



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2026



First Lutheran Church

New Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fridays—Closed

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



“Now you are the body of Christ and individually, members of it”
- Cor. 12:27

The church year actually starts the end of November with the beginning of Advent. But it has always felt to me that the year starts in September with Rally Day and the start of Sunday school. I guess all those years of school have engrained in me and many of you, that the year starts with fall.

I mention the body of Christ because each of us is part of Christ's body and if so, the health of the church depends on each of us. When we're trying to learn how to play a sport or get in shape, it seldom works to just work at it occasionally. The same is true of our spiritual health. If we think of God only occasionally through the week, or just on Sunday, our spiritual muscles don't get the exercise we need. That's why Luther recommended daily devotions.

Just as important is gathering together as the body of Christ often, not just on Sundays. You already have some chances to do that: some of the men meet on Wednesday morning for Bible study and some of the women meet on Tuesday morning for the same thing. That's all great, but even as active as these groups are, they represent only a small portion of the church. Recently I was approached by a member who asked about what opportunities were in our church for those who still work? I heard her words and am going to offer several ways to connect with other members, at times when most people, retired or not can make.

First, a study on *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, a children's book by CS Lewis. Much of it is filled with religious thought and images and it's well worth your time to study it more deeply. This class will be on Sunday evening from 6-7 pm in the library. So far more than a dozen members have signed up. It actually started on September 13th, but if you read the first part of the book you'll be able to jump in. If it goes well, I hope to offer another of his books *The Magician's Nephew* later this year. *The Magician's Nephew* is coming to the theaters in February also, starring Daniel Craig and Meryl Streep.

Second, CYF and I are retooling Wednesday evening as an event for all ages with meals, more like it was pre-Covid. The meals at 5:15-6 will not just be food that appeals to kids, but everyone, with desserts. There will be a 30 minute interactive service with table and large group discussions. The service will not be merely a retread of Sunday morning worship.

Continued on page 2

The services will be different themes and deal with different Bible verses than Sunday and will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Years past, similar services attracted many people of all ages. You'll get a chance to interact with others, and not just the folks you usually do.

Third, I'll be offering a short Bible study from 6:30-7 Wednesday in the library after the service. This Bible study will be on a different Psalm each week and each study will stand alone, with no background from earlier sessions needed to benefit.

Lastly, though I'm not a spiritual director, I'm happy to meet with anyone about their spiritual practices and lives. I've had several retreats which studied the great spiritual teachers of our Christian church through the centuries. I can point people to books that will strengthen their spiritual "muscles."

Doing any of the above, Fall can not only be a change of season, but an opportunity to grow in faith and make this part of the body of Christ stronger, both individually and as a church. And these gatherings can be fun!

Blessings,

Pastor Glen



"Each of you should give whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's Grace."

1 Peter 4:10

Our fall stewardship (Annual Appeal) campaign is starting in mid-October. It's called "Freely Given, Freely Give," and we'll have member speakers at worship telling about their love of the church and why they support our ministry. In the weeks that follow, we will be reaching out in various ways, to talk about ways you can help this church's ministry during this crucial time, as we begin the pastoral search.



Parish Nurse Ministry

Parish Nurses
Rebecca May
Marcy Mateyka
Traci Moreland

History and Functions of the Parish Nurse

Parish nursing began in 1987 with Dr Rev Granger Westberg in Illinois. He envisioned parish nursing as a partnership between health care systems and congregations linking resources. He believed medicine transcends the physical because true healing involves the body, soul, and mind. In 1997 the parish nursing role was recognized as a specialty by the American Nurse Association and developed a scope and standards of practice. A standard of practice is an agreed upon level of excellence. The parish nurse name was changed to faith community nurse (FCN) which embraces all faiths. One must be a licensed registered nurse and take a 40 hour course to be an FCN.

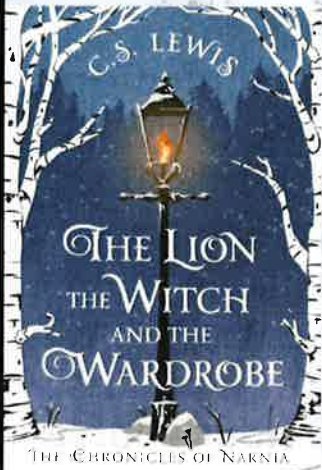
Parish nursing holds the spiritual dimension as central to its practice. It also encompasses the physical, psychological and social dimensions of nursing practice. All persons are sacred and must be treated with respect and dignity. Listening and connecting with the person is essential. Parish nurses integrate faith and health, educate persons about health, counsel persons regarding health concerns, refer persons to community resources, develop support groups, advocate for persons, maintain records, and assess congregational needs.

The parish nurse helps the church meet its mission by witnessing God's love, grace, and forgiveness; reaching out in compassion and mercy; promoting justice; and building up the body of Christ. We must reclaim the health of the body as a priority of life as God intends; not what our culture says. We are made in God's image and a temple of the Holy Spirit, so we are to honor our bodies through self care.

Submitted by Rebecca May, RN, Parish Nurse

CS Lewis Book Study

Want to learn more about theology and having fun at the same time? Reading *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis led by Pastor Glen allows you to do just that.



We meet in the library or fellowship hall every Sunday evening for an hour at 6 pm.

The *Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* can be purchased on eBay used, Amazon, or checked out from the library. Cost of the book is from \$3-10.

This study is open to everyone



Host a Trunk !

October 31st

4-6pm

FLC parking lot

Please donate candy to the "trunkers" if you cannot host a trunk- bring to the office

(some candy will be provided to you from donations)

Join Us for
**Brunch,
BINGO**
and Bake Sale

PRIZES



Sunday, October 4th
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Brunch - Free Will Offering
BINGO - \$25 per person donation to play
all games with fabulous prizes!!!

If you'd like to donate a baked good for the bake sale,
it can be dropped off at the church beforehand.

Supports the First Lutheran College Scholarship Fund!

1st Grade Worship Milestone

Sunday, October 11th

Introduction: 10:15am

Short Worship Service: 10:40 am

These special kids & their parents will be learning about the
worship service as it happens and everything that goes into it.

We want our little ones to feel welcome!

This is a fun time designed especially for our
1st graders and their parents!



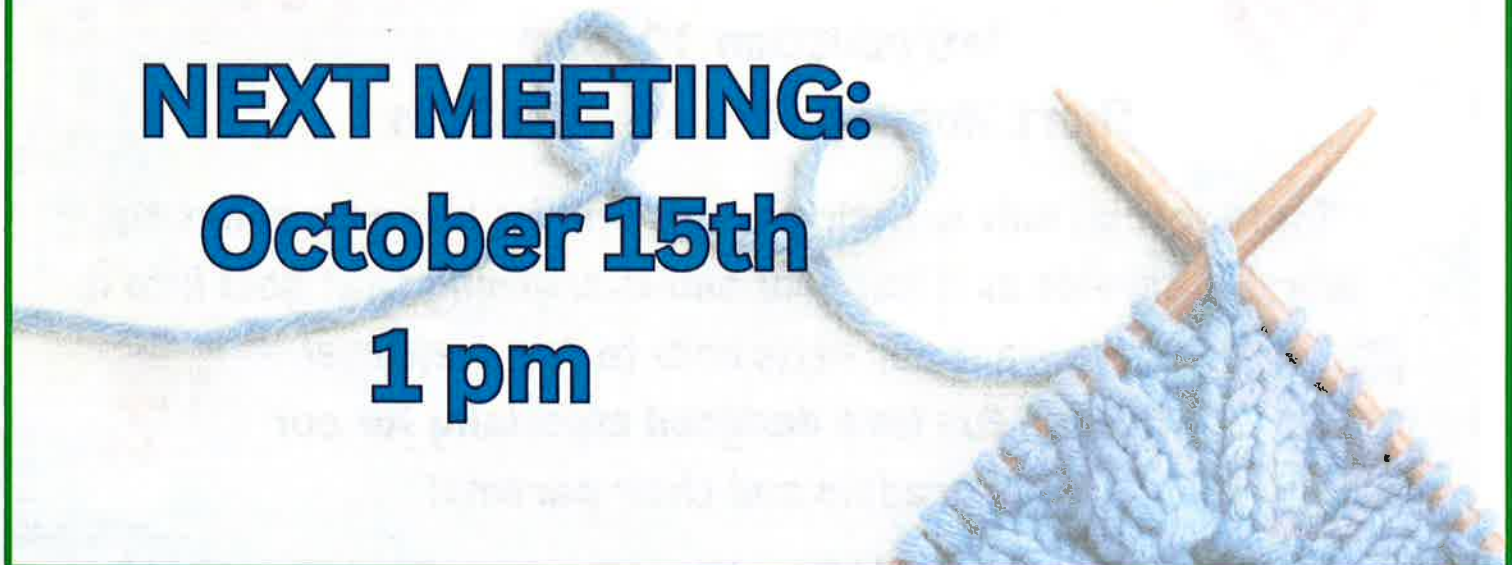
GIRLS MATTER. PERIOD

**Next workshop will be:
Monday, October 12
9 am**



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**NEXT MEETING:
October 15th
1 pm**



Financial Summary through August 2026

	2025	2026
General Operating Income - YTD	227,726	214,806
August Budget Expectations-YTD (Historical Average)	254,483	264,015
Variance to Budget Expectations - YTD	(26,757)	(49,209)
Actual Expenditures - YTD	255,565	269,661
Percentage of dollars received for period to dollars pledged	92%	94%
Unpledged Dollars Rec'd – YTD (Regular Offering)	63,550	77,020
Building Fund Income - YTD	20,328	18,853
Building Fund Expenditure - YTD	28,416	23,416
Campership Balance	9,997	10,317

In comparing General Fund income with **actual** expenses, you will see a shortfall of \$54,855. This compares to last month when the shortfall was \$49,882.

In using the straight-line method of calculating the budget, general fund was about \$78,887 under budget.

Using the historical average method of calculating budget as shown above, you will see that the variance was a negative \$49,209.

Regular offering was \$49,095 under budget expectations through August, and less than 2025 by \$12,084.

General Fund offering for August was \$26,048. Historically, August results in 7.03% of general fund giving. This amount would be \$30,970.



ELCA

October Extra Mile Mission Focus

Global Missions



Helping to make our
world a better place

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

ATTENDANCE

Week of	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27
Sunday	61	103	87	92
9:00 am (In-person)				
Sunday	8	No Service	5	12
10:40 am (In-person)				
YouTube	59	80	45	63

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of September 28.
A view may be more than one person per view.



STAFF

Pastor Glen Bickford
(Interim Pastor)
glen@flc-aitkin.com

Jill Jameson
(Office Manager)
office@flc-aitkin.com

Barb Bendson
(Accountant)
barb@flc-aitkin.com

Justine Nordick
(Sunday School Coordinator)
justinenordick@gmail.com

Pete Erickson
(Youth Coordinator)
youth@flc-aitkin.com

Mike Purdy (Custodian)

Rebecca May (Organist)

Sarah Grovogel
(Nursery Facilitator)

Aaron Perrine (Choir Director)



Quilters Are Back!



Quilters have resumed their work and are meeting every Friday at 9:00 AM.

We need people who would like to tie quilts, cut squares, sew bindings, prepare packets for sewing and any other aspects of quilting. You can work at home or at church. No education required. We are a happy group that shares stories, time together and deep friendships and some tasty snacks too!

**Call Linda Delaney with questions:
218-820-6777.**

OCTOBER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**9:00 AM AND
BRIEF 10:40 AM
SERVICES**

**OCTOBER 4TH, 11TH
AND 19TH**

ONE SERVICE ONLY

**9:00 AM
OCTOBER 25
AFFIRMATION OF
BAPTISM &
REFORMATION
SUNDAY**



OCTOBER 80 PLUS BIRTHDAYS

Joann Oaks - 10/2

Arvilla Unzeitig - 10/6

Wayne Royer - 10/7

Kenny Wanous - 10/12

Mary Webster - 10/13

Kathy Klitzke - 10/20

Gordon Forsberg - 10/20

Marge Muscatello - 10/31

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



AITKIN AREA COMMUNITY MEAL

We're resuming!

Every Monday, 5:00–5:30 pm
@ First Lutheran Church
207 2nd Street SE, Aitkin, MN

**TAKE OUT ONLY
FREE TO THE COMMUNITY**

Wednesday Night Worship and Meal Restarting!

I have heard from many folks that they used to really enjoy Wednesday Evening Supper and Worship with Pastors Jordan and Darrell. ***Well it's back!***

It's a blast from the past and heading into the future! Wednesday Evening Worship is restarting at First Lutheran FOR THE WHOLE CONGREGATION! We will have free-will offering meals at 5:15 pm each Faith Formation Night. **Come for supper and stay for worship.** Starts September 23rd with table-style Communion.

There will be kid-friendly and **adult meal fare and dessert** followed by a 30-minute interactive service from 6 to 6:30 pm with music by Pat Perrine and students in the Fellowship Hall.

October schedule October 7th, 21 and 28. (No worship October 14- MEA week)
Also starting October 7: a half hour Bible study devotion on Psalms from 6:30-7 in the library.

SEE YOU THERE! Pastor Glen

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), Communion assistant, Usher, Children's sermon, Sound Technician, 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)

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.

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

What is

Mutual Ministry?

The purpose of the

Mutual Ministry Committee

is to support and strengthen the partnership between the pastor(s) and congregation as they work together to advance the mission and ministry of the congregation.

For the pastor(s): The committee provides a confidential, supportive space for pastors to reflect on their ministry, discuss challenges, and seek guidance when facing difficult decisions.

For the congregation: The committee also serves the congregation by offering a respectful channel for sharing feedback, concerns, and affirmations, helping pastors understand how their ministry is experienced.

Members of the committee are trustworthy, discreet, compassionate, and grounded in the Christian faith and the mission of the ELCA. They will be visible and approachable within the congregation and able to communicate honestly, thoughtfully, and objectively while maintaining care and respect for all involved.

If you have a specific need, concern, suggestion or affirmation that you would like to share, please feel free to contact any member of the Mutual Ministry Committee listed below. There will also be a locked box in the narthex to drop a note to the committee.

To promote healthy and constructive communication, the committee is unable to consider or respond to anonymous comments.

Contact a member of the committee:

**Dave Benson, John Buisman,
Karen Newton, Sheri Sanbeck**

More information coming soon!

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.

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

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

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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

AITKIN MN 56431

107 2ND ST SE

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

