



October 2026

WORSHIP ROLES

1. USHERING:

Sunday, October 4 at 9:40 a.m.: Jordan & Stephanie Grossman family
Sunday, October 11 at 9:40 a.m.: Neal & Deb Rud
Sunday, October 18 at 9:40 a.m.: Corey & Tammy Longnecker
Sunday, October 25 at 9:40 a.m.: Mike & Jill Thompson

2. GREETERS:

Sunday, October 4 at 9:15 a.m.: Jim & Judy Belquist
Sunday, October 11 at 9:15 a.m.: Janelle Koeplin
Sunday, October 18 at 9:15 a.m.: Bob & Deb Belquist
Sunday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m.: Hannah Brandner family

3. COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:

Sunday, October 4 at 9:15 a.m.: Al & Gail Weisenburger
Sunday, October 11 at 9:15 a.m.: John & Jean Schuster
Sunday, October 18 at 9:15 a.m.: Taylor & Amanda Koeplin family
Sunday, October 25 at 9:15 a.m.: Tyler & Sydney Carr family

MEALS AND FUNERALS

CO-CHAIRPERSONS: Diane Langley & Tammy Longnecker

Preplanned Congregation Meals: October 4 – HH co-chairs will organize workers for set up, serving, and clean up of potluck.
Funerals (as scheduled)

FUND: Capital Campaign

THINGS TO NOTE

- *Families are always welcome to help. Congregation members love seeing the children helping right alongside the adults.*
- *Households not assigned to a monthly task will be called on to help with funerals and congregational meals as needed:*
 - *Providing food*
 - *Setting up, serving, or cleaning up*
 - *Donating \$10-\$20 to help cover costs*



pastor's ponderings

“Living out our faith in Jesus Christ, we strive to love all people by accepting unconditionally, caring faithfully, and giving joyfully.”

These words are First Lutheran's mission statement. They describe not only what we hope to do as a congregation, but who we are becoming as God works among us.

On Sunday, October 18, we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday, and our theme will be: “Living out our faith in Jesus Christ, we...”

During worship, we will celebrate the many ways God is transforming lives through First Lutheran Church. Several members of our congregation will share “impact stories”—personal stories about how this church, its ministries, and its people have made a difference in their lives and in the lives of others. I hope you will listen for the ways God is at work in these stories.

Stewardship is about much more than money. It is about recognizing that everything we have and everything we are comes from God—and then asking, “God, how can I use what you have given me to serve others?”

Paul reminds us, “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Ephesians 2:10).

And so we gather to celebrate the good works God is already doing among us, and to be invited to consider where God might be calling each of us to say yes—yes to serving, yes to sharing our gifts, yes to encouraging others, yes to reaching beyond our walls, and yes to whatever opportunities God places before us.

Included with this newsletter is our 2027 Time and Talent Inventory. I encourage you to prayerfully complete it, leaning into a life of “yes to God.” Every church member is asked to bring their completed form to worship and place it in the offering plate on October 18.

Let's celebrate what God is doing—and together, let's see where God is calling us next.

Living out our faith in Jesus Christ, we say yes!



- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 st - Bailey Baumbach | 20 th - Marydean Weinmann |
| 2 nd - Stephanie Grossman | 21 st - Beverly Clifton |
| 3 rd - Stacy Benz | Neal Rud |
| Rynna Jorgensen | 22 nd - Ella Allmaras |
| 5 th - Shaun Reimche | Ed Brecto |
| Rick Swenson | Carissa Johnson |
| 7 th - Luann Johnson | 23 rd - Teigan Alderman |
| 8 th - Kenny Thompson | Jim Wobbema |
| 9 th - Bill Bachmeier | 25 th - Bruce Gedrose |
| Donna Gedrose | Betty Westby |
| Ann Smith | 26 th - Daisy Richter |
| 10 th - Kayce Shroyer | 29 th - Easton Benz |
| 13 th - Deb Lommen | 30 th - Al Weisenburger |
| Joan Shroyer | 31 st - Duane Duda |
| 14 th - Beau Baumbach | |
| 18 th - Tim Tollefson | |

If you find your birthday is not listed, or is incorrect, let us know!

Faith: Trusting God's Promise

What does it mean to have faith?

For Lutherans, faith is not about having all the answers or never experiencing doubt. Faith is trusting in God's promises—even when life feels uncertain. We believe that God's grace is a gift, freely given through Jesus Christ. We do not earn God's love by being good enough, praying perfectly, or having unwavering confidence. God loves us first.

Faith means trusting that God is present with us in every season of life—in moments of joy, in times of struggle, and even when we cannot see what comes next. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God promises forgiveness, new life, and hope.

And faith is not meant to remain only inside our hearts. God's grace frees us to live differently. Because we have received God's love, we are called to share that love with our neighbors through kindness, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, and service.

Faith, then, is both a gift and a journey: trusting God's grace today and discovering, day by day, how that grace is at work in our lives and in the world around us.



LAUNCH 2026-2027

PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE

RALLY DAY IS OCTOBER 4TH

CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK FOLLOWING WORSHIP



Sunday, October 4th
Kaliyah Whitetail & Teigan Alderman

Sunday, October 11th
Rynna Jorgensen & Kelsy Larson

Sunday, October 18th
Kinley Thompson & Meah Gehrtz

Sunday, October 25th
Dylan Cudworth & Luca Schumacher

By the Numbers

ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
September 2 - 7	\$ 90.00
September 6 - 56	\$ 6,937.79
September 9 - 3	\$ 40.00
September 13 - 105	\$ 3,033.00
September 16 - 8	\$ 120.00
September 20 - 118	\$ 1,826.00
Vanco MTD	\$ 1,319.01

Weekly Offering Needed to Meet
Budget \$3,640.00

YEAR-TO-DATE

(As of August 31, 2026)

BUDGET:	\$ 126,184.66
EXPENSES:	\$ 124,317.82
OFFERING:	\$ 117,145.73

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS (SAVINGS)

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Property Fund:	\$8,798.47
Banner/Altar Fund:	\$456.64
Worship & Music Fund:	\$4,211.30
Budget Reserve:	\$16,124.86
Thrivent Choice:	\$1,241.00
Noisy Offering:	\$975.00
FLC Men's Group:	\$1,222.16
Capital Campaign Fund:	\$127,620.38
(Includes Carpet Fund:	\$11,801.09
& Hopes & Dreams:	\$1,224.35)



October (Group 1)

Bob & Deb Belquist
Jim & Judy Belquist
AJ & Stacy Benz
Hannah Brandner family
Tyler & Sydney Carr family
Duane & Annette Duda
Jordan & Steph Grossman family
Dennis Haugen
Janelle Koeplin
Taylor & Amanda Koeplin family
Roger & Diane Langley
Corey & Tammy Longnecker
Roger & Patti Longnecker
Eric & Brittany Perleberg family
Corrina Pierce
Neal & Deb Rud
John & Jean Schuster
Michael & Jill Thompson
Al & Gail Weisenburger



Reminder that Red Willow has a Thrift Store in Finley. Be sure to stop by!

Also, remember that Pastor Amy will be happy to bring your donated items to Finley. Please drop your donations off in her storage shed behind the parsonage any time!

Fall Turkey Supper Sunday, Nov. 8th

- 13 & over \$15
- 65+ \$10
- 6-12 years \$5
- Under 6 Free
- Family Rate \$40



Delivery
Available for
\$5 fee from
4:30 to 5:30
pm. Call
947-2478
after 3:30 pm
on November
8th.

4:30 - 7:00 pm
First Lutheran Church
436 1st Ave. N., New Rockford

September Memorials

LAUNCH

IMO Brad Georgeson
by Stan & Deb Stafford
IMO Quintin Lange
by Stan & Deb Stafford
IMO Michelle Richardson
by Stan & Deb Stafford

Carpet Fund

IMO Don Greb
by Bev Lesmeister

Snowbirds

This is your annual
reminder to let the church
office know your
temporary address.

We need to know the date
you leave, the address, and
the date you plan to return
for ensuring all mailings
reach you.

Thanks!

SUNDAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

October 4: Cherry Heinz, sound; Luann Thompson, lay reader, Shelly Ehni, communion coordinator
October 11: Mitch Bjerke, sound; Mitch Bjerke, lay reader.
October 18: Kevin Cartwright, sound; Whit Burkhardsmeyer, lay reader; Bruce Hirschert, communion coordinator
October 25: Kenny Thompson, sound; Marydean Weinmann, lay reader



Contact Info

Did you move to a new home? Did you get a new phone number? Did you change your job and now have a new email address? Please be sure to provide any new info to the church office. We appreciate it!

QUILTERS NEEDED

First Lutheran Church has a beautiful tradition of gifting quilts to high school seniors on Senior Recognition Sunday each spring. These are created by congregation members and wrap our seniors in love and prayers as they start their adult lives with continuing education or career paths.

The upcoming classes have some large numbers of students, and we are looking for dedicated quilters and volunteers to assemble and sew the basic block quilt tops. All the fabric is provided and squares can be pre-cut.

If you are gifted with sewing skills and have time to help us continue this time-honored tradition, please contact Gail Weisenburger for more information at 701-653-5859.



Faith Stepping Stones

Marking Milestones
from Cradle to Graduation

Upcoming Classes and Blessings

FSS3: My Bible Class will be held on October 11th from 1-4 pm for third graders and their parents.

FSS3: My Bible Blessing will take place during worship on November 8th worship.

Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday: Why It Matters

Each year on the last Sunday in October, ELCA Lutherans celebrate **Reformation Sunday**, remembering **October 31, 1517**, when **Martin Luther** posted his 95 Theses in Wittenberg. His call for reform sparked the **Protestant Reformation**, emphasizing that we are saved by **grace through faith**, and that **Scripture** is the foundation of our faith.

Reformation Sunday is not just about the past—it's about how God is still at work renewing the church today. As we **wear red** and sing *A Mighty Fortress*, we give thanks for our Lutheran heritage and look forward with hope, asking:

“What is God reforming in us today?”



Thanks to all the sponsors of our radio broadcasts!

Oct. 4: IMO Larry "Buck" Comer & Elsie Comer by Deb Wobbema family

Oct. 11: IMO Marion Omoth & Kathy Omoth Bonderson by Milton Omoth

Oct. 18: IMO Eldon & Betty Clelland by Jake Clelland family

Oct. 25: IHO our 4th wedding anniversary by Tyler & Sydney Carr



BAPTISMS:
Ellie June Welch

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS:

TRANSFERS:



**October
2026**

Amy Perleberg
And
Janine Anderson

Thank you Pastor Amy!

**Pastor Appreciation Day
October 11th, 2026**

Pastor Appreciation Day, originally known as Clergy Appreciation Day, was founded in 1992 and is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October.

The holiday was created to truly recognize all the work that pastors do daily at least once a year. It allows congregants to express their appreciation in ways such as supporting their pastor, finding ways to meet special needs of their pastor, or recognizing all the emotions that come with the position.

In fact, the entire month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month.



Lay Ministry & Evangelism Board has some great ideas for celebrating Pastor Amy this month.

Cards. They will have a box for cards for Pastor Amy in the Fellowship Hall all month. This is a great way to show your appreciation.

Lambs. They will have the pictures of lambs that can be written on for Pastor Amy with things that you notice and appreciate that she does every day.

Worship. Attend Worship on October 11th to honor Pastor Amy. The LAUNCH Sunday School kids will be singing as well!

Council Minutes were unavailable at the time of printing. They will be available in the narthex when available and printed in the next newsletter.

A Fun-Filled Family Fall Festival

On September 13, First Lutheran Church hosted our 2nd Annual Family Fall Festival, and what a wonderful day it was! It was filled with good food, laughter, creativity, and plenty of opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy time together.

The festival began with a delicious potluck, featuring an amazing variety of food and plenty of generous helpings. Sharing a meal is always a special part of our life together as a church family, and this gathering was no exception. There was something for everyone to enjoy! (Note that we have another potluck on Sunday October 4th for Rally Day!)

After eating, the fun continued with games and activities for kids and adults alike. Fall-themed crafts gave everyone a chance to be creative and make something to take home. There were also plenty of games that kept the kids moving, laughing, and having a great time.

One of the biggest hits was the giant Tetris XL yard game. The kids worked together to stack the over-sized pieces higher and higher. Of course, the real fun came when the tower finally became too tall or unbalanced and tipped over, sending the pieces tumbling everywhere! Lots of screams followed each time.

The parachute was another favorite. Kids gathered around to lift the parachute and then run under it to hide. It was a fine example of the joy of simple play. Their laughter and excitement were contagious!



We are grateful to everyone who came and helped make this event such a success. A special thank-you goes to the Lay Ministry & Evangelism Board for organizing this wonderful event and putting so much time and effort into making it happen.

Our Family Fall Festival is a great reminder that being the church is about more than what happens in worship on Sunday morning. It is also about sharing food, making memories, building relationships, laughing together, and creating a place where everyone feels welcome. We look forward to doing this event again next year!

On August 20th, Kyle Thompson started at First Lutheran as the Hunger Free Food Pantry intern through the "School to Work Coop" program with New Rockford-Sheyenne High School.

Kyle's schedule will follow the school schedule and he will be in the church Monday through Friday in the afternoon.

His responsibilities will include unloading food delivery and dating products, packing & weighing boxes, inventory, stocking, cleaning, facilitating the backpack program, and helping with occasional projects around the church.

Kyle receives a small stipend as a token of our gratitude for all his hard work!

