

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](mailto:office@flc-aitkin.com) or call: 218-927-2028

**PLEASE NOTE —  
DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER**  
**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, FIRST LUTHERAN  
WILL HAVE THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORSHIP  
SERVICE ON SUNDAYS. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
WOULD BE BROADCAST ON KIN RADIO (94.3). ON  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS — IF SCHOOL IS CANCELLED OR  
LET OUT EARLY BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER,  
ALL WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES WILL BE  
CANCELLED.**

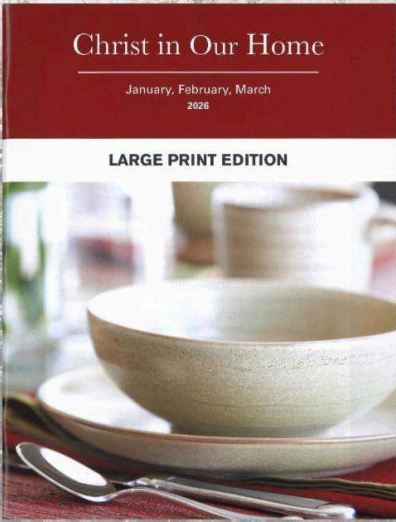
**DON'T BE LATE OR PROCRASTINATE!**

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE**

**JANUARY 15!**

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR  
REPORTS TO JILL AT  
[OFFICE@FLC-  
AITKIN.COM](mailto:OFFICE@FLC-<br/>AITKIN.COM)**





**The new**  
**Christ in our Home**  
**devotional booklets**  
**are available now in**  
**the narthex. Bring**  
**Christ into your life**  
**everyday.**



**2026 offering envelopes have  
been placed in your church  
mailbox or mailed out.**

**GIFT**

**Gathering In Fellowship Together**

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

**Meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 9:30am.**



# JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

ALL SUNDAY'S IN JANUARY

SERVICE TIMES:

9:00 & 10:30 am

Coffee Fellowship

immediately following

9:00 am worship

## JANUARY 80 PLUS BIRTHDAYS

HERM NEWTON - 1/05

LEWIS MOORE - 1/07

LAEL CARLSTROM - 1/07

WILLIAM HAKES - 1/24

ALAN GRAY - 1/31

*Happy Birthday*

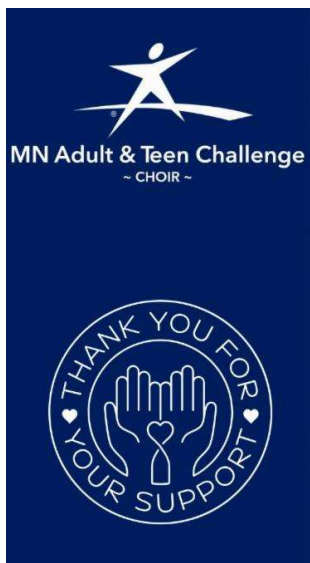
## To my First Lutheran Church family:

I send heartfelt thanks for the prayers,  
cards, and phone calls while I was in the  
hospital/nursing home. It was a great  
comfort to know you were thinking of me. I  
appreciated it very much.

*Thank  
you*

Thanks again – Dorothy Smeltzer





Thank you so much for hosting the Brainerd MnTC choir this year! We deeply appreciate the love and support that churches show our men. Attending churches and sharing their stories is a pivotal part of their healing and recovery. Thank you for giving them the space to heal and walk out their recovery. Blessings on you and your congregants!  
Ann

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
ALL THE VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS  
WHO HELPED TO MAKE THE  
CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER A  
SUCCESS!**

**Total dining in or receiving take-outs: 323**

**Dining in: 100**

**Meals delivered: 125**

**Take-out meals: 98**



## **Children's Christmas Program**

**Thank you to all who came to watch  
the Children's Christmas Program!**











**Thank  
you to all  
who came  
to watch  
the  
Christmas  
Cantata!**







## It is time to renew your subscription to Northeastern Lights



Your subscription to Northeastern Lights expires at  
the end of 2025.

If you would like to continue to receive this magazine,  
you need to renew your subscription.

To renew your subscription, send your check for \$10  
made out to Women of the ELCA to

Dorothy Dybvig

PO Box 392

Sandstone, MN 55072

In order for you to receive your February edition, your  
renewal must be received by January 15. If sent later,  
please include \$2 for mailing the February

**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!*

## 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](mailto:office@flc-aitkin.com)

## JANUARY SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY'S 10:15 - 11:00 AM

**January 4: NO Sunday School**  
**January 11: Sunday School**  
**January 18: Sunday School**  
**January 25: Sunday School**



# **JANUARY WNF SCHEDULE**

**COFFEEHOUSE: 3:30 pm**

**WNF CLASS: 4:30-5:30 pm**

**January 7: Class**

**January 14: Class**

**January 21: Class**

**January 28: Class**

## **JANUARY 7TH & 8TH GRADE AFFIRMATION SCHEDULE**

**COFFEEHOUSE: 3:30 pm**

**CLASS: 6:30-8:00 pm**

**JANUARY 7: CLASS**

**JANUARY 14: CLASS**

**JANUARY 21: CLASS**

**JANUARY 28: CLASS**

## **January 9th Grade Affirmation Schedule**

**COFFEEHOUSE: 3:30 PM**

**CLASS: 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**January 7: Youth/Mentor Night**

**January 14: Class**

**January 21: Class**

**January 28: Class**



## Aitkin Community Blood Drive

### First Lutheran Church

107 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE - Aitkin

**Monday, January 5, 2026 ▪ 11:00am – 5:00pm**

**Tuesday, January 6, 2026 ▪ 9:00am – 2:00pm**

Come to give Jan. 1-25 for chance to win trip for 2 to Super Bowl LX in Calif! [rcblood.org/SuperBowl](http://rcblood.org/SuperBowl)  
2025-APL-0675

Please use the Red Cross Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Aitkin to schedule an appointment.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App



**Please call  
Michele at  
218-838-0184 to  
volunteer or bake  
goodies.**

## 2026 COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF SCHEDULE



January 8 & 22

February 12 & 26

March 12 & 26

April 9 & 23

May 14 & 28

June 11 & 25

July 9 & 23

August 13 & 27

September 10 & 24

October 8 & 22

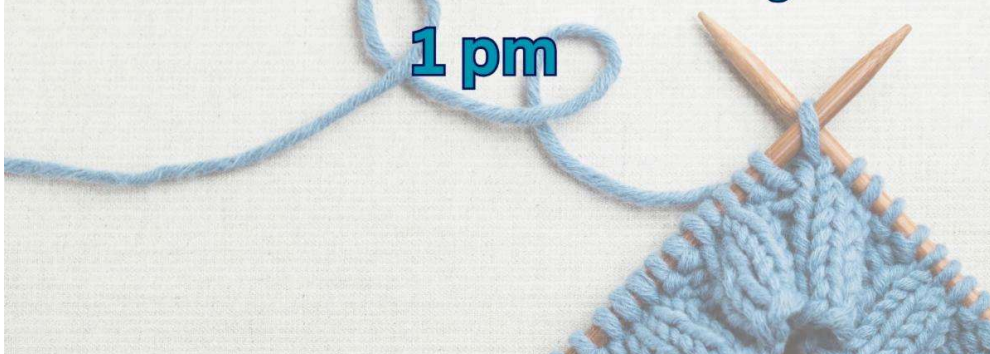
November 12 & 25 (Wednesday)

December 10 & 23 (Wednesday)

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**NEXT MEETING: January 15th**

**1 pm**





# GIRLS MATTER. PERIOD



Next workshop will be:  
Tuesday, January 20  
9 am



## ATTENDANCE

Week of	11/30	12/7	12/14	12/21	12/28
Sunday	102	91	115	80	45
9:00 am (In-person)					
Sunday	N/A	12	14	9	N/A
10:30 am (In-person)					
Wednesday	N/A	42	38	13	N/A
6:00 pm (In-person)					
YouTube	67	63	82	42	49

Christmas Cantata Service: In-Person - 42 Youtube - 92

Christmas Eve: In-Person - 3pm - 146, 5:30pm - 151;

Youtube: 3pm - 25, 5:30pm - 44

All YouTube attendance is based on YouTube views as of December 30.  
A view may be more than one person per view. Wednesday night is all in person attendance

## January's Extra Mile Mission Hope Advocates against Domestic Abuse

If you would like  
to donate,  
please go to our  
website

[www.flc-aitkin.com](http://www.flc-aitkin.com)

# HOPE

Healing Opportunity  
Provided Equally

Or you may  
send a check to  
the church.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

*Finance Committee*

Financial Summary through November 2025

	2024	2025
General Operating Income - YTD	328,134	332,046
November Budget Expectations-YTD (Historical Average)	388,307	356,160
Variance to Budget Expectations - YTD	(60,173)	(24,114)
Actual Expenditures - YTD	358,148	359,339
Percentage of dollars received for period to dollars pledged	100%	94%
Unpledged Dollars Rec'd – YTD (Regular Offering)	87,096	89,840
Building Fund Income - YTD	36,131	30,875
Building Fund Expenditure - YTD	37,197	37,197
Campership Balance	10,312	9,997

In comparing General Fund income with **actual** expenses, you will see a shortfall of \$27,293. This compares to last month when the shortfall was \$42,759.

In using the straight-line method of calculating the budget, general fund income was about \$47,758 under budget.

Using the historical average method of calculating the budget as shown above, you will see that the variance was a negative \$24,114.

Regular offering was \$50,085 under budget expectations through November, and less than 2024 by \$5,248.

General Fund offering for November was \$51,635. Historically, November results in 8.61% of general fund giving. This amount would be \$35,674.







### **RIC- what is it? Reconciling in Christ**

The Northeast MN Synod is now an RIC synod having passed at the synod assembly last May by 96.4%. This means our synod is inclusive, welcoming and affirming of all people regardless of race, gender identity, culture, or marginalization. Each congregation in the synod can become an RIC congregation by going through a process. Welcoming others is nothing new for First Lutheran in Aitkin. Read our welcome page in our announcement sheet written by Pastor Reggie and handed out every Sunday.

In 1974 Reconciling Works: Lutherans for full participation was organized. You can find more information at [Reconciling Works.org](http://ReconcilingWorks.org). This means respect and kindness to everyone, being open minded and non judgemental, and allowing diversity. We are all human and children of God.

The ELCA wrote a new hymn book "All Creation Sings". I want to share with you hymn 1038 "For All the Children". This speaks to all our diverse children.

1. We gather as your people to raise our song above,  
thought the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be  
when your children will be free

Chorus: Oh may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide, may  
there be room enough for everyone inside. For in God there is welcome, in God we all  
belong, may that welcome be our song.

2. Oh we sing for all the children, that one day they be free  
we sing for generations yet to be, that they never have a reason to doubt that they are  
blest, may they, in your love find rest.

3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame,  
so afraid of who they are and whom they love  
may the message now be banished that your love is for the few  
may their faith in you renew.

4. God, we're working for the future when children far and wide can live their lives  
with dignity and pride.  
as they grow in strength and stature, may they join us hand in hand,  
as against all hate we stand.

I plan to attend an RIC workshop in January in Grand Rapids. Anyone can join me.

**Submitted: Rebecca May, RN, Parish Nurse**





#### STAFF

Pastor Reggie Denton, Senior Pastor  
reggie@flc-aitkin.com

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: 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 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](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/flcaitkin)

## WORSHIP TIMES

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