

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
We're on the web!

ADDRESS LABEL

Are you interested in a Bible Study?

Please call the church office and let us know. If we have enough interest we would start in October.



First Lutheran Church
September Newsletter

September 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
8:30
10:30
6:30 (Wed.)

Bell Choir Director
Cathy Long

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



Friends in Christ,
I was wrong. And I couldn't have been happier about it. Going on two weeks ago now, after worship that Sunday morning (August 16th), I met with one of our lovely couples who will be getting married in a couple months. The couple didn't make me nervous, but the crowd gathering outside the church during our time together *did*.

"Oh my," I wondered silently to myself. Has anyone thought about crowd control? Will there be a stampede? Will anyone get hurt going down the stairs into our Fellowship Hall? Will there be fender-benders in our slender parking lot? My fears weren't allayed as more and more people arrived at the church and started lining up at our north doors, some over an hour before the event began! *Oh my. There will soon be chaos.*

You see, that was the day a group of our First Lutheran women and a stray man or two were preparing for their first-annual "Back to School Free Clothing Drive," an idea spawned at a *Women of First* luncheon not long before that.

If you heard one of Corby Rachel's two recent Temple Talks about this event at the beginning of the past two worship services, of if you visited with someone who participated in the event, you know that for just six days donations came in and on the seventh day the group rested, ala God in the early days of Creation, as Corby playfully reminded us.

Six days, plus several more days to set the massive display of clothing and other items up in our Fellowship Hall, and then, *showtime*. And the nervous pastor upstairs continued to wonder and worry. And absolutely none of those aforementioned worries came to fruition. *Thankfully*. Chaos makes way for order, and order makes way for blessings.

In fact, the huge crowd (especially those who came for the grand opening at noon) was respectful, orderly, kind, calm, and most of all, grateful. So very grateful. It was an amazing event, and plans are already in motion for the second-annual *Back to School Clothing Drive* next year! Yay! Huge kudos to all who had a hand in this event or who donated items. Huge kudos! Yes, usually I am not too fond of being wrong. But that day I was: happy to be wrong. *Ye of little faith, Leer, ye of little faith...*

(Continued on page 10)

ATTENTION ALL QUILTERS:

Quilting is starting up again!! September 21st & 22nd and September 28th & September 29th from 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. You don't need any experience, just come and have fun. Bring a sack lunch.



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.

Women of First Luncheon will be held at Bennigan's on Monday, September 28th 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 may have an accurate count for them. Please bring a food item for the food boxes outside.

First Lutheran's "Lunch at First" (LAF) program feeds about 200 of our Mandan High School students each week during the school year! It's a ministry that has grown immensely over the past few years and promises to grow into the future. It's great to witness God working through our volunteers as they serve and our young people as they are served – all disciples of Jesus Christ!

It costs about \$670 a week to feed these young people.

So, we are asking individuals, families, businesses and corporations for some financial assistance as we move into the Fall. If you, your family or business would like to sponsor a LAF meal – it would go a long way toward funding LAF. Maybe a group of families would like to sponsor a meal ... and help serve it!! Whatever the case – let us know and thank you in advance for your contribution toward bringing Jesus' command, "Feed my sheep ..." to our high school students.

Church Picnic:



We will have a picnic at the **Eagle's Park** (shelter 1 & the indoor shelter) in Mandan-100 14th St NE, , on **Sunday, September 13th** following the 10:30 service. All church families are invited. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please join us for worship, food & fun!

Last names starting with A through M bring a SALAD & N through Z bring a DESSERT.

Church School is starting soon!!

If you have not already registered your child for church school, please do so as soon as possible.

Register on our website.

The link is [Bit.ly/26-27FLM](https://bit.ly/26-27FLM)

- **Rally Sunday:** September 13th from 9:30-10:15a.m.
- **Rally Wednesday:** September 16^h from 5:45-6:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday Nights:** Pizza available from 5:15-5:40 p.m. for a \$1.00 a slice



A few weeks ago, I preached on one of my favorite stories in the Bible, the *Feeding of the Five Thousand* (Matthew’s version), and in spite of great worry and incredulity from his disciples (**like me with that ever-increasing crowd gathering in our parking lot that Sunday**), Jesus pulled off the impossible, with a little help from his friends. Here’s how I wrapped up that sermon, with a few post-clothing drive updates. (The full Gospel that day was: Matthew 14:13-21).

After Jesus orders the hungry crowd to sit down on the grass, he does something that at first glance doesn’t seem all that remarkable, but on second look, truly is. *He looked up to heaven*, Matthew tells us. In that seemingly simple and easy to miss gesture you and I can find all the good news we need, to live the rest of our lives with hope. *Jesus looked up to heaven. He trusted that there was an extraordinary power at work in and through him that wasn’t coming from him, but was coming from somewhere else; from his father in heaven. And so, he prayed. Bless this bread, O Father. Bless these fish. Bless the hands that tend to these gifts, take away our doubts and fear, and feed the world with your love. Oh, and bless the first annual “First Lutheran Back to School Free Clothing Drive that will take place in 2026.”*

Maybe the true miracle in this loaves and fishes story isn’t the miracle that all those people were fed with five loaves and two fish, but that Jesus *trusted* that God could pull it off, in spite of all the doubts in the disciples’ hearts (**I can relate!**). When Jesus looked up to heaven in that moment of anticipation and expectation, he set in motion a pattern that you and I and all people of faith still cling to today, in any and all circumstances **like two weeks ago....**

Trust. Even in the most overwhelming of experiences; the most impossible of odds; the most ridiculous and challenging of obstacles. Trust. There is an extraordinary power at work in and through us that does not come from us, but comes from God. ***Just ask Jesus’ mom.***

*And when God looked out upon the wide expanse of grass that day **and peered into the future a couple thousand years in Mandan, North Dakota**, and saw that his trusting son was smiling, his faithful followers were feeding, and all his hungry children were eating, he saw that it was good. And now it was time for sabbath rest. And as he laid his holy and happy head down on a pillow of clouds, he said to himself, “Yes, this is good. Very good, in fact. **Free food; free clothing; free-flowing amazing grace. I like what I see, here on this hillside and there in the future in the hills of Mandan: blessings exchanged, souls touched, cups filled, hearts rising as if on wings of eagles. Yes, I like what I see. So on the 7th day, God took a much-needed rest.***

With great gratitude, surprise, and a refreshed and nourished heart,

Pastor Phil (still quite happy I was wrong)

September Youth Page

Mark Your
Calendar...



Upcoming Events

Attention All 8th & 9th Graders and Parents:

A confirmation orientation meeting has
been scheduled for **Wednesday,
September 9th at 7:00 P.M.**

**If you plan to start confirmation
classes in the fall, parents & students
need to attend this meeting.**

Register on our website.

We are also looking for adults to serve as small group
leaders; if you are interested please contact the office.

ATTENTION Confirmation Students:

Confirmation classes will start on **Wednesday, September 16th
at 7:30 P.M** for all 8th & 9th graders



**All Children Pre-k through 7th grade are
invited to join us for the start of our church
school program.**

**Sunday, September 13th at 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday, September 16th at 5:45 P.M.**

Please register via our website.

Don't forget:

**Sunday School
starts September
13th**

**Wednesday School
starts September
16th**

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms:
Bennett Daniel Skytland
Emma Lyn Isaacs
Aurora Mae LaFramboise

Funerals:
Vernon Vietz

Memorial Fund

In memory of Art Trautmann given by Marjorie Rendell & Janet Stromgren.

September~ 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!



Deadline for articles for the October Newsletter will be September 18th.

Worship Schedule

Sunday ~
8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship
9:30 am ~ Church School
10:30 am ~ Contemporary Worship
Wednesday ~
5:45 pm ~ Church School
6:30 pm ~ Worship
7:30 pm ~ Confirmation

PLEASE NOTE: Sunday, September 6th Worship Service is at 9:30 a.m. & Wednesday, September 2nd & 9th Worship Service is at 6:00 p.m.

- Church picnic Sept 13th at Eagles Park – The grill will need to be rented and picked up, drinks, serving and dinnerware items will be picked up at the church before the picnic. Jackie will order that ketchup, mustard, and buns from Sam’s. Lori is willing to pick up food. Kristy will pick up the hotdogs at the Cloverdale Country store. Kenton will ask Jared where he got the hamburgers last year and we can get them ordered. We will also check into other options as well. The permits will need to be picked up from Jackie as well as the key at the Parks and Rec office.
- The new sign with the updated service times is ready. It just needs holes drilled into it.
- Lori shared a text she received from Jamie Doll as a follow up from the Mission Trip. Discussion followed.

Next Meeting: September 17th, 2026

Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn by Lori. Seconded by Tim . Meeting Adjourned.



We just can’t wait to get together to ring those bells! We will be gathering Wednesday, September 9th right after Wednesday service at 7:15 pm. All ages welcome! Please contact Cathy Long 701-527-0548 if you have any questions.



Hey all you singers out there, we’re getting everything ready for you for the 2026-27 season. Our first practice will be Wednesday, September 9th at 5:15 pm. Please contact Cathy Long 701-527-0548 if you have any questions.

- **Youth & Parish Education:** Met Aug 3rd
 - * Sunday School will be led by Cara Mitzel and Britany Barden. Wednesday church school will be led by Kama Hoovestol, Berta Hambrick and Lindsey Novak. Confirmation will be led by Pastor Phil and Pastor Adam with help from Kama Hoovestol and Kristy Mindt for organization of activities/requirement. Second Grade Bible Sunday will be organized by Lori Meyers. Confirmation service will be organized by Kristy Mindt with assistance from Kama Hoovestol as needed. First Communion will be organized by Britany Barden with assistance from Cara Mitzel.
 - *Youth Mission Group will meet Sept 2nd at 7pm. National Youth Gathering, Next Steps Mission and local missions will be discussed. See Pastor Adam’s report.
 - *LYO gathering for middle school is Oct 16 & 17th with high school Oct 17 & 18th in Mandan at Baymont Hotel. Pastor Adam will organize youth for participation with this event.
 - *Bible study for youth will be set up and started by Kristy Mindt this fall, Look for details in announcements once the date and time are set. Adult Bible study was discussed again as well. We are searching for leaders. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Adam, Cara Mitzel, or Lori Meyers.

Old Business:

- Pastor Adam’s AC – Pastor Adam said that it seems to working ok now. Pastor Phil’s AC has an odor coming from it most likely from the birds that like to sit on it. Kenton will talk to Greg to see who came to look at Pastor Adam’s AC and have that person check it out. Tim motioned to address Pastor Adam’s air conditioner in April. Cara seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Campership response – a couple people came forward. This will still be printed in the bulletin.
- Intercom- Should be updated soon
- Stage steps – these have been fixed again. There is blue tape holding them on for now.
- Furnace repair update – see Jackie’s report.
- Youth position news – 2 applicants were reviewed and it was decided to not pursue either applicant.

New Business:

- Church education update – see Youth & Parish Education Team report
- Background check, update on the process – Kama met with executive team for clarification on who would need the background checks. Her suggestion would be to use a shorter version background check for those that are not the main leaders. Tim made a motion to use Safe Gatherings for background checks for the main leaders and Oxford for all other volunteers. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Fall Property cleanup – There are overgrown areas that need to be cleaned out of the rocky areas and overgrown branches. The deadline should be at the latest mid-October. Kristy will talk to the confirmation kids to get some of their service hours done.
- Rain gutter on NW corner of the church. Tim talked about adding some rocks so it can run off without ruining the grass. Cara made a motion to add larger rocks to the spillway of this area. Kristy seconded. Kenton will bring some equipment to do this. We will figure out where to get the rocks soon.
- Food boxes need repair or replacement – Bill and Jonda Baer have stepped forward and are willing to get a Thrivent grant of \$250 to help pay to replace these. Kristy made a motion to have both boxes replaced. Sue seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries. Kenton will talk to Bill to get this going.

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First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
Date: July 16th, 2026

Members Present: President Kenton Holle, Vice President Tim Faller, Veronica Barnick, Kristy Mindt, Cara Mitzel, Lori Meyers, Sue Ziemann, Pastor Phil

Members Absent: Travis Schmidt, Greg Grube, Pastor Adam

Additional Present: Jackie Klein, Curtis Peterson

Meeting was called to order by President Kenton Holle

- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Lori. Sue seconded. No one opposed. Approved.
- Motion to approve the July minutes was made by Tim. Cara seconded. No one opposed. Approved.

Correspondence:

- Mandan Golden Age Club thank you for donations for home delivered meals program
- Missouri Slope thank you for donation to the M-fund for May, June, & July

Devotion: Pastor Phil: The power of music. Music touches the soul that words don’t. Shared with us about leading worship at Mapleview playing Alan Jackson music for them. Music creates a connection. Have you met anyone that doesn’t like music? Reading from Psalm 150” Praise the Lord. Praise him with the sounding trumpet. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Pastor Phil’s Report: No funerals (one coming up), burials, or prayer services, two baptisms (one this Sunday, too). and no weddings (working with 3 couples on pre-marriage instruction). Weekly hospital calls and some care center/nursing home calls. Maple View worship on 8/18. Occasional Tuesday text study meeting with pastors. Occasional weekly Thursday Pastor’s social gatherings. Executive Team meeting. Church School/Confirmation meeting with council youth/ed team and church school/confirmation leaders. Edgewood “lunch & learn” presentations. Occasional Thursday Men’s breakfast gatherings at Kroll’s. Attended Bishop Craig’s farewell on 7/27. Worked with our accompanists Shelby Prochnow and John Weber regarding expanding our music ministry this fall without Kathy Brandvold. Shelby is now accompanying on some Wednesdays, while John has taken on accompanying our Senior Choir and Praise Team, as well as the occasional worship service. Loretta has also assured that she will continue to help with worship when she can. Coming up: Vacation days 8/25-30th. Fall Theological Retreat with Metigoshe Ministries Sept 20-22. Bishop-elect Lisa Lewton’s Installation on 8/29 @ 2pm MDT at St. John’s Lutheran in Dickinson (unable to attend due to prior commitment). New Associate to the Bishop is my friend, Pastor Mike Pretzer. Mike and I were seminary classmates and colleagues in Rugby for many years.

Pastor Adam’s Report: Returned from Mission Trip on July 18th. Attended Bishop’s farewell at the Heritage Center with Pastor Phil. Praise Team met on July 29th to discuss getting started in the Fall. Excited to be working with John Weber as our pianist for the foreseeable future. We had our first practice on Aug 12th to start looking at materials. John will be available to join us for our usual Thurs practices starting 8/27. Coming up: Will be performing with the other members of Beer and Hymns band at Gospel PraiSing Festival on 8/23 at the capitol. Camp of the Cross board meeting at the church on Sept 1st at 5:30.

Youth and Education programming starts next month. Attending Rostered Leaders Gathering Sept 20-22nd. Sept 20th will be the first Sunday Praise Team will be leading music. Our goal is to play once or twice a month, Youth/ Mission Trip news: Knoxville Mission Trip went very well. We split into two groups for our service projects. I took 4 youth to work with the Thrive Organization (youth program with multiples sites in the Knoxville area). We organized storage spaces, created banners, and did landscaping in the mornings. Afternoons were spent leading activities and spending time with the kids. Jamie and Dave were with the other 6 youth doing landscaping work at a transitional housing facility for single mother families called Restoration House. They tagged First Lutheran on their Facebook page about our kids. The post is as follows: “Never underestimate what young people can accomplish. This week, we had the privilege of welcoming an incredible team from First Lutheran Church of Mandan, serving through Next Step Ministries. They stained fences, landscaped our properties, tackled silt buildup in a pond, and jumped into countless projects that will have a lasting impact on the families who call The Restoration House home. But what impacted us most wasn’t just what they accomplished. It was watching these students lead with humility, serve with joy, and work side by side to invest in a community hundreds of miles from home as if it were their own. To the students, thank you for reminding us that leadership isn’t about age. And to First Lutheran Church of Mandan and Next Step Ministries, thank you for investing in the next generation and creating opportunities for students to discover the difference they can make, today and for years to come.” I will talk to the Mission Trip group to figure out a day and time for them to give a temple talk about the trip. Next summer is ELCA Youth Gathering June 28-July 2nd. The informational meeting is Sept 2nd at 7pm for anyone wanting to go. I will also look into doing a local mission event for next summer that utilizes Next Step materials. This Fall, I will be organizing monthly youth groups for middle school and high school students. Sunday evening, Sept 13th, will be the first for 9-12th grade from 6pm – 8pm. The Middle School event will be Sunday Sept 27th 6pm-8pm. Future dates and times will be planned after these events. I will also be continuing to assist with Wednesday Church School music.

Financial Report: Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was made to approve the June financial report as presented was made by Cara. It was seconded by Kristy. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Our old Bravera credit card account has a zero balance. Curtis recommended that this account be closed. Tim motioned to close this Bravera credit card account as it is not needed any longer. Lori seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.

Jackie’s Report:

- Coils have now been replaced on the heating system.
- Is Greg doing pizza on Wednesday night again? Lori believes he is. We can check with him to make sure.
- Clothing drive was a huge success. It was amazing. People were so appreciative. Thank you to all who helped in any way. This is something we will definitely do next year.

Team Reports:

- **Executive Team:** All items covered in the agenda
- **Worship Team:** Nothing new to report
- **Evangelism & Outreach:** Nothing new to report
- **Property Management:** Nothing new to report
- **Stewardship:** Nothing new to report

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July	Jul-26	YTD	2026	Percentage
FINANCIAL GIFTS	2026	2026	ANNUAL	2026
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	38,450.16	344,254.83	665,225.95	51.75%
Total Disbursements	58,444.29	387,359.62	665,225.95	58.23%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	(19,994.13)	(43,104.79)		
BUDGET 2026				
ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET				
	Received	Weekly	Difference	
July 5, 2026	9,057.80	12,792.81	(3,735.01)	
July 12, 2026	2,810.22	12,792.81	(9,982.59)	
July 19, 2026	14,605.74	12,792.81	1,812.93	
July 26, 2026	11,407.31	12,792.81	(1,385.50)	
			-	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 569.09			
	38,450.16	51,171.24	(12,721.08)	
BUDGET 2026				
DEBT RETIREMENT				
BUILDING FUND	Received	Weekly	Difference	
July 5, 2026	735.69	1,153.85	(418.16)	
July 12, 2026	577.03	1,153.85	(576.82)	
July 19, 2026	1,061.25	1,153.85	(92.60)	
July 26, 2026	1,416.85	1,153.85	263.00	
			-	
	3,790.82	4,615.40	(824.58)	
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR JULY 2026 *		ATTENDANCE FOR JULY 2025		
July 1, 2026	45	July 2, 2025	46	
July 5, 2026	80	July 6, 2025	136	
July 8, 2026	26	July 9, 2025	81	
July 12, 2026	132	July 13, 2025	153	
July 15, 2026	33	July 16, 2025	36	
July 19, 2026	174	July 20, 2025	122	
July 22, 2026	40	July 23, 2025	35	
July 26, 2026	158	July 27, 2025	134	
July 29, 2026	19	July 30, 2025	32	
*These numbers do not include our online worshipers.				
Total Attendance for Month		707	775	