowment Fund in her church on the eighteenth birthday of each of her grandchildren. She then would share this act of benevolence with the grandchild, explaining the perpetual benefits of an endowment fund and as importantly, that the gift was given in honor of the child. (And yes, Ruth was a teacher)

FAMILY PHOTOS NEEDED!

Walt & Nanci
Sauerbrei are willing
to take your family
photo too!

We'd like to keep our
photo wall updated -
please submit an updated
photo of your family as
soon as you can.

Please submit your family/individual photo as a jpg in
landscape orientation. Email to office@flc-aitkin.com

✦ Solar Panel Update ✦

On Sunday, 12/7, First Lutheran
will be dedicating our new
solar panel array after the
9:00am worship service!

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

December 7: No Sunday School

December 14: Christmas Program 9 am Worship Service

December 21 & 28: No Sunday School

-Christmas Break

DECEMBER WNF SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 3: WNF
DECEMBER 10: WNF
DECEMBER 17: WNF
DECEMBER 24: NO WNF
-CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 31: NO WNF
-CHRISTMAS BREAK

DECEMBER 7TH & 8TH GRADE AFFIRMATION SCHEDULE

December 3: Class
December 10: Class
December 17: Class
December 24: Christmas Break
Merry Christmas Eve!
December 31: Christmas Break
Happy New Year's Eve!

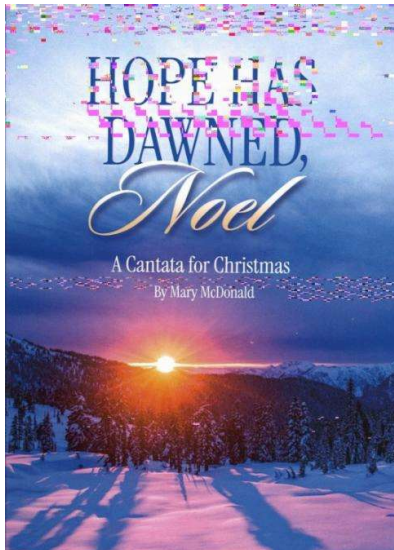
DECEMBER 9TH GRADE AFFIRMATION

December 3: Peer Ministry
December 10: Peer Ministry
December 17: Peer Ministry
December 24: Christmas Break
MERRY CHRISTMAS EVE!
December 31: Christmas Break
Happy New Year's Eve!

Children's Christmas Program

This year the First Lutheran Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 14th at the 9:00am service.

We hope you can join us in making this Christmas extra special! Thanks!



**SUNDAY
DECEMBER
14TH AT
3:00PM**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS
LONGEST NIGHT
WORSHIP**

**December 18th
6:00 pm**



Community Meals



All meals are take-out only

Mondays at 5:00 pm

Tuesdays at 12:00 noon

Thursdays at 5:00 pm

No meals December 25th.

Community Food Shelf



Open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

December 11 & 23 (Tue).

CHRISTMAS EVE 3pm & 5pm Traditional Candlelight Worship

5pm Service will be livestreamed on
YouTube and broadcast on KKIN radio
FM 94.3.

THE COMMUNITY'S 35TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

A traditional meal with turkey,
mashed potatoes with gravy,
stuffing and all the trimmings.

In town delivery or take out
starting at 11:30am.

Dine-in from 12noon - 1:30pm

Call for deliveries

218-927-2028

Freewill offerings are accepted.

ATTENDANCE

Week of	10/26	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/23
Sunday	218	99	69	86	121
9:00 am (In-person)					
Sunday	N/A	13	14	10	6
10:30 am (In-person)					
Wednesday	34	39	N/A	43	46
6:00 pm (In-person)					
YouTube	70	53	56	50	69

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of
November 23.

A view may be more than one person per view. Wednesday night
is all in person attendance



GOOD GIFTS GIVING TREE



SELECT AN ORNAMENT FROM THE TREE IN THE NARTHEX AND PLACE YOUR DONATION IN AN EXTRA MILE ENVELOPE WITH A MEMO STATING "GOOD GIFTS" OR JUST PUT A CHECK IN THE OFFERING. GIFTS OF ANY DOLLAR AMOUNT ARE WELCOME. HANG THE ORNAMENT ON YOUR TREE AT HOME OR GIVE IT TO A PERSON YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO HONOR THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE AN EMPTY TREE BY CHRISTMAS!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Committee

Financial Summary through October 2025

	2024	2025
General Operating Income - YTD	290,677	280,411
October Budget Expectations-YTD (Historical Average)	346,962	320,486
Variance to Budget Expectations - YTD	(56,285)	(40,075)
Actual Expenditures - YTD	325,509	323,170
Percentage of dollars received for period to dollars pledged	98%	92%
Unpledged Dollars Rec'd – YTD (Regular Offering)	75,466	76,420
Building Fund Income - YTD	32,936	25,970
Building Fund Expenditure - YTD	34,270	34,270
Campership Balance	10,287	9,997

In comparing General Fund income with **actual** expenses, you will see a shortfall of \$42,759. This compares to last month when the shortfall was \$33,037.

In using the straight line method of calculating the budget, general fund income was about \$64,866 under budget.

Using the historical average method of calculating the budget as shown above, you will see that the variance was a negative \$40,075.

Regular offering was \$66,132 under budget expectations through October, and less than 2024 by \$18,200.

General Fund offering for October was \$24,964. Historically, October results in 9.41% of general fund giving. This amount would be \$38,989.



“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.” – Luke 2:14

Dear Church Family,

As we enter this holy season of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of God's promise of hope, peace, joy, and love. December often brings busyness—shopping, gatherings, and year-end tasks—but it's also a time to slow down and reflect on the true gift we've been given through Christ.

Advent: A Season of Preparation

Advent invites us to prepare not only our homes but our hearts. Amidst the hustle, take time each day to pause in gratitude. Light a candle, read a verse, or simply breathe a prayer of thanksgiving.

“Be still and know that I am God.” – Psalm 46:10

Caring for Body and Spirit

The holidays can be joyful but also stressful or lonely. Remember to care for your body and soul:

- Rest – Sleep restores the body and spirit.
- Eat mindfully – Enjoy festive foods but keep balance.
- Connect – Reach out to someone who might be alone this season.
- Pray – Ask God to renew your strength and peace.

Giving the Gift of Health

Consider small acts of kindness that promote health and wholeness:

- Share a healthy meal with a neighbor.
- Volunteer your time or talents.
- Donate warm clothing, blankets, or hygiene items.

December Health Awareness

December is recognized for several important health observances:

1. National Influenza Vaccination Week (First week of December)

It's not too late to get your flu shot! Vaccination helps protect you and those around you, especially young children, older adults, and those with chronic conditions.

2. National Safe Toys and Gifts Month

If you're buying toys for children, check for age-appropriate labels, avoid small parts for little ones, and ensure gifts are free from choking hazards.

3. Handwashing Awareness Week (Early December)

Handwashing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of illness during the winter season.

“So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” – 1 Corinthians

Screenings and Health Maintenance

As we approach the end of the year, it's a great time to make sure your preventive care is up to date:

- Blood pressure check – at least once a year.
- Cholesterol and blood sugar – every 1–3 years, more often if you have risk factors.
- Mammogram and Pap test – as recommended by your provider.
- Colon cancer screening – beginning at age 45, or earlier if advised.
- Vaccinations – Flu, COVID-19 boosters, pneumonia, and shingles (depending on age and health).

Taking care of your health honors the body God has given you.

A Prayer for December

Lord, in this season of light, help us to shine Your love into the world. Fill our hearts with peace, our minds with gratitude, and our lives with compassion. May the joy of Christ's birth remind us that You are always with us—Emmanuel. Amen.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed and healthy Christmas season, filled with God's grace and the warmth of His presence.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” – John 1:5

Submitted: Traci Morelan, Parish Nurse



First Lutheran Church

December Holiday Schedule 2025

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday 14th —9am

Christmas Cantata

Sunday 14th—3pm

Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service

Thursday 18th—6pm

Wednesday 24th

Christmas Eve Services

3pm—Traditional Candlelight

5pm—Traditional Candlelight

35th Annual Christmas Day Dinner

Thursday 25th

In-town delivery or take-out (not drive-thru)
begins at 11:30am

Dine-in from 12noon—1:30pm

STAFF

Pastor Reggie Denton, Senior Pastor
reggie@flc-aitkin.com
Jill Jameson, Office Manager
office@flc-aitkin.com
Colleen Kent Chute, Ministry & Media Coordinator
Colleen@flc-aitkin.com
Barb Bendson, Accountant
barb@flc-aitkin.com
Justine Nordick, Sunday School Coordinator
justinenordick@gmail.com
Mike Purdy, Custodian
Rebecca May, Organist
Sarah Grovogel, Nursery Facilitator

Mission Statement

With God's love we embrace one another, our neighbors, and all creation.

Vision Statement

Doing God's Work with Our Hands by Providing:
Spiritual Growth for All
Opportunities for Living Out Our Christian Faith
Support of our Mission and Ministries

Church Values

TRUST and LOVE in Jesus Christ
COMMIT to living God's Word
PRACTICE hospitality with welcoming and kindness
RESPECT and CARE for all people
SERVE our community
LIVE as generous stewards

Support Groups

1. Rides for Health (927-4077)
2. Memory Loss/Caregivers (927-1383)
Aitkin County CARE - 1st Wed. 12:45pm
3. Donuts with Dawn (previously memory lane cafe)
Maryhill Manor 11am on 2nd Tues.
4. HOPE (healing & opportunity provided equally)
(formally AADA) - domestic violence - Wed 8-9 am for women, Thurs. 4-5 pm for teens
(927-2327 or 888-276-1720)
5. Sexual Violence Resource Center (927-6226)
6. Aitkin County Child Abuse Prevention Council (927-6226)
7. Diabetes Resources (927-5152)
8. Suicide Prevention - Aitkin Co Public Health - (927-7272)
9. Crisis Line (1-800-462-5525)

9:00 a.m. Worship Service is livestreamed on YouTube at First Lutheran Church of Aitkin and broadcast at 10:00 a.m. on KKin 94.3 FM Aitkin

Live Stream/Recording of every 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service

Can't make it to church? Watch it live.
Missed last week? Catch up by watching the recording.
Want to see it again? Or pass it on....
Go to YouTube - enter First Lutheran Church in Aitkin
Scroll thru and search for the date you are looking for.
Click on play. It's that simple.

How do I turn on subtitles/closed captioning on YouTube?

1. Open a YouTube video.
2. Click the gear icon in the bottom-right corner of the video player to display the video player settings.
3. Expand the combo box next to Subtitles/CC.
4. Click the desired subtitle language to begin displaying subtitles.

You will have to do this each time with any video.

Ministry opportunities at First Lutheran:

If you would like to participate in worship services, call any of the following people and volunteer. Training provided.
Prayer Leader/Lector, Usher, Sound, Video or PowerPoint Technician: Contact the office (927-2028)
Children's sermon: Pastor Reggie (218-927-2028)
Worship Committee: Rebecca May (927-3481)
Contemporary/Praise song leaders/musicians:
Jill Sadlowsky (952-250-3245) or Pat Perrine (218-428-1884)
Altar Guild/Communion Assistant: Mary Peterson (927-6820)
WELCA: Mary Peterson (927-6820)
Dinner at your Door: Carla Hakes (927-4780)
Choir: Aaron Perrine (651-428-9005)

New Option: We have a new scheduling program - Ministry Scheduling Pro. Very easy to use and to volunteer for many positions. Contact the office to get signed up.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE BY THE 15TH OF EVERY MONTH

Submit to Colleen Kent Chute at
colleen@flc-aitkin.com





First Lutheran Church
107 Second Street SE
Aitkin MN 56431



Office: 218-927-2028
E-mail: office@flc-aitkin.com
<http://www.flc-aitkin.com>



THE MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church
Office Hours:
Monday–Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fridays
7:30 a.m. to 12 Noon



facebook.com/flcaitkin
facebook.com/flcyouthaitkin

WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays
9:00 am
Brief Worship service
10:30 am
Wednesday
6:00 pm