

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

408 Ninth Street NW
Mandan, ND 58554

Phone: 701-663-3594
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Building Faith and
Transforming Lives
in Christ.

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

ADDRESS LABEL

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, October 31st from 3:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M. in the church parking lot.

PLEASE LET YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY KNOW!

First Lutheran Church
October Newsletter

October 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**



Grace and peace to you all!!
It's hard to believe that October is already here! It seems like only yesterday that I was grabbing my guitar to play music for Wednesday Church school a little more than a year ago. Time sure flies by! Speaking of time, I can't help but dwell on the words from Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven". Ecclesiastes 3 is a passage that often shows up as part of funerals. Despite that context, Ecclesiastes 3 speaks to the complexity of seasons that we may go through at a given time. Fall is my favorite season due to the autumnal colors of the changing leaves, the cooler weather, and the festive air around Thanksgiving and Halloween. For my wife and for many coffee drinkers, it is pumpkin spice season. Despite the joy it gives me, it is also a transitional time. The beautiful falling leaves of red and gold are one of the signs that the trees are preparing for the cold frosts of winter. The joy of the Halloween and Thanksgiving Holidays are split by our celebration of All Saints Sunday, where we remember those that have been welcomed into God's presence in the last year. Each and every day, we take one step closer to the cold and darkness of winter. In our church calendar, it won't be too long before we switch out our green paraments for the blue of Advent. For some, this transition is a joyful one as we look in anticipation to the joys of winter. Others may lament the hardship of winter. Though it may be a while before we have to think about breaking out the winter clothes and our shovels, it can creep up on us quicker than we might expect. The same can be said of the other times in our lives. Be they times of joy, laughter, and dancing, or sorrow, weeping, and mourning, remember that the changing of seasons can come quicker than we can expect. As summer transitions into fall and fall transitions into winter, so do the seasons of our life transition into one another. Whatever the season you experience, remember that you are not alone in those times. For every season and matter under heaven, God is present with us. When we laugh and dance, so to does God. When we weep and mourn, so to does God. God is present as life enters into the world just as he is present when our faith journey is at an end. As we dive deeper into the fall, I ask you to take some time to reflect on the seasons that you are experiencing. Have they just begun, or are you already transitioning into a new season and time in your life?

Pastor Adam

Dear Parents & other Caregivers of 2nd Graders,

2nd graders will be receiving their own Bible on Sunday, October 25th at the 10:30 A.M service or Wednesday, October 28th at the 6:30 P.M. worship services. If you have any questions please call the church office at 663-3594.

Lutheran World Relief will be packing up all of their supplies on October 22nd 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.

Kenton Holle
Church Council President

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

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.

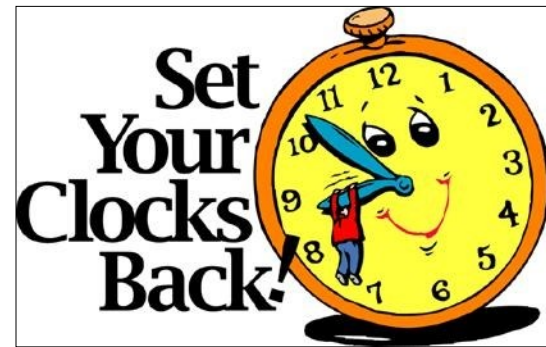
OR.....

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.



Be sure to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st.

Attention All High School Students!!!

LAF (Lunch At First) starts on Thursday, October 1st. 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!

“Thankfulness” Baskets

First Lutheran is 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, assisting in the assembly of 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 22nd, 2026.

If you would like to help with assembly and/or delivery, please come to the First Lutheran Church chapel after the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, November 22nd, 2026.



Mark Your Calendar...



1st: LAF ~ Pulled Pork

8th: LAF ~ Hot Dogs

15th: LAF ~ Sloppy Joes

22nd: No LAF

29th: LAF ~ Nachos

Upcoming Event



- The High School youth group will be meeting on October 11 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the church.
- The Middle School youth group will meet on October 25 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the church.
- Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering happening from June 28 through July 2, 2027, will open on October 21. Please let Pastor Adam know if you are interested in going on the trip by November 1!
- The Youth will be selling Butter Braids from October 7 through October 21. Please support our youth as they raise funds for the ELCA Youth Gathering and future trips!
- LYO will be held October 16-18 at the Baymont Hotel in Mandan.



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<p>Pastoral Acts</p> <p><u>Baptisms:</u> Skout Jo Skytland Paisley Mae Fishbeck</p> <p><u>Weddings:</u> Jaden Kuntz & Emma Dirk Isaac Fleck & Katlin Kelley</p> <p><u>Funerals:</u> Paul Heinle</p>	 <div> <p>OCTOBER</p> <p>Deadline for articles for the November Newsletter will be October 17th.</p> </div>	
<p>Memorial Fund</p> <p>In memory of Paul Heinle given by Dave & Kathy MacIver.</p>		
<p>October ~ Mission of the Month <u>Weekend Meals for Mandan Kids</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!</p> <p>You may put your items in the boxes in the Narthex. Thank you!</p>		
<p>Special Thanks</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Worship Schedule</p> <p>Sunday ~ 8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship 9:30 am ~ Church School 10:30 am ~ Contemporary Worship</p> <p>Wednesday ~ 5:45 pm ~ Church School 6:30 pm ~ Worship 7:30 pm ~ Confirmation</p>	

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<p>Trunk or Treat is returning to First Lutheran!</p> <p>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, October 31st from 3:30-5:00 P.M. in the church parking lot. Please prayerfully consider all the ways you can help make our Trunk or Treat a huge success!</p> <p>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 food and candy for the children attending Trunk or Treat.</p> <p>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? Do you want to work in the kitchen providing hot dogs to the children? We will need a lot of helping hands!</p> <p>We need monetary donations to help defray the expense of food and candy. If you’re not able to volunteer and would like to donate funds instead, thank you!</p> <p>We need you to spread the WORD! Bring your kids to a safe place on Halloween! Let all your friends know that we are hosting a Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween from 3:30 P.M.-5:00 P.M. All are welcome!</p> <p>If you would like to participate, please contact the church office at 663-3594, for more information.</p>		
		

August	Aug 26	YTD	2026	Percentage
FINANCIAL GIFTS	2026	2026	ANNUAL	2026
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	%
Total Receipts	45,072.08	389,326.92	665,225.95	58.53%
Total Disbursements	49,599.45	436,659.51	665,225.95	65.64%
Receipts Over or (Under)				
Disbursement	(4,527.37)	(47,332.59)		
BUDGET 2026				
ACTUAL INCOME vs. BUDGET				
	Received	Weekly	Difference	
August 2, 2026	9,013.00	12,792.81	(3,779.81)	
August 9, 2026	6,512.86	12,792.81	(6,279.95)	
August 16, 2026	13,542.50	12,792.81	749.69	
August 23, 2026	8,923.55	12,792.81	(3,869.26)	
August 30, 2026	6,509.45	12,792.81	(6,283.36)	
Interest Earned on Checking	\$ 570.72			
	45,072.08	63,964.05	(18,891.97)	
BUDGET 2026				
DEBT RETIREMENT				
BUILDING FUND	Received	Weekly	Difference	
August 2, 2026	578.00	1,153.85	(575.85)	
August 9, 2026	746.64	1,153.85	(407.21)	
August 16, 2026	3,509.69	1,153.85	2,355.84	
August 23, 2026	598.69	1,153.85	(555.16)	
August 30, 2026	580.54	1,153.85	(573.31)	
	6,013.56	5,769.25	244.31	
IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST 2026 *		ATTENDANCE FOR AUGUST 2025		
August 2, 2026	139	August 3, 2025	119	
August 5, 2026	62	August 6, 2025	30	
August 9, 2026	143	August 10, 2025	130	
August 12, 2026	41	August 13, 2025	33	
August 16, 2026	138	August 17, 2025	159	
August 19, 2026	42	August 20, 2025	41	
August 23, 2026	188	August 24, 2025	157	
August 26, 2025	36	August 27, 2025	35	
August 30, 2026	140	August 31, 2025	122	
*These numbers do not include our online worshipers.				
Total Attendance for Month	929		826	

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Date: September 17th, 2026 Members

Present: President Kenton Holle, Vice President Tim Faller, Veronica Barnick, Kristy Mindt, Greg Grube, Travis Schmidt, Lori Meyers, Sue Ziemann, Pastor Phil, Pastor Adam

Members Absent: Cara Mitzel

Additional Present: Jackie Klein, Curtis Peterson

- Meeting was called to order** by President Kenton Holle
- Motion to approve the agenda was made by Tim. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Approved.
 - Motion to approve the August minutes was made by Kristy. Sue 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

Devotion: Pastor Adam – 1 Corinthians 12 – Our gifts are given to each of us for the common good to help others. They are all empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Phil’s Report: Three funerals, one prayer service, one baptism and the 1st of 5 weddings is this weekend. Weekly hospital calls and some care center/nursing home calls. Baptist Care Center worship (do this once per year). Occasional Tuesday text study meeting with pastors. Occasional weekly Thursday Pastor’s social gatherings. Executive Team meeting. Rally Day picnic. Three pre-marital meetings. Attended Tennis match (Christen brothers are 1 and 2!) Uploaded Prairie Faith Devotion. Confirmation orientation meeting. Hosted Pastor’s gathering on 9/12 for Pastor Sylvia Bull from Faith Lutheran in Bismarck who is having a baby and will be on leave. Several office meetings with folks. Met with Pastor Gary Heaton who is moving to Iowa. Coming up: Fall Theological Retreat with Metigoshe Ministries Sept 20-22. Making plans for Confirmation Sunday on October 25th. Rehearsal and pics will be Sept 27th at 2pm.

Pastor Adam’s Report: Played in the Gospel PraiSing Festival with the Beer and Hymns band. Hosted Camp of the Cross Board of Directors on Sept 1st. Youth and Education programming has started up. Praise Team is preparing for playing on Sept 20th. **Coming up:** First day of Confirmation is Sept 16th. Praise team has the intention of playing twice a month. Attending Fall Theological Conference Sept 20-22nd. Sept 20th will be the first Sunday Praise Team will be leading music. **Youth/ Mission Trip news:** Mock-in at Peace Lutheran Church Friday Sept 18th. Three of our youth are attending. Held an informational meeting on Sept 2nd regarding the ELCA Youth Gathering and having a local mission event. 3 youth came. 2 have been on a mission trip. There was disappointment leaving the meeting about attending the Youth Gathering by the two youth that have been on the last gathering and have consistently expressed their desire to never attend another one. The 3rd youth was concerned about the timing of the gathering. Overall, there was excitement towards the possibility of having a mission trip experience locally.

Information about the Youth Gathering and the Mission Event has been sent to our youth and families that would be eligible to participate. Working on starting up a monthly youth group gathering for our middle and high school students. The high school group was scheduled on Sept 13th and no one came. The next high school group is scheduled Oct 11th. The middle school youth group is scheduled Sept 27th and there are 8 kids already signed up. Programmatic year is up and running. Confirmation orientation was held Sept 9th with classes starting Sept 16th. Church School has started this week. Overall, excited to see what the year has in store for our youth programming. There is a lot of energy and excitement.

Financial Report: Financial Report by Curtis Peterson.

- A motion was made to approve the August financial report as presented was made by Lori. It was seconded by Travis . No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Still working on bundling leftover donated funds where projects have been completed.
- Asked council members to bring forward budget items to the October meeting
- October 14th our CD is due. Rates are going up. We will need to decide what we are going to do with it. We can decide next month because it will be within the 10 day grace period

Jackie’s Report:

- Trunk or Treat is a Saturday this year. Asked if we want to have it earlier this year. A motion was made by Kristy to have it 3:30pm – 5pm and still serve hotdogs and chips. Travis seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Lindtech Services was here to clean the ice machine. They recommended getting a new filter housing so it can cool better and run more efficiently. They provided a quote of \$670. A motion was made by Sue to go ahead and get this filter housing replaced. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries. Jackie will let them know.
- Our AED has expired. It is 13 years old and only lasts 10-12 years. It can’t be used and had to be pulled from service. A new one is \$1998. Lori made a motion to replace the AED. Sue seconded it. No one opposed. Motion carries. Jackie will call tomorrow and get it as soon as possible. Friday update: A new AED will be here next week.
- Fan motor burned out in the cooling system downstairs. It smelled hot and thankfully you could smell it from the air circulating through the vents. It could have been a fire hazard. Central Mechanical checked it out and replaced it while they were here to change filters. Cost is not available. We have not received the bill. The approximate cost may be around \$600.

Team Reports:

- **Executive Team:** All items covered in the agenda
- **Worship Team:** Two Sunday services at 8:30am & 10:30 am have started. Wednesday service is back to 6:30pm
- **Evangelism & Outreach:** Trunk or Treat will be here before we know it
- **Property Management:** Nothing new to report
- **Stewardship:** See Temple Talk in New Business
- **Youth & Parish Education:** All programming has begun. Confirmation rehearsal and pictures are Sept 27th at 2pm. Also, see Pastor Adam’s Report for more updates.

Old Business:

- Property Clean-up – Lori did a great job around the property
- Food Boxes- Jonda Baer will put in a request to get Thrivent dollars to fix them.
- Picnic recap- around 60 people attended.

New Business:

- Wedding party request- a couple would like to have their dog be a part of their wedding ceremony. The wedding manual/pamphlet that couples receive when they schedule their wedding does not have anything listed about pets. The wedding coordinator spreadsheet does say no pets on the premises. Travis motioned to update the wedding manual/pamphlet to say that pets are not allowed at the church. All up and coming weddings will follow this new policy. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Youth Room improvements- this would include removing the couches, and getting some high-top table and chairs so it is a fun place that the youth want to hang out in. Dave Wolf is also going to update the tv in the room as well. A motion was made by Tim to use \$800 from the chair fund to use for the purchase of these. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Placing items of business on the agenda – Discussion was held. Should items of business for the agenda be brought forward ahead of time to the pastors or chairman so they can be more prepared the night of the council meeting? A motion was made by Tim to table this until the October meeting. Travis seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Temple Talk – talk about council size and stewardship. We will plan to have 2 or 3 before the annual meeting. Lori will talk about stewardship at both services Sept 27th and Wednesday Sept 30th service.
- LYO gathering registration is due by Sept 25th. The total cost to go is \$125. A motion was made by Tim to pay \$25 dollars per youth for LYO gathering registration. Sue seconded. Greg moved to amend this motion to cover \$50 per youth to go to LYO. Kristy seconded. No one opposed. Motion carries.
- Reduce council size - Last year we had the discussion to possibly reduce the number of council members to 7. Every year it is hard to get enough people to serve on the council. This could pose some challenges, especially if every member can’t be present. Also, 3 members go off and 3 new members come to council. We would need to figure out how to transition this part of it.

Next Meeting: October 15th, 2026

Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjournment - A motion was made to adjourn by Kristy. Seconded by Greg. Meeting Adjourned.