

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?

- Steps
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.

**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**

**NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES
DUE ON THE 15TH OF
EVERY MONTH**

PLEASE NOTE: The church is charged 75 cents for undeliverable mailings. If you do not want to continue receiving this mailing, please request that your name be removed from our list by returning the attached label to First Lutheran Church, 107 2nd St., SE, Aitkin MN 56431, or by emailing the church at office@flc-aitkin.com September 2025



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
107 2ND ST SE
AITKIN MN 56431**



THE MESSENGER

MAY 2026



First Lutheran Church

Office Hours:
Monday—Thursday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fridays
7:30 a.m.—12 Noon

107 2nd Street Southeast
Aitkin, MN 56431
Office: 218-927-2028
E-mail: office@flc-aitkin.com
<http://www.flc-aitkin.com>



facebook.com/flcaitkin



We are “Easter People”, people of the Resurrection! My Easter sermon highlighted that Good Friday was a day Jesus took all the hatred, contempt, disdain the world had and died with it. It’s power, their power to control is no longer the last word. Jesus was resurrected, He was raised by God, not those powers. That means Jesus and His agenda for the world is in place. That means His power is available to us as “Easter People”.

Life is not really easy for anyone. The stories of childhood which ended with, “And they all lived happily ever after” isn’t quite true. As a friend said after watching a marriage dissolve, “life is messy”. But Jesus is alive and He works to help us in our lives. I gave a couple examples of that in my sermon, showing that Jesus does have the “risen power” to help us live in new ways. Does that make everything “happily ever after”? Not always, but we are not alone. The image of the shepherd in Psalm 23 continues to intrigue us, call us, give us a picture of presence, of God being with us and not being abandoned. Sometimes that happens in the quiet times of our life and situation. Sometimes it happens in the midst of the communion of saints—of being with other members of the church.

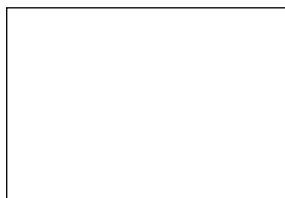
I started my “Between the Times Pastoring”, in February with a sermon on the importance of the community of saints. We are a community gathered to support one another. Taking a few minutes to listen to another, to care enough to linger a few extra minutes, to listen to the other side of the issue, to spend time praying for someone, are all ways that the Risen Jesus uses us to help one another. You do make a difference. You can receive help. Both of these are true.

As you read this, I will have ended my time in the office, leading worship, being with you in some tough and sad times of deaths, of losses in one way or another. I have also been with you in these last three months as the community of saints, you people, have shared ministry with me and one another. Thank you for this time together.

Intentional Interim Pastor Glen Bickford will take over on May 1st. He will guide us through important events in the future. He will be a constant with us and help us as we move into the next stages of our ministry. Jesus has been raised! Jesus will be our constant help!

Let us move into the future with Him!

**Peace and joy to all,
Pastor Doug Larson**





Women's Health Week is May 11-17

This annual occurrence is dedicated to encouraging women of all ages to prioritize their health and well-being. Women are encouraged to schedule health check-ups, explore healthy lifestyle choices, and connect with supportive communities.

It is recommended that everyone get a checkup every year to maintain good health and screen for any potential issues. Exams can include checking your heart health, safety and well-being, birth control needs, sun exposure, and use of tobacco, alcohol, and other substances. Talk with your health care provider about routine and age-specific vaccines and screenings. Share your health history, such as diseases and illnesses, and medications. Information about pregnancy history and any complications, as well as menstrual cycles, is important to share, too. If available, also share your family's health history, especially health conditions that affected your parents, siblings, or grandparents.

Many screenings that begin in your 20s, 30s, and 40s should occur regularly across the lifespan. Be sure to check the routine screenings for every age group, note how often they should occur, and ask your health care provider about what routine screenings are right for you. Other important checkups include vision, hearing, and dental checks.

Menopause is a natural part of aging; many women experience significant physical and mental changes due to fluctuating hormone levels. Regular exercise, maintaining a nutrient-rich diet, and managing stress through relaxation techniques can help support symptoms like hot flashes, sleep disturbances, and mood changes. As hormone levels decrease, the risk of conditions like heart disease and bone loss may increase. Mentally, women may face challenges like anxiety and depression, especially if they have a history of these conditions. Hormonal changes during menopause may also lead to cognitive difficulties, including memory problems, trouble concentrating, and brain fog.

Submitted by Marcy Mateyka, Parish Nurse

Ministry opportunities at First Lutheran:

If you would like to participate in worship services, call any of the following people and volunteer. Training provided.

Lector: Reading scriptures & the prayers of the Church):
Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Communion assistant: Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Usher: Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Children's sermon: Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Sound Technician: Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Power Point Technician: Contact the office (218-927-2028)

Video Technician: Dave Sadlowsky (952-221-3861)

Worship Committee: Rebecca May (927-3481)

Contemporary worship song leaders/musicians: Pat Perrine (218-428-1884)

Hymn selections: Linda Delaney (927-6237)

Altar Guild: Mary Peterson (927-6820)

WELCA: Mary Peterson (927-6820)

Dinner at your Door: Carla Hakes (320-333-1876)

Choir: Aaron Perrine ((651)428-9005)

Please call me back I'm one of those people who regularly calls for lectors, communion assistants, kitchen help, worship assistants, Sunday coffee hour help, etc. If you're not home, I leave a message on your answering machine. It would be most helpful if you would return my phone call with a yes or no—then I'll know you received my message and it will save me more phone calls. Thank you for making my volunteer job much easier!

New Option: We have a new scheduling program – Ministry Scheduling Pro. Very easy to use and to volunteer for many

Support Groups

1. **Rides for Health** (Aitkin Co CARE) 927-4077
2. **Memory Loss/Caregivers** (Aitkin Co CARE)- 1st Wed 1230 pm 927-1383
3. **Doughnuts with Dawn** (previously memory lane cafe) – Maryhill Manor every Wed 1000-1200 pm
4. **HOPE** (healing, opportunity, provided equally) (previously AADA)- domestic violence- Wed 800-900 am for women, Thurs 400-500 pm for teens
5. **Sexual Violence Resource Center/Support Within Reach-** 927-6226- Mon and Wed 800 am-500 pm
6. **Aitkin Co Child Abuse Prevention Council** 927-6226
7. **Diabetes Resources-** Riverwood Health Care Center 927-5152
8. **Suicide Prevention-** Aitkin Co Public Health – 927-7272
9. **Crisis Line** 1-800-462-5525

STAFF

Pastor Glen Bickford

(Interim Pastor)

Jill Jameson

(Office Manager)

office@flc-aitkin.com

Nicole Cook

(Ministry & Media Coordinator)

mmc@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)

Aaron Perrine (Choir Director)

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

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25TH, AS WE REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR VETERANS.



Pastor Glen Bickford will begin his Intentional Interim Ministry with us on May 1st. Pastor Glen lives in Bloomington and has served Interim Ministries at Salem Lutheran in Deerwood, Zion Lutheran in Milaca and Trinity Lutheran in Princeton over the years. Pastor Glen has served twenty Interim positions and starting here at First Lutheran will be his twenty-first. On Sunday, May 3rd, Pastor Glen will lead services, and we can get to know him in the time ahead.

May God bless Pastor Glen and First Lutheran in this time.



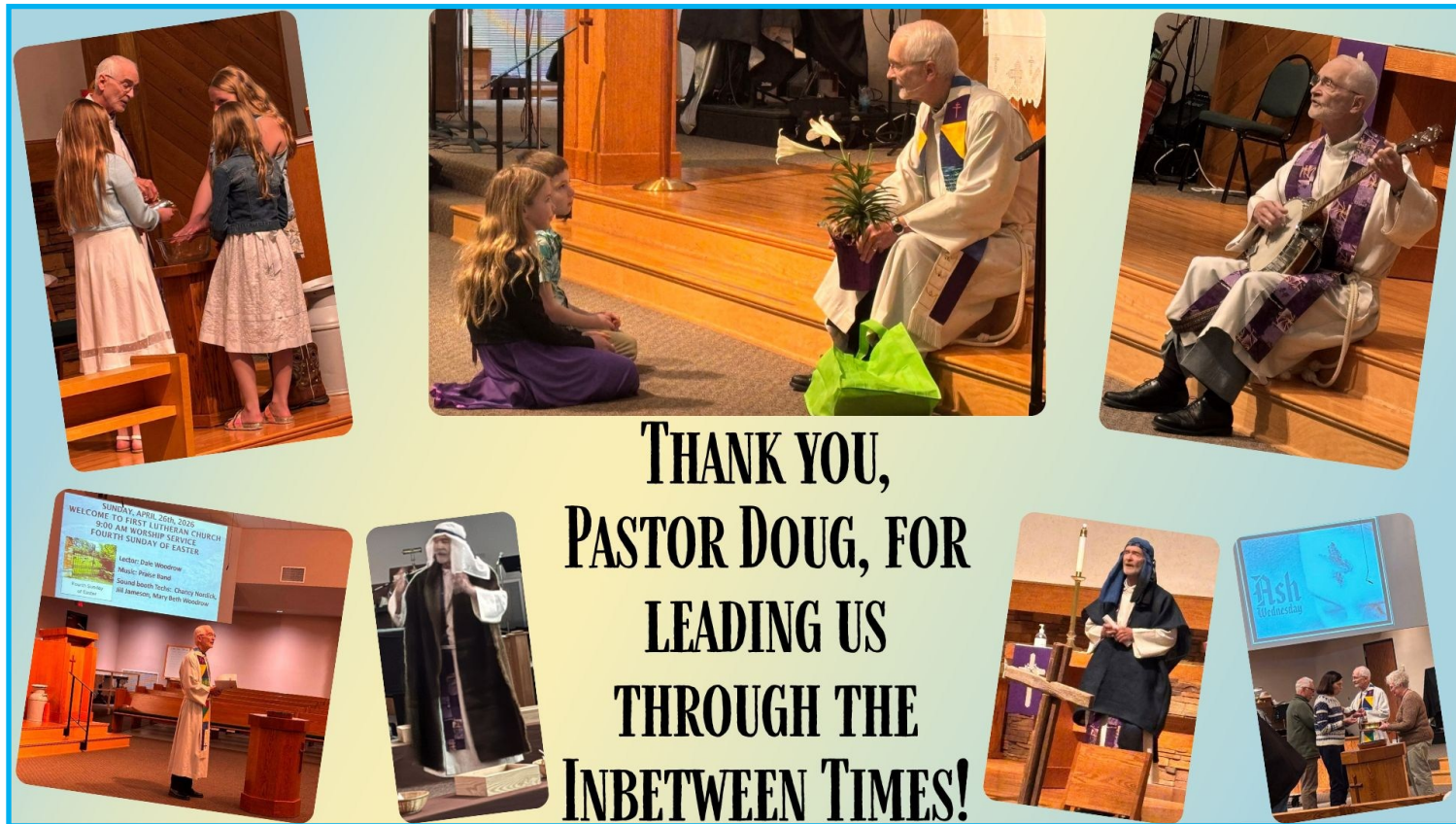
QUILTING MINISTRY

MAY 29th is the final Quilting Ministry meeting until September.



Name Tags

Name tags are in your mailbox - please wear them so that Pastor Glen can learn your name!



**THANK YOU,
PASTOR DOUG, FOR
LEADING US
THROUGH THE
INBETWEEN TIMES!**

MEN IN MISSION—A WONDERFUL & THRIVING FELLOWSHIP

Men in Mission or the Men's Bible Study meets each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall to learn and share the words of Jesus. We begin with a full breakfast (8:00 A.M.) and at 8:30 Pastor Reggie leads us through our lesson which takes about one hour. This Bible group started small some 10 years ago and now attracts 18-26 attendees each Wednesday. The meals produce some profit and those funds are used in a variety of ways; meals are provided for church functions, visiting young people, special events etc. Costs and labor provided by members. We also built baptism boxes for new parents; donations to church funds, VLM, and recently purchased a replacement TV for the Youth Center. A group of dedicated members collect and recycle aluminum cans weekly...drive to Brainerd for recycling and those fund are dedicated for the church youth. All men are invited and encouraged to attend, we also have a lot of fun. Other faiths are represented and all faiths are invited. Once you come you'll be hooked.



SPECIAL OFFERING TO SHIP QUILTS OVERSEAS

Our quilters have been working hard all year making beautiful quilts.

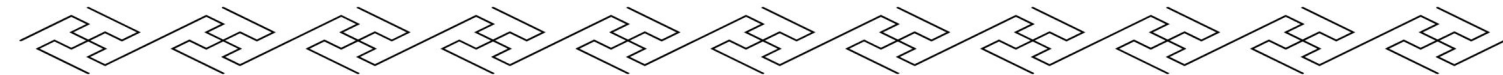
Please help our quilters send these quilts to those who need them most.

Thank you for your kindness.

ATTENDANCE

Week of	3/29	4/12	4/19	4/26
Sunday 9:00 am (In-person)	109	94	88	77
Sunday 10:30 am (In-person)	11	16	12	11
Wednesday 6:00 pm (In-person)	N/A	22	20	N/A
YouTube	70	58	44	62

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of April 28.
A view may be more than one person per view. Wednesday night is all in person attendance.

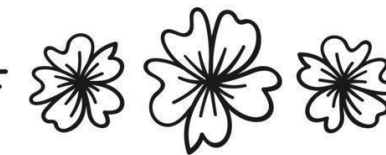


May 80 Plus Birthdays

Jack Park - 5/08

Ardys Carlstrom - 5/17

Diane Rachey - 5/22



SPECIAL SERVICES ATTENDANCE

		<i>In Person</i>	<i>Youtube</i>
Maundy Thursday	4/2 - 12:00pm	11	N/A
	- 8:00pm	62	39
Good Friday	4/3 - 12:00pm	13	N/A
Stations of the Cross	4/3 - 8:00pm	41	N/A
Easter Sunday	4/5 - 8:00am	41	52
	- 10:00am	212	58
Wednesday	4/8 - 6:00pm	18	N/A

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of April 28.
A view may be more than one person per view. Wednesday night is all in person attendance.

MAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ALL SUNDAY'S IN MAY WORSHIP AT
9:00 & 10:30AM,
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING THE 9:00AM SERVICE



Camp Workday



Help Us Prep for summer Camp.

We can't do it without you!

Camp Hiawatha: May 2

Camp Vermilion: May 16

Scan for more info
and to RSVP



Overnight Opportunity

Schedule

Extend your stay by joining us on Friday Night! Come explore and enjoy camp. There will be fellowship time, and campfire in the evening.

9:00 am - 9:30 am - Registration Coffee and pastries
 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - The work happens!
 12:30 pm - Lunch
 1:30 pm - The work continues for as long as people are able to stay.



RSVP by emailing the main office vlm@vlmcamps.org

Community Meals



All meals are take-out only

Mondays at 5:00 pm
 Tuesdays at 12:00 noon
 Thursdays at 5:00 pm

NO Community Meal 5/25

Community Food Shelf



Open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

May 14 & 28



THE COMMUNITY MEAL WILL NOT BE HELD ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25TH, TO ALLOW OUR VOLUNTEERS TO HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY. MEALS WILL RESUME TUESDAY, MAY 26TH AT 12:00PM.

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED ON FRIDAYS IN SUMMER

FROM MAY 22 - SEPTEMBER 4



WORSHIP COMMITTEE SURVEY 2026

KNEELING RAILS

Worship Committee is considering adding two communion kneeling rails at altar. Would you like and use a kneeling rail?

Yes No

SUNDAY COMMUNION

Would you like communion offered every Sunday (as it is now) or twice a month?

Every Sunday (as it is now) Twice a month

COMMENTS:



To complete the Worship Committee Survey 2026 please visit:

<https://forms.gle/yrq8VDpwZQBKFZvZ7>

Finance Committee		
Financial Summary through March 2026		
	2025	2026
General Operating Income - YTD	86,719	82,618
March Budget Expectations-YTD (Historical Average)	99,067	101,390
Variance to Budget Expectations - YTD	(12,348)	(18,772)
Actual Expenditures - YTD	95,246	105,281
Percentage of dollars received for period to dollars pledged	81%	77%
Unpledged Dollars Rec'd - YTD (Regular Offering)	27,273	28,773
Building Fund Income - YTD	7,910	7,693
Building Fund Expenditure - YTD	13,781	8,781
Campership Balance	11,567	10,867

In comparing General Fund income with actual expenses, you will see a shortfall of \$22,663. This compares to last month when the shortfall was \$18,671.

In using the straight-line method of calculating the budget, general fund was about \$28,360 under budget.

Using the historical average method of calculating budget as shown above, you will see that the variance was a negative \$18,772.

Regular offering was \$14,294 under budget expectations through March, and less than 2025 by \$4,954.

General Fund offering for March was \$32,087. Historically, March results in 9.09% of general fund giving. This amount would be \$40,352.

GIRLS MATTER. PERIOD

Next workshop will be:

Tuesday, May 19

9 am

(Final Meeting)



Sunday School Schedule for May

May 3: Sunday School

May 10: Sunday School

May 17: Last day of Sunday School!

Bounce house, games, & treats!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

NEXT MEETING: May 21st

1 pm



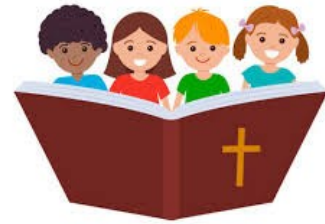
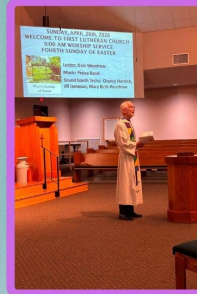
May's Extra Mile Mission Focus College Scholarships

If you would like to donate, please go to our website at www.flc-aitkin.com or send a check to the church



Assist our FLC graduates further their skills and education

2nd Grade Bible Milestone



3rd Grade First Communion Milestone



5th Grade Seder Meal



Solar Update

The SolarEdge monitoring system on our solar array calculates the Environmental Benefits. As of April 6, we've produced 4,470 kW. That equates to 7,000 Miles Driven on Sunshine; 52 Equivate Tree Plantings; and 6,000 Pounds of CO2 Emissions Saved to date.



Might you be interested in a solar array on your house to reduced your electric bill? Then perhaps you would be interested in contacting Winkelman Solar of Brainerd, the consultant that Pastor Munneke contacted for us at First Luthern. Dave Winkelman is the owner and can be contacted at dw@winkelmansolar.com. If you do contact him, let him know you are from First Luthern.



VOYAGEURS
LUTHERAN MINISTRY

GET REGISTERED TODAY!
VLMCAMP5.ORG

--CAMPERSHIPS--

2026

SUMMER CAMP

FIRST TIME CAMPERS =
100% PAID BY FLC

RETURN CAMPERS =
50% PAID BY FLC

CONTACT FLC CHURCH OFFICE FOR SPECIAL
CODES TO USE WHEN REGISTERING



AITKIN YOUTH CENTER

Any teen in grades 6-12

Open Thursday & Friday 3:30-7:30 pm

FREE! NO CHARGE!

Located at First Lutheran Church (door E2 SE)

Youth Center is renting a space, not a church or religious activity

No need to pre-register

No need to bring parent (will send letter home)

Full Meal

Snacks & Beverages

Full Gym, Ping Pong, Foosball and Lots of room to chill




2026 Summer Camp

Camperships/Transfer Codes

New Campers, FLC pays 100%

- Choose Tier 2
- Use transfer code: FLCANEW
- Please submit to FLC a \$100.00 deposit check after registering

Returning Campers. FLC pays 50%

- Choose Tier 2
- Use transfer code: FLCARETURN
- FLC will be billed for half your fees.

To get instructions for registering at VLMCamps.org, contact the office.



VOYAGEURS
LUTHERAN MINISTRY