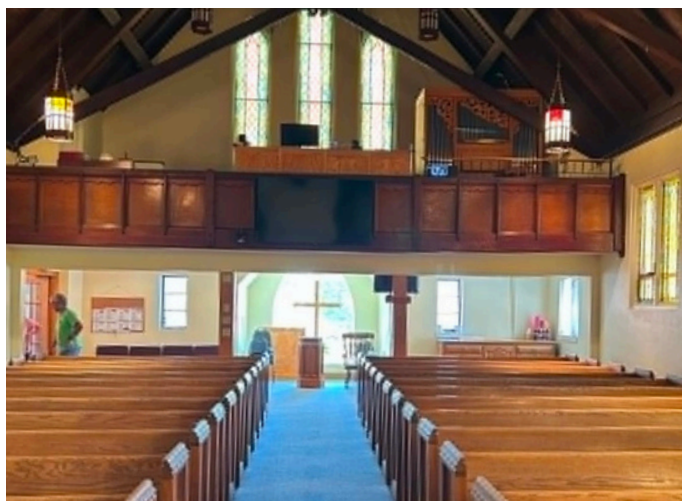




LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Finished photos of the sound booth relocation project.

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First Lutheran
Pastor
Jason Cooper
cooper_jd@yahoo.com

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Jason

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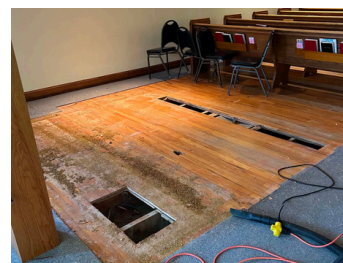
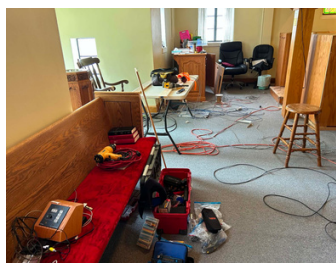
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September Calendar

Sound Booth Relocation Complete!

Our long-anticipated project to move the sound booth up to the balcony is officially finished! This shift clears valuable space on the main floor, opening up additional lower-level seating for worship services.

A huge thank you to Dan Glew for his extraordinary work handling the prep and finish details, and to Wulfekuhle Electric for their prompt service with the electrical setup.

We also want to recognize the hard-working crew who tackled the nearly 12-hour installation day right after worship: Rick Seeley (Consultant), Dan Glew, Karlee Wright, Tom Moorhouse, Anna Maloney, and Kathy Moorhouse.



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
at 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS
at 6:00 P.M.

We also offer a live radio broadcast of our Sunday service on KMCH 94.7 FM and a live video stream on our FaceBook page, First Evangelical Lutheran Church - NALC.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday and Wednesday worship service

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Thank You to our September Radio & Flower Sponsors!

KMCH Radio Ministry Sponsors

Sept. 6...Donna & Royce Bandy in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Sept. 13...Brian & Jenny Pettlon & Family in honor of their parents' anniversaries
Sept. 20...Ron & Tirzah Wedewer
Sept. 27...Brenda Saunders in memory of her brother Gary Glawe

Altar Flower Sponsors

Sept. 6...TBD
Sept. 13...Gloria Kluesner in memory of Vonda Billhorn
Sept. 20...Harlin Gilje in memory of Sandy & Kevin
Sept. 27...Brian & Jenny Pettlon & Family in honor of their parents' anniversaries

Weekly Fellowship

Thank you to all who have signed up for Fellowship Hour after our 9AM services!

If you are intersted in signing up, but not sure what it entails, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

The Maloney's plan to host breakfast on September 13th. We hope to see you there!



Mission of the Month (MOTM)

September's Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is an international non-governmental organization that focuses on sustainable development projects and disaster relief/recovery. It was founded by Lutherans in the U.S. after World War II and helps people adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. LWR provides humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to help people recover and adjust to new realities.

Please consider contributing to this cause on Sept. 13th and 16th. For more information, please visit www.lwr.org.

Looking Back Reflections on Year One... and Year TwentyTwo

Looking back is a holy act. Scripture often calls God's people to remember—God's faithfulness, provision, mercy, and surprises. As I prepared this month's article, I revisited a piece I wrote after my first year as a pastor in Strawberry Point; "10 Things I Learned My First Year as a Pastor". That reflection prompted me to look back on my first year here at First Lutheran (my 22nd year of ministry). In both seasons, I see the same God at work: shaping, stretching, comforting, and occasionally chuckling at His servant.



10. "Reading a Plat Book is not as easy as I thought."

Then: I had little understanding of rural Iowa life. PreGPS, I carried a plat book and a county map.

Now: I still get confused by plat books, but I no longer need GPS to find Fareway. Tracking miles for my monthly report is now handled by an app. Praise God for technology.

9. "Preschoolers often teach me more about Jesus than I teach them."

Then: Their honesty and wonder humbled me.

Now: First doesn't have a preschool, but little ones still teach me more than I teach them. Their faith remains refreshingly unpretentious.

8. "In some cities you dial 411 for information—In St. Pt. it was 9336426 (thanks Fonda)."

Then: The best information came from saints who knew the town better than Google.

Now: God has blessed me with a "little weirdo" who keeps me informed. The number may have changed, but the truth hasn't: the church is full of people who help the pastor find his way.

7. "Chances are your fellow clergy have been there—Trust them!"

Then: I leaned heavily on seasoned pastors.

Now: I still do, but now I'm also one of the "seasoned pastors" others call. Ministry is a two-way street of receiving and offering wisdom. And clergy still have stories that make you laugh, cry, and pray harder.

6. "There are no volunteers in the congregation—there are disciples who love to serve God."

Then: People served because they loved Jesus, not signup sheets.

Now: This truth has only deepened. From the fair booth to youth trips to funeral lunches, I see disciples serving with joy, sweat, laughter, and generosity.

5. "A good choir welcomes good singers—a great choir encourages everyone to sing (even a voice like mine)."

Then: Worship is participation, not performance.

Now: Our choir is wonderful, and yes, I still sing. And yes, they graciously pretend not to notice.

4. "Council meetings are enjoyable when you love and respect those you serve with."

Then: Leadership rooted in mutual respect is a gift.

Now: Our council remains faithful, thoughtful, and mission-minded. Ministry is lighter when leadership is shared with people you genuinely enjoy.

3. "Young people are not the future of the church—they are the church."

Then: Youth brought life and authenticity.

Now: After a year of mission trips, VBS, and lively Sundays, I'm more convinced than ever. They aren't waiting to become the church—they already are.

2. “Worship is not what we make it—it is our opportunity to thank God for what He has made us.”

Then: Worship became about gratitude.

Now: Worship remains our heartbeat—quiet prayers, joyful hymns, and even a child dancing remind us that God is the One shaping and sustaining us.

1. “A building project does not have to kill a pastor—it can build character.”

Then: I survived my first building project.

Now: No building project this year, but plenty of character building moments—broken appliances, moving a piano out of the balcony, bathroom updates, and reworking space to welcome more people.

Looking Back... and Looking Forward Twentytwo years in, I’m grateful—for saints who shaped me, congregations who welcomed me, children who taught me, colleagues who encouraged me, and the God who has never stopped leading.

Looking back reveals God’s faithfulness. Looking forward reveals God’s promises. And standing here ... between the two ...I’m thankful to be your pastor.

-Pastor Jason

Church Ladies’ Lunch

The monthly Church Ladies Lunch will be on Tuesday, September 1st at Denali’s in Independence. Please meet at the church at 11:15 a.m. to carpool. Call or text Diane Childs at 563-608-1137 to RSVP.

Men’s Bible Study

Men's Bible Study will be starting up again on Wednesday, September 2nd at 7:00 PM (following worship). Join Pastor Jason and others in the Fellowship Hall to grow in faith, study God’s Word, and build strong connections with other men.

Girlfriends in God (GIG)

Looking for a community where you can grow deeper in your faith, build authentic friendships, and navigate life together? Join us for Girlfriends in God, a Women’s Bible Study group. We meet every Wednesday at 7PM (following worship) in the Inspiration Room.

Sunday School Registration

We are gearing up for another exciting year of Sunday School! Sunday School is open to children in preschool through 6th grade. We meet every Sunday following worship from 10:15-11:15AM. There is no cost for children to attend.

The first day of Sunday School will be **Sunday, September 13th**.

Please register by completing the online registration form [HERE](#) or the paper form found at church.

We hope you’ll join us!



Music Notes:

First Lutheran's Adult Choir Could Be Looking for You!

Have you been searching for a way to become more involved at First Lutheran? Looking for a way to engage with other members that is both meaningful and fun? Finding yourself singing in the shower or in your car with the radio? Having a "flashback" to singing in chorus in high school (which could be from a few weeks ago, or a few years ago - or dare I say even a few decades ago?!) There is a solution: join the adult choir at First Lutheran!! Our current members would love to welcome new singers who are in grade 9 or older. We are seeking people who sing/read all parts - soprano, alto, tenor/baritone, bass.

Here are the details to get started... This choir season's first rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 13th following the 9:00 worship service (approx. 10:15 a.m.). Feel free to come and check things out, ask questions, etc. You can also direct questions anytime to myself or any current choir member!

Come be a vital part of worship. We'd love to see you on the 13th!

-Kathy Moorhouse, Choir Director

Searching For Worship Cantors

We need more individuals to "dip their toe in the water" and try being a cantor during worship. A cantor is what Eric & Marcy Walker do when we use a liturgy setting that calls for one. Our goal is to eventually set up a sort of rotation (easier on everyone) and to eventually expand to Wednesday nights.

Instructional practice will be offered to those interested. For more information, contact Kathy Moorhouse or the church office. Thank you!

WAYS TO GIVE



MAIL

Mail it to the church or drop off at the office



AUTOMATED

Automatic giving through your bank



AT WORSHIP

Place offering in the plate after worship



ONLINE

Give using the Subsplash app on our website



VENMO

Give through Venmo @flchurch

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes –August 10, 2026

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:04pm by President Millie Kehrli. Meeting was held in the Church Friendship Room.

Members present: Millie Kehrli, Donna Millenkamp, Billie Zumbach, Vance Knutson, Brenda Palas, Duane Nieman, and Lucas Thomas. **Absent:** Leah Beaman, Cathy Glew, Pastor Jason, David Johnson. **Visitor present:** John Zietlow and Doran Zumbach

John Zietlow presented the council with a list of last year's beneficiaries of fair food stand profits. Council will need to review and decide how to distribute this year's profits.

Doran Zumbach gave a quick update on the Iowa Care Package project. The project has shifted to building his herd. Donations will wrap up at end of August.

Opening devotions were given by Millie.

Approval of June Council Minutes: Motion by Billie, seconded by Donna to approve the June 8th minutes with date of next meeting corrected; motion carried.

Approval of June and July Treasurer's Report: Tabled.

Church Council examined the Treasurer's Reports, but in the absence of our Treasurer to answer questions we have moved to table approval until the next meeting.

Total Income YTD (July 2026)	\$189,076.45	Total Income previous YTD	\$133,855.47
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$260,125.00	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(71,048.55)
Total Expenses YTD (July 2026)	\$239,671.32	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$135,500.34
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$264,437.20	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$(24,765.88)
Operating YTD Loss/Profit	\$9,708.95	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$15,953.35

Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

June:

- **Income** for the month of June was \$18,184.26, which is \$7,828.24 under budget.
- **Income YTD** was \$175,341.26, which is \$58,771.24 under budget.
- **Expenses** for the month of June were \$19,705.15 which is \$6,738.57 under budget.
- **Expenses YTD** were \$215,591.98 which is \$18,401.50 under budget.
- **Net Operating Income** for the month of June is \$13,738.16 and YTD (\$24,006.75).

July:

- **Income** for the month of July was \$13,735.19, which is \$12,277.31 under budget.
- **Income YTD** was \$189,076.45, which is \$71,048.55 under budget.
- **Expenses** for the month of July were \$20,079.35 which is \$6,364.38 under budget.
- **Expenses YTD** were \$239,671.32 which is \$24,765.88 under budget.
- **Net Operating Income** for the month of July is \$33,715.70 and YTD \$9,708.95.

President – Millie Kehrli:

- A few thank you notes for scholarships were received.
- We have received requests for donations from Camp Courageous and WDABC.

President – Elect – Vance Knutson: No report

Christian Education – Lucas Thomas:

- Mission trip went well.
- Sunday School begins 9/13.
- VBS was well attended and went well.

Evangelism –Leah Beaman: No report**Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:**

- Pastor Jason Services:
 - Sunday August 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th @ 9AM
 - Wednesday, August 19th and 26th @6PM
- Sunday, August 9th -15th Pastor Jason on vacation
- Wednesday, August 12th @6PM-Cheri Orcutt Workshop Leader
- No Internship with Mission for Christ
- Sound System moved to balcony
- August Liturgy-This is the Feast
- September Liturgy-Now the Feast
- Mission District Convocation-August 29th @ Nazareth in Cedar Falls

Properties – Duane Nieman:

- Sound booth has been moved and working, just some small things to finish up.
- SMI is busy and won't come to tuck point this month.
- Looking into landscaping the front of the church to slope the ground away from the building to stop water from seeping in.
- Have bids to put keypad on office door.

Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:

- Obtained a Thrivent grant to provide \$250 of groceries for the food box. Congregation continues to provide food for the community using the outside food box. Have had great support.
- Last 2 months 16 freezer meals/23 servings provided. Freezer meals are available to those in need.
- Ongoing weekly Coffee Fellowship following Sunday worship is well attended. Grateful to the weekly volunteers. Thank you!
- Continued monthly visits by four volunteers meeting with 14 homebound residents of the Meadows and the Good Neighbor Home. If anyone knows of someone who would like a visit, please contact Cathy.
- July 9 served a funeral dinner to honor Roberta Weis.
- July 23 served a funeral dinner to honor Cathy Zumbach.
- Great help in the kitchen for VBS

Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:

- We raised \$197.65 for Delaware Count Pay It Forward family fun event in July.
- We will be collecting for the Good Neighbor Home on August 9th and 12th.

Secretary of the Council –Brenda Palas: No report**Pastor Jason Cooper:**

- July 8th funeral for Roberta Weis
- July 23rd funeral for Cathy Zumbach

- Delaware County Fair was essentially my second parish this month.
- Led Bible story and game time for VBS
- Unofficial greeters for RAGBRAI
- Mission trip was a marathon of miles and ministry. Drove 2, 250 plus miles. Our service projects included house demolition, worksite cleanup and polishing pews at the host church.

Old Business:

- Keypad on office door
- Motion by Billie, seconded by Lucas to approve the Hawkey Alarm & Signal Company Bid for the purchase of a security lock and keypad for the main office door; motion carried.

New Business:

- Recommendations for disbursement of endowment funds-Tabled.
- Recommendations for disbursement of food stand fair profits-Tabled.
- Parking lot entrance and exit signs-Tabled.

Next meeting will be held on September 14, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Palas

Monthly Offering Comparison

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	\$18,937.13	\$21,906.87	\$13,353.69	\$19,063.72
February	\$28,414.39	\$17,120.64	\$16,450.02	\$12,840.42
March	\$33,049.82	\$18,216.41	\$18,306.05	\$24,169.40
April	\$20,542.21	\$20,210.51	\$17,359.59	\$16,284.63
May	\$25,993.18	\$18,624.85	\$13,893.45	\$12,975.65
June	\$22,744.81	\$13,614.20	\$15,796.30	\$17,420.88
July	\$28,784.78	\$15,272.71	\$13,557.29	\$12,760.66
August	\$22,196.56	\$15,206.24	\$13,397.73	
September	\$23,810.07	\$12,636.67	\$13,114.42	
October	\$29,430.84	\$16,694.94	\$16,919.28	
November	\$20,937.08	\$11,898.12	\$19,161.69	
December	\$32,662.87	\$8,854.54	\$22,911.47	
Yearly Totals	\$307,503.74	\$190,256.70	\$180,823.25	\$115,515.36

SCRIP ORDER FORM

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS	BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Amazon.com	2%	10____25____100____	Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50____
American Eagle	10%	25____	Fareway	3%	25____100____
Applebee's	8%	25____	Gap/Old Navy	14%	25____
Arby's	8%	10____	Gift Holder	10%	2____
Aunt Emmy's (L)	4%	10____25____100____	JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25____
Barnes & Noble	9%	5____10____25____	Maurices	7%	20____
Bath & Body	13%	10____25____	Menards <*>	3%	25____100____
Best Buy	4%	25____	Michaels	4%	25____
Boubin Tires (L)	5%	See Brenda	Outback Steakhouse	8%	50____
BP Gas	2%	50____100____	Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Buckle	8%	25____	Pizza Ranch (L)	8%	25____
Bushel & A Peck	3%	10____	Posy Place (L)	5%	10____
Burger King	4%	10____	Red Lobster	8%	10____25____
Cabela's	8%	25____	Red Robin	9%	25____
Casey's	3%	25____50____100____	Staples	5%	25____
Castle Theatre (L)	10%	5____	Starbucks	7%	10____25____
Cenex	3%	25____	Subway	6%	10____
Chili's	11%	25____	Sunset (L)	10%	10____20____
Chuong Garden (L)	10%	10____25____	Target	3%	10____25____100____
Culvers Restaurant	5%	10____	Texas Roadhouse	8%	25____100____<*>____
Dairy Queen (L)	10%	5____10____	TJ Maxx	7%	25____
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10____25____	Ulta Salons	4%	25____
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25____100____	Visa/Discover pp (CC)	1%	<*> 50____100____
			Walmart	3%	10____25____100____

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- <*> Not stocked, can be ordered
 *** See Brenda for special details
 (L) Local participating businesses
 (CC) Can be used to pay on credit card

Contact Brenda Saunders with questions: 563-920-3191.

If you need scrip mid-week, see Susi DuBois during office hours.

For a full list of what can be offered go to:
raiseright.com



SEPTEMBER 2026

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 9:00 a.m. Quilting 11:15 a.m. Church Ladies Lunch	2 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Men's Bible Study Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting	3	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship	7 OFFICE CLOSED 	8 9:00 a.m. Quilting	9 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Men's Bible Study Confirmation	10	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Worship <i>MOTM-Noisy Can Offering</i> 10:15 a.m. Fellowship First Day of Sunday School	14 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	15 9:00 a.m. Quilting	16 6:00 p.m. Worship <i>MOTM-Noisy Can Offering</i> 7:00 p.m. GIG Men's Bible Study Confirmation	17	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Sunday School	21	22 9:00 a.m. Quilting	23 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Men's Bible Study Confirmation	24	25 October Lamplighter Deadline	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Sunday School	28	29 9:00 a.m. Quilting	30 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Men's Bible Study Confirmation			