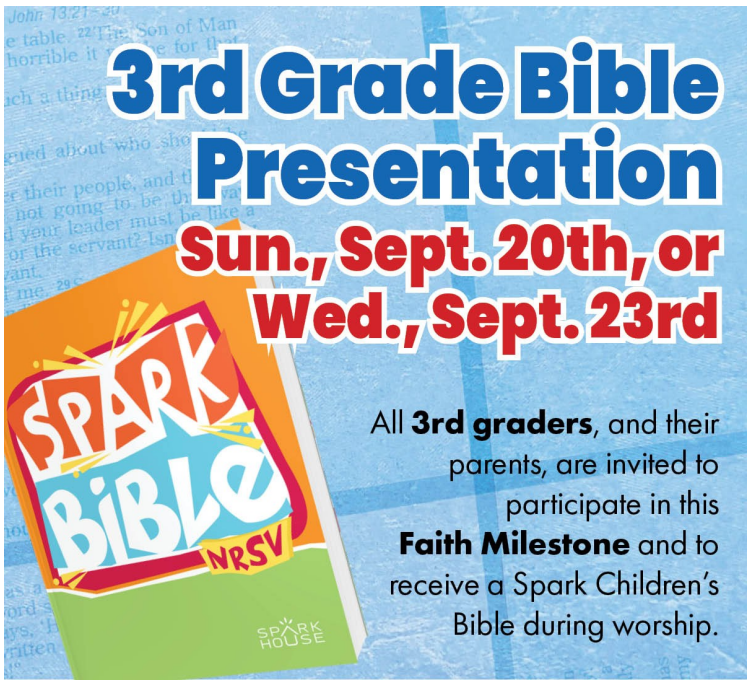
# The Messenger

Volume 29 Issue 9 Office 996-7706 e-mail: luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org Fax 996-7727 September 2026


## SEPTEMBER FOCUS.....



# Church Council Highlights

## COUNCIL MINUTES — August 17, 2026

*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:**

- Renew & Rejoice campaign is progressing well and pledge numbers of giving members and the total amount will be announced soon.
- Return date for worship in the sanctuary is getting closer with hope for early September. Working on a date in October for the Rededication of the church sanctuary.
- 25 FLC youth and 5 others attended church camps this summer.

**Interim Pastor's Report:**

- Thank you for supporting Pastor Scott and allowing a 1/2 time Interim Pastor.
- It has been fun getting to know the congregation, the youth, and the elderly at the care centers.
- I have been Preaching/Leading worship 3 Sundays a month, working with a schedule with Pastor Scott.
- Planning for leading confirmation teaching the New Testament.
- Working Pastoral care and follow up calls from Deacon Kris's time, checking on members with health issues, assisting with dropping visitors seeking assistance.

## DOLLAR$&¢ENTS

**JULY ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **July 5** | 108/OL: 156 | $4,377.55 |
| **July 12** | 159/OL: 70 | $4,023.10 |
| **July 19** | 160/OL: 54 | $11,650.52 |
| **July 26** | 141/OL: 116 | $6,420.55 |

**July 2026 Offering $26,471.72**

***$34,347.00*** *is needed per month to meet monthly budget.*

**Ministry Reports**:

- Worship: Pastor Scott has been doing worship planning. Thank you to the piano players for the summer; Lonnie, Max and Susan. Also, the First Light Worship Team for leading music in July and August. Lots of positive comments on the summer worship in the Family Life Center. Will advertise for a Wednesday worship keyboard player. Special music on Sunday, August 30 by Sam Atnip.
- Fellowship and Caring: Met August 11 with 9 members and Pastor Scott present. Discussed visitations and concerns for members of the congregation. Worship schedule: Firesteel August 13 at 2:00 p.m., Brady August 18 at 2:00 p.m. Planning for September 22, 55+ Friendship Gather with the theme: Honor Flight to Washington DC. Jim Anderson will present Honor Flight trip information. Gary Koepsel will provide the money for the pies. Next meeting November 10.
- Faith Formation: September 16 is Rally Wednesday for JWJ. Pastor Kent will teach 7th and 8th grade confirmation, The New Testament. Pastor Scott will teach 9th grade confirmation. Jill will be gathering with the High School students on September 16 and will have a schedule for the year with a monthly Sunday Night event.
- Stewardship: God's Work Our Hands will be Sunday, September 20. Will work on a meal kit for the Food Pantry. Kits will be put together with ingredients for meal preparation and the recipe.
- Property: 9 sprinkler heads have been repaired on the east side of the church from vandalism. Cost was $500.00. Lawn watering needed to be increased for 3 weeks to maintain the lawn through the dry time. Pear tree has lost 3 large branches and will need to be trimmed. Refresh project has been going well. Thank you to the group of volunteers that have shown up for at different times when additional work needed to be done. Carpet squares have not arrived from the supplier but will be installed as soon as they are they are received. Volunteers are needed on Friday, August 21 to paint the choir room. The refresh budget will be reviewed with the bills received and if money is available, the parking lot project will be scheduled for fall.
- Evangelism: Pastor Scott is working on a Welcome Book for the church visitors and new members with information about the church and services offered.

**Reception of the Treasurer's Report:** July income $26,662.01; expenses $36,475.50; Net ordinary income for July was -$9,813.49. Year to date net ordinary income is $293,933.50 and total expense was $291,624.95 leaving a net ordinary income for the year $2,208.56. Steve made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Russ. Motion carried.

## *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:

- Food Pantry: Assists low-income families by supplementing their diets with healthy food from five food groups.
  - Families can shop once a month
  - Families choose the food their families prefers, thereby reducing waste.
  - Number of households determines the quantity of food.
  - Households must be below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Daily Shoppers: Anyone already participating in the Mitchell Food Pantry program can stop by any day during Hours of Operation and receive perishable food items such a bakery, produce and dairy items.
- Senior Boxes: Improves the health of low-income elderly community members by supplementing their diets with nutritious foods.
  - Distributed once a month.
  - One member of the household must be at least 60 years old.
  - Households must be below 130% of the Federal Poverty Level.

55+ Friendship Gathering for Seniors

2:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 22.

Join us again this year for another Friendship Gathering. This year's theme is Honor Flight to Washington DC. The guest presenter is Jim Anderson and he will be sharing information about his Honor Flight to Washington DC.

There will be an extra Noisy Offering collected on Sunday, August 30. The money collected will be used to help purchase food for the Good Samaritan Fund. People often stop by the church looking for assistance, and we provide them with a bag of food that may include meat sticks, cheese crackers, peanut butter crackers, protein bars, trail mix or peanuts, and bottles of water. We try to offer food that has nutritional value, is easy to take with them, and is shelf stable. We will also be collecting food items such as peanut butter crackers, cheese crackers, peanuts/trail mix, and bottled water. Totes will be in the Glass Lobby.

The Bell Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:45 p.m. Anyone interested in learning is welcome!

## God's Work...Our Hands

September 2026 FLC Community Outreach Focus:
Mitchell Area Food Pantry shoppers
Donate & Assemble Ingredients for "Meal in a Bag"

**Goal:** Collect ingredients for 400 families
"Creamy Corn Chowder Meal in a Bag"
Assemble "Meals in a Bag" after worship on September 20

**Donating Options:**
Shop for 5 ingredients needed for each meal (serves 4):
** 1 can creamed corn, 1 can whole kernel corn, 1 can diced potatoes,
1 can cream of chicken soup, 1 can evaporated milk

Financial support (September 13 & 27 noisy offerings)
** $10: 1+ meal, $20: 3+ meals, $50: 9 meals, $100: 18 meals
(Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church)

## Gather Study Group Dates & Times

- **Tuesday, September 1**
  - 12:00 p.m. WELCA/FLCW September Board Meeting, Church Library
- **Wednesday, September 2**
  - 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Countryside Game Room
- **Thursday, September 4**
  - 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, Church Library

## Book Club

Here is a list of upcoming titles for book club

- 📖 September 24: *Twice* by Mitch Albom
- 📖 October 22: *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave
- 📖 November 26: *We Are Alive* by Carol Beth Nelson, MD
- 📖 December: Book Club not meeting
- 📖 January 28: *We the Women* by Norah O'Donnell

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

## Upcoming Fall Events

* **Prairie Rivers Fall Event:** All women are invited to attend Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. at New Home Lutheran Church in Mitchell. Details to follow.
* **FLC Fall Lunch:** Wanted: Someone, or a team of two, to coordinate the October 17 Fall Lunch. It is not a difficult task, as many members are willing to help. If willing, please let Jodi in the office, or Joan Anderson know.

Do you have stacks of filled County Fair United Savings cards? You can leave them in the marked drawer in the Glass Lobby or drop them off in the church and the church will get $0.55 per card! This money can be used for a variety of reasons, Confirmation Camp, GIFT, Milestone Ministries, etc.

## 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 10 at Firesteel

*2:00 p.m. September 15 at Brady

NO WORSHIP AT WESLEY ACRES!

*11:00 a.m. September 30 at Edgewood South

Be on the look out for a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Glass Lobby to sign up to bring 3 dozen cookies or bars for Wednesday meals. Wednesday meals start September 16, the form will be available on September 6. Thank you!

# God's Work. Our Hands.

## Sunday, September 20th

### Opportunties on Sunday, Sept. 20th:

1) Work on assembling "Meals in a Bag" for the Mitchell Food Pantry. We will collect ingredients for "Creamy Corn Chowder Meal in a Bag" for 400 families!
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 20. (we will load vehicles Sunday, September 20 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) High School youth will be taking on 2 lawn care projects from 4 - 5:30 p.m. and then returning to church for a grill out.

### Opportunties during September:

1) Attend First Lutheran-led worship at a Mitchell senior living or care center. Choose one that works in your schedule:
   - 2pm Thursday, September 10 at Firesteel
   - 2pm Tuesday, September 15 at Brady
   - 11am Wednesday, September 23 at Edgewood South
2) 55+ Friendship Gathering & Pie Social, 2 p.m., Tuesday, September 22. Theme: Honor Flight to Washington DC

SENIOR HIGHERS

First Lutheran Youth

## Wednesday, Sept. 16th

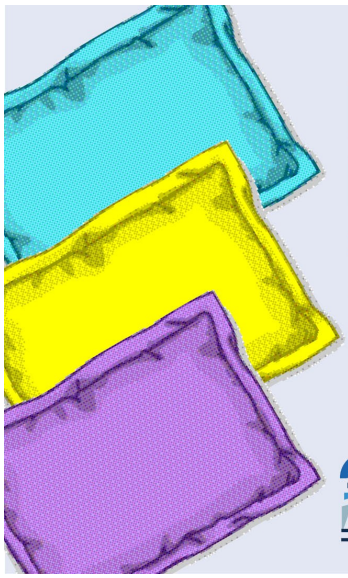
Kick-Off Meeting @ 5:45 p.m. at Church

Snacks • National Youth Gathering Info • Bible Study

## Sunday, Sept. 20th

God's Work. Our Hands. lawn care projects!

- Lawn Care projects from 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- Followed by a Grill Out at the Church



FAITH MILESTONE

## Prayer Pillow

**for Kindergartens**

**Sunday, Sept. 27th**
during 9:30 a.m. worship

**Wed., Sept. 30th**
during 6:45 p.m. worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Worship/Choir Pianist

**Piano/Keyboard player needed!** Join our team of paid music leaders helping lead Sunday and Wednesday worship, and assisting with our Chancel Choir. For details please call the church office or contact Pastor Scott at scott@MitchellFirstLutheran.org

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING
## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

## Children's Good News Time