

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 Ninth Street NW  
Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: 701-663-3594  
E-mail: jackie@firstlutheranofmandan.org

*Building Faith and  
Transforming Lives  
in Christ.*

[www.firstlutheranofmandan.org](http://www.firstlutheranofmandan.org)  
We're on the web!

ADDRESS LABEL

## Strawberry Rhubarb Sauce

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup Strawberries chopped
- 1 1/2 cups rhubarb chopped into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice

### Instructions:

- Add the ingredients to a medium-sized saucepan and cook over medium heat until the fruit softens and begins to release its juices.
- Simmer for 10 minutes and take off the heat
- Pour sauce into a 2-cup mason jar

The sauce will thicken as it cools

This sauce is great on ice cream, cake or even in your favorite lemonade



# First Lutheran Church June/July Newsletter

June/July 2026

## 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

9:30  
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,

A few days from now (I write this on May 27<sup>th</sup>), it will be Holy Trinity Sunday, a day set aside every year to ponder the exquisite mystery of our three-person God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier; Wind, Breath, Spirit (take your pick!).

I am not preaching this Sunday, since I will be attending our Western North Dakota Synod Assembly in Watford City. So, just for grins, I looked back to my sermon for Holy Trinity Sunday last year, and it made me smile. Not because of anything brilliant I had come up with on my own for preaching that day, but because of a story I shared in the sermon from one of my favorite writers, the late Brian Doyle, who died nine years ago from a brain tumor at only 60.

Doyle was a deeply committed Roman Catholic, but he wrote in a way that welcomed non-Catholics like me into his playful, ecumenical, grace-centered world. I am different somehow (in the best possible ways) because of humble and brilliant people like this. What follows here—my edited version—comes from the first essay I read of Doyle's; I was hooked on his writing from that point on, and have most of his books in my personal library (he wrote a ton). The essay was entitled, *The Impossible Possible*.

Isn't that a great phrase? *The Impossible Possible*. Most of you have heard me use this phrase before; now you know from whom I stole it! *The Impossible Possible*. The impossible possibility that there actually is something more than meets the eye that goes on in our lives, but maybe especially in the sacred but seemingly ordinary act we experience a lot here at First Lutheran called *baptism*.

Doyle had attended a baptism (two babies, actually!) at his catholic church recently and the experience at Mass that day prompted this essay. He writes in the essay about how the "tall, gracious priest" had invited all the children of the congregation to come up to the chancel to get a little closer to the action, waving his arms enthusiastically like "railroad crossing gates."

(Continued on page 10)

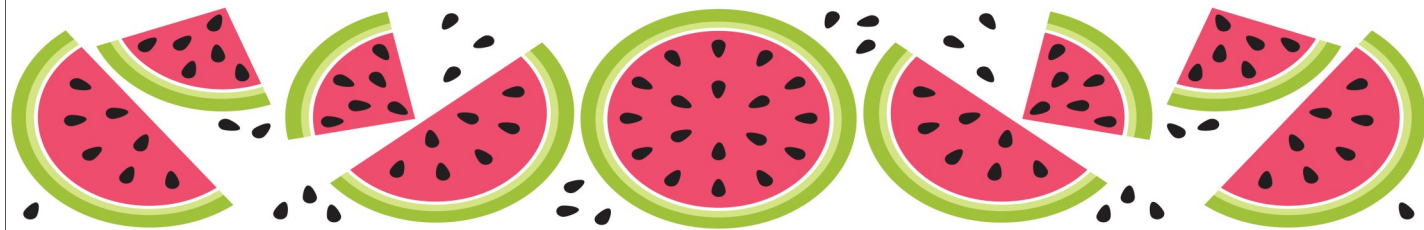


This summer our office will close on Fridays ONLY at 3:00 P.M.

Office hours for June, July & August will be:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00-5:00

Friday: 8:00-3:00



Thank you to Dakota Community Bank & Trust for grilling, providing all the food & serving LAF on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. It was greatly appreciated!



Congratulations to Gavin Fry, Michaela Kuntz and Grace Entzel who are the recipients of the First Lutheran Scholarship. They will each receive a \$500.00 check from the Endowment Fund!

**Congratulations!**

**Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> - Annual Prairie Lake Festival**

**Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Camp of the Cross Ministries.**

9:30am: Doors open to the Public

9:30am - 3:00pm: Vendor stalls open and available

9:30am - 3:00pm: Food Trucks re-open and available

11:00am: Live Auction to begin



Please plan to join us!



**Luscious Slush Punch**

**Ingredients**

- 6 cups water
- 2 ½ cups white sugar
- 2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored Jell-O mix
- 1 (46 fluid ounce) can pineapple juice
- ⅔ cup lemon juice
- 1 quart orange juice
- 2 (2 liter) bottles lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage



**Directions**

Step One: Bring water, sugar, and strawberry-flavored gelatin to a boil in a large saucepan; boil for 3 minutes. Stir in pineapple juice, lemon juice, and orange juice.

Step two: Divide mixture into two separate containers and freeze.

Step three: Combine contents of 1 container frozen juice mixture with 1 bottle lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage in a punch bowl; stir until slushy. Repeat with remaining portions as needed.



From the sounds of it, Doyle's church was a classic structure, like many of the catholic churches here in Mandan and Bismarck, with huge pillars on either side of the pews--probably at least the size of our sanctuary. Because, after the priest's invitation, the children had quite a way to go to get up to the front. As Doyle unfurls his essay, he focuses on one particular boy, whom he describes as taking a "full five minutes" to go the 20 pews or so to the front of the sanctuary.

The boy was maybe four years old, he said, and once he was out of his pew, had plastered himself against one of the walls on the side of the nave, looking, as Doyle describes, "uncannily like a tiny cat burglar, slowly sliding along the wall toward the altar, grinning at those of us who grinned at him." *It was almost as if the actual baptisms that morning weren't nearly as exciting as sweet, shy, surreptitious actions of this one curious little boy...um, cat burglar.*

By the time the priest in that church got to the actual baptizing of the two babies, the tiny cat burglar had finally arrived and had taken his place near four other kids who were crouched by the pillar closest to the baptismal font, "wary and absorbed," as Doyle describes. And despite all the distractions provided by the boy and the other children, the baptisms went off without a hitch, and the grace of God was once again piling upon the newly baptized and all those in attendance there that day: *grace upon grace upon grace...*

Doyle uses this great image of the tiny little cat burglar to then talk about how we are all like that little boy, or at least we all *should* be, any time we are in the presence of the holy mystery of something like baptism (or the mystery I preached on last year and don't get to preach on this year: The Holy Trinity). "All of us, cat burglars," Doyle writes, "sprinting or tiptoeing toward the sacred, thrilled and hesitant and awed and skeptical, yet unable to sustain our cynicism or denial, because somewhere deep down inside of us we know, there *is* sacred and there *are* miracles."

"And so," Doyle concludes, "we come to church and witness things like baptism, because there just might be a rush of sudden water that washes away despair and refills our hope capacitors, when we thought they were forever empty."

Won't you join me this summer, fellow cat burglars, as we sprint, lunge, dive, dash, or tiptoe towards the sacred; thrilled and scared but unable to resist the impossibly possible goodness of a God who adores us, smiles upon us at all times, and consistently shows up in our lives in many and various ways: water and word; bread and wine; prayer and song; trees and campgrounds; rivers and lakes; sanctuaries inside and outside; homes and malls, ball games and ballrooms; weddings and funerals; emails and texts; and well, hopefully you get the picture.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Phil (aka Rev. Cat Burglar)

# June/July Youth Page

Mark Your  
Calendar...



Upcoming Events



**Come join First Lutheran Church and Camp of the Cross Ministries for a fun 3 days!**

**When:** Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Who:** K-6<sup>th</sup> Graders (PreK kids should be going into Kindergarten for the 26-27 school year).

**Time:** 9:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

**Cost:** \$20.00 per child / \$40.00 per family

- We are asking each child to bring their own sack lunch with their name on it.

**8am-earliest camper dropped off (MUST SIGN THEM IN)**

**4:30-5:30pm- camper pick up. Please pick up campers by 5:30pm (MUST SIGN THEM OUT)**

Thanks  
Dad!

**Happy Father's Day to all the men at First Lutheran Church!**



**Pastoral Acts**

Baptism:  
Evelyn Kay Scheetz  
Ameer James Jacob

Funeral:

**July ~ Mission of the Month**

**Lutheran World Relief**

See page 9 for full details!



Deadline for articles for the August Newsletter will be July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Worship Schedule**



Sunday ~  
9:30 am

Wednesday ~  
6:00 pm

**Memorial Fund**

In memory of Howard Moldenhauer given by Leona Keidel (for quilting), Loretta White, Holly Stastny, Roger & Elaine Hackett (for Sunday School), Kathy Brandvold (for LAF).

**June ~ Mission of the Month**

**First Lutheran Food Boxes**

Items needed are Chap Stick, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Canned Meats, 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, 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!*

**Friendship Circle is collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief.**

Items needed: (for one complete school kit)

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth or nylon bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

You may drop off these items in the Narthex in the boxes provided.

We have to stay financially strong. The ongoing ministry of our church is dependent on the tithes and offerings of our people. Electronic giving is the best way to do this. Many of you are already on our giving platform. If you are not giving electronically, this would be a good time to do that. You can sign up here <https://firstlutheranofmandan.com/>. Simply click on the button on the right hand side that says "Give Online". If you prefer to make your gifts by check, you can drop it off at the church or mail it to 408 9th St NW Mandan, ND 58554. Staying strong in worship, caring ministries, and finances are important as we work to love and serve.

OR.....

**DOWNLOAD THE "VANCO MOBILE" APP TODAY!**



**OR TEXT 8449340609 TO DONATE**

**If you would like to give electronically, visit our website or contact the church office.**

April	Apr-26	YTD	2026	Percentage
FINANCIAL GIFTS	2026	2026	ANNUAL	2026
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	48,088.31	212,880.85	665,225.95	32.00%
Total Disbursements	69,474.26	254,635.62	665,225.95	38.28%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	(21,385.95)	(41,754.77)		
<b>BUDGET 2026</b>				
<b>ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET</b>				
	Received	Weekly	Difference	
April 5, 2026	16,948.27	12,792.81	4,155.46	
April 12, 2026	10,449.27	12,792.81	(2,343.54)	
April 19, 2026	6,043.83	12,792.81	(6,748.98)	
April 26, 2026	14,646.94	12,792.81	1,854.13	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 566.56			
	48,654.87	51,171.24	(2,516.37)	
<b>BUDGET 2026</b>				
<b>DEBT RETIREMENT</b>				
<b>BUILDING FUND</b>	Received	Weekly	Difference	
April 5, 2026	898.69	1,153.85	(255.16)	
April 12, 2026	647.05	1,153.85	(506.80)	
April 19, 2026	1,189.97	1,153.85	36.12	
April 26, 2026	3,054.88	1,153.85	1,901.03	
	5,790.59	4,615.40	1,175.19	
<b>IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL 2026*</b>		<b>ATTENDANCE FOR APRIL 2025*</b>		
April 2, 2026	241	April 2, 2025	75	
April 5, 2026	562	April 6, 2025	214	
April 8, 2026	43	April 9, 2025	83	
April 12, 2026	155	April 13, 2025	333	
April 15, 2026	42	April 17, 2025	200	
April 19, 2026	183	April 18, 2025	111	
April 22, 2026	81	April 20, 2025	557	
April 26, 2026	146	April 23, 2025	52	
April 29, 2026	53	April 27, 2025	196	
		April 30, 2025	89	
*These numbers do not include our online worshippers.		*These numbers do not include our online worshippers.		
Total Attendance for Month	<b>1,506</b>		<b>1,910</b>	

**First Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**Date: May 20th, 2026**

**Members Present:** President Kenton Holle, Vice President Tim Faller, Veronica Barnick, Travis Schmidt, Greg Grube, Lori Meyers, Sue Ziemann, Cara Mitzel, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

**Members Absent:** Kristy Mindt

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

**Meeting was called to order by** President Kenton Holle

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Lori. Tim seconded. None opposed Approved.
- Motion to approve the April minutes was made by Sue. Travis seconded. No one opposed. Approved.

**Correspondence:**

- Mandan Golden Age Club thank you for donations for home delivered meals
- Missouri Slope thank you in support of the M-Fund

**Devotion:** Pastor Phil: Pentecost begins on Sunday. 1 Corinthians 12. What is the spirit and what does the spirit do? Think about your own gifts that the Spirit has given you. Paul tells us that the Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives us gifts for the common good.

**Pastor Phil's Report:** 1 funeral at First, 3 non-member funeral services, Two burials, One prayer service, 2 baptisms. One wedding (non-member) and several on the horizon for this summer. Maple View Memory Care Center worship service. Weekly hospital calls and some care center/nursing home calls. Three Funeral planning meetings. Occasional Tuesday text study meeting with pastors. New Member Orientation. Had Confirmation end of the year fun night. Executive Team meeting this week and LAF gatherings almost every week (done until October). Meet with Pastor Adam every Monday. Worked with Pastor Adam, Berta Hambrick, and Task force on job descriptions for youth/children's ministry positions. Attended Grad party for one of our church seniors with several more this weekend. Attended Eastgate Funeral Home Open House in their new building. Attended Band Night parade. Uploaded Prairie Faith Devotions May 5th. Coming up – Synod Assembly May 29-31st with Bishop's election. Special thanks to Cathy Long and Loretta White for accompanying added worship services while Kathy Brandvold is on family leave most likely until August. John Weber will accompany more services as well. Praise Team on hold for now.

**Pastor Adam's Report:** First Call Retreat was Apr 20-22nd at Metigoshe. It was a great opportunity to be in fellowship with fellow first-call ministers and to get feedback on how things are going in our ministries. Sent drafts of the Youth job descriptions to members of the taskforce for review and feedback. Sent copies of the Mission Trip and Youth Group surveys to the Youth and Education team for review. Met with members of the call committee on Apr 27th with next meeting in August. Got a call from Janie, at Camp of the Cross. She is requesting help to get the grounds ready for the summer season. Coming up – Vacation May 26-June 1. Will be going to Dubuque for a friend's wedding and ordination. VBS June 1st-3rd. Working on scheduling youth ministry opportunities over the summer. Youth/Mission trip: Mission Trip is July 12-18. All pre-trip expenses are paid. Looking to have a high school mock-in Sunday, June 14th.

**Financial Report:** Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was made to approve the April financial report as presented was made by Tim. It was seconded by Greg. No one opposed. Motion carries.

**Jackie's Report:**

- Outside windows were washed Apr 24th
- Many dead branches on the willow trees in the courtyard. We need to trim the branches as well so they don't rub against the gutters.
- Tables need to be taken down by Weds, June 17th because Lifeline will be here on Thurs, June 18th. Leave 4 tables up with around 20 chairs. We will take them down Weds around church time. We will set them up back up June 18th before council.
- June 9th voting will be held here. We need to get tables down at the back half by the stage area. We will try and do it Sun, the 7th. Put them in the youth room.

**Team Reports:**

- Executive Team: All items covered in the agenda
- Worship Team: Nothing new to report
- Evangelism & Outreach: Nothing new to report
- Property Management: See New Business for parking lot bids
- Stewardship: Nothing new to report
- Youth & Parish Education: Met May 18th.

\*Sunday/Wednesday School curriculum & calendar of events – will start on Weds, Sept 9th and Sun, Sept 13th. Curriculum will continue as Sparks Group Rotation with finalization of the rotation to be determined at the June meeting with the calendar for the year completed as well in June.

\*VBS registration and needs. We will have up to 20 counselors here and they will be fed breakfast, lunch and supper. We have 20 kids registered. We would definitely love to have more kids register. Share with your friends and neighbors. The kids already registered could bring their friends as well.

\*Reviewed surveys returned for youth activities & mission trip. Most youth wanted activities on Wednesdays or Sunday with emphasis on fun activities along with Bible study. Mission trip replies not that the 10 youth that have participated in past mission trips want them to stay relatively the same. The other replies request mission trips within the area for short stay (1 –2 days) for youth to learn about a mission with a shorter, closer to home mission.

\*Job descriptions were presented for the two proposed youth positions. Each position is suggested to be 20-30 hours per week. Discussion was held. Maybe we should do 15-20 hours for the Director of Children's Faith Formation and 20-25 hours for the Director of Youth Ministry. See also New Business.

**Old Business:**

- Chapel chairs – Dave Wolf has taken almost all of the chairs home and fixed them properly. This will extend the life of them. We will talk to Dave and see if there is some sort of glide so they slide easier on the carpet. Thank you, Dave.
- Parking Lot surface bids – Lots and Lines sent a new bid without the concrete work included as requested and agreed upon last month. This has been signed and sent back to them. Kenton let them know that it would have to be after VBS is over.

(Continued on page 7)

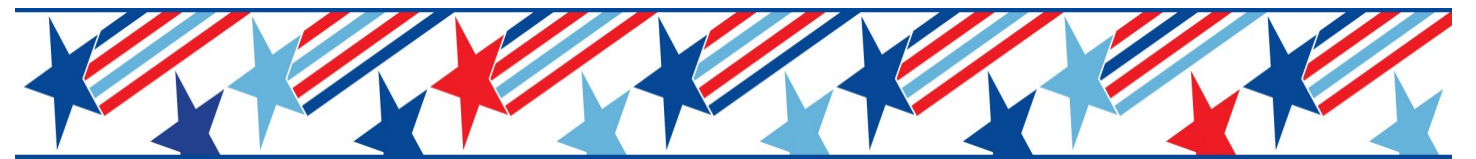
**New Business:**

- Carpet cleaning for steps and narthex and sanctuary. Received two bids. Danmarck carpet care for \$800 for narthex and steps down to the basement and Bar Bee Carpet Cleaning for \$1488.50 to include all available carpet in sanctuary, narthex, stairs and landing. A motion was made by Veronica to go with Bar Bee Carpet Cleaning to get the carpets cleaned. Travis seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries. Jackie will call and get this set up to be done after voting on June 9th.
- Felt tips for fellowship hall chairs – we have to send them back and get a different size.
- Property Spring clean-up – Carol Friesz has been here working. Dale & Deb Klein will be here doing some clean-up throughout the summer. Al & Lynn Bjornson were also here to help.
- Custodian – are there things not getting done that should be? Discussion was held. When things come up, the council is able to do some of it. If council is not able to, Jackie calls to get it done. Fix-It-All is one of the go-to places. They have been here before.
- Appreciation for volunteers for church school – Thank you cards were sent. Snacks brought. DQ gift cards given as well. We should plan to do something for all other volunteers as well. It may need to be in the fall.
- Curtis will continue to look at inactive accounts and look into combining them to the Building Improvement Fund.
- Salary for youth positions. \$33,000 is budgeted right now. We should post the Director of Children's Faith Formation position listed at \$16-\$17 per hour for 15-20 hours per week. Willing to discuss 10 month per year or 12 month position per year with applicant. This will be a permanent part-time position. Also discussed that we shouldn't post both positions at the same time. Tim made a motion to post the position for Director of Children's Faith Formation for 15 20 hours per week, at \$16-\$17 per hour for 10 months per year or 12 months per year as a permanent Part-time position. Greg seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries. Cara, Veronica, Kenton, one or both pastors will be present to help look at applicants as needed. Cara, youth member and both Pastors will interview. Pastor Adam will work on getting it ready to post and send it to Jackie.

**Next Meeting:** June 18th, 2026

**Lord's Prayer**

**Meeting Adjournment** - A motion was made to adjourn by Cara. Seconded by Sue. Meeting Adjourned



Women of First Luncheon will be held at Bennigans on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. If you are planning on attending please call the church office at 663-3594 as soon as possible so we can have an accurate count for them. Please bring a food item for the food boxes outside.