

Council President's Message

What a great and glorious year 2025 has been for First Lutheran Church. We are extremely thankful to our Lord for sending Vicar Lance, Rylee and Juniper to our congregation. On June 1st, Vicar Lance was installed as our new pastor here at First Lutheran. With the help of our congregation willing to give 10% more in their offering and Pastor Lance agreeing to be a 3/4 time pastor, he became our new pastor. Even though he is paid 3/4 pay, it seems he is here full time.

There have been many repairs and updates done to the parsonage to accept our new family this year. The most important thing being the entire duct system was professionally cleaned. Also, a new fence enclosure was built by volunteers from the church for Juniper and Maple. The balcony was repaired and a new railing installed (95%) completed. Pastor and Rylee painted the interior of the parsonage. The trim on the garage was repaired. The garage door was repaired. Tuck pointing of the exterior brick was completed. A very huge tree was removed by the garage before it fell on the garage.

The main church also received some repairs. The repairs include: the moving of the sound system to the balcony and improving the quality of the spoken word; two recirculating pumps for the heating system were replaced; the back wall and the lower portions of the sanctuary were scraped and painted; two large stained glass windows were scraped and painted; the roof over the handicap entrance was repaired; the elevator was tested and passed; a new company is being sought to help in the elevator issues.

A huge thank-you goes out to Sandi Scalcucci and Kim Busakowski for keeping the Sunday School going and all of their work in attracting new students. If you get a chance, take a look at the Sunday School classroom and see all of the work that has been done to make it the most enjoyable experience.

We are extremely excited to learn the First Lutheran will be hosting the Synod Assembly meeting in May. More details will be revealed as they are made available.

Thank you to Lois Brozak, Donna Ahlberg and Deb Sitkoski for completing their first year on Council.

A huge thank-you to Tracey Nelson for completing her term on Council. According to the church's constitution, she cannot run for another term this year.

The congregation must realize that our beautiful building will be 100 years old in 2026. Plans should be made to celebrate this great occasion.

A huge thank-you to all of the volunteers who make this church run as efficiently as it does, including: the 12 men who cook the Mother's Day dinner and over 30 volunteers (especially 5 new cooks) who made the Spring (559 pasties) and Fall (631 pasties) a success.

The church is always looking for help to put Sunday service together. Help is needed for altar guild, readers and ushers. Please sign up or see me, if you can help.

As we look forward to 2026, let us pray for the new arrival in the church parsonage. We all in the congregation pray for the arrival of the newborn for Pastor Lance and Rylee.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Karvala

Council President



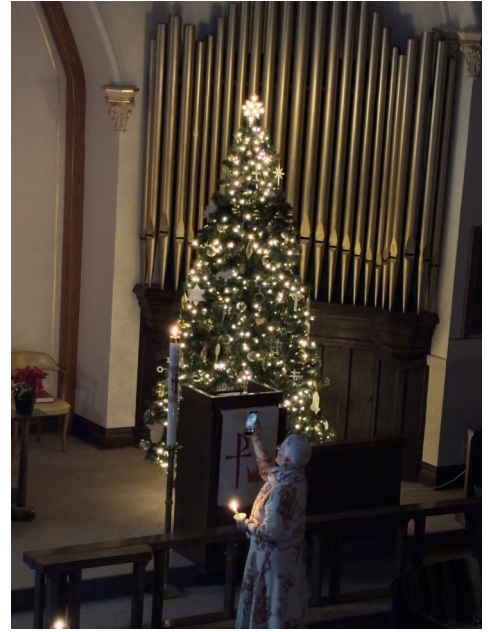


Christmas 2025

Thankyou to all of the volunteers who came in to decorate the church. It was absolutely beautiful for the Christmas Season!



Christmas Eve



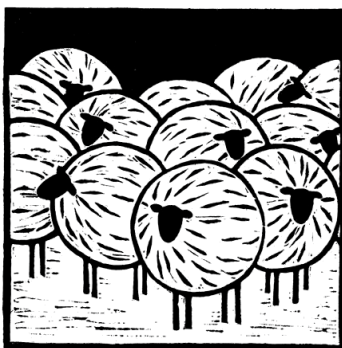
The candle-lit service on Christmas Eve was stunning!

Thank you Liam and McCoy Poulos for bring light to our sanctuary.

Thank you, too, Rylee Crevier and Jill Poulos for your gifts of music.

Technology in Review

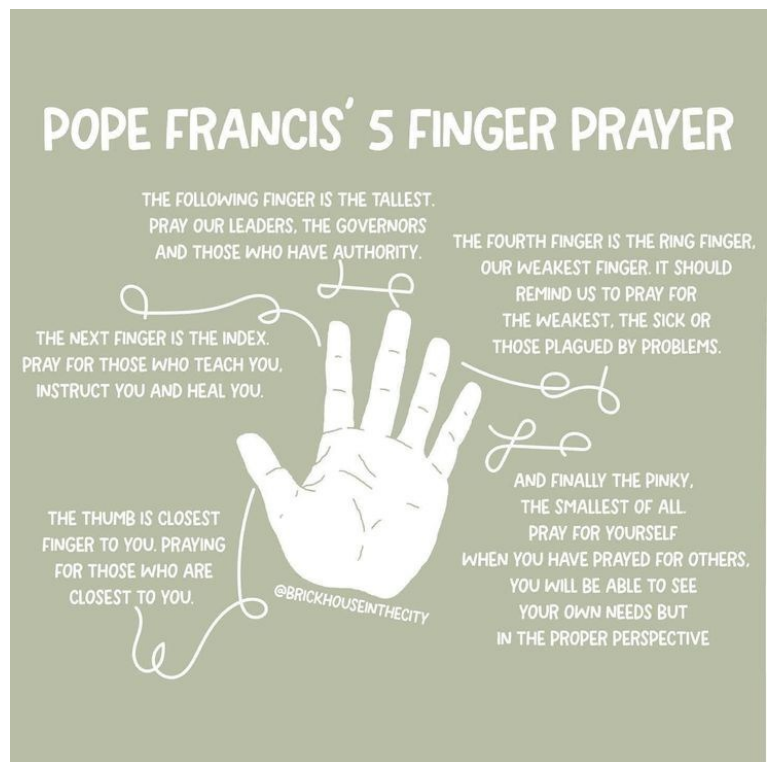
First Lutheran took a giant leap in broadcasting our service this year. With the benevolence of many congregants and funding from the memorial fund, we were able reconstruct our complete audio and video broadcasting process. The project was a group effort. The men's group ran new lines between the floors. The Bunes girls helped pull lines and climb ladders. Our blessed former member Kathy Haack and Brian Harrell, president of All Time Favorites, led the effort with their time and expertise. Brian designed the a/v system, purchased new equipment, and reprogrammed an interface to keep the process simple (or at least simpler than it would have been without these changes). Without his help, these improvements would not have been possible. Pastor Lance jumped in to help as well and keeps any new technical issues addressed. Brian and Kathy check-in occasionally to do any needed system maintenance. We are blessed to have such a dedicated and caring group active in our ministry. Feedback from listeners has been great. Our streaming has been much more consistent. Sound quality is improved both online and in our sanctuary. Thank you to all involved! As always, please let us know how we can improve our ministry.



THE ENEMY LIKES
TO HIDE WOLVES
INSIDE SHEEP'S
CLOTHING

BUT THAT'S
OKAY

GOD HIDES LIONS
INSIDE OF
LAMBS.



Annual Meeting

Please plan on attending this year's Annual Meeting. We need you in order to meet quorum as well as give you the opportunity to have a say and a vote. Don't forget that we will be having food and fellowship to follow!

January 25, 2026

After service

Baked potato bar to follow meeting

Why did the ram run over the cliff? He didn't see the ewe turn.



gezellig

[heh-sell-ick] adj

a feeling of warmth, comfort and relaxation. a friendly ambiance and cozy atmosphere. pleasant togetherness.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

3	Gary Scalcucci
	Brittanie Barry
4	David Schumacher
6	Jennifer Detterbeck
12	Deborah Sitkoski
	Layla Dobson
13	Pamela Barry
	Tracey Stine
14	Kyle Detterbeck
15	William Secord
17	Tammy Pietila
19	Marion Masnova
27	Greg Garavet
28	Gail Passamoni
	Angie Stine
	Michael and Judi Hemeleski

What do you call a herd of sheep falling down a hill? A lambslide.

Bates Hall reaches \$312K goal



The Bates Hall Preservation Society, pictured are, from left, Dale Holm (Director), Sue Passamani (Secretary/Treasurer), Margee Brennan (President) and Waunetta Seymour (Director). Not pictured are Fay Frailing (Director) and Sharon Ryden (Vice President). Submitted photo

Lenten Devotional

Keep an eye out over the next few weeks for the sign-up sheet for our Lenten Devotional. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Verses will be provided; however, you are welcome to use any verse you feel drawn to.



Reflect on whichever verse you have and share what you took from the reading. Submissions can be up to 200 words (not including the verse itself). Thoughts, prayers, one liners, remembrances, short stories or anything you can share is welcome.

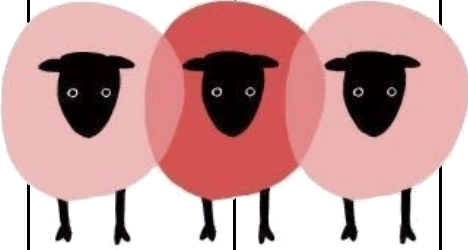


Miners' Nine Named Premier presenting Partner of The Automaton



Pictured are, kneeling Abigail Davis. Middle row, from left, Jeffery Knipp, Cooper Hill, Van Hill (Coach), Jeff Davis, Brie Porier and Sari Franzene-Holroyd. Back row, from left, Scott Strom, Adam Holroyd, Ray Guzowski and Bryton Brozak. (Not pictured, Danny Elich and Cade Dallavalle.) Submitted photo

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	5	6 9:00 Quilting 6:00 Council	7 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	8	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	12 10:00 WELCA	13 9:00 Quilting	14 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	15	16 8:30 Men's Group	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	19	20 9:00 Quilting	21 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	22	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Annual Mtg. Luncheon	26	27 9:00 Quilting	28 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Confirmation	29	30	31