

FIRST OUT LOUD!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 SAINT PETER
 flcstp.org NEWSLETTER
 SEPTEMBER 2023

Siblings in Christ,

Martin Luther is famous for being a reformer of the church in the 16th century. Luther was many things in addition to being a reformer. He was a monk, a priest, a husband, a father, a foster-father, a negotiator of disputes. Martin Luther was also an educator. It was while he was a professor of the Bible at the University of Wittenburg that he discovered how far the church of his time had strayed from God's word and needed to be reformed. Consequently, Luther helped to start public schools in Germany so that the people would be able to read God's word for themselves. Thus, education has always been a high priority for Lutheran Christians.

As we begin another school year, I ask for your prayers. Please pray for the students as they begin their studies. Please pray for the teachers, staff, administrators and all who work with our youth. They all need our prayers, support, protection, encouragement, and thanks for the important work they do. If we are to have a strong nation, and Christians who can lead godly lives based upon God's word, we need to support our schools.



Let us pray: Holy God, source of all knowledge and good counsel, please bless and guide our students and educators. Watch over them. Protect them from harm. Grant them curious minds, open hearts, and eager spirits willing to learn and grow and try new things. Fill them with confidence. Give them kind and caring friends. Remind them they are deeply loved, now and always. Amen.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris

Council President –Opportunities to Serve & Engage

Every day is an opportunity to live out First Lutheran's new mission statement "God's Work. Our Hands. To Serve All People." but probably never more than in the month of September. There are so many opportunities to celebrate who we are as a church - freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. I'd like to highlight a few opportunities this month that First Lutheran is directly involved in.

The Social Justice Committee will march in the Southern Minnesota Pride Festival in Mankato on Saturday, **September 9th** in support of our LGBTQIA+ neighbors. All members are invited to join in this event. We will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of Plum and Riverfront

streets in Mankato. The parade doesn't begin until 11:00 but we need to arrive early to get organized. The route is only 4 blocks long and we are done by noon. Not a huge time commitment but a huge way to show our commitment and solidarity to the LGBTQIA+ community.

For ten years the ELCA has designated a Sunday in September for a dedicated day of service known as "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. To mark 10 years of "God's Work. Our Hands", we will be hosting several different service opportunities after worship on **Sunday, September 10th**. For those who are willing and able to do some yard work and light chores, we will travel to the Union Street Place. Union Street Place offers temporary shelter and low-income rental housing to people who are in need. Please wear work clothes and bring rakes, clippers, and other garden tools if you have them. We will also be assembling Refugee Services Donation Kits that Lutheran Social Services (LSS) will distribute to refugee families. This will take place in the church and won't require as much physical activity as the Union Street Place project. One more GWOH opportunity will be sponsored by the Greens committee. There will be supplies fill out a colorful ribbon with those elements of God's creation we endeavor to sustain and will discuss green activities. This would also be a great Sunday to invite a friend or neighbor to join us! What a wonderful way to engage others and widen the welcome to our neighbors.

The Kitchen serves a meal free of charge to anyone in the community on Monday evenings. The meal is hosted at Trinity Lutheran church and several area congregations take turns purchasing and putting together the meal. First Lutheran hosts the September meal on Monday the 25th. Preparation begins around 3:00 in the afternoon and help is needed at this time but also later when the meal is served at 5:30 and cleanup, which wraps up around 7:00. You can sign up to help in the Gathering Space at church.

These opportunities to love and serve our neighbors matter. They make a difference in the lives not only of those served but those who are able to serve. All involved will encounter God's love in amazing ways.



Submitted by Mary Spear, Council President

FLC's Got Talent - September 17
at 7:00 pm!

Come to FLC for a night of entertainment, snacks, and great fellowship. There is still time to put your name in the hat - please contact Emily at musicflestp@gmail.com to sign up!

Save the Date - November 5

Choir Cantata for
All Saints Worship

Angela-Back in the Office!

A huge thank you to the many office sitters and volunteers who helped make her cancer treatment in Sioux Falls and Rochester possible. Her treatment will continue every three weeks until January. Please come by and say hi during office hours!



CHOIR FOR ALL SAINTS



On November 5, the Sanctuary Choir will sing a
cantata for All Saints.

Join in this special experience by attending worship
or by singing with the choir. Practices begin with a
retreat on Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m.
and then meet Wednesdays from
7:00-7:45 beginning September 13.

Organ Recital Series

September 24: David Fienen

October 15: Chad Winterfeldt

October 29: Grace Kunkel

November 5: Emily Bruflat

Celebrate the completed organ repairs!

Recitals begin at 4:00 p.m.

Freewill offerings collected will go toward
instrument maintenance.

First Lutheran Church + 1114 W. Traverse Rd + Saint Peter, MN

Bandmates & Vocals Wanted!

➔ **YOUTH!**

**ALL
LEVELS**

Hand Chime Choir

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
(Starting September 20)
Grades 5 -12

Choir

Sundays at 9:40 a.m.
(Starting October 1)
Grades Pre-K - 4

FLC Wind Ensemble

October 8 & December 10 at 9:00 am
(to play for worship at 10:00)
Grades 8 - 12

Join:
Sarah & Emily

Emily Bruflat
Winds Grades 8-12
musicflcstp@gmail.com

Sarah Chambers
Chimes & Choir
chambers.sarah@gmail.com



Picture Day! - A New Church Directory!

First Lutheran will be producing a new pictorial directory with Universal Church Directories. Our photo dates are:

September 26-29 at 2:00-8:30 p.m.

September 30 at 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

All photography will take place here at FLC on the dates above. You will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating.

If you would like to bring in a personal item such as sporting equipment, an instrument, a medal, jewelry, a Bible or pet, that is encouraged and will be incorporated into your portrait session.

If you know anyone that has or would like to attend our church, every family is welcome to invite others at this special time and they too will receive the benefits of the portrait session.

Sign up in 3 easy ways:

- (Online <https://ucdir.com/schedule/login.php> Church Code: mn348 - Password: photos) registration is open now!
- At church on the sign up after service starting Sunday, July 30
- Contact Universal Church Directories at 419-522-5011 for scheduling or assistance.

Coming Soon!
OUR NEW
Directory!

It's time for a new church pictorial directory. It won't be our directory without you, so sign-up today for family photography!

Sign up Online
or
at Church

Universal
Church Directories

Remember our directory won't be complete without YOU! If you cannot attend one of our sessions, alternate sessions will be available off-site. Please call 414-522-5011 to arrange an alternate session.

GWOH Sunday Schedule– September 10

This year marks the 10th anniversary of “**God’s Work. Our Hands.**” Sunday. Scheduled for Sept. 10, this annual day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) — one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. Social Justice, the Greens and Nancy Thorkelson are coordinating this year's GWOH Sunday projects. These service projects will take place right after worship and include:

- **Union Place Shelter:** Yard work and other outdoor clean-up projects is being coordinated by the Social Justice Committee.
- **Indoor Activities at FLC:** Nancy Thorkelson and the Green Committee will have projects that will take place inside the church building that won’t require as much physical activity.
- **Donations of Hygiene Products:** Please consider donating full sized hygiene products to add to LSS Refugee Kits. Donations of soap, shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, aftershave, lotion, tampons, pads, adult continence products, band aids, etc. can be dropped off at the church prior to September 10 or on that day.

Extend this invitation to others to widen the welcome and engage with our neighbors! Remember to dress in your yellow “God’s Work. Our Hands.” T-shirts. We have a limited supply on hand if you need one.

Hebrews - "A New and Better Way"

Based on the book written by Bishop Herb Chilstrom (Herb was a former pastor at First Lutheran, Bishop of the Minnesota Synod and Presiding Bishop of the ELCA)
Class leaders: Bob Stenson and Will Freiert

Beginning Monday Sep 11, 2023 9:30 am - Morning Prayer (Matins) in the Chapel

9:45 am Class in the Conference Room

**ADULT
BIBLE
STUDY
MONDAYS**

Youth & Family –Time to Get Registered for Fall

2023-24 Youth Programming - Important Dates & Deadlines!

<p>Pre-K-4th Grade</p>	<p>Deadline to Register for SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sept. 17 2023-24 Rally Day: Oct. 1 First Day of Class: Oct. 8</p> <p>Registration is officially OPEN! Register Today! https://forms.gle/U5hKjbBJFfNtSS4DA</p>
<p>5th & 6th Grade</p>	<p>Deadline to Register for FAITH FORMATION: Sept. 15 2023-24 Orientation Day: Sept. 20 at 6:30pm First Day of Class: Sept. 27 at 6:30pm</p> <p>Registration is officially OPEN! Register Today! https://forms.gle/tjVeq4XZDLdP3U9P8</p>
<p>Grades 7th-9th</p>	<p>Deadline to Register for CONFIRMATION: Sept. 15 2023-24 Orientation Day: Sept. 20 at 6:30pm First Day of Class: Sept. 27 at 6:30pm</p> <p>Registration is officially OPEN! Register Today! https://forms.gle/T4BmyFXcKjrS3gs19</p>
<p>FLC Trinity Union</p>	<p>Combined HS Youth Group Kick-off: November 1 Bring a friend!</p>



The Generosity Project –The Season of Stewardship!

Autumn is upon us and hopefully some cooler days; it's been a HOT summer! With the transition to fall, we also are kicking off our annual Stewardship Campaign and this year we have something a little special in the works! Our emphasis on stewardship will take on a bit of a new dimension with a program called The Generosity Project. Stewardship is about so much more than finances and budgets. Stewardship is how we live a life of faithful response to what God has done and is doing for us; it's about Generosity!

Yes, we will be having our regular stewardship campaign this fall, kicking things off with our theme Growing in God's Grace – The Generosity Project on Sunday, Sept. 3. Then a week later, on Sept. 10, First Lutheran will be participating in the ELCA-wide God's Work – Our Hands Day of Service. This is the tenth year of putting on those yellow t-shirts and doing things that make a difference in our community. You can find more details on this in the August First Out Loud! newsletter.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, our congregation's various committees will each have a table set up in the Gathering Space. Active committee members will explain what they do and invite you to consider if you might be interested. There are opportunities for everyone to get more involved!

We have a special guest coming on Sunday, Sep. 24. Pr. Keith Pearson will be with us to give a short talk on Estate Planning and Planned Giving. He will tell how easy it is to make special gifts and how they make a huge impact in doing God's work building up the church. There will be a forum in the Dining Hall following worship, with details and Q&A time. If you have ever thought of how, you might leave a lasting legacy and do good for God after you are gone, you won't want to miss this.

Toward the middle of September, you will be getting an Estimate of Giving card. Please complete your choices on the Time and Talent survey. Please prayerfully consider how you can support God's work at FLC through your financial giving for 2024, as well as volunteering your time. We ask that you return those cards and surveys by October 1 so we can celebrate what God is doing in our midst.



Sunday, October 15 will be a very special day as we launch The Generosity Project. Plan now to attend worship; it will be an engaging and enjoyable time for all. You won't want to miss it!

Finally, we thank you for your faithful stewardship so far in 2023. Your gifts and support for God's mission is making an impact in our church, our community, and our world. Thanks be to God!

Submitted by Carl Bruihler & Annalise Rivas, co-chairs of the Stewardship Committee

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1114 Traverse Road
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-3060
Email: flcstpoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.flcstp.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FLCSTP



*LA GRANDE BANDE presents its 2023-2024 Season
The 5th Anniversary Season*

A French Baroque Christmas

First Lutheran Church, St Peter

A Christmas tradition centuries in the making

Wednesday, December 6

4:30PM | Open Rehearsal (@ FLC (free))

Thursday, December 7

6:45PM | Pre-concert talk (tickets required)

7:30PM | Concert Performance (tickets required)

\$20 (Sec A), \$15 (Sec B), \$10 (Sec C/students)

Online at www.lagrandebande.org/tickets

By phone at 507-237-6539