



Connecting people to God and to each other.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONNECT We warmly welcome and invite everyone to participate and engage in ministry, with a special focus on hospitality, small group ministry, and service.

WORSHIP We strive for worship to be invitational, contagious, and relational. We want more people to hear the message of Jesus, and we will do anything to erase any barrier that prohibits people from a spirit of worship.

IMPACT We will make a difference in this world as Jesus-followers. We will engage in impactful acts of service, encourage generosity, and strive to leave a long-lasting impact on the next generation.

CONNECT | WORSHIP | IMPACT

Welcome!
We are glad you're here.

619 Broadway N, Fargo ND | 701.235.7389
flcfargo.org | info@flcfargo.org
Wi-Fi: FLCGuest, password: FLC@0619

WELCOME TO CELEBRATION WORSHIP

SUNDAY - 9 & 10:30 A.M. | MARCH 8, 2026

WELCOME

SONGS:

Battle Belongs
Free Amen

CONFESSION

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:1-8

MESSAGE: Pastor Marty Tollefson

OFFERING

SONG: *The Jesus Way*

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SONG: *Everlasting God*



BAPTISM (10:30 a.m.)

Finn Eugene Soyving
son of
Emily and Alex Soyving

WELCOME TO SANCTUARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY - 9:30 A.M. | MARCH 8, 2026

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and giving, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Thursday. It helps Christians prepare their hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. Purple is the color of Lent, a time for reflection and spiritual growth. It reminds us of both the suffering and the kingship of Christ, pointing to His passion, resurrection, and the call for us to renew our lives.

BELLISSIMO BELL CHOIR PRELUDE:

Beneath the Cross of Jesus – Susan Geschke
Bill Tweten, director

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER & INVOCATION

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Moment for silent reflection

L: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the

entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: (Green Hymnal #507)

How Firm a Foundation

CATHEDRAL ANTHEM:

O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort – arr. Carl Stein
David Ferreira, director; Bill Tweten, accompanist

GREETING & KYRIE: (Green Hymnal pg. 78)

HYMN OF PRAISE: (Green Hymnal pg. 81)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Let us pray,

C: Dear Lord, thank You for being a loving Father rather than an unjust judge. You are compassionate, attentive, and hear every cry. Like the widow in Your word, I pray for the strength to persist in prayer and not to lose heart, even when answers seem delayed, trusting in Your timing and Your justice. In your name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE: (Scott Engum)

Psalm 121

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Green Hymnal pg. 83)

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-18

MESSAGE: Pastor Marty Tollefson

HYMN OF THE DAY: (Blue Hymnal #737)

There Is a Balm in Gilead

APOSTLES' CREED (Green Hymnal pg. 85)

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN: (Green Hymnal #479)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OFFERTORY HYMN: (Green Hymnal pg. 96)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (congregation sings)
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN: (Green Hymnal #534)
Now Thank We All Our God

POSTLUDE
Now Thank We All Our God – arr. Piet Post
 Bill Tweten, organist



***Large print bulletins available (see ushers)**

Welcome
 to First Lutheran

We're so glad you've joined us for worship!
 If you're a guest, please scan the QR to let us know how we can connect with and pray for you.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, March 8 (Daylight Savings Time begins)
 9 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
 10:30 a.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
 10:45 a.m. Adult Education, Adult Ed. Room

Monday, March 9
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Quilters, Adult Ed. Room

Tuesday, March 10
 8 - 9 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Luther Room
 1 - 3 p.m. Knit and Crochet Group, Bethany
 2 - 3:30 p.m. Fit & Strong Exercise for Seniors, Gym
 5:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, Gym
 7 - 8:30 p.m. Women's Group, Adult Ed. Room

Wednesday, March 11
 9:30 - 11 a.m. Abigail Circle, Great Hall
 12 p.m. Lenten Book Study, "The Walk", Fireside Room (lower level)
 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Weds. Fellowship, Chapel & Great Hall
 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Supper, Great Hall
 5 - 5:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
 5:30 - 6 p.m. Crusader Choir, Choir Room
 5:30 - 5:55 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir, Chapel
 6 - 7 p.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
 6 - 7 p.m. 56ers (Grades 5 & 6), Adult Ed. Room
 6 p.m. Worship, Celebration Center
 7 - 8 p.m. Confirmation (Grades 7 & 8), Great Hall
 7:10 - 8:10 p.m. Cathedral Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
 8 - 9 p.m. Young Life/High School (Grades 9 - 12), CrossTalk

Thursday, March 12
 7 - 8 a.m. Global Mission Meeting, Luther Room
 9 - 11 a.m. Helping Hands, Great Hall
 12 - 1 p.m. Small Group Bible Study, CrossTalk
 2 - 3:30 p.m. Fit & Strong Exercise Program for Seniors, Gym

Friday, March 13
 9 - 11 a.m. First in Mission: Friday Lunch Pack, Kitchen

Sunday, March 15
 9 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Mission Soup, Great Hall
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
 10:30 a.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
 10:45 a.m. Adult Education, Adult Ed. Room

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

THE WAY TO JESUS

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME" JOHN 14:6

YOUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

YOUR PASTORAL TEAM

Pr. Stephanie Tollefson	stollefson@flcfargo.org
Pr. Marty Tollefson	mtollefson@flcfargo.org
Pr. Jessica McEvers	jmcevers@flcfargo.org
Rollie Johnson	rjohnson@flcfargo.org

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Karen Carlson , President
Brad Keller , Vice President
Jon Erickson , Treasurer
Carole Schalow , Secretary

CELEBRATE PRAYER

We believe in the power of prayer. As God's people, please pray for these publicly-requested individuals and their families:

Bill Parker, Bonnie Lyczewski, Brian, Brian Tessman, Bruce Jorgensen, Chet Leverson, Claryce Iverson, Cora Lieb, Curt Tjon, Dallas Boatright, Darrell Moon, David Anderson, Dawn, Deb, Del Herrmann, Diana, Donna, Faith Simonson, Gene, Glenn, Greg, Jan Baldner, Jan Stoffel, Janice Ames, Jeanne, Jim Hulberg, Joanne Herrmann, Kay Maden, Kristie Sundell, LaMae Friskop, Laola Rakotomahenina, Larry, Laurie Bjornson, Linda Johnson, Lea Vacha, Lois Altenburg, Makenna Mattesi, Mary Ann Berg, Maika Knudson, Matt Walters, Mavis Bennett, Mike, Naya, Patrick, Paul Hulberg, Phyllis and Donald Sutherland, Ruth, Ruth Dunicliff, Sean, Selso, Sharon, Solen, Sonia, Susan, Thomas Berg, Todd McComb, Tracy

GENEROSITY



In-Person Giving: offering plate during worship
Online Giving: flcfargo.org/generosity/
Text to Give: Text "Give" to 833.890.5248
Mail a Check: 619 Broadway N, Fargo, ND 58102
Scan to Give: Scan the QR code



FLCFARGO.ORG

CONNECT - WORSHIP - IMPACT

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday - March 29

9 & 10:30 a.m. - Celebration Center Worship

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Worship

Wednesday - April 1

7 p.m. - "The Seven Last Words of Christ" Cantata by Dubois, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday - April 2

1:30 p.m. - Worship in the Chapel (Weds. Fellowship)

6 p.m. - Worship, Celebration Center, First Communion celebrated for 5th graders

Good Friday - April 3

12 - 3 p.m. - Seven Last Words of Christ Service, Sanctuary

6 p.m. - Prayer Around the Cross, Great Hall

Easter - Sunday, April 5

9 & 10:30 a.m. - Celebration Center

9:30 & 11 a.m. - Sanctuary

No Kids@First classes on Easter

LENTEN WORKSHOP:

WALKING STICK

Sat., March 28 & April 11

8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. | FLC Gym

"Thy Rod and Thy Staff, They Comfort Me!" Join Rollie Johnson for a

hands-on workshop as you craft your own diamond willow walking staff. Learn to shave, carve, sand, and finish the wood, with options for name engraving or paracord handle. Through guided reflection and Bible study, we'll explore the unique "wounds" in diamond willow as a meaningful metaphor. Each date is a standalone session - attend one only. Cost is \$60 (includes stave, tools, and supplies). **Space is limited to 12 per session.** Register and pay at First Lutheran's Welcome Desk.



5TH GRADE FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Sunday, March 29 | 1 - 3 p.m.

5th grade students and their parents are invited to attend this session together at First Lutheran to learn about this special faith milestone. To sign up, please email Gina LoVerde at youthadmin@flcfargo.org.



LENT SERMON SERIES: THE WALK

Walk with us this Lent as we follow the Jesus Way, stepping toward the promise of Easter hope. On Wednesday evenings, we'll hear from former FLC pastors.

Guest Preachers During Lent

(Years indicate their time of service at FLC):

February 25 - Pastor Bill Rindy (1998 - 2008)

March 4 - Pastor Corey Fuhrman (2000 - 2007)

March 11 - Pastor Craig Hanson (1987 - 2006)

March 18 - Pastor Rick Foss (1977 - 1979)

March 25 - Pastor Kristine Carlson-Wee (1998 - 2000)

GUEST PREACHER:

PASTOR CRAIG HANSON

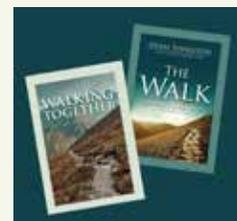
Wednesday, March 11

Pastor Craig Hanson served at First Lutheran from 1987 - 2006. After leaving Fargo, he served at Roseville Lutheran for six years, followed by nine years at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines. Pastor Hanson and his wife have four children: Anne and Heather, who live in Champlin, Minnesota; Mark, who lives in Chicago; and Matt, who lives in New York City. They are blessed with six grandchildren — Christian, Lizzie, Kate, Zach, Isabel, and Leo.



FREE LENT RESOURCES

Free resources are available to support your Lenten journey: We are out of *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton, but we still have a few copies of *Walking Together*, a 40-day devotional booklet featuring daily scripture and reflections, available at the Welcome Desk.



News YOU CAN USE!

Connecting people to God and to each other.

WOMEN'S RETREAT — BREATHE: MAKING ROOM...

March 20 - 22,
Mount Carmel Ministries
Alexandria, MN

Please register by March 11! Get away from the noise, deadlines, and endless checklists and step into a sacred space with God. This women's retreat is an invitation to breathe and to prepare yourself to make room for what God already has planned for you. Together, we will explore rest as a gift, an intentional time rooted in complete trust in God as our provider and sustainer. We'll make room for reflection, worship, meaningful conversation, and rest for both body and soul. Come as you are and allow God to meet you there. Scan the QR to find out more information (including details about transportation, lodging, and meals!)

Cost: \$200. Register and Pay at the Welcome Desk.

Questions? Contact Alyssa Holmen: aholmen@flcfargo.org



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays

9 a.m. - Celebration Center

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary*

*The FLC radio broadcast is on KFGO AM790 and FM104.7 at 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Celebration Center

Wednesdays

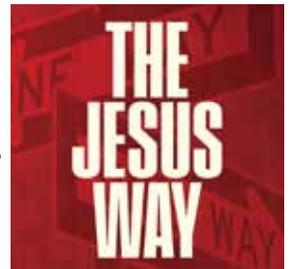
1:30 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship

6 p.m. - Celebration Center

SERMON SERIES: THE JESUS WAY

Sundays | Winter Sermon series

The early Christians referred to themselves as followers of "The Way," underscoring their belief that faith was centered on Jesus, who said, "**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me**" (John 14:6). This is a central tenet of Christian theology and is deeply rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures, which often speak of walking in the ways of the Lord (Psalm 25:4). For believers, the Jesus Way has profoundly practical implications for how we live a life of discipleship. The Jesus Way is an invitation to be transformed in body, mind, and spirit: to recognize our sin, repent, and live in the freedom and forgiveness of God's amazing grace. It is a way of connection—to God and to one another. In the New Year, we'll journey together through the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus' teachings are expressed through parables.



MEN'S GROUP WITH PASTOR MARTY TOLLEFSON

Tuesdays, 8 - 9 a.m.

Join Pastor Marty Tollefson for a weekly gathering designed for men who want to grow stronger in their faith and connect with others. No registration required.

WOMEN'S GROUP WITH ALYSSA HOLMEN

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. | January 13 - March 24

Join Alyssa for a Beth Moore Video-Based Study - *Jesus: The One and Only*. Come along on a life-changing journey which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the Teacher, across the lake with the Master, and finally, on the road toward the cross with the Savior. Get to know Jesus intimately, as though you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR.



ADULT ED. WITH DR. SEAN BURT

Sundays: March 1, 8, 15, & 29

10:45 - 11:45 a.m. | Adult Ed. Room

Join Dr. Sean Burt, associate professor of religious studies at NDSU, for a study on the history of the interpretation of the Bible.



MARKETPLACE FOR MISSION

Sunday, March 22 | 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Gathering Space

Love to support missions? Come to visit our pop-up store! We have beautiful and unique treasures from around the world that would make fabulous gifts. It's the perfect time to shop for Easter! All proceeds go to First Lutheran Church Global Mission. Thank you for your support!

MISSION SOUP

Sunday, March 15 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Great Hall

Enjoy homemade soup with family and friends! Suggested donation: \$7. Eat in the Great Hall or take your soup to go. Proceeds will support the Emergency Food Pantry.



THE NEXT GENERATION is not only the future of First Lutheran Church (FLC), but the vibrant heart of our ministry today. We are committed to nurturing a strong, faith-filled community where youth can grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and develop into leaders who carry God's love into the world. To ensure the continuation and growth of this vital ministry, we are excited to announce the NextGen Endowment Fund—with a goal of raising \$2,000,000 to provide sustainable, long-term support for our youth.



NextGen **ENDOWMENT FUND**

LENT "ABOVE AND BEYOND" GIVING OPPORTUNITY

PURPOSE

- Guarantee a strong foundation for NextGen Ministry with **stable, long-term** funding.
- Support retreats, Bible camps, mission trips, special events, and **scholarships**.
- Provide flexibility to **expand and strengthen** youth engagement in the Christian faith.

\$2,000,000 WILL ALLOW US TO

- **Offset the costs** of camps, retreats, and mission trips.
- Provide scholarships so **every youth** can participate.
- Resource and staff **youth ministry** for long-term strength and stability.

IMPACT

- Ensure consistent funding for youth ministry **regardless of financial climate**.
- Open doors for **transformative faith experiences**.
- Create a **lasting legacy** that empowers future generations to lead with faith.

HOW TO GIVE



Give between February 18 & March 29 by scanning the QR or at the Welcome Desk. Please make checks out to Lent Above and Beyond NextGen. **Thank you!**

Contact:

Eric Monson,
Generosity Consultant
701.368.8403
emonson@flcfargo.org

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US in supporting the NextGen Endowment Fund. With a goal of \$2,000,000, **your gift helps ensure the future of our youth ministry**. Contributions can be made as one-time gifts, ongoing donations, or planned giving.

In addition to financial support, we ask you to **pray for the success of this fund**, for the youth whose lives will be shaped by it, and for the continued growth of our ministry. Also, consider sharing this opportunity with others because every supporter brings us closer to our goal.

WITH YOUR HELP, we can reach our \$2,000,000 goal and provide our youth with the tools they need to succeed. Thank you for considering a contribution to this essential cause, and for your ongoing commitment to supporting the faith and future of our church community.



Easter Garden

2026

Celebrate the joy of Easter by honoring or remembering a loved one through purchase of a flowering plant (lilies and seasonal flowers) to beautify First Lutheran's worship spaces for Easter Sunday, April 5. The names of those being honored or remembered, along with the donors, will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please complete the form below and return it to First Lutheran's Welcome Desk by **Sunday, March 22**.

ORDER FORM

I wish to purchase _____ plant(s) at \$20 each.

Quantity

Given in memory of / honor of: _____

Please circle "In Memory" (someone who has passed away) or "In Honor" (someone who is living).

From:

Name(s): _____

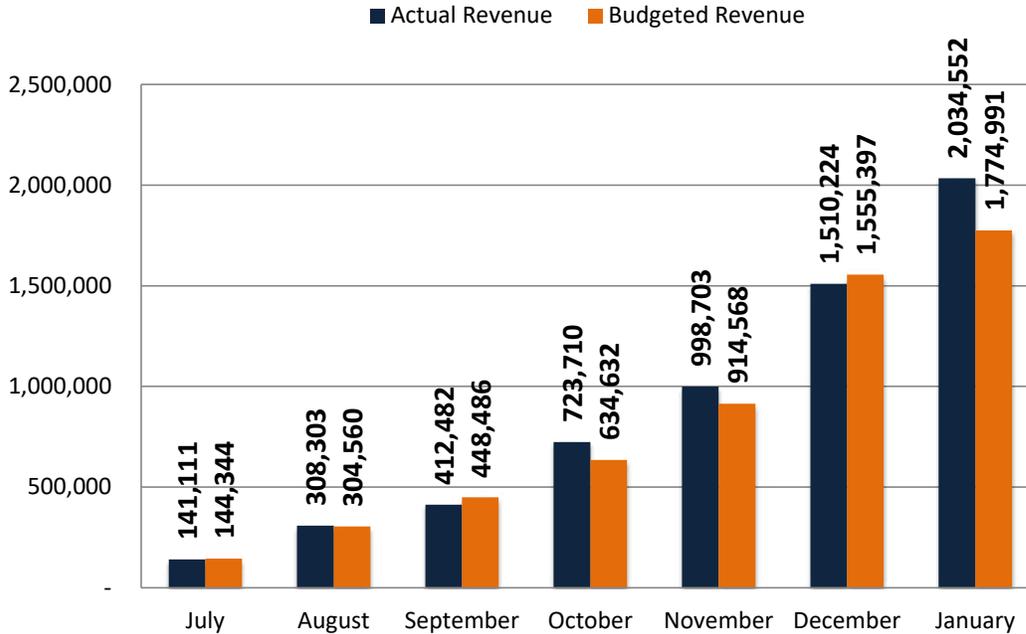
Phone: _____

Order Total: \$ _____

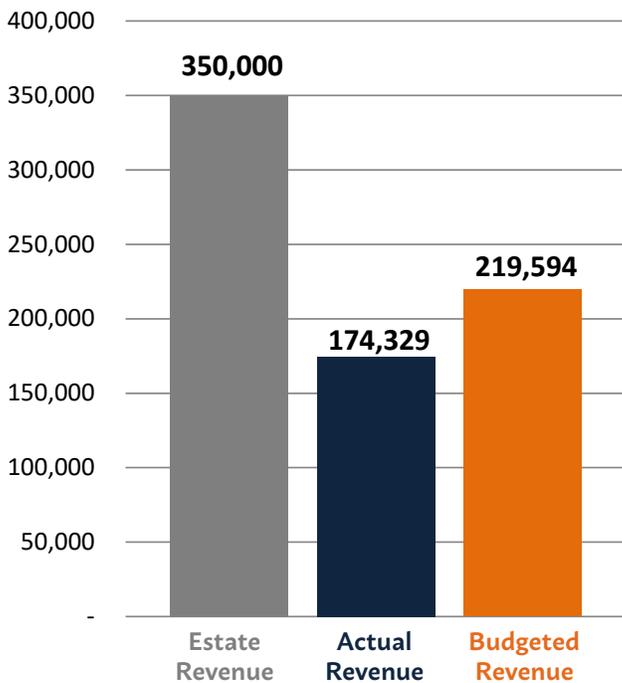
Payable by cash, check, or card.

FLC GENEROSITY REPORT

STEWARDSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS FY 2025-26 GENERAL FUND



JANUARY STEWARDSHIP



JANUARY MEMORIALS

In Memory of Joan Esser

for General from Janice Ness

In Honor of Oren's Baptism

for General from Eric & Hannah Steuck

In Memory of Pastor Bill Ahlfeldt

for General from Roger & Nancy Gress

In Memory of Pastor Jim Bjorge

for Global Missions from Ron & JoAnn Abrahamson

In Memory of Steve Morrow

for Youth Ministry from Bruce & Janet Meyer
 for General from Dr. James & Mrs. S. McDonald
 for General from J.S. or J.M. Lindquist
 for 2020 Club from Judi Ritterman
 for Youth Ministry from Kip & Diane Erickson
 for First Lutheran Foundation from Ruth & Gary Hanson

In Memory of Virginia Geston

for General from Charles Perkins