



First Lutheran Church
521 N. 8th Street Manitowoc WI 54220
MESSENGER

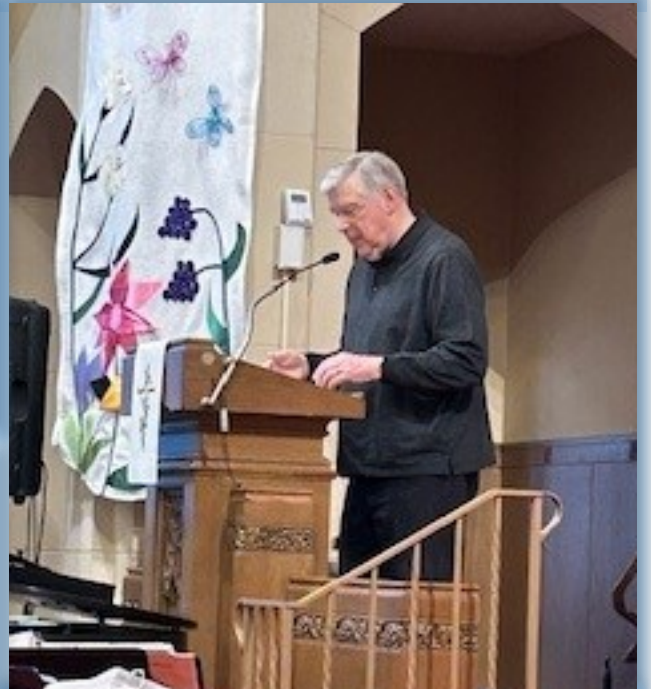
May 2026



Our God-given mission is to **Gather** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Grow
in faith and love,

Go out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ.



Highlights From FLC's Council Meeting March 17, 2026



Pastoral Care: We just had a funeral for Karen Kinyon. We are going to have a funeral soon for Lee Werlein. Note: the family is requesting a private funeral for Lee - family and invited friends only. Please honor and encourage others to honor their wishes.

Financial Report: To pay for the budget with only donations (no endowment transfers) we need 36,211.33 per month. Cash donations this month were: 30,320.18.00. We are still within striking distance! YTD (15,491.51) income is not keeping up with expenses.

Old Business: We approved the 2026 Facility Projects Proposed Budget and Items for updating our church building to move forward in mission. We will create a 2026 Capital Improvement Fund for the approved list of projects. We will recommend changes to the Bylaws at the next Congregational Meeting in April. There will be a Town Hall meeting after church on March 22, 2026 to discuss these items and answer any questions. We need to elect 2 people at our next Council elections at the Congregational Meeting in April.

New Business: The Congregational Meeting will be on April 26, 2026.

Please Note: All are welcome to listen in at the Church Council Meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, except in July. If you have concerns, questions and comments, please reach out to our Council President, Landie Van Haren, Pastor Andy or other Council Members.

A complete copy of the minutes, once approved at the following month's meeting, will be available on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room or in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Laham
Council Secretary

Gather. Grow. Go.

Do you know this is our Mission Statement? It was crafted and adopted about 15 years ago and has served us well. As we continue to renew our life together with God, it's time to give some thought to our identity and sense of mission once again. As we reconsider our Mission Statement, we'll be asking questions like, "What might God be calling us to?", "What is our vision for the church?" and "What values are central to who we are?" Please consider joining our mighty group of volunteers! Contact Brooke in the office to express your interest. 920.682.7742



WHO'S WHO

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Pastor Brian Staude
Visitation Pastor

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemporary Music Coordinator

Mark Sikkila
Organist

Brooke Prather
Office Manager

Patti Reilly
Financial Secretary &
Office Assistant

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: Yolanda VanHaren
920.860.5053

V.P.: Karin Jaeger
920.860.5053

Treas: David Bowman
920.629.5487

Sec.: Teresa Laham
920.790.0993

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education
Rob Michaelson

Christian Fellowship
Karin Jaeger, Sheila Hansen

Christian Outreach/Servanthood
Teresa Laham, Sheila Hansen,
Patti Fellows

Christian Stewardship
David Bowman

Congregational Care
Liz Foster

Finance
David Bowman, Nick Port

Marketing & Technology
Rob Michaelson, Kate Dorner

Music & Worship
Linda Jurgens, Lorene Jakel

Personnel
Karin Jaeger, Tyler Fellows

Property
Andy Jacobson



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

What Comes Next?

This is a question we often ask after making an important decision—and we have indeed made some significant ones. We've adopted a new approach to governance and approved several important facility projects. To keep you informed, we're sharing this update so you know exactly what comes next.

Governance

This summer will be a season of transition. During this time, the Council and Boards will continue meeting as they currently do while gradually stepping into their new structure and roles.

At the May Council meeting, we will:

- Elect new officers for council
- Give thanks to those completing their service
- Welcome new members to council

In June, the Council will begin scheduling our new rhythm of quarterly meetings which will begin in late August/early September. We will also have an additional fall meeting to approve a budget for the congregation which will be voted upon at our January congregational meeting.

Another key step this year will be forming a task force to review constitutional updates from the ELCA and prepare recommendations to bring before the congregation next year.

Property

We have already taken an important first step by signing contracts to secure pricing and scheduling with our project partners. A small planning group will continue meeting to coordinate project timing and sequencing.

The sanctuary work will require careful scheduling, while other projects can proceed more independently. While specific timelines are not yet finalized, we expect to share updates soon.

Funding

We are grateful to report that gifts have already begun coming in—thank you for your generosity and commitment.

At this time, all approved projects are fully funded except for the pew cushion project. Additional contributions will help reduce the need to draw from reserve funds. In the near future, we will launch a focused fundraising effort for the pew cushions. Once funding is complete, we will move forward with ordering them.

If you would like to contribute to any of the projects, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact Patti in the church office with any questions about giving.

Thank you for helping move this mission forward. Together, we will continue to “Gather, Grow, and Go” in God’s name—serving Manitowoc and all of God’s creation.

In Peace,
Pastor Andy



Gather
Grow
Go



Living by Faith

Scripture Readings



5.3	First	Acts 7:55-60
	Psalm	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16
	Second	1 Peter 2:2-10
	Gospel	John 14:1-14
5.10	First	Acts 17:22-31
	Psalm	Psalm 66:8-20
	Second	1 Peter 3:13-22
	Gospel	John 14:15-21
5.17	First	Acts 1:6-14
	Psalm	Psalm 68:1-10,32-35
	Second	1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11
	Gospel	John 17:1-11
5.24	First	Acts 2:1-21
	Psalm	Psalm 104:24-34,35b
	Second	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
	Gospel	John 20:19-23
5.31	First	Genesis 1:1-2:4a
	Psalm	Psalm 8
	Second	2 Corinthians 13:11-13
	Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20

Baptismal Anniversaries

Blessings to the following babies, Sunday School students and youth who are celebrating their Baptismal Birthdays in May!

- Brooks Shavlik
5-01-23
- Parker Valleskey
5-11-08
- Owen Miller
5-15-11
- Nelson Shavlik
5-25-25

Zoom Bible Study

Everyone is welcome to join the Zoom Bible Study group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 9am. Please feel free to email Betsy: blitzfarmers@charter.net if you would like more information or to be included on the zoom invitation list.

First Lutheran Church

920.682.7742

office@flcmanitowoc.org

Our Fellowship Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome to join in the Fellowship Coffee Hour after the Sunday service in the Fireside Room! See you there!!!

Book Club

Book Club takes place the third Wednesday of every month at 1pm in the Fireside Room.

Bible Study

Wednesdays with Pastor Andy 9:30-11am in the Fireside Room.

Grief Group

Group meets the first and third Friday of each month at 9am in the Lounge.

First Lutheran Prayer Chain

To join prayer chain or leave a prayer request please call Mary Gammelin (920.682.2250) or email mgammelin@lso.net. Or leave a prayer request by email to Betsy Auchter eauchter@comcast.net

Holy Communion Delivery

Members that are homebound or unable to drive to church, may receive communion in their homes once a month. We deliver communion on a short-term basis for those unable to attend services. Please call the church office to sign up. 920.682.7742

Pastor Andy Wendle

PastorAndy@flcmanitowoc.org

920.682.7742 Ext.104

Pastor Andy Wendle can also be reached for pastoral support on his cell phone: 541.490.6703

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Congratulations to these young people who celebrate their birthdays in May!

Blake Zipperer	May 8
Eli Beatty	May 13
Emily Rabitz	May 15
Alexis Denk	May 15
Mason Van Eyck	May 23
Alexa Kranz	May 31
Zachary Kranz	May 31



happy birthday!

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Here are a few of the ways we are out in the community loving our neighbors. We'd love for you to get involved! Simply reach out to Brooke in the office 920.682.7742.

Friday Lunches for Our Unhoused Neighbors - Beginning on April 17th, we will once again offer a hot meal every Friday at noon. How can you help?

- Provide a meal (or part of a meal) for 20 people
- Host a meal (help with serving, cleaning up and visiting with our guests)
- Monitor the door (Not a kitchen person? No problem!)
- Invite your employer, philanthropic group or club to partner with us. This year we will be inviting other churches and organizations to help out for a day by providing the meal and/or hosting the meal.
- Provide financial assistance to help with the cost of a meal. Simply write a check to First Lutheran Church with "Mission Fund Friday Lunch" on the memo line.



If you haven't helped out with Friday Lunches yet, please give it a try! There is a beautiful sense of community among the volunteers as well as with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

Community Meal at Lighthouse Recovery Center - We provide and serve a meal for 60 people at the Lighthouse Recovery Community Center on State Street the second Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

Laundry Day for Our Unhoused Neighbors - We gather at Globe Laundry, (1301 Washington Street, Manitowoc), on the first Monday of the month from 10:00am to noon to provide laundry supplies, bus tokens and shower vouchers.



Manitowoc W A R M I N G S H E L T E R

CURRENT FACTS

- 2025/26 Season over 70 served
- 12 Beds Only
- No Showers
- No Laundry
- No Storage
- Folks turned away nightly

BUILD THE SHELTER

Thank you.

Because of your generosity, your compassion, and your belief that every neighbor deserves warmth and dignity, we have already raised \$840,000 toward our \$1.2 million goal for a new warming shelter.

The Manitowoc Warming Shelter is now in its fourth season, offering something sacred on the coldest nights, a warm bed, a home-cooked meal, and a reminder that no one is forgotten.

And still, the need continues to grow.

Almost every night, we face the heartbreaking reality of turning people away. These are our neighbors. Some evenings, as many as eight individuals are left without a safe place to sleep. We offer food, supplies, and care when we can, but we know it is not enough.

Our search for the right location continues. We are in ongoing conversation with the City of Manitowoc **and remain committed to** finding a path forward that serves our neighbors with dignity and care. We trust that the right opportunity will emerge.

Our vision is clear: a stand-alone shelter that can welcome 24 individuals each night, with onsite showers and laundry, private meeting space for resource support and day services, and a commercial kitchen to nourish both body and spirit.

This is more than a building. It is a promise to Manitowoc County that we will not look away, that we will not settle for "almost enough," that we will create a place where everyone belongs.

With your continued support, we will cross the finish line and open our doors wider than ever before, ensuring that fewer and fewer of our neighbors are left out in the cold.

MANITOWOC WARMING SHELTER (offices located inside of First Presbyterian Church)

502 N 8th Street Manitowoc, WI 54220

920.629.5820 OR manitowocwarmingshelter@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE



For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
-Mark 10:45

Greetings First Lutheran Family!

“Spring! Spring into action! Spring! Spring into Jesus! Be ye doers of the Word.

Spring! Spring into sunshine! Spring! Be good and kind! Oh yes, joyful, and be stirred.

Spring! Spring into God’s light! Spring! Into all that’s right! Love God’s holy Word.”

Children’s Song by Susan Nikiteno

I like the lyrics of this song and how it reminds us to not just enjoy our beautiful spring, but to be ready to “spring into action – spring into God’s light – be doers of the Word.” I am grateful for our church and its mission to be ready to spring into action for whatever is needed both within our church and in the community. There are always countless opportunities to help. How will you “spring into action?”

I am ready to “spring into action” with planning some new opportunities for our families with young children and to find ways to keep our teens active and connected with the church throughout the summer. I will be reaching out to you soon in an effort to plan some outings and fellowship times with one another.

I am also in the midst of planning for our next “Summer, Faith and Fun” series. We will once again have several times throughout the summer for activity-based lessons and field trips throughout the community. I will be announcing plans for this program as soon as they are finalized according to your busy family schedules. Look for more information about this opportunity in a letter and in Life @ First.

As we are nearing the end of the school year, I want to thank our families who have faithfully sent their children to Sunday School and Confirmation Classes this year. I hope their learning and time together has been a blessing for them as it has been for me to spend time with them as they shared their thoughts and smiles with me!

May God’s grace shine upon you this week!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Connie

cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org or 920.682.7742 ext. 106



Welcome

We welcome into FLC membership the Jurgens family. We are also blessed to acknowledge the baptisms of Jameson Michael Jurgens and Avalene Brienne Jurgens on Sunday, May 3rd.

If you happen to see Patrick, Sierra or the kids, Jameson and Avalene around, introduce yourself and say hi!



COMING SOON



Confirmation News

Sunday, May 3 Class 4-5:30pm

Sunday, May 10 Class 4-5:30pm

Sunday, May 17 Service Day 4-6pm

Community Park Clean-up and Family BBQ Picnic to celebrate the end of the year!



Youth Group,

Spark Students And Parents

Youth Group/Spark Times for May

Youth Group: *Sunday, May 3 5:30 – 6:30pm

(in youth room, order in Chinese)

Wednesday, May 6 6:30 – 7:30pm

Wednesday, May 20 6:30 – 7:30pm



*Rescheduled from 2nd Sunday due to Mother's Day on May 10th.

Spark Group: Wednesday, May 13 4 – 5pm

Wednesday, May 27 4 – 5pm



These will be the last regularly scheduled Spark and Youth Group times for the school year. I will reach out to share special summer youth gathering times with parents in June. - Connie

Sunday School News



Our last Sunday School class for the year will be on Sunday, May 17. We will still have class on Mother's Day for those who are able to attend!

Friday, May 15 – Pizza, Ice Cream and Game Night!

Join me for a night of fun! Bring your favorite board games and invite your friends! We will meet from 5:30 – 7:30pm and I'll provide pizza, beverages and a "build your own" ice cream bar! Kids of **ALL AGES** (ahem, teens and seniors) are welcome! Please RSVP to me by **Wednesday, May 13th**, so I know how many to prepare. I hope to see you there! - *Connie*



Sunday, June 7 – Senior Recognition Day!



Join us, during worship, as we honor all students who are graduating from high school, college or graduate school. Please let Connie know if you will be present and wish to be recognized on that day. Congratulations graduates!

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our many volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!!! Want to get involved? Call the office at 920.682.7742!



WE NOW HAVE GUEST WIFI!!!!

NETWORK TO JOIN: First Lutheran Guest



PASSWORD: flcgrace

FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

- Altar Flowers 1 vase \$35
2 vases \$60
- Prayer Shawl Ministry \$25
- Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT] Full Sponsor= \$465

*Monetary gifts of any amount are welcome. Your sponsorships will be listed in our weekly 'Life @ First' insert. For more info call the office at 920.682.7742.

Fill this out & place it in the offering plate or stop by the office.

Type of Sponsorship: _____

Date of Sponsorship: _____

Message: _____

Name & Phone: _____

VIDEO VOLUNTEERS

If you can push a button, you are qualified. Talk to Pastor Andy or call Brooke in the office 920.682.7742 with questions or to volunteer!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for keeping in mind that the parking spots closest to our entrance are best served for our elderly members and visitors.
You are incredibly thoughtful!



Hope House
Manistowic County



55

Number of kids we helped in 2025!

Last year we helped 55 children. Thanks to the prayers and donations of our churches and community these kids have Hope for their futures. First Lutheran Church continues to support Hope House in many ways through prayers, financial donations, supplies and volunteering.

WISH LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Laundry liquid detergent | Floor cleaner |
| Laundry detergent pods | Walmart gift cards |
| Liquid hand soap | Pack 'n Play portable crib |
| Toilet paper | Pick 'n Save gift cards |
| Paper towels | Kwik Trip gift cards |

HOW TO GIVE

We have five (5) safe and secure options available!

- Offering plate during worship
- Mail your check
- Instruct your bank or financial advisor to mail a check
- Call the church office to set up electronic giving
- Credit card



FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Next collection: Sunday, May 3, 2026

(Always on the First Sunday of the Month)

UPDATED LIST: Juice boxes or pouches (100% fruit juice), beef or chicken jerky pouches, dried fruit packs, no added sugar fruit cups, individual cereal packs, Bumble Bee "Lunch on the Run" chicken salad kits, any on-the-go healthy snacks/meals for kids, pasta sauces, cereal/oatmeal, pouched meat, pasta, coffee in individual portion packets, condiments (including pickles and olives, etc.), cake/brownie mixes and frostings, canned soups, salad dressings, peanut/almond butter, jelly/jam, crackers, rice "sides" to go along with a meal, canned fruit, canned beans

Stop by and pick up our black cloth bags printed with "First Lutheran Church - Gather, Grow, Go..." that are available in the lobby near the office, to use to bring your donations on the First Sunday. Remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, call or leave a message for Harry at 920.242.2489.
THANK YOU !!!



We ♥ Volunteers!



2026



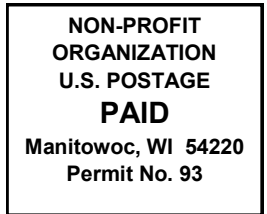
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Grief Support Group 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	2 National Truffle Day 
3 9am Worship w/ HC Jurgen's Baptism Chancel Choir 10:10am Fellowship Coffee Sunday School 4pm Confirmation Class 5:30-6:30pm Youth Grp.	4 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 4:15pm Bd. Of Personnel 6pm Handbells	5 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg.	6 9:30am Bible Study 5:00pm Mission Renewal 6:30-7:30pm Youth Grp.	7 9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study	8 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	9 National Butterscotch Brownie Day 
10 9am Worship w/ HC Handbell Choir 10:10 Fellowship Coffee/Sunday Schoo 4pm Confirmation Class Happy Mother's Day!	11 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew	12 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6pm Bd. Of Youth 6pm Bd. Of Music & Worship 7pm Bd. Of Property	13 9:30am Bible Study 11am Music Selection Committee 4pm SPARK	14	15 9am Grief Support Group 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors 5:30-7:30pm Family Game Night	16 National Do Something Good For Your Neighbor Day 
17 9am Worship—CC w/ HC 10:10 Fellowship Coffee Sunday School 4-6pm Service Day *Community Park Clean Up & BBQ	18 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew	19 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6:30pm Council Mtg.	20 9:30am Bible Study 1pm Book Club 6:30-7:30pm Youth Grp	21 9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study	22 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	23 National Taffy Day 
24 9am Worship w/ HC 10:10am Fellowship Coffee	25 Happy Memorial Day! Office Closed 	26 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 5:30pm Bd. Of Outreach	27 9:30am Bible Study 4pm SPARK	28	29 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	30 National Creativity Day 
31 9am Worship w/ HC 10:10am Fellowship Coffee	And don't forget... NA Meetings every Sunday at 6pm. First Monday of the month— Globe Laundry Day (1301 Washington Street) for our unhoused neighbors 10am-Noon Second Tuesday of the month- Dinner at Lighthouse Recovery Community Center on State Street 4:30 to 6:00pm. 6.7.26 Senior Recognition Day					

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220



Phone: 920-682-7742
E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org
Web: FLCmanitowoc.org



To:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Andy Wendle

Sunday Services at 9am

**WOMT 1240AM, womtradio.com
YouTube, Facebook Live**

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-12noon

920-682-7742

Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

Holy Communion - Every Sunday

Sunday School (Sept.-May) 10:10am

Have a blessed Mother's Day!

"Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever."

- unknown



Our God Given Mission is to....Gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Grow in faith and love, Go out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ.