

# FIRST OUT LOUD

God's Work. Our Hands. To Serve ALL People.

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

April  
Newsletter

Siblings in Christ,

Please make sure to join us for our Holy Week and Easter Services!

Maundy Thursday – April 2, at 7:00pm

Good Friday – April 3, at 7:00pm.

Easter Vigil – April 4, at 7:00pm.

Easter Sunday – April 5, at 10:00am.

These are the holiest days of the Christian calendar, and I look forward to seeing you in worship as we journey with Jesus from his Last Supper through his death and resurrection!

A lot is going on both domestically and internationally. Many of our members are concerned about what they see going on and they are acting. Please make sure to attend an upstander training before engaging in any constitutional observation. I attended an upstander training that FLC hosted through Monarca and it was well worth my time. Even if we are not observing ICE, we can and should help our neighbors. Read Chapter 25 in the Gospel of Matthew. Then think of ways you can welcome the stranger, give food and drink to those in need, care for the sick, and uphold the dignity of all. Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

As we celebrate Christ's rising from the dead, may we rise and act to share God's love and mercy with all our neighbors!

Pastor Christopher Culuris

After yet another big Minnesota snowstorm a few weeks ago, we are seeing glimpses of flower buds, green grass and a little mud; the promise that spring is coming! We are also entering an intense—and beautiful—part of our church year.

By this point in Lent, those promises we made back in February might feel a little dusty. Maybe you gave up chocolate and cracked a week ago, or you meant to pray more but life got noisy. ME! But Lent isn't a pass/fail test. It's just an invitation to hit the "reset" button on our relationship with God. These last few weeks are about taking away the distractions and remembering that, at the end of the day, we are loved beyond measure—challenges and all.

We have so many wonderful events at FLC coming in the next few weeks. We hope to see you!

One of my favorite Easter memories is my grandma greeting us on Easter morning:

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!"


Kaari Bly

*The*  
**SOUND**  
*of ALL*  
*of US*

**SAINT PETER  
COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Thursday, May 7, 2026 / 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, May 10, 2026 / 2:00 p.m.

**BJORLING RECITAL HALL**  
*Gustavus Adolphus College*  
800 West College Avenue, Saint Peter, MN 56082

 **CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY  
AMENDMENT**

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

## Community

**Choir:** Save the date! The Saint Peter Community Choir is performing Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 10 at 2:00 p.m. at Bjorling Recital Hall at Gustavus. All are invited to attend!

# Music Ministry Corner

There is a place for you here!

**The FLC Spring Music Celebration is coming soon!** The Music Ministry at FLC is planning an evening of music on **April 26th at 4:00pm.**

A potluck dinner will follow. Families whose last names are A-I are encouraged to bring a side or salad, families with last names J-N are encouraged to bring a dessert, and families with last names O-Z are encouraged to bring a main dish. The church will provide drinks!

Please help us to celebrate the music ministry at FLC. An offering will be collected to establish an instrument repair fund.

**Special music at FLC** is a wonderful part of our worship. If you have talent to share as a soloist, member of a small group or in another way please contact Deacon Brenda at the church or at [deacon@flcstp.org](mailto:deacon@flcstp.org).

**HELP IS NEEDED:** Consider serving the church as a communion server, preparer, or bread baker. See the sign up in the gathering space or contact anyone on Worship & Arts for more info. This is a vital part of our church's ministry and we have had trouble filling needed roles!

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?**  
[music@flcstp.org](mailto:music@flcstp.org)



Holden Village is a remote, year-round Lutheran retreat center, located in the Railroad Creek Valley of the North Cascade Mountains in Washington State. After an abandoned copper mine closed in the 1950's, the former mining town of Holden was transformed into Holden Village in 1962 by Lutherans who saw great potential. Accessible only by boat or by hiking, the Village operates as a faith-based, non-profit community, providing rest, education and spiritual renewal.

For over 60 years Holden Village has welcomed guests of all ages and backgrounds, including many church groups, students and individuals seeking a time of renewal in a wilderness Christian community unlike any other.

In December, 2025 the road to Holden Village washed out after torrential rains impacted the Pacific Northwest area, including FS 8301, the only road access to the Village. Until the road can be repaired, the Village is closed to guests. In this time of closure, efforts are being made around the country to sustain the ministry of the Village, albeit in new and creative ways.

A Word from Holden is an initiative created by Holden staff in response to the unexpected evacuation from Holden Village. In this way, the story of Holden is being carried and told in partner congregations, sharing how intentional community transforms people and why sustaining this place matters. Holden staff and board members will be present to share their experiences.

Holden Village welcomes all people to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth and each other. Saturday, April 11 will be an opportunity to ask questions, hear updates, and learn how you can connect or continue to be part of the Holden community even as the Village itself is closed. We will also assess interest in visiting the village in the future after it reopens.

The schedule for April 11 is as follows:

11:30 a.m. Potluck (beverage, plates & utensils are provided, bring food to share)

12:30 p.m. Presentation: A Word from Holden

1:00 p.m. A Word from Holden Board Members with time for Q&A

1:30 p.m. Closing with the Holden Prayer & on Your Way Home

All are welcome! Spread the word and invite anyone who may be interested in learning more about Holden Village. First Lutheran Church is located at 1114 Traverse Rd., St. Peter, MN 56082.

For more info, contact the church office or Pr. Chris Culuris at (507) 934-3060, or Pr. Carl Bruihler at [cbruihler@gmail.com](mailto:cbruihler@gmail.com) or at (507) 649-1231. Learn more about Holden at <https://www.holdenvillage.org/>

## 2nd-4th Grades

Our intermediate group has really grown in both their faith and their maturity over the course of this Faith Formation year! They are asking bigger questions and really engaging in their lessons each week. It has been fun for us teachers to see! This past month, there was another “stump the pastor” night, which is always a favorite. They also participated in a scavenger hunt centered around the days of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. They also learned why Jesus died for our sins and our eternal life through his death. They made Easter crosses and are preparing to work on our Easter skit. We are excited to share this skit next month!

## 5th-6th Grades

Our oldest group has been very busy over the last month! They performed a skit, written by teacher Grace Timm, during Wednesday service. They baked bread as part of their lesson plan and made jello “Jesus Walking on Water” crafts to highlight their lesson on the miracles Jesus performed. They participate in junior high youth group each month, and it’s often one of the highlights of their age group! They, too, are actively working on their Easter skit, to showcase with the younger crew. We are preparing to say goodbye to our 6th-graders, as they move up to confirmation!





FLC will be providing dinner at “The Kitchen” on the following date:

Monday April 27th

If you are looking for a fun volunteer opportunity for the new year, come and join us. Volunteer sign up sheets are on the table in the Gathering Space.

If you have questions please contact Marilyn Kochsiek at 612-695-6270.



### > **The Greens Committee**

Did you enjoy the Eco Quiz which challenged you at the Fellowship Hour? We hope it helped you with your efforts to keep our planet thriving. If we all work on using our resources responsibly, our children will have a healthier world to live in. So: recycle, reuse, compost, avoid one-use plastics, bring your own shopping bags, think green, plant a garden or a tree, go for a hike, walk to school or church, ride your bike, etc.

> Thank you for bringing your stretchable plastic for recycling to First Lutheran. We collected 1000 lbs in just a few months, which means that our first bench has arrived. Enough plastic has been collected to order the second bench. We have reached our goal and will stop collecting plastic at First Lutheran Church.

> Soon it will be time to plant gardens again. For about 15 years the Greens have maintained a vegetable garden on the eastside of our church. All produce has been taken to the St. Peter Food Shelf. We provided around 120 lbs of beans, tomatoes, peppers, etc. each summer.

> It is with sadness, though, that we, the Greens, have decided not to plant a garden this year. Aging has made it difficult for many of us to dig, plant, water, weed, pick, bend, or carry loads.

> We encourage any of you to contribute produce from your own gardens to the Food Shelf or to support it with monetary gifts. Also, get new ideas for responsible living from the table in the Narthex.

> Greetings from the Green Committee,

# FROM THE DESK OF DEACON BRENDA | 7



Happy Spring FLC community. These are busy days aren't they? It is easy to forget who we are and what we are all about in the midst of lives filled with activities, breaking news events or sleepless nights. Now it is more important than ever we remember who we are (followers of Jesus) and whose we are (beloved children of a God who so loved the world he sent Jesus into the world). Here are some ways to remember this very important marker that shapes the way we live and move and have our being:

1. **Observe the three "R's" - Rise, Read, Reflect.** Get up in the morning and have a devotion with scripture set out so you read it before you move into your day. Give yourself some reflection time. Use "Christ in our Home" or other resources. One great app on my phone that I use is "Pray As You Go".

2. **Mark the sign of the cross on your forehead** in the morning and say these words "I am a child of God, and nothing, nothing, nothing can ever change that."

3. **Mark the sign of the cross on your children's, spouse's or other family member's forehead** in the morning and say these words "You are a child of God, and nothing, nothing, nothing can ever change that."

4. **Be around others.** We have photos in this issue of the First Out Loud that show how this community gathers to wear their identity and remind each other of God's grace and CALL on each of our lives. It happens at Faith Night at First, and The Kitchen in meal prep and serving, in Youth meetings, Confirmation, Education classes, Choir rehearsals, bible studies, funerals, marches, rallies, meetings, sitting with someone in the midst of their grief and so many more places. These are places where we wear our identity and share it with the world. It feeds us and we help feed the world with the identity of Christ.

5. **Smile, breathe, remember that the Holy Spirit shows up** in mundane moments of our day - be on the lookout for God moments showing up in unusual places and people. The Holy Spirit can surprise us - she certainly has surprised me at different times and places! We are in this together and we are not alone. My favorite verse: Matthew 28: 20...And remember, I am with you to the end of the age.

+God's peace, Brenda

## EZ Cinnamon rolls - Rhodes frozen rolls

1 cup [vanilla ice cream](#)

1/2 cup [butter](#) or 1/2 cup [margarine](#)

1/2 cup [sugar](#)

1/2 cup [brown sugar](#)

1dozen rhodes frozen cinnamon roll dough

- Bring first 4 ingredients to a boil for 2-3 minutes.
  - Let mixture cool.
  - Grease 8x10 pan.
  - Arrange frozen rolls in the pan.
  - Pour cooled mixture over rolls.
  - Lightly grease plastic wrap or aluminum foil and cover rolls.
  - Leave out overnight.
  - Preheat oven to 350.
  - Cook 20-30 minutes.
- When slightly cooled, frost with included icing.

## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1114 Traverse Rd.  
St. Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Peter, MN 56082  
Permit #3

# **2026 BWCA Trip**

## **FLC ADULTS**

We have the permits!  
We're planning another trip to the  
Boundary Waters this summer!

**June 28-July 2, 2026**

If you are an interested adult, please  
contact Mark Szybnski at 507.380.9180 or  
at [markszybnski@gmail.com](mailto:markszybnski@gmail.com)

**I plan to have a meeting on Wednesday,  
March 18 at 6:00 during Wednesday  
Meal to share more details.**

