

# The Messenger

Volume 28 Issue 9 Office 996-7706 e-mail: [luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org](mailto:luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org) Fax 996-7727 September 2025

## SEPTEMBER FOCUS.....

# God's Work. Our Hands.

## Sunday, September 7th



### Opportunities on Sunday, Sept. 7th:

- 1) Bring items for the Food Pantry:
  - \* Canned fruit, Canned pasta, Cream soups, or Hamburger Helper
  - \* Reuseable cloth bags and empty egg cartons
- 2) Deliver boxes of quilts, school kits, or baby care kits to the Lutheran World Relief drop-off location in Sioux Falls during the week of September 7. (we will load vehicles Sunday, September 7 right after church)
- 3) During the donuts, coffee, and juice fellowship after worship, anyone interested (of any age) can participate in a "make & take" art project.

- 4) Sing with the Chancel Choir during worship, Sunday, September 7. Rehearsal is 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 4.

### Opportunities during September:

- 1) Attend First Lutheran-led worship at a Mitchell senior living or care center. Choose one that works in your schedule:
  - 10:30am Wednesday, September 10 at Countryside
  - 2pm Thursday, September 11 at Firesteel
  - 2pm Tuesday, September 16 at Brady
  - 7pm Tuesday, September 23 at Wesley Acres
  - 11am Wednesday, September 24 at Edgewood South
- 2) 60+ Friendship Gathering, 2 p.m., September 30. Theme: Praise, Pictures and Pie!"

# Rally Wednesday

@ FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# September 10



Registration forms in the glass lobby, or see the FIRSTWord email blast for a download link.

**Register today!**

## JOURNEY WITH JESUS

Pre-K - 6th Grade

- 5:15 p.m. - Meal in the Family Life Center
- 5:45 p.m. - Large Group Session
- 6:15 p.m. - Small Group Sessions
- 6:45 p.m. - Worship in the Chapel

## CONFIRMation

@ FIRST LUTHERAN

7th - 9th Grade

- 5:15 p.m. - Meal in the Family Life Center
- 5:45 p.m. - Orientation Session with parents for all grades in the Sanctuary
- 6:45 p.m. - Worship in the Chapel, with Beginning Confirmation Faith Milestone for 7th graders)

# CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## COUNCIL MINUTES — August 18, 2025

Please note: these minutes have been edited for the newsletter.  
The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway

### Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Had one baptism and will have several upcoming baptisms.
- ◆ Conducted several prayer services and funerals
- ◆ First Lutheran will host the Fall Theological Convention September 14-16. Worship, social, and meals are being planned for the event.

### Deacon's Report:

- ◆ Summer Women's Study met July and August at Cornerstone Too using "An Altar in the World" as a study guide.
- ◆ Annual 60 Plus Gathering "Praise, Pictures, and Pie" will be 2:00 p.m., September 30
- ◆ WELCA fall lunch will be held Saturday, October 18.

### Ministry Reports:

- ◆ Worship: Strong August attendance, vibrant worship services with lots of participation. Thank you to all the ways musicians lift up the services with their music each week. Sunday, August 10, Waves of Mercy Outdoor worship, Youth and adults were sent off to summer camps and Churchwide Assembly with a blessing. God's Work Our Hands Sunday is Sunday, September 7.
- ◆ Fellowship and Caring: Prayer and Care met August 5. Fall Grief Group will meet at 5:15 p.m. for nine Mondays September 22-November 17. Sisters of First Lutheran Potluck with guest speaker Bishop Constanza Hagmaier was held August 11. WELCA Fall Lunch will be held Saturday, October 18.
- ◆ Faith Formation: Back to School blessing was held August 17. Journey with Jesus begins September 10. Pre-K through 6th grade, confirmation for 7th-9th. Kathy Otterby has begun the meal planning. Beginning Confirmation and Confirmation Bible Milestone will be September 7 and 10. 3rd grade Bible Milestone September 14 and 17. Prayer Pillow Milestone September 28 and October 5.
- ◆ Stewardship: Connecting with the other SD Synod Neighbors in Solidarity about how we may experience the ministry they provide. Connecting with LifeQuest about possible outreach project in conjunction with God's Work Our Hands Sunday. WELCA is collecting supplies for Baby Care Kits, so far 100 kits are put together.
- ◆ Property: Working on repairs for the sound system in the Family Life Center. Tessiers are working on the downstairs bathroom water repairs. Vandalism to the water sprinkler system on the east side of the church will be repaired. City will remove dying ash trees from the boulevard at no cost. Daycare will plant another tree on the playground. Caulking the windows in the Family Life Center will be completed after additional caulking is received by the contractor. Russ and Jim completed the repair on the retaining wall. Jim repaired the outside rails. Floor was resealed on the lower level of the Family Life Center.
- ◆ Evangelism: Email Blasts are receiving great response. Postcards were mailed out for Summer worship.

**Reception of the Treasurer's Report:** July income \$30,699.82; expenses \$39,308.71; Net ordinary income for July was -\$8,638.89. Year to date net ordinary income is \$277,312.09 and total expense was \$279,684.20 leaving a net ordinary income for the year -\$2,372.11. Steve made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Roberta. Motion carried.

# DOLLAR\$&CENTS

### JULY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:

July 6 .....	145/OL: 86 .....	\$8,437.12
July 13 .....	118/OL: 84 .....	\$5,179.24
July 20 .....	174/OL: 50 .....	\$11,245.95
July 27 .....	120/OL: 42 .....	\$4,956.20

July 2025	Offering	<b>\$29,818.51</b>
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**\$34,347.00** is needed per month to meet monthly budget.



**You can support the ministries of First Lutheran through**

**venmo**




### September's Noisy Offering

is being collected for the Mitchell Food Pantry.



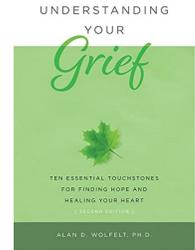
The Food Pantry provides food for families or individuals who are in need. The Food Pantry hours are Monday: 12-3, Tuesday: 5-7, Wednesday: 9-12, Thursday: 5-7, Friday: 12-3.

Program Information:

- In July 2024 the Food Pantry served 1,234 people (782 households & 510 kids).
- Senior Box Program: Provides healthy food once a month to low income elderly. A 25-28 lb. box of healthy food and 2-lbs of cheese are available once a month. Eligibility: >60 years, based on gross income of a household of 1, \$1,132/month
- Client Choice Pantry: Available to those with a gross household income no more than 185% of poverty level. Participants can shop once a month. The quantity of food is based on the size of household. Eligibility based on gross income: Family of 1: \$2,322/ month or Family of 4: \$4,810/month.
- Regular food purchases/donations: \$4,507 from Feeding South Dakota (\$0.71/pound), Local purchases/donations: bread and eggs and Fed grant for Farm Life Creamery to deliver 63 1/2 gallons milk and 80 2/3 pounds of cheese twice monthly.

### Fall Grief Group "Understanding Your Grief"

Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one (family member or friend) is invited to attend the fall grief group, "Understanding Your Grief". This grief class will meet at 5:15pm in the church library for 9 Mondays, September 22–November 17. No matter if your loss is recent or years ago, gathering with others who have lost loved ones is comforting and helpful. Class books and journals are provided. Class size is limited to 10. If interested, contact Deacon Kris.



**Dawn Lambertz** passed away Friday, May 23, 2025. A grave side service was Saturday, August 16, 2025 at Graceland Cemetery, Mitchell.

**Richard "Dick" Goldammer** passed away on Thursday, August 16, 2025. Funeral services were Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at First Lutheran Church with interment at Servicemen's Memorial Cemetery, Mitchell.

### Upcoming Noisy Offerings:

- \* October: SD Lutheran Campus Ministry
- \* November: Love Feast
- \* December: Mitchell Safehouse



### Max Jeffrey Peskey

was baptized on Sunday, August 10, 2025. Dallas and Chelsea are the parents of Max and sponsors are Jacob & Meghan Kulm



### New Member Class

Sundays, Sept. 28th or Oct. 5th

@ 10:45 following worship

NOTE: Reception of new members will be Sunday, Oct. 12



The Bell Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 10 at 5:45 p.m. Anyone interested in learning is welcome!



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

### Get Involved!

- 1) Sing with the Chancel Choir.
  - \* Rehearsal is Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. (All singers are welcome)
- 2) Worship, including Holy Communion and celebrating the milestone of beginning confirmation with our 7th graders
- 3) Deliver boxes of quilts, baby care kits, personal care kits, and school kits to the Sioux Falls Lutheran World Relief Drop-Off Station during the week of September 7.
- 4) Gather for coffee, juice, and donuts right after worship
- 5) All are invited during coffee fellowship (kids/families/everyone) to participate in a make and take sticker project
- 6) Meet at 1:15 p.m. at the church and walk over to 401 Create to help folks and staff bake cookies, sign up in the Family Life Center
  - \* 401 folks and staff will deliver the cookies to Mitchell firefighters on September 11.
- 7) High School Youth will gather for a serving and supper event, more information to come.

**Gather Study Group  
Dates & Times**



- ◆ **Tuesday, September 2**
  - ◇ 4:00 p.m. WELCA/FLCW September Board Meeting, First Lutheran Library
- ◆ **Wednesday, September 3**
  - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Countryside Game Room
- ◆ **Thursday, September 4**
  - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, Family Life Center

**September Prayer and  
Care Worships**



Each month First Lutheran leads worship at Mitchell retirement and care centers. All are welcome to attend.

- \*2:00 p.m. September 11 at Firesteel
- \*2:00 p.m. September 16 at Brady
- \*7:00 p.m. September 23 at Wesley Acres
- \*11:00 a.m. September 24 at Edgewood South

**Book Club**

Here is a list of upcoming titles for book club

- 📖 September 25: *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck
- 📖 October 23: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See
- 📖 November 21: *The Cost of Free Land* by Rebecca Clarren
- 📖 December: Book Club not meeting
- 📖 January 22: *A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection* by Renee Splichal Larson

Book Club meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Church Library



**Thrivent Cards for Wednesday Night Meals**

Thanks to those who donated cards for the Wednesday night meal program during the 2024-2025 school year. The Thrivent cards, along with the free-will offering each Wednesday, paid for the meal program, which meant church funds were not used.



Thrivent Action Team cards would be appreciated for the Journey with Jesus Wednesday night meal program which will begin in September. The Thrivent cards are used to purchase milk, and fruits and vegetables.

When applying for a card for the meals, it is helpful if people do not all use the same date for the project date. A variety of dates could be used, examples: one person could use September 10 as the project date, and another person could use October 8 as the date. The card is good for 120 days after the project date.

**Please do NOT submit the Thrivent on-line report until after the entire \$250 has been spent.** Once the report is submitted, the card is inactive, and any remaining money is not available.



**2025 Rummage Sale**

A big thank you to the donors, the helpers, the sellers, the buyers and the clean-up crew.

A total of \$3,462.22 was brought in. The money was divided between the camping program and the post-secondary scholarship program.

60+ Friendship Gathering for Seniors 2pm Tuesday, September 30. Join us again this year for another 60+ Friendship Gathering. This year's theme is "Praise Pictures & Pie" This year's guest presenter is Bill Mulder and he will be sharing about his travels to Antarctica. More information will be available soon!



Thank you to everyone who has donated items and monetary donations for kits for Lutheran World Relief

Kits assembled to date:

- \*47 LWR Quilts
- \*220 Personal Care Kits
- \*38 Baby Care Kits
- \*408 School Kits



The cost of each school kit is \$4.75, if you watch the sales closely. Thank you to everyone who



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

contributed through Thrivent cards and the Noisy Offering.

# Pictures from NeSoDak, July 29-August 1



# August Worship Services



Sunday, August 3  
James Schelske Poem Recitation



Sunday, August 3  
Max Johnson, Worship Music Leadership



Sunday, August 3  
Children's Good News Time



Sunday, August 10  
Children's Good News Time



Sunday, August 17  
Back-to-School Blessing



Sunday, August 10  
Baptism of  
Max Jeffrey Peske



Sunday, August 10  
Emma Plamp,  
Saxophone Solo



## Pictures from Sisters of First Lutheran Potluck & Social Event with guest speaker Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

