

Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church,

The Church Council approved that Pastor Doug Larson will take over the responsibilities of Pastor now through Easter, which is April 5th. He will:

- Preach and lead two services a Sunday, (except Feb. 8th) through Easter.
- Plan and lead Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services along with help from the worship and music people.
- Plan and lead Holy Week Services with worship and music committee.
- Be at the church office Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 10am - 2pm.
- Visit hospitalized members, provide pastoral care and listen.
- Lead the "Men in Mission" Bible Study on Wednesdays and Men's Bible Study on Thursdays at noon.
- Respond to emergencies as needed.
- Officiate at Baptisms and perform funerals as needed.
- Other responsibilities may be included if necessary.

Pastor Doug is calling this a "Between the Times Ministry," so that the essential church functions will carry on as the Church Council continues planning the process ahead.

The "Affirmation of Faith" leaders and worship leaders will handle the Wednesday classes and worship. Lenten Services will involve youth in the Lenten process and learning.


Ash Wednesday will begin Lent on February 18th with two services as usual. Lenten services are meant to be a time of learning and this year; Pastor Doug will portray "Gritty Prophets of the Bible!" at those services. "Amos, (I didn't ask for this!)" will be the first prophet on February 25th.

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go up to the house of the Lord.'"

- Psalm 122:1

ANNUAL BUDGET Q & A SESSION

Sunday, February 1st - 10:30am



**sing with the
KID'S CHOIR!**

SUNDAY, 9:00AM
FEBRUARY 8TH

Practice along at:
[https://youtu.be/lBr75Fmi5ng?
si=Q2GPq9ClujB6tZwg](https://youtu.be/lBr75Fmi5ng?si=Q2GPq9ClujB6tZwg)

All We Need

G D/F#
We have all we need in You
Em
And all we need is You
C
All we need is You

G D/F#
Rich or poor, God I want You more
Em
Than anything that glitters in this world
C
Be my all, all consuming fire

G D/F#
You can have all my hands can hold
Em
My heart, mind, strength and soul
C
Be my all, all consuming fire

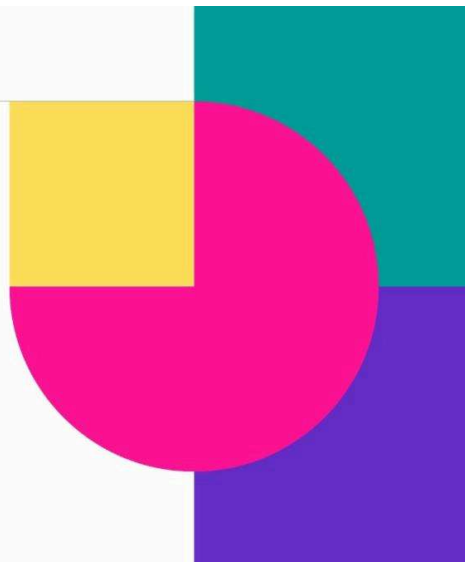
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by - Charlie Hall



First Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE 9:00 AM SERVICE



GIRLS MATTER. PERIOD

Next workshop will be:
Tuesday, February 17
9 am

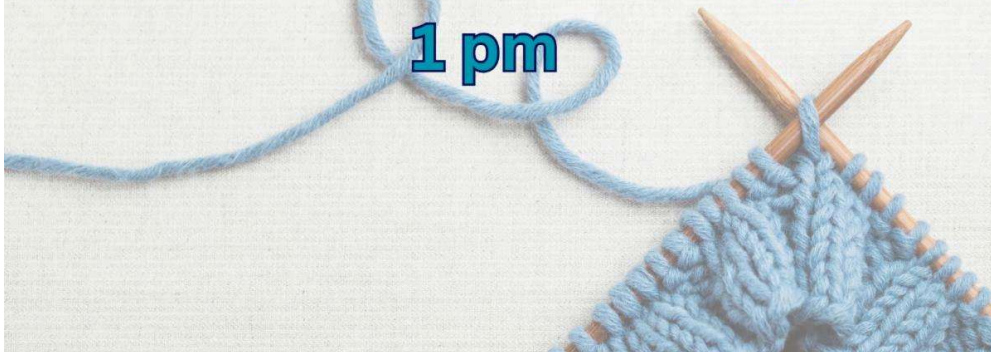
A graphic for Ash Wednesday. It features a wooden cross on a pile of brown ash, a purple cloth, and a yellow bowl of ash with a green palm frond. The text "Ash Wednesday" is written in a large, elegant script font. Below it, a green banner contains the text "First Lutheran Church", "February 18th", and "Worship Services at 12:00 Noon & 6:00 PM".

**Ash
Wednesday**

First Lutheran Church
February 18th
Worship Services at
12:00 Noon & 6:00 PM

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

NEXT MEETING: February 19th
1 pm



Stewardship Report for February 2026

Ahh! That sense of relief, release, rest, renewal, inspiration, comfort that comes from being in the presence of the Lord. How is that working as we have moved into the new year? On the “Estimate” cards we turned in or considered, the first possibility was ***“I will try to find moments for “Ahh” with Jesus this year.”*** Finding that time can be tricky. Life is busy and maybe we say, it will happen when I crawl into bed. And then we fall asleep instead. Or maybe it will be when we get up before the rest of the household and have a few minutes to ourselves. Perhaps that works or doesn’t depending on “things”. Whether you have been successful or not, the intent is to “try” and that means it can be an ongoing goal. If you have been successful, that is wonderful and more power to you. “Come away to a quiet place, said Jesus.” Your quiet place can be any place that works for you; some people find it even in the moments before church starts. Some people place the *Christ in Our Home* booklet on the toilet tank and find the daily verse enough to think about as we take time for Jesus. Maybe reading the message enhances the time of “Ahh”. At any rate, let us continue to find moments with our Lord.

Time and Talents—On Friday mornings, a number of women get together to make quilts to be sent mainly overseas, but some locally. They enjoy the work and they enjoy the fellowship or time of being with others. Reverend David Preus was President of the American Lutheran Church in the 1970’s and 80’s. He would often come to Synod or District Assemblies and report of the state of the church. On one occasion, Pastor Preus told about a visit to Israel where he spent some time in a Palestinian area. His guide took him shopping and they entered a shop where the guide introduced him as President of the ALC. The owner said, “Wait right here!” She ran to the back of the store and quickly came back with a quilt. “Your church gave us this quilt, we need it. Thank you and your church for caring about us.”

We don’t always know where the results of our time and talent go. But our Lord Jesus blesses what we do, even without our knowledge and lives are touched.

Douglas Larson, Stewardship Ministry Chair



GIFT

Gathering In Fellowship Together

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

Meets on 2nd Tuesday at 9:30am.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 8th
9:00 am service only
Followed by the
Annual
Congregational
Meeting



February 1, 15 & 22
Services at
9:00 & 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship
immediately
following 9:00 am
worship



FEBRUARY WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE



5th-6th Grade WNF: 4:30 - 5:30 PM;
7th-8th & 9th Grade Affirmation: 6:30-8:00 PM

FEBRUARY 4: CLASS, YOUTH/MENTOR NIGHT

FEBRUARY 11: CLASS, PEER MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 18: CLASS, PEER MINISTRY

FEBRUARY 25: CLASS, PEER MINISTRY



FEBRUARY 80 PLUS BIRTHDAYS

Deloris Kosbau - 2/01

Mary Herchenhahn - 2/05

Robert Fritz - 2/06

Elaine Pearson - 2/07

Marlene Tholen - 2/15

Diane Landstad - 2/18

Happy Birthday

Adult Bible Study Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the library

**NEW SIX WEEK "ANGEL" SERIES
BEGINNING JANUARY:**

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

WANNA QUILT?

Fridays/ September - May
9-Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Ways we help:

Lutheran World Relief
Community Food Shelf

HOPE

Quilt Auctions

Local

Call Linda Delaney
with questions or

suggestions at 218-820-6777

No
Sewing
Experience
Required For
Many
Projects

Enjoy coffee
& treats with
your quilting
buddies

Quilters:

Shop for fabric

Wash & iron used fabric

Cut squares

Sort & design squares for quilt kits

Choose quilt kits in the narthex to

take home & sew

and sew much more!

Join any time of the year!



Arthritis

If you have arthritis, your joints will most likely feel stiff, painful and hard to move. The area around your joints may feel warm, look red or puffy and sometimes it may feel like there is fluid in the swollen area. There are different types of arthritis such as osteoarthritis, juvenile arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and even gout. The different types of arthritis affect different joints or can affect both sides of the body or just one side. Some arthritis types affect other areas of the body as well, with symptoms such as fatigue, scaly and itchy skin, rashes and weight loss.

Arthritis pain interferes with everyday activities like doing chores, walking or going up and down stairs. There are tips to help in managing arthritis and many different types of treatments based on the type of arthritis that is present. Some tips are:

1. Eating healthy: eating proper portions is key to weight management which will lighten the load on your joints.
2. Get moving. Your joints were designed for movement. Regular physical activity can help your knees and other joints in several ways, including:
 - relieving pain and stiffness
 - strengthening the muscles that provide support to the knees
 - reducing weight gain that puts excess stress on knees
 - improving balance to decrease your risk of falls and injuries to the knees and other joints.
3. The main goals of treatment are to reduce symptoms and improve quality of life.

Talk to your medical provider to discuss treatment options which may include physical therapy or surgery and discuss safe medications or over-the-counter (OTC) medications that can be used to manage pain and inflammation. Not all OTC medications are safe for everyone

Information taken from the Arthritis Foundation and Mayo Clinic websites.

Submitted by Marcy Mateyka

FEBRUARY'S EXTRA MILE MISSION

CAMPERSHIPS

HELP SEND OUR YOUTH TO CAMP
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE PLEASE GO
TO OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.FLC-AITKIN.COM
OR SEND A CHECK TO THE CHURCH



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

Community Meals	Community Food Shelf
	 
All meals are take-out only	
Mondays at 5:00 pm	Open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesdays at 12:00 noon	February 12 th & 26 th
Thursdays at 5:00 pm	

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Committee

Financial Summary through December 2025

	2024	2025
General Operating Income - YTD	392,391	395,853
December Budget Expectations-YTD (Historical Average)	445,051	414,332
Variance to Budget Expectations - YTD	(52,660)	(18,479)
Actual Expenditures - YTD	397,411	395,756
Percentage of dollars received for period to dollars pledged	102%	99%
Unpledged Dollars Rec'd – YTD (Regular Offering)	114,572	107,467
Building Fund Income - YTD	44,206	35,783
Building Fund Expenditure - YTD	40,124	40,124
Campership Balance	10,337	9,997

General Fund YE Income exceeds YE Actual Expenses by **\$97**.

ATTENDANCE

Week of	1/4	1/11	1/18	1/25
Sunday 9:00 am (In-person)	65	86	69	89
Sunday 10:30 am (In-person)	9	10	6	N/A
Wednesday 6:00 pm (In-person)	N/A	41	28	34
YouTube	96	89	95	84

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of January 25.
A view may be more than one person per view. Wednesday night is all in person attendance



STAFF

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

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: Contact the office (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 Nicole Cook at
MMC@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

WORSHIP TIMES

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