



First Lutheran Church

521 N. 8th Street Manitowoc WI 54220

April 2026

MESSENGER

Our God-given mission is to **Gather** in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Grow

in faith and love,

Go out to serve and

invite others to faith in Christ.



Highlights From FLC's Council Meeting February 17 , 2026



Pastoral Care: Linda Herzog has passed away after reaching a stopping point with the physical realities that were ailing her. Linda joined FLC shortly after my arrival. She once called me after a sermon on the Ten Commandments to let me know I had numbered them “wrong” (I was using a different numbering system!). We laughed about it and bonded. She was a good and faithful woman who will be deeply missed. Paul Marquardt is, it seems, making the move to Felician Village. This will likely bring an end to his regular attendance at First Lutheran, and he leaves a hole here as well. As far as I know, he is doing well. He is a gift. There are many more situations—known and unknown—unfolding in the lives of our members. Please continue to hold one another in prayer.

Financial Report: To pay for the budget with only donations (no endowment transfers) we need 36,211.33 per month. Cash donations this month were: 31,560.00. We are within striking distance!

Old Business: Governance Update - We are implementing a missional refresh of our governance structure so that our leadership systems better support our mission as the Body of Christ. Over time, we have recognized that parts of our current structure unintentionally focus more on managing the organization than advancing our mission. Our hope is that this refresh releases new energy into our congregation so we can more faithfully and effectively share the message of Jesus Christ in our community and in the world.

Facilities Renewal Project Update – We are looking at updating our church building to move forward in mission.

New Business: Council Elections Succession - We will need to search for 2 more nominations for Church Council.

Please Note: All are welcome to listen in at the church council meetings which are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm, except in July. If you have concerns, questions and comments, please reach out to our Council president, Landie Van Haren, Pastor Andy or other Council members.

A complete copy of the minutes, once approved at the following month’s meeting, will be available on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room or in the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Laham
Council Secretary

Thank you!

Thank you to Hubbart Electric for their most recent donation of over \$3,000 to FLC in labor and materials. Your kindness, attention and generosity are beyond appreciated.

Also, thank you to Cooper Fellows for your assistance, time and professionalism.



WHO'S WHO

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Pastor Brian Staude
Visitation Pastor

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemporary Music Coordinator

Mark Sikkila
Organist

Brooke Prather
Office Manager

Patti Reilly
Financial Secretary &
Office Assistant

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: Yolanda VanHaren
920.860.5053

V.P.: Karin Jaeger
920.860.5053

Treas: David Bowman
920.629.5487

Sec.: Teresa Laham
920.790.0993

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education
Rob Michaelson

Christian Fellowship
Karin Jaeger, Sheila Hansen

Christian Outreach/Servanthood
Teresa Laham, Sheila Hansen,
Patti Fellows

Christian Stewardship
David Bowman

Congregational Care
Liz Foster

Finance
David Bowman, Nick Port

Marketing & Technology
Rob Michaelson, Kate Dorner

Music & Worship
Linda Jurgens, Lorene Jakel

Personnel
Karin Jaeger, Tyler Fellows

Property
Andy Jacobson



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

Grace and peace to you in the name of our living and loving Savior, Jesus the Christ.

I don't really have adequate words to express my emotions at the moment. I appreciated a phrase someone shared recently: "When it rains, it hailstones." Please know how deeply grateful I am for your care and prayers as my family and I continue to navigate this time. It has been a lot. And yet, sometimes when some parts of life feel messy, other parts become surprisingly clear.

Our leaders and I have shared much about the renewed direction of our life together over the past couple of months. This is partly because there are many beautiful things happening, and also because we feel called to keep leaning into where God is leading us. I am thankful for our leaders who have invested so much time in learning, building community, praying, and discerning together.

And now, I want to lift up two simple truths that ring clear.

First, this is a moment in which God is calling something forth from us. We are blessed with gifted leaders, faithful servants, and a vibrant community. First Lutheran is not a small place—we are a people capable of dreaming big. I believe God is preparing us to step into new opportunities for mission and to do even more meaningful, impactful work. This doesn't diminish what has come before; rather, everything we have experienced has led us to this moment.

Second, if we are to truly listen and respond to God's call, our upcoming vote in April to simplify our structure is about creating space to do just that—to listen more deeply and engage more faithfully in the ministry God has for us today.

We know that the way people seek and experience spirituality is changing. How might we reach further into that opportunity? We know that much of our world is not centered on God's healing and grace—how might we embody that more fully for ourselves and our community? And we know that living with a shared focus on God's will is rare. Together, we can be that witness.

So, while the vote on April 26th after worship may feel significant—and it is—it ultimately comes down to two simple things: saying "yes" to discovering God's will anew in this time and place, and saying "yes" to aligning ourselves more fully with God's mission.

As we enter into the depths of Holy Week and hear again its message spoken into our sometimes hurting and broken lives, may we also live that message together. Let us proclaim the hope of Easter: "He lives." I believe God has prepared us to do exactly that!

Let us say "yes," together.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy



Living by Faith



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

THANK YOU to Sheila Hansen! Your talents make an amazing difference in our community. Your time, energy, willingness, and genuine kindness and caring are very appreciated and a powerful force at FLC. Thank you for being an inspiration, Sheila!

Scripture Readings



April 5	First	Acts 10:34-43
	Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
	Second	Colossians 3:1-4
April 12	Gospel	John 20:1-18
	First	Acts 2:14a,22-32
	Psalm	Psalm 16
April 19	Second	1 Peter 1:3-9
	Gospel	John 20:19-31
	First	Acts 2:14a, 36-41
April 26	Psalm	Psalm 116:1-4,12-19
	Second	1 Peter 1:17-23
	Gospel	Luke 24:13-35
April 26	First	Acts 2:42-47
	Psalm	Psalm 23
	Second	1 Peter 2:19-25
	Gospel	John 10:1-10

Baptismal Anniversaries

Blessings to the following babies, Sunday School Students & Youth who are celebrating their Baptismal birthdays in APRIL!

- Noah Stryzewski 4.12.15
- Johnathon Check 4.16.23
- Camile Hoefner 4.17.21
- Jacob Gordon 4.27.14



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Congratulations to these young people who celebrate their birthdays in April!

- Theo Jacobson April 8
- Natalie Baryenbruch April 12
- Patrick Taylor April 16
- Dax Mellberg April 17
- Brynn Rosenow April 22



First Lutheran Church

920.682.7742

office@flcmanitowoc.org

Our Fellowship Coffee Hour

Everyone is welcome to join in the Fellowship Coffee Hour after the Sunday service in the Fireside Room! See you there!!!

Book Club

Book Club takes place the third Wednesday of every month at 1pm in the Fireside Room.

Bible Study

Wednesdays with Pastor Andy 9:30-11am in the Fireside Room.

Zoom Bible Study

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:00 -10:30am. For more information email: blitzfamers@charter.net

First Lutheran Prayer Chain

To join prayer chain or leave a prayer request please call Mary Gammelin (920.682.2250) or email mgammelin@lsol.net. Or leave a prayer request by email to Betsie Auchter eauchter@comcast.net

Holy Communion Delivery

Members that are homebound or unable to drive to church, may receive communion in their homes once a month. We deliver communion on a short-term basis for those unable to attend services. Please call the church office to sign up. 920.682.7742

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

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF OUTREACH

Here are a few of the ways we are out in the community loving our neighbors. We'd love for you to get involved! Simply reach out to Brooke in the office 920.682.7742.

Friday Lunches for our Unhoused Neighbors - Beginning on April 17th, we will once again offer a hot meal every Friday at noon. How can you help?

- Provide a meal (or part of a meal) for 20 people
- Host a meal (help with serving, cleaning up and visiting with our guests)
- Monitor the door (Not a kitchen person? No problem!)
- Invite your employer, philanthropic group or club to partner with us. This year we will be inviting other churches and organizations to help out for a day by providing the meal and/or hosting the meal.
- Provide financial assistance to help with the cost of a meal. Simply write a check to First Lutheran Church with "Mission Fund Friday Lunch" on the memo line.



If you haven't helped out with Friday Lunches yet, please give it a try! There is a beautiful sense of community among the volunteers as well as with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness.

Community Meal at Lighthouse Recovery Center - We provide and serve a meal for 60 people at the Lighthouse Recovery Community Center on State Street the second Tuesday of the month from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

Laundry Day for our Unhoused Neighbors - We gather at Globe Laundry, (1301 Washington Street, Manitowoc), on the first Monday of the month from 10:00am to noon to provide laundry supplies, bus tokens and shower vouchers.



Manitowoc WARMING SHELTER

CURRENT FACTS

- 2025/26 Season over 70 served
- 12 Beds Only
- No Showers
- No Laundry
- No Storage
- Folks turned away nightly

BUILD THE SHELTER

Thank you.

Because of your generosity, your compassion, and your belief that every neighbor deserves warmth and dignity, we have already raised \$840,000 toward our \$1.2 million goal for a new warming shelter.

The Manitowoc Warming Shelter is now in its fourth season, offering something sacred on the coldest nights, a warm bed, a home-cooked meal, and a reminder that no one is forgotten.

And still, the need continues to grow.

Almost every night, we face the heartbreaking reality of turning people away. These are our neighbors. Some evenings, as many as eight individuals are left without a safe place to sleep. We offer food, supplies, and care when we can, but we know it is not enough.

Our search for the right location continues. We are in ongoing conversation with the City of Manitowoc **and remain committed to** finding a path forward that serves our neighbors with dignity and care. We trust that the right opportunity will emerge.

Our vision is clear: a stand-alone shelter that can welcome 24 individuals each night, with onsite showers and laundry, private meeting space for resource support and day services, and a commercial kitchen to nourish both body and spirit.

This is more than a building. It is a promise to Manitowoc County that we will not look away, that we will not settle for "almost enough," that we will create a place where everyone belongs.

With your continued support, we will cross the finish line and open our doors wider than ever before, ensuring that fewer and fewer of our neighbors are left out in the cold.

MANITOWOC WARMING SHELTER (offices located inside of First Presbyterian Church)

502 N 8th Street Manitowoc, WI 54220

920.629.5820 OR manitowocwarmingshelter@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION UPDATE



Psalm 61:2-4 From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I; for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." – Rainer Maria Rilke

Greetings First Lutheran Family!

I have appreciated this season of Lent and the ways in which we explored how our hearts can be "good soil." I'm grateful to Deacon Stephanie for her leadership of the services, and for all of those who were able to attend the service and lend their voices and hearts to each week's discussions and study. It was a beautiful time of fellowship and discovery.

As we move through Holy Week, we anticipate the Easter season and what that means for us. I look forward to this season and to the newness spring brings. And with this spirit of "new life," I am eager to determine and plan fun, new opportunities for our young families and youth to connect with one another. I can't wait to catch up with you soon to determine the best ways and times to make that happen!

Springtime might also be a great time for you and your family to discover Crossways Camps. Typically, our confirmation students attend camp each summer – but it's not just for our teens, there's something for everyone! Please read more about these opportunities and how you might enjoy some outdoor summer fun at one of the camps. I thank Nick and Andrea Port for being our Crossways Delegates who represent our church – we appreciate your time and effort!

I hope you plan on joining us for our annual Spring Brunch this year, which takes place the week after Easter on April 12 after our morning service. Our young people will be there to help serve you delicious breakfast foods and other treats! We are also looking forward to having these same confirmation students participate in some outdoor service opportunities as we move into spring. They enjoy being helpful and active and we appreciate them!

And finally, I look forward to some special activities with my Sunday School children on Easter Sunday after service. I invite all the children as able, to stay for a fun craft to help spread smiles and to make a special treat to share with family and friends that celebrates the good news of Christ's Resurrection!

This April, I pray for strength, faithfulness, good health and God's continued grace and blessings for all.

Cheerfully in Christ,

Connie

cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org or 920.682.7742 ext. 106

Annual Spring Brunch On Sunday, April 12

Join us for our Board of Youth sponsored Spring Brunch during fellowship hour in Fireside Room. Our menu will include eggs, ham, a hot potato casserole, French toast bake, fruit and lots of other goodies! A free will offering will be taken and all proceeds will go towards this summer's family and youth special event expenses as well as travel expenses for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minnesota in 2027! We will be happy to see many of you there! Many thanks for your continued support of our youth program!



Sunday School April Calendar

- April 5 Easter Sunday! Special Easter Celebration with Connie in Fellowship Hall
- April 12 No Sunday School – Enjoy our Spring Brunch in the Fireside Room during Fellowship Hour!
- April 19 Sunday School 10:10 – 10:55 am
- April 26 Sunday School 10:10 – 10:55 am

COMING SOON

Confirmation News

Youth Group,

Spark Students And Parents



<u>Sunday, April 5</u>	NO CLASS Easter Sunday
<u>Sunday April 12</u>	All families help with Spring Brunch following worship Class 4 – 5:30pm
<u>Sunday April 19</u>	Class 4 – 5:30pm
<u>Sunday April 26</u>	NO CLASS
<u>Sunday, May 3</u>	Class 4-5:30pm
<u>Sunday, May 10</u>	Class 4-5:30pm
<u>Sunday, May 17</u>	Class 4- 5:30pm

Wed. April 1	NO YOUTH GROUP (MPSD Spring Break)	
Wed. April 8	4–5 pm	SPARK
Sun. April 12	5:45–7 pm	YOUTH GROUP (location TBD)
Wed. April 15	6:30–7:30 pm	YOUTH GROUP
Wed. April 22	4–5 pm	SPARK
Wed. April 29	5 TH Wednesday	

Feel free to call or text me whenever you have any questions regarding youth meeting times. (920-901-2584)



CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES



Think summer camp is just for youngsters? Well, think again! I'm excited to tell you all about Crossways Camping Ministries. Crossways is a Lutheran camping ministry based in northeastern Wisconsin. It operates at several sites: Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, Pine Lake Camp in Waupaca, and Waypost Camp in Hatley. Crossways offers outdoor ministry programs for all ages. Crossways is affiliated with the ELCA and values all ecumenical partnerships. There are so many fabulous camping opportunities.

- Camp Jr. Aimed at the pre-k crowd. A 4 ½ hour experience with a mom, dad or other family member.
- Sprouts. Entering grade 2 – 4 in the Fall of '26. A 3-day, 2-night stay.
- Twigs and Sprigs. Entering grade 1 – 5 in the Fall of '26. One day, or one overnight stay.
- Saplings. Entering grade 4 – 6 in the Fall of '26.
- Timbers. Entering grade 7 – 9 in the Fall of '26.
- Foresters. Entering grade 10 – 12 in the Fall of '26.

There are other camps as well. Artisan camps, Steam camps, young leadership camps (the Grove), family camps, Grandkid camp – a multigenerational experience, Self-Determination Camp for those adults with disabilities to experience an arts and advocacy program.

If you are interested in your children or family to attend a camp together, I highly encourage you to check out the programming and dates for the various camps at Crosswayscamps.org/summer-camp.

I would be more than happy to help you with any registration processes. Please know, there are campership funds available to help defray any costs. It really is such a fun opportunity to experience a formative faith experience with others in a beautiful setting. Please reach out to me if you'd like to learn more.—CONNIE

HOPE HOUSE



Join us on April 8th from 10-11am at the Manitowoc Public Library in the Franklin Street Room.

We will have a Meaningful Volunteer Information session about Hope House and the rewards from volunteering!

FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

- Altar Flowers 1 vase \$35
2 vases \$60
- Prayer Shawl Ministry \$25
- Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT] Full Sponsor= \$465

*Monetary gifts of any amount are welcome. Your sponsorships will be listed in our weekly 'Life @ First' insert. 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: _____

VIDEO VOLUNTEERS

If you can push a button, you are qualified. Talk to Pastor Andy or call Brooke in the office 920.682.7742 with questions or to volunteer!

WE NOW HAVE GUEST WIFI!!!!



NETWORK TO JOIN:
First Lutheran Guest
PASSWORD: flcgrace

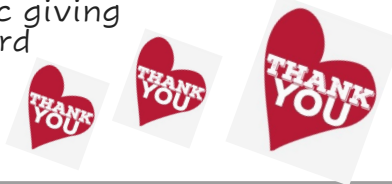
THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone for keeping in mind that the parking spots closest to our entrance are best served for our elderly members and visitors.
You are incredibly thoughtful!

We have four (4) safe and secure options available!

HOW TO GIVE:

- Mail your check
- Instruct your bank to mail a check
- Call the church office to set up electronic giving
- Credit card



THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our many volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!!! Want to get involved? Call the office 920.682.7742!

Hope House

Manitowoc County



Hope House 1000 S. 35th St. Manitowoc, WI 54220
920.686.1436 hopehousemc.org

Hope House is a United Way Funds Recipient

FLC has a dedicated team of volunteers but we are looking to increase our numbers. We would love to have you join us.

OUR WISH LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Laundry liquid detergent | Floor cleaner |
| Laundry detergent pods | Walmart gift cards |
| Liquid hand soap | Pack 'n Play portable crib |
| Toilet paper | Pick 'n Save gift cards |
| Paper towels | Kwik Trip gift cards |

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Next collection: Sunday, April 5, 2026

(Always on the First Sunday of the Month)




UPDATED LIST: 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, cereal/oatmeal, pouched meat, pasta, coffee in individual portion packets, condiments (including pickles and olives, etc.), 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, to use to bring your donations on the First Sunday. Remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, call or leave a message for Harry at 920.242.2489.
THANK YOU !!!



We Volunteers!

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am Bible Study No Youth Grp. 5pm Choir Practice	2 9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study 6pm Maundy Thursday in sanctuary	3 9am Grief Support Group 1pm Good Friday Service in sanctuary	4 Holy Saturday
5 9am Easter Worship- 10:10am Sunday School Easter Celebration with Fellowship Coffee NO Confirmation Class	6 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells	7 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg.	8 NO Adult Bible Study 10-11am Hope House Info. @ Mtwc. Library 5pm Choir Practice 4-5pm Spark	9	10	11 National Pet Day 
12 9am Worship CC 10:10am Annual Spring Brunch following worship NO Sunday School 4-5:30pm Conf. Class Yth Grp. 5:45-7pm	13 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 4:15pm Mutual Ministry 6pm Handbells	14 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 5:30pm Bd. Of Marketing & Tech. 6pm Bd. Of Youth 6pm Bd. Of Music & Worship 7pm Bd. Of Property	15 9:30am Bible Study 1pm Book Club 5pm Choir Practice 6:30-7:30pm Youth Grp.	16 9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study	17 9am Grief Support Group 12pm Lunch With Our Neighbors	18
19 9am Worship Pastor Staude 10:10am Sunday School Fellowship Coffee 4-5:30pm Conf. Class	20 1pm Snip 'N Sew Marketing & Tech. 6pm Handbells	21 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6:30pm Council Mtg.	22 9:30am Bible Study 4-5pm Spark	23	24 12pm Lunch With our Neighbors	25 World Penguin Day 
26 9am Worship 10:10 Annual Mtg. Sunday School Fellowship Coffee NO Conf. Class	27 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells	28 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 5:30pm Bd. Of Outreach	29	30 National Bugs Bunny Day 		

Don't forget about our Annual Meeting following worship on April 26th!

NA Meetings every Sunday at 6pm.

Holy Communion every Sunday

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.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220



Phone: 920-682-7742
E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org
Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Manitowoc, WI 54220
Permit No. 93

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Andy Wendle

Sunday Services at 9am

**WOMT 1240AM, womtradio.com
YouTube, Facebook Live**

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-12noon

920-682-7742

Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

Holy Communion - Every Sunday

Sunday School (Sept.-May) 10:10am

Happy Easter

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd 6pm in the sanctuary

Good Friday, April 3rd 1pm in the sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 5th 9am in the sanctuary

SPRING
~~~~~  
**BLESSINGS**

*Our God Given Mission is to....Gather in the name of the  
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
Grow in faith and love, Go out to serve and invite others to  
faith in Christ.*