

FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER, 2022

Pastor Chris: *The Fruits of Fall*

Siblings in Christ,

I am excited for October to arrive! We begin with **Rally Day** for Sunday School on October 2nd. Class begins at 9:00am and we will present Bibles to our youth during the 10:00am worship service. Please come and support our young members as they learn and grow in their faith walk with the Lord!

Following worship that same day, Dave Pedersen will lead a **First Forum** on our conference's partnership with our companion conference in South Africa. Come and hear what they are up to and how you could be a part of this international partnership.

I look forward to our "**FLC's Got Talent**" show on Sunday night- October 9th at 7:00pm. Come and see what your siblings in Christ can do! This should be a fun and relaxing evening filled with laughs, Welcome Waffles, and your talents!

Attorney Chris Paul will lead a **First Forum**, at 11:00am, on October 16th. He will be providing us with guidance on estate planning and the writing of wills. Come and learn how your gifts can continue to bless the work of First Lutheran Church in perpetuity.

Throughout the month of October, we will continue to explore what it means to be a good steward of the gifts God entrusts into our hands. Please join us for worship each Sunday as we continue to learn about stewardship from God's Holy Word. The "Season of Stewardship" will reach its zenith on October 23rd with our **Celebration Sunday**. In response to all that God has first given to us, please prayerfully think about what you can return to the Lord in terms of the time, abilities, and financial support you share with the Lord and with First Lutheran Church.

October will be an important and busy month in the life of our congregation! Join us for all our church has to offer. Please know that **I am grateful** for all your support as together we make First Lutheran Church a friendly, welcoming, and active congregation! God bless you all!

Pastor, Chris Culuris



President's Report: Garrett Paul

Things are starting to pick up at First Lutheran Church! Not that they were quiet during the summer; we kept worshipping, kept serving, welcomed new members, kept reaching out, kept planning—in other words, kept on being God's people.

We are delighted with our new members! Welcome! We look forward to getting to know you better.

Sunday school and adult forums will be starting; keep looking for announcements about these. The nursery will resume during worship this fall, returned to its previous location (to the right down the front hall, on the left).

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee and to all the committees that worked hard to make our Stewardship kick-off, "First Fruits," a success. We are off to a good start. I hope everyone was able to see the display of our church history and several artifacts from it that Dave Pehrson, David Fienen and I set up in the Gathering Space. If you have not seen it, the display will still be up on Sept. 25, and maybe the next week as well. Please take time to look especially at the pictures of the church before the addition; in comparison with our current facilities, you can see what our mortgage is paying for!

Incidentally, many people asked why the wonderful woodcut that Father Harry Behan, priest at St. Peter's Catholic Church when we shared our building with them after the tornado, gave to us, has not been put on permanent display. We are looking into this. And don't forget to look at the "First Lutheran Catholic Church" sign!

The Strategic Planning Task Force has begun its work. Jeff Olson is serving as its consultant. Look for more information about this in the future, and for ways you can have input into the process.

I have been in contact with our Muslim friends at the mosque down the street, and we are looking for ways to help them find a new home. We are not, however, going to provide them with space on our property.

I attended a meeting put on by the Southwest Minnesota Synod for congregational presidents. I learned many things, too many to put here. But most of all I learned how very blessed we are at First. We have an energetic and caring pastor, a diligent and hard-working staff, new members, and dozens of members who serve on council, committees, and undertake all manner of important tasks. Many other congregations are not as fortunate. Yes, we have challenges, but dozens of churches would like to have the problems that we have. Another takeaway for me was the importance of things so simple as greeting visitors—even just smiling at them! One more thing I took away from that meeting: it's important to let our pastor and staff know that we appreciate them! Much of their work is not visible to us—as when a light bulb gets replaced, music chosen, paperwork done, or a shut-in receives a visit from the pastor. Remember to thank them for it. It's also good to think about this as you prayerfully prepare your estimate of giving.

I close with thanks to our pastor and staff, to all council members, committee members, and all of you for making First Lutheran the place that it is!



Dr. Garrett Paul, Council President.

Building & Grounds: Fall Clean-Up Scheduled

The Building and Grounds Committee would like to thank all the individuals who stopped and visited with us at our table during Stewardship Sunday. We would also like to thank the couple of individuals who agreed to assist in some of the activities necessary to keep improving the appearance of the church's grounds.

Speaking of that, we would like you to set aside some time on Saturday, October 29, to assist in preparing the grounds for winter. Beginning at 10:00 am., we will be doing some tree trimming, picking up downed sticks and limbs, and raking the many leaves which usually are on the ground by this time. We had a great crew this past spring and hope to see many of you again this fall.

At the risk of overlooking someone, I would also like to thank those who put in countless hours over the summer. The ladies who watered the Bell Garden and other flowers out front, Nancy Thorkelson for coordinating all the individuals and families that took turns watering the new trees on the property east of church, the efforts of Cheryl Kautt and Patricia Duenwald throughout the entire summer in the courtyard, Dave Kennedy and Keith Stelter mowing the grounds south and east of the church, and Pat Duenwald for his assistance trimming trees throughout the summer.

I am sure I missed some people and again I apologize for doing so. Your contributions are appreciated, and I will try and do a better job of keeping track and recognizing those of you that have helped us improve and maintain the grounds.

Submitted by Bill Kautt – Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee

The National Lutheran Choir: 2022-2023 Season

All Saints Concerts - November 4th & 6th

This concert will honor those who have passed while recognizing past, present, and future journeys. The program will feature John Rutter's Requiem along with hymns, candles, and the reading of names of new saints.

Tickets and season passes are available for in-person events, a Virtual Subscription is an opportunity to connect with online. This season's Virtual Subscription includes regular content from the NLC directly to your email inbox, an additional virtual All Saints program, and a series of three documentary-style exclusives. Visit NLCA.com to purchase tickets or learn about a virtual program option.



Youth & Family: Out Loud!

We are officially rocking and rolling with our youth programming for the 2022-23 year! Check out all the spooktacular events we have in store for you this month!



Here's what's going on in October:

FLC's Got Talent! on October 9th at 7pm in First Lutheran Church Dining Hall

Join us for a wonderful evening of great FUN provided by members of our congregation! Not only will we have all sorts of performances, but we will also be displaying a variety of visual arts! Quilts, photography, carvings, paintings, drawings, mosaics, pottery - all visual arts are welcome. No talent is too small!



3rd Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest: Deadline to submit your masterpiece is October 29th!

Grab your paint brushes and pumpkin carving utensils - this contest is back by popular demand! Submit a picture of your decorated pumpkin to Calleigh (cc.flcstp@gmail.com) by October 29th for a chance to win a prize! The three categories that FLC staff will be judging are: Scariest Pumpkin, Funniest Pumpkin, and Most Creative Pumpkin. Get carving!

Trunk or Treat at First Lutheran: Friday, October 28th at 4:30pm

Come one, come all! We're bringing back Trunk or Treat at First Lutheran! All youth are invited to trick or treat at First Lutheran on October 29th at 4:30pm. We're looking for members to volunteer to decorate their trunks! Interested? Contact Calleigh (cc.flcstp@gmail.com) to sign up!



Youth & Family Ministries Director Office Hours: Are you looking for Calleigh?

Calleigh is best reached by cell phone at 507-779-6866 (during business hours) or by email at cc.flcstp@gmail.com. Our Office Administrator can also forward calls directly to Calleigh on Monday-Thursday (507-934-3060). Calleigh works Sunday through Thursday each week, however this schedule is flexible and subject to change based on our youth/family weekend events. When she is not in the office for youth/family pre-scheduled programming events, Calleigh works remotely, but is available by cell phone or email, as well as in-person meetings by appointment!

Funerals: No More Monthly Service Lists

On August 16th, the Church Council approved our proposal to change the funeral luncheon policy at FLC. We no longer will use the monthly service list. Instead, we have organized teams consisting of members who have shown an interest and are willing to assist with funeral luncheons. Currently we have five teams (eight people per team) and *we would certainly welcome more*. Each team will take a turn (every 5th funeral) so the more teams the better!

In addition, all food must now be catered. First Lutheran will provide beverages (coffee, lemonade and water).

If you are willing to be a part of a team, please contact Betty Thompson (340-2818) email bettythompson@hickorytech.net or Carol Solberg (931-2644) email solberg413@gmail.com.

Submitted by Carol Solberg

Cemetery Clean-up!

We have a new date, again: Thursday, October 13, 2022, 10-noon at Resurrection Cemetery.

We are sorry for all the changeups which were due to unforeseen circumstances. We will be glad to see you, ready to go. Please bring gloves, sturdy shoes, and a wheelbarrow, (one or two will do.) For questions, please call Tom Thorkelson, ((507)317-0755, or me, Barb, (612-644-1614).RSVP to Barb
Barbara Wilkinson, Cemetery Committee Chair

Stewardship Kick-off!

A sincere thank you to the ten individuals featured in the Stewardship video clips shown in worship on Sunday, Sept. 4, 11 and 18. If you missed any of them, below is a summary of what each person shared with us.

Also, a big thank you to **Brad Chambers** for videography/video-editing, and to **Dr. Annalise Rivas** and **Pr. Carl Bruhler** for coordinating the videotaping. Thanks also to all the teams for their wonderful displays at the tables in the Stewardship tent on Sunday, Sept. 18, and to our **Fellowship Team** for serving fresh fruit!

Your Estimate of Giving for the coming year is extremely helpful for the Finance Team in the process of developing an operating budget for the coming year. Please submit your 2023 Estimate of Giving card and the First Fruits pledge card for the 2023-25 Building Fund Appeal, by Oct 23 - both were enclosed with the letter from Pr. Chris last month. You can mail the cards to the church office or bring them to worship on Sunday, Oct. 23. If you misplaced the mailing or cards, call, or stop by the church office, Angela or Karen would be happy to give you new ones. Karen would be happy to help you with Direct Giving if you would like to set up automatic withdrawals from your checking or other account. All members are encouraged to complete a Time & Talent Survey (available online at the church website) or a paper copy which will be available in the Gathering Space each Sunday through October 23.

Thank you for being faithful stewards of all that God has blessed you with!

Messages from September 4, 11 and 18 videos...

Three questions:

Name one thing you are really thankful to God for.
What do you appreciate about worship or the ministries here at First Lutheran? How have you seen God at work here in our congregation, the community or elsewhere?

Dave Kennedy (member since 2001)

Dave is thankful to God for his family, his daughters and family of origin. Dave appreciates how welcoming people are at First and how people really live their faith. Dave sees God at work in the way our community lives their faith through service, both in programs at First and in many outreach programs.

Raina Roemhildt (member since 2017)

Raina is thankful to God for her sister Rebekah with whom she has grown so close, especially this summer. Raina appreciates the music at First; being involved in activities and listening to the choir and the bell choir. Raina has seen God at work in her experience as a camp counselor this summer at Celebrate Me week; everyday she sees God working in the lives of the campers.



Lathe Bly (member since he was baptized in 2008)

Lathe is most thankful for his family; they help him with school, sports and everything. Lathe appreciates the Faith Formation (confirmation) program at First, where he can be with his friends, he also thinks Pr. Chris is a pretty nice guy. Lathe sees God at work at First when people help one another and serve others at the Food Shelf.



Dorothy Lutz (member for 76 years, since 1946!)

Dorothy is thankful for her family and for her church home at First; everyone is always so willing to help one another. Dorothy was married in the old church and now appreciates the new church which is so beautiful. She also appreciates the music and art, and her Prayer Partner. Dorothy sees God at work in worship; especially in Holy Communion where God grants forgiveness of sin.

John Holte (member since 1976)

As a scientist, John is thankful for the vast and wondrous creation that God has created and sustains. John appreciates the presentation of God's Word at First and the congregation's proclamation to love one's neighbor and share what God has blessed us with. John sees God at work in the God's Work - Our Hands day of service. He also sees God at work in ELCA World Hunger, justice issues, and the Green Committee.



Grace Timm (member since her baptism and as a confirmed member since 2021)

Grace is thankful for this faith community where she is very active and where she has many friends. Grace appreciates the First Lutheran faith community where she has a sense of belonging. She appreciates the pastors, and especially Emily Bruflat, our Director of Music Ministry. Grace sees God at work in the willingness of people to help one another; one example is how Sharon Malm helps with making confirmation stoles.

Laird Bly (member his whole life - since he was baptized)

Laird is thankful for his family; they help him with stuff and they feed him. Laird appreciates all the good friends he has at First; he walks in the parade with them and goes to Bible Camp with them Laird sees God at work at First through the people who are so kind and welcoming, which helps him to be kind and welcoming.

Barbara Wilkinson (member for 52 years, since 1970)

Barbara is thankful for the people in her life; her parents, husband, daughters and her extended family and the church home that First has given her. Barbara appreciates worship, the music ministry, choirs, organists, and of course the pastors! Barbara sees God's work as people care for one another in both joy and in sorrow; being good stewards of the blessings God gives us all. She also sees God at work in our efforts to care for the planet and correct injustice.

Bruce Gray (member for 45 years, since 1977)

Bruce is thankful for his loving wife of 65 years, Sue, his family and for all the ministries of First, especially the pastors and the music. Bruce appreciates the ecumenical and interfaith work of First. He recalls when the congregation helped to settle a Vietnamese family in St. Peter many years ago. Bruce sees God at work in the Direct Giving opportunity which enables him and Sue to support the ministries of First without having to remember to write a check or even be at worship to place an envelope in the offering plate. He and Sue sit in the front pew every Sunday; if you have any questions about Direct Giving, just come and find them!

Rebekah Roemhildt (member since 2017)

Rebekah is thankful for all the blessings she finds in life, especially the creativity that God has blessed her with, without that there is so much she would not be able to do. Rebekah appreciates worship at First and how there are so many ways for people to get involved in the congregation. Rebekah sees God at work as lives are saved and as people are touched by God.

Worship Notes

October 23: Celebration Sunday!

We conclude our Season of Stewardship with a special Celebration Sunday! It is asked that you bring your pledge card if you have not already turned it in.

October 30: Reformation Sunday

We come together on this festival Sunday to celebrate Reformation. You are invited to wear **RED** on this special day!

Looking Ahead to November 6: All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday falls on the first Sunday in November each year. You are invited to bring a photo or small keepsake of a loved one to display during worship, and you will have the opportunity to light a candle for them.

We welcome four substitute musicians this month: David Fienen, Steve Kidder, Sharon Malm, and Sophie

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIRST'S FRUITS



SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

Reformation Sunday



October 30, 2022 + First Lutheran Church

Martinez! A big thank you to these people for leading the music during our worship!

In conjunction with the Health Advisory Team, we would like to remind everyone to please be mindful of your health and how it may impact others. If you believe you may have been exposed, masking up will keep others safer, and please get tested. If you're positive, please quarantine - but come back once you're safe enough to do so! Using these simple precautions are some of the best ways to show others that we care about them.

"The Kitchen": Volunteers Needed

The Kitchen was a program that operated out of Trinity Lutheran church for 10 years prior to the Covid -19 pandemic and served a free dinner to up to 125 people every Monday evening. People served included the elderly, neighborhood children and families of St. Peter. A committee of representatives from Trinity Lutheran, Union Presbyterian, First Lutheran and The Church of St. Peter have been meeting twice a month to get this worthwhile program up and running again. The committee has been busy working on creating a flyer to describe the program, raising funds through grant writing and solicitation, and making community contacts to help get the word out about the program.

"The Kitchen" will be hosting its first dinner on October 24th. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30. "The Kitchen" will provide many opportunities for service. Volunteers will be needed to cook and serve the meals, set up the dining area, and clean up following each meal. A website is being set up to provide an on-line sign up for volunteers. At this time, we are hoping that 4 individuals from First Lutheran Church will volunteer to plan and cook one meal each month. If you are interested in helping in this way, please contact Marilyn Kochsiek (marilynkochsiek@gmail.com) or members of the Social Justice Committee.

Social Justice Committee News: Out & About in the Community

September was full of activity out in the community! A big thank you to all who participated!!



On September 10 we participated in the Jessica Flatequal Memorial Pride Parade in downtown Mankato as part of the weekend's Pride festivities. Joining in were Pastor Chris Culuris, Shanon Nowell, Betsy Paul, Amy and Stefan Ronnkvist (and puppies), Jack, Mary and Michael Spear, and Barb Wilkinson.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday: Clean Up at Union Street



A hard-working crew set out to Union Street Place for God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We spruced up the outside of the grounds by washing windows and doing yard work. Some of us also spent time talking to a couple of the residents and that was God's work too. Our crew included Lynn and Steve Kidder, Ted Kunze, Shanon Nowell, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, Bob Stenson, Mike and Diane Stewart, Tom Thorkelson and Barb Wilkinson,



Thank You

To the Congregation,

I want to thank everyone for the many prayers for my sister, Nancy Maag. She has been on the prayer list for about a year and is home recuperating from removal of a malignant tumor.

She is doing well.

Betty Thompson

Church Financials 9/30/22

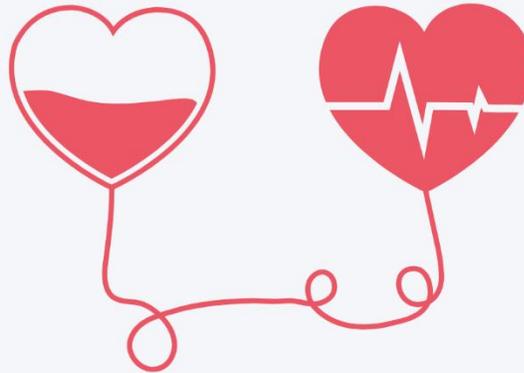
Income \$270,088

Expense \$284,541

Net (\$14,453)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

SIGN UP TO DONATE ONLINE

<https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>

SOUP COOK-OFF & DESSERT AUCTION

Soup/Chilli Entry

Dessert Entry

Recipe Name

Your Name

E-Mail

Phone

Please Indicate if your recipe includes any of the following allergens:

Gluten/Wheat

Tree Nuts

Dairy

Peanuts

Eggs

Soy

Fish

Crustacean/
Shellfish

Calling all Cooks! We are now taking entries for the First Lutheran, First Annual Soup Cook-Off and Dessert Auction. On November 20th, immediately after church, members can join us in the dining hall to sample the entered soups/chilis. Attendees will be voting with their spare change and dollar bills. The cook whose soup raises the most money will win the coveted Ladle trophy.

While you are sampling the soups, please look over the auction table and be ready to bid on your choice of the available desserts to take home. That means we are also calling for First Lutheran bakers! Please donate a dessert (cake, pie, or other dessert) for the auction.

All proceeds from the event will go to the church's General Fund. Please join us for this fun new tradition at First Lutheran. A little bit of good natured "Lutheran" competition never hurt anyone! The Ladle Trophy will travel from winner to winner each year.

If you are interested in entering a soup or donating a dessert, please complete the Entry Form below. Forms can be turned into Angela in the office or placed in the offering plate. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Timm 507-340-0846 or iquilt4love@yahoo.com

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

FIRST FORUMS

getting the discussion going!

OCTOBER 2: DAVE PEDERSEN

COMPANION CONFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

OCTOBER 16: CHRIS PAUL

WILLS & ESTATE PLANNING

BOTH FORUMS WILL BE AT 11AM

(FOLLOWING WORSHIP) IN THE DINING HALL

