First Lutheran Church

521 N. 8th Street Manitowoc WI 54220

October 2026

MESSENGER *"lite"*

Due to staffing changes we were unable to deliver a regular monthly messenger. Please enjoy this "lite" version for October!

From our Organist - Mark Sikkila!
(Reformation Day will be celebrated October 25th this year!)

Martin Luther (1483–1546) was one of the most influential figures in the history of Western Christianity. He has been hailed as a reformer, denounced as a heretic, and his influence has waxed and waned over the centuries.

Luther is perhaps best known for sparking the Protestant Reformation. In 1505, he entered the Augustinian seminary at Erfurt, earning his doctorate in theology in 1512. In the following years, his intensive study of Scripture and church practices led him to believe that the church had lost sight of the central truths of Christianity.

Historians today do not agree on whether the famous scene at the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg actually happened, but it seems likely that it did. In those days, the church door was used as a kind of community bulletin board. Luther's nailing of his Ninety-Five Theses there on October 31, 1517, was a challenge to his fellow scholars to engage in discussion and debate, rather than a thunderous accusation against the Roman Church. The theses became known far beyond Luther's immediate area, and by 1520 he was in trouble with the institutional church. There were repeated calls for him to recant, which he refused to do, and the pope excommunicated him in 1521.

For the rest of his life, Luther continued to study, write, preach, and teach. He was not perfect. His attitude toward Jews was common at the time, but no less offensive for that. Today's scholars can see him in a more balanced light, with even Roman Catholics acknowledging Luther's positive influence. When I first played in church, "Ein Feste Burg" would never have been sung in a Catholic church, but today it appears in Catholic hymnals.

Luther's influence on worship practices has been substantial. Today's ELCA hymnal lists twelve of his hymn tunes or texts, including the most famous one, #504, "Ein Feste Burg" ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"). Others you may recognize are #263, "Savior of the Nations, Come," for Advent; #370, "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands," for Easter; and #517, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word."

It may or may not be true that the tune for "Ein Feste Burg" was also a popular drinking song. In Luther's time, it was a common practice to sing religious words to popular tunes, and Luther himself is reported to have asked why the devil should have all the good tunes.

Confirmation

We look forward to hearing the following young people affirm their baptismal promises as they are confirmed on Sunday, October 25.

Alexis Denk Jackson Disch James Gordon Johnathan Hinz
Zachary Kohler Alexa Kranz Zachary Kranz William Mueller
Brynn Rosenow Loic Stryzewski Blake Zipperer

Family, friends, and congregation members are all welcome to receive and congratulate our confirmands at the celebration reception in the Fireside Room after service.

News and Notes for You!!!



Volunteer Spotlight!

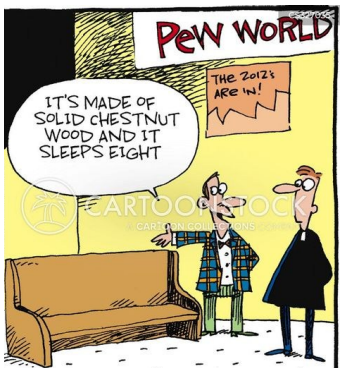
Thank you to the following volunteers who have been helping out in the office during our staffing transition – we appreciate your help more than you know!

Suellen Bryntesen Patty Greene Rae Gutschow Sheila Hansen

Karin Jaeger Harry O'Connell Karyl Rommelfanger Beth Seizert

Soft Seats, Warm Hearts campaign!

Thank you to everyone who has given or pledged to give to our campaign to replace our tired pew cushions. We are well on our way with over $10,000 committed so far towards our $20,000 goal. Help us finish this off this fall and let's get these things ordered as soon as we can. Thank you!



Living Bread Together– You're Invited!

Living Bread

On Thursday, October 22, we have our next **Living Bread Together.** This adult gathering meets at 11:30am on the fourth Thursday of each month to share a meal, spend a little time in devotion, and sing a favorite hymn or two. We plan to gather until about 1:00pm, and we'll accept a $5 per person donation to help cover the cost of the meal. This month we're excited to welcome Pastor Brian Staude to bring our devotion. Our next, and final, gathering for 2026 will be November 19.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Next collection: Sunday, NOVEMBER 1, 2026



List of suggested items: 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, pouched meat, pasta, condiments (including pickles and olives), 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. You can bring your donations to church on November 1st. Remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, call or leave a message for Harry at 920.242.2489.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLC STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Pastor Brian Staude
Visitation Pastor

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemporary Music Coordinator

Mark Sikkila
Organist

Open
Office Manager

Patti Reilly
Financial Secretary & Office Assistant

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: Sheila Hansen
V.P.: Karin Jaeger
Treas: Rob Michaelson
Secretary: Kate Dorner

Committee Representatives

Finance
Rob Michaelson

Personnel
Karin Jaeger

Property
Andy Jacobson

Additional Ministry Groups

Music and Worship, Christian Education and Youth, Marketing and Technology, Congregational Care and Fellowship, Outreach & Stewardship



Scripture Readings

October 11th

First Reading	Isaiah 25:1-9
Second Reading	Philippians 4:1-9
Psalm	Psalm 23
Gospel	Matthew 22:1-14

October 18th

First Reading	Isaiah 45:1-7
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Psalm	Psalm 96:1-9[10-13]
Gospel	Matthew 22:15-22

October 25th

First Reading	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Reading	Romans 3:19-28
Psalm	Psalm 46
Gospel	John 8:31-36

November 1st

First Reading	Revelation 7:9-17
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-3
Psalm	Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12

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 ♥ Volunteers!

New Office Contact Information

While our office remains in some transition, we have established a new (old) office email. Please begin using: **office@flcmanitowoc.org**. Thank you.

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

A Very Special Request

Please

We are looking for a volunteer parent and/or congregation member who could step forward to assist Pastor Andy in teaching Confirmation Class this fall. Confirmation Class generally meets the first three Sundays of each month from 4 – 5:30pm. Curriculum/leader books are provided. If you feel so moved or called to help lead our youth in this way, please contact Pastor Andy 920.682.7742.

Sunday School Planning



All parents of FLC families with young children should receive a phone call inviting you to a gathering to share some new ideas and invitations about First's Sunday School focus and plans. We also have some people interested in helping a Christmas program emerge. Look for your phone call sometime soon.

Youth Group & SPARK

Our Spark schedule will remain the same for October meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 4 – 5 p.m. Spark Group is for students in grades 4 – 6. We enjoy sharing stories about our days, we pray for our friends and each other, and we always have snacks and games!

Here is our October schedule:

SPARK GROUP	Wednesday, Oct. 14	4 – 5pm
	Wednesday, Oct. 28	4 – 5pm

Youth Group

Youth group will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month through the end of October. Youth group is for students in grades 7 – 12.

Wednesday, Oct. 7	6:30 – 7:30pm
Wednesday, Oct. 21	6:30 – 7:30pm

Gather

Grow

Go

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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.				1	2 9am Grief Support Group 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	3
4 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School / Fellowship 4-5:30pm Confirmation 6pm N/A	5 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells 10am-12pm Laundry Days	6 9:00am Snip 'N Sew NO STAFF MTG	7 4-5pm Spark 5pm Chancel Choir 6:30pm-7:30pm Youth Group	8	9 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	10
11 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School / Fellowship / Adult Ed 4-5:30pm Confirm. 6pm N/A	12 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells	13 9am Snip N' Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg 4:30-6pm Dinner at Lighthouse Rec. 6pm Worship & Music Mtg	14 9:30 am Bible Study 4-5pm Spark 5pm Chancel Choir	15	16 9am Grief Support Group 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	17
18 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School / Fellowship / Adult Ed 4-5:30pm Confirm.	19 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells	20 9:00am Snip 'N Sew NO STAFF MTG	21 1pm Book Club 5pm Chancel Choir 6:30-7:30pm Youth Group	22 11:30am-1pm "Living Bread Together" *see inside for details	23 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	24
25 Confirmation (Reformation) Sunday 9am Worship 10:10 Celebration NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 6pm N/A	26 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells 6:15pm Mutual Ministry	27 9:00am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg	28 9:30 am Bible Study 4-5pm Spark 5pm Chancel Choir	29	30 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	31 

Pastor Andy at Fall Conference in Door County

Note: Carpet Installation is scheduled for the week of October 19th!



All Saints Day, always November 1st, will be celebrated on that Sunday this year! May we look forward to naming those important people in our lives of faith who have helped share God's light with us. We also particularly pause and remember those saints who have passed away in the past year. Come to worship that morning ready to name those important people to you and light a candle to celebrate the witness they have shared.

FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

[ ] ELCA Good Gifts $25

[ ] Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT] Full Sponsor= $465

*Monetary gifts of any amount are welcome. 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 _____