

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 Ninth Street NW  
Mandan, ND 58554

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Building Faith and  
Transforming Lives  
in Christ.

www.firstlutheranofmandan.org  
We're on the web!

ADDRESS LABEL

CARAMEL ROLLS

The youth going on their mission trip next summer have a special deal for you!

They will be selling caramel rolls on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Come early to make sure you get some!

The cost will be 1 for \$4.00, 2 for \$6.00 or a Dozen for \$35.00  
(\$2.92 per caramel roll when purchasing a dozen)



First Lutheran Church  
October Newsletter

October 2025

First Lutheran  
Staff

**Pastor**  
Rev. Phil Leer  
663-3594  
701-341-7784

**Pastor**  
Rev. Adam Barden  
663-3594

**Parish Administrator**  
Jackie Klein  
663-3594

**Financial Administration**  
Curtis Peterson

**Worship Accompanists**  
10:45 Jakub Pasierb  
6:30 (Wed.) Kathy Brandvold

**Bell Choir Director**  
Cathy Long

**First Lutheran Is A Mission  
Partner with Camp of the  
Cross Ministries**



Friends in Christ,

One of my favorite things about October is the celebration of the Rite of Confirmation—or the “Affirmation of Baptism” of kids (10<sup>th</sup> graders, usually) who have gone through two years of formal confirmation classes and other related activities (like the cool game Kama Hoovestol introduced to us all, “nine-square”).

I am especially looking forward to this year’s Confirmation Service (October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00), not just because once again this is a stellar group of young people, but also because I missed out on last year’s Confirmation Service because I went and did *the disaster* on our church chancel steps two days before that service. Ugh!! Such bad timing!! How can I miss this????

But as many folks have said to me since I did that spectacular and grotesque pirouette, no one plans accidents, except maybe the one that knocked good old Dr. Marin Luther to the ground in a ferocious lightning storm and eventually led to Luther’s role in galvanizing the Protestant Reformation—the event we remember on the day we traditionally confirm our kids: Reformation Sunday.

Thankfully, one of my good pastor friends, Kevin Nelson, was able to step in and cover for me for the Confirmation Service last year, but as I lay in the hospital with repaired, but brace-shackled legs, trying to imagine life without bending my knees for many weeks, my heart ached for having to miss that experience with those fabulous kids and their lovely families. And for not getting to say sacred and sweet words like these: *Father in heaven, for Jesus’ sake, stir up in these kids the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith, guide their life, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life (ELW, p. 236).* Watch over them, O God. Wash them with your grace. And please somehow take a slice of my heavy heart and transport it to that ceremony so that they know I am with them in spirit...

The day we confirm this year’s batch of kids will be the one-year anniversary of the ensuing surgery I had after that unfortunate tumble. As we all affirm the new life that baptism promises us that day alongside our young people, I will also affirm the new life that God has given me the past 365 days through my repaired and restored quad tendons, as well as the new depth of empathy I now feel for folks who encounter similar unexpected “stumbles” in their own lives.

(Continued on page 11)

Dear Parents & other Caregivers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders,

2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be receiving their own Bible on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the 10:45 A.M service & Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the 6:30 P.M. worship services.

Sons of Norway  
Lutefisk, Meatballs & Lefse Dinner  
Saturday, October 18  
2:00-6:00 p.m.  
Mandan Eagles  
Cost:  
Adults: \$30.00  
Children 6-17: \$10.00  
Children under 6: Free

Lutheran World Relief will be packing up all of their supplies on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 A.M. If you are able to help, please stop by the Fellowship Hall that morning.



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! The staff and council at First Lutheran would like to show appreciation and say ‘thanks’ to Pastor Phil & Pastor Adam by having everyone submit a card during the month of October. Baskets will be placed in the church narthex for your convenience.

Brenda Allan  
Church Council President

My last follow-up appointment with the Sanford Orthopedic team who put me back together again was a little over a month ago—and the only follow up appointment I have had with the actual surgeon who did my repairs, an athletic, youthful, quick-talking and brilliant young guy named Anthony Kasch, who doesn’t look old enough to be legally drinking an excellent IPA or playing with sharp instruments and a clumsy preacher’s severed tendons. But I will be forever grateful that he was the surgeon on call the weekend my life suddenly shifted in ways that I never could have dreamed of.

It was fun to bring him up to speed on my progress the past 10 months or so, since the only other time I saw him was before my surgery; one of his PA’s had handled all my follow-up appointments up until that point. Just before I left that August appointment, which probably will be my last one at that clinic, I asked Dr. Kasch if he had “any other advice” as we parted ways. “Try not to fall down any more steps,” he said with a wry and playful smile. I laughed and replied, “I’ll do my best.”

We then shook hands and said *Goodbye* and another chapter closed for me in a year that saw dozens of reformations of sorts for me—most of which included the words “squats,” “leg extensions,” “braces,” and “protein drinks.” And many of which also included my faithful, almost 90-year-old father (“Uber Dave”), driving me to appointments, babysitting me as I tried to climb steps with braces on, bringing me all those protein drinks and grilled salmon fillets, and dutifully delivering me the Bismarck Tribune to keep my oft-frustrated and oft-impatient mind preoccupied with current events, even though I know he sometimes wasn’t done reading it yet.

So now, as I keep trying to remind myself to follow Dr. Kasch’s playful, but serious, advice, especially as I prepare for Confirmation Sunday (and THOSE steps), I leave you with a little snippet from the most recent of the quite excellent two dozen or so “faith papers” I have received from this year’s wonderful group of confirmands. This is the last formal assignment we ask of our kids—to write a faith paper and hand it in to us. I encouraged this group of kids to make their papers as personal as they could. Most took me up on that offer, including this thoughtful young person:

*There are times when I struggle and feel distant from God, but I’ve learned that faith isn’t having the Bible memorized, or comparing my faith with someone else’s, but it’s about trusting God even when life is confusing or hard.*

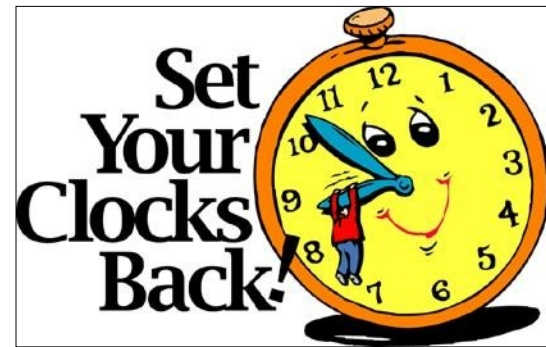
Be inspired by our young people, people of God. Be inspired! I am. After all, life can be confusing and hard at times. And sometimes we will fall. And we will need all the inspiration we can get during those times. *And a little child will lead us*, the Holy Writ says...

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Phil

Attention All High School Students!!!

LAF (Lunch At First) starts on Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come over and enjoy a free lunch. EVERYONE is welcome. Come for good food and fun times. We will be serving every Thursday (unless there is no school). Bring your friends and join us for lunch!



Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The fall gathering for the “Women of the ELCA” will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Beulah, ND on Saturday, October 11th. Registration the day of the event will be at 9:30am CT with Cluster activities starting at 10am CT.

### “Thankfulness” Baskets

We are collecting fall/winter/early spring items and personal care items for our homebound, assisted living, and nursing home residents.

Please consider being a blessing to these precious members by donating items, assembling baskets, and/or delivering them.

There are boxes in the narthex for donation items.

Questions? – please call Lori 701-471-9436.

### “Thankfulness Baskets”

**will be assembled & delivered on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

If you would like to help with assembly and/or delivery,  
please come to the

First Lutheran Church chapel  
after the 10:45 AM service on  
Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

# October Youth Page

Mark Your  
Calendar...



2nd: LAF ~ Hot Dogs

9th: LAF ~ Sloppy Joes

16th: No LAF

23rd: LAF ~ Pulled Pork

## Upcoming Event

*For Those Being Confirmed this October:*

*DON'T FORGET*

### Confirmation Rehearsal & Pictures

**will be Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 for all 10th graders.**

**The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 P.M.**



## Christmas Poinsettias

The youth of our church are selling poinsettias, which will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The flowers can be picked up after the last Christmas Eve service. The price for each plant is \$17.00.

**Please place orders by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We cannot accept late orders.** Order forms are available in the narthex and can be turned in with your offering, to the church office, or dropped in the mail.



Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Brandon Anderson & Jessica Goetz  
Daron Hohbein & Hanna Borner  
Jake Strobel & Bailey Schock

Funerals:

Memorial Fund

In memory of Barb Wegner given by Randena Armstrong.  
  
In memory of Cliff Berger given Ron & Jeanne Avey.

October ~ Mission of the Month  
Weekend Meals for Mandan Kids

Items needed are Chap Stick, Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Canned Ham, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Fruit Cups, Canned Fruit, Granola Bars, Cereal, Pudding Cups, Applesauce, Chef Boyardee', Mac & Cheese, Soups, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Pop Tarts, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Rice A Roni, Pasta Roni, Pork and Beans, Baked Beans, Pancake Mix-no eggs required such as Krusteaz Brand, Syrup.  
  
NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!  
  
You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!

Special Thanks

Thank you to all the greeters, ushers, communion servers, readers, communion set-up, coffee hour workers, and to all who have supplied goodies for the last month. Your help is greatly appreciated!



OCTOBER

Deadline for  
articles for the  
November  
Newsletter will be  
October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Worship Schedule

Sunday ~  
8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship  
9:45 am ~ Church School  
10:45 am ~ Contemporary Worship

Wednesday ~  
5:45 pm ~ Church School  
6:30 pm ~ Worship  
7:30 pm ~ Confirmation

Trunk or Treat is returning to First Lutheran!

First Lutheran Church is hosting a fun and safe place in Mandan for our area youth to trick or treat. Trunk or Treat will take place on Halloween night, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:30 P.M. in the church parking lot. Please prayerfully consider all the ways you can help make our Trunk or Treat Night a huge success!

**We need trunk sponsors.** Please consider sponsoring a “trunk”. You will decorate a car trunk with your business name or just a fun Halloween theme, along with staffing someone to hand out candy, provided by you, to the trick or treaters. If it’s not possible for you to participate in the event, you can also send a monetary donation to use towards prizes and candy for the children attending Trunk or Treat.

**We need volunteers!** This is a great evangelism outreach project for our church and its success is dependent of volunteers. Would you like to hand out candy? Would you like to be behind the scenes, hanging flyers up around town? Do you want to work in the kitchen providing hot dogs to the children? We will need a lot of helping hands!

**We need monetary donations** to help defray the expense of food, candy and prizes. If you’re not able to volunteer and would like to donate funds instead, thank you!

**We need you to spread the WORD!** Bring your kids to a safe place on Halloween night! Let all your friends know who have kids ages 0-12 that we are hosting a Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween night from 5:00 P.M.-6:30 P.M. All are welcome!

If you would like to participate, please contact the church office at 663-3594, for more information.



August	Aug 25	YTD	2025	Percentage
FINANCIAL GIFTS	2025	2025	ANNUAL	2025
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	60,267.36	378,894.43	634,158.69	59.75%
Total Disbursements	43,807.13	327,413.84	634,158.69	51.63%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	16,460.23	51,480.59		
BUDGET 2025				
ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET				
	Received	Weekly	Difference	
August 3, 2025	16,293.85	12,195.36	4,098.49	
August 10, 2025	14,745.44	12,195.36	2,550.08	
August 17, 2025	6,509.45	12,195.36	(5,685.91)	
August 24, 2025	20,702.19	12,195.36	8,506.83	
August 31, 2025	1,257.17	12,195.36	(10,938.19)	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 759.26			
	60,267.36	60,976.80	(709.44)	
BUDGET 2025				
DEBT RETIREMENT				
BUILDING FUND	Received	Weekly	Difference	
August 3, 2025	650.00	1,153.85	(503.85)	
August 10, 2025	848.71	1,153.85	(305.14)	
August 17, 2025	2,031.58	1,153.85	877.73	
August 24, 2025	622.52	1,153.85	(531.33)	
August 31, 2025	156.58	1,153.85	(997.27)	
	4,309.39	5,769.25	(1,459.86)	
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST 2025 *		ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST 2024		
August 3, 2025	119	August 4, 2024	148	
August 6, 2025	30	August 7, 2024	35	
August 10, 2025	130	August 11, 2024	143	
August 13, 2025	33	August 14, 2024	25	
August 17, 2025	159	August 18, 2024	124	
August 20, 2025	41	August 21, 2024	28	
August 24, 2025	157	August 25, 2024	126	
August 27, 2025	35	August 28, 2024	23	
August 31, 2025	122			
*These numbers do not include our online worshipers.				
Total Attendance for Month	826			652

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
Date: September 18, 2025

**Members Present:** Vice President Kenton Holle, Veronica Barnick, Desiree Reile, Travis Schmidt, Greg Grube, Tim Faller, Pastor Phil

**Members Absent:** Brenda Allan, Kristy Mindt, Pastor Adam

**Additional Present:** Jackie Klein, Curtis Peterson

- Meeting was called to order by** Vice President Kenton Holle
- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Veronica. Tim seconded. Approved.
  - Motion to approve the August minutes was made by Travis and seconded by Desiree. Approved. Correspondence:
  - Mandan Golden Age Club thank You for home delivered meals Devotion: Pastor Phil: Colossians Chapter 3, “Whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus,”

**Pastor Phil’s Report:** No funerals, 1 burial, 5 wedding (1 this weekend), and one baptism. Sunset Nursing Home service with Pastor Adam, regular hospital calls, some nursing home/ care center calls. Participated in the choir reorganizational meeting, confirmation orientation meeting and first gathering. Also, participated in Val Entzel Memorial Park dedication, Had multiple pre-marital meetings and rehearsals. Participated in triple-ordination ceremony at Faith Lutheran. Led Holy Communion service at the Baptist Home. Met with Maple View Memory Care Center to discuss monthly service there with Pastor Adam. Attended a 60th Anniversary reception. Meeting with Jakub. Attended Bishop’s Convocation Sept 14-16. Discussed providing Sunday morning Adult Ed between services and have been asked to assist in Sunday Church school.

**Pastor Adam’s Report:** Started doing solo visits to homebound and hospitalized members of the congregation. Three funerals at Weigle/Buehler Larson. Preached first sermon Aug 24th. Trip to Dubuque end of Aug to empty out the storage unit. Established preaching schedule with Pastor Phil through November. Started playing music for Wednesday Church School. Attended Mission Trip Meeting. Attended Bishop’s Convocation. Installation is 21st. Providing worship service for Maple View Memory Care. Working on finding an apartment/town home.

- Financial Report:** Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.
- A motion was made to approve the August financial report as presented was made by Tim. Seconded by Greg. Motion carries.
  - Curtis will do research on different credit card options so we can get Pastor Adam on the account. On the current credit card, you can only have 3 people on the account.
  - CD will mature on Oct 14th. Tim made a motion to renew the CD with interest. Travis seconded. Motion carries.

- Jackie’s Report:**
- Boiler room door is getting painted and will be put in late this week or early next week.
  - Gutters on the east side may need to be looked at. Seems to be leaking between the gutter and the building and not draining. It is pouring over the top. The council will take a look and go from there.

Team Reports:

- Executive Team: All items covered in the agenda
- Worship Team: 2 services at 8:30 & 10:45am resumed Sept 14th and Wednesday service went back to 6:30pm on Sept 17th
- Evangelism & Outreach: LAF will start October 2nd.
- Property Management: See
- Old Business for updates.
- Stewardship: nothing new to report • Youth & Parish Education: See New Business

Old Business:

- Pastor Call/Call Committee – Welcome, Pastor Adam. Installation will be Sept 21st at both services. Snack in between services in Fellowship Hall. Quarterly meeting will be held the first week of Oct to check in with Pastor Adam to see how it's going.
- Property projects – Engineers survey of the retaining wall should have the report back by the end of September.
- West sidewalk – Northwest Contracting was here to look at it. No report from them yet.
- Missouri Slope relationship – keeping open communication. The Gala is coming up Sept. 27th at the Radisson Ballroom
- Jakob’s contract/plans – new contract signed. Praise Team and 10:45 service will be main priorities
- Boiler Room door – see Jackie’s report
- Rally Day – it was a good day. Discussed if we should move it to the park next year. We should think about reserving the park sooner rather than later because it does get booked.

New Business:

- Pastor Adam’s installation is this Sunday the 21st at both services. We will have cake in between services
- HIT cleaning services – had their first week. It went very well. They are so happy to be here.
- Choir director and accompanist pay – Travis made a motion to pay \$40 for accompanying/directing the choir per service and \$80 each per rehearsal. Tim seconded.
- Window Cleaning bid: Mr. Squeegee is \$1300 to clean every window and screen. Travis made a motion to accept the bid. Greg seconded. Motion carries.
- Floor scrubber bids: Received a couple bids. Steins \$6100. Second bid is from D & E supply at \$4300. Both would not fit under the tables without moving them. We will have Jackie talk to the HIT supervisor and see if they can move the tables to see which one we go with. Question was asked if there is maybe something smaller as well to get under the tables without moving them. A motion was made by Tim to go with the \$4300 machine if we go with one of them with further consideration. Travis seconded. Motion carries.
- Travis made a motion to pay into Jackie’s retirement account dated back to 2022 for Overtime hours worked that were not paid. This should also be paid every pay period and not at the end of each year. Curtis will work with Portico to hopefully make that happen. Greg seconded. Motion carries.
- Sunday School update- things are up and running right now with volunteers. Discussed forming a short-term task force in the interim and then work toward re-defining job description and finding someone to fill youth/parish education position. Not sure what that looks like right now. A motion was made by Tim to form a taskforce to develop our youth ministry program. Travis seconded. Motion carries. This will consist of 5-7 people. Kristy and Desiree will be the council members on this taskforce and meet with both Pastors to come up with the 5 additional members and get this rolling.

Next Meeting: October 16th, 2025

Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Desiree. Seconded by Greg. Meeting adjourned.

FOOD DRIVE

The Mandan Public School counselor has reached out to First Lutheran and asked if we could take a collection of food for their food pantry. **Please drop your items off at the office.**

Here is a list they gave us with some ideas:

Hamburger helper/Tuna Helper, Mac n Cheese, Taco shells (hard & soft shell), Taco seasoning, Bread/buns, Peanut butter/Jelly, Canned tuna, chicken & ham, Mayo & Miracle Whip, Canned Veggies/Spinach/Collard greens/Succotash, Canned Fruit or Fruit cups, Canned beans/Assorted (Black and pinto beans, Baked, Chili, Refried), Instant Potatoes, Rice, Tomato Sauce/paste, Canned soups, Canned stew, Manwich, Ramen, Canned chili, Pasta sauces, Pancake/baking mixes-just add water kinds), Cooking oil, Pam spray, Spices, Salt & Pepper, Chili/Spaghetti packets, Powdered milk, Pastas, Spaghetti sauce, Alfredo sauce, Noodle and rice mixes, Oatmeal/Cereal, Baking goods/candles/cake lettering/B-day decorations, Quick cakes/cupcakes, Variety boxes of small chips/Snack bags, Juice boxes, fruit snacks

