



First Light

Worship at First

Worship at First - Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Weekend Worship is livestreamed each Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

STAFF

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Pastor for First Lutheran's Transition

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Deacon Korra Looschen

Faith Formation Coordinator

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PASTOR STEPHANIE'S NOTE

Dear People of God at First Lutheran:

It's been a busy and interesting two weeks with you! A few days ago, a friend asked me how things were going and I said, I feel like I walked into a hurricane while drinking information from a fire hose. All the while, you have been patient with my frequent, I don't know's, while I am working to catch on. We'll get there.

At the heart of our life together is worship. Our Lutheran worship practice is liturgical whereby liturgy means, the Work of the People.

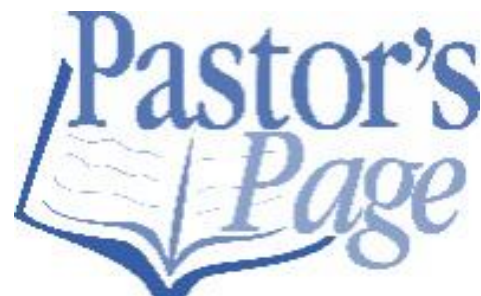
Essentially, it is a conversation between us and God: in prayer, we speak to God; in readings, we listen to what God has to say to us; in hymns, we are praising God; in the creed, we confess before God and to each other what we believe. It is a constant back and forth in which our part as a congregation is a very active part.

So, I have suggested to put a few things back into the liturgy that have fallen out of your regular

practice: the Kyrie and the Gloria/Hymn of Praise, a Hymn of the Day, and a Eucharistic Prayer that puts our meal together into the long story of God with humanity. While no scripture has ever limited worship to an hour on Sunday mornings, I am quite certain we will still be able to honor that timeframe: my sermons are relatively short (that's all I know, folks), and we have moved the special music to the Offertory and, if we have more than one musical offering on a Sunday, to the distribution of communion. And by September, when we have choir support, we'll be learning Setting 2 of the ELW: It is a joyful, even playful musical setting that we will enjoy for the rest of the long green season before we change to a more contemplative setting in Advent.

Lastly, we'll do a proper St. Francis Day service, where all your pets are invited to come to church with you. October 4 is Francis' feast day, and as a lover of all creatures and critters we bless house pets and animals while remembering him. So, bathe your dog and crate your cat, and if you are bringing a tarantula, make sure it's in a secure box: your pastor is much less enamored with creatures sprouting more than four legs than those with fewer. We'll tell you more when the date gets closer, in the meantime, hug your cat or your goldfish and promise them a blessing on the weekend of October 3 and 4.

See you in church –
Stephanie +



DEACON KORRA REFLECTIONS

Dear First Lutheran,

As we step into a new season of ministry, our church is preparing to open the doors to a rich variety of faith formation opportunities designed to help every member—children, youth, and adults—grow more deeply in Christ. These upcoming gatherings, studies, and spiritual practices invite us to pause, reconnect, and rediscover the joy of learning and living our faith in community.

From creative youth events to thoughtful adult studies, from hands-on service to quiet moments of prayer, this season offers something for everyone. Whether you're seeking a fresh start, a deeper understanding, or simply a place to belong, we hope you'll join us as we explore new ways to nurture our spirits and strengthen our walk with God.



This is a time for renewal, imagination, and shared discipleship. Let's step forward together—ready to learn, ready to listen, and ready to grow. Please sign up to participate in a project for God's Work. Our Hands. Day on Sunday, September 13. We need to know how many people will participate so we can better prepare and plan for the pizza lunch at noon.

Choose from one of the following activities to participate in from 10:45-12:00 noon.

Lutheran Family Services- Collect all donated items and then hear from women who are refugees from Burma who have settled in Colorado. Learn about their journey and how we can accompany them in this transition. LFS staff will accompany the women and share about all the programs and services they provide.

Our Center-Travel to the Our Center to deliver the bags of rice and beans and all the collected diapers. Then, take a tour and learn about the organization from the Director of Volunteer Services. Experience what it might be like to receive some of the services they offer and pray about how First Lutheran may partner with them.

Bag Rice and Beans-Children and parents will assemble rice and beans which will be given to the Our Center.

St. Vrain Manor-Travel to the St. Vrain Manor which First Lutheran has a partnership with. Participants will take a tour of the facility followed by having cookies and coffee conversation with some of the local residents at St. Vrain. Prior to the visit, members are encouraged to write cards or draw pictures to be given to the members.

Parish House-Move a variety of medical equipment from the parish house to a storage room in the upper south wing at the church. This medical equipment is an important piece of our ministry that is used by members of First Lutheran after surgeries or injuries. Moving the equipment will be more accessible for those who request it and it will clear space in the Parish House for the possibility of providing additional housing for those in need. After moving the equipment, folks will have the opportunity to hear about the Parish House Return to Housing Project and ask questions.

We have an incredible last-minute opportunity to show our presence in the community and serve the need for food insecurity. There are only four spots available, so if you want to serve in this way, please get a ticket from Deacon Korra. The organization, "Colorado Friendship" needs four people to participate in a food drive outside Sam's Club on 9/13 from 10 am-noon. We will be simply asking shoppers as they enter the store if they would consider donating a non-perishable food item to Colorado Friendship. To claim your spot, see Deacon Korra.

We are collecting the following items:

knitting supplies, yarn, wool, arts & crafts, sketch pads, paints, paint brushes, spiral notebooks, pens, and pencils. All items will be donated to the Women's Group of LFS. Please bring your donated items to the box in the narthex by September 6. These will be given to the Women's Group at Lutheran Family Services:

We are also collecting adult diapers and kids' diapers sizes 5 and 6 for the Our Center. Please place the donated diapers in the box in the narthex.

This annual day of service is the ELCA's annual day of service which is an opportunity for congregations to celebrate who we are as a church, engaging in projects that explore our convictions as Lutherans.

For High School Youth:

Calling all High School Seniors:



If you are a high school senior, or know someone who is and is connected to First Lutheran Church, please know that we want to accompany you during this time. The Good Samaritan Committee is planning a celebration brunch in May that includes gifts and scholarship awards. We will also have a special blessing of all graduates and their parents in worship that morning. In order to connect with you prior to graduation, please let Deacon Korra know if you would like to participate. We would love to accompany you and your family throughout the year. korra.looschen@firstluth.org

Monthly Youth Group with Bethlehem

Lutheran: Sunday, September 20, 5-7 p.m.
Location to be determined off site. We will be utilizing the Bible studies from the Youth Gathering that calls us to Imagine what God is doing through each of us.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date! The ELCA National Triannual Youth Gathering

The ELCA National Triannual Youth Gathering June 28-July 2 in Minneapolis. Registration will begin in November 2026 with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. All youth entering grades 9-college freshmen are eligible. This is an experience you do not want to miss! This year's gathering theme is, "Imagine!" The ministry of the Gathering seeks to remind young people that God is already at work in them for the sake of the whole world. God invites young people to imagine more, immeasurably more, for their own lives, the city of Minneapolis, the body of Christ and the life of the world. Will you imagine more with us in Minneapolis? See more details by visiting the following link www.elca.org/gathering.

Confirmation Fall Retreat

For Middle School Youth: Confirmation Fall Retreat-Friday, October 2-Sunday, October 4 at Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Enjoy the beauty of the mountains in the fall for a fabulous prequel to Halloween! Campers will enjoy all the great meals, camp activities, and a costume party. The theme is, "Who Am I and How Can I Be a Reformer/Transformer?!" Registration is due

September 13 with a \$50 deposit. For more information, contact Deacon Korra.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Congratulations to Sarah and Justin Gerber on the birth of their son, James Elijah Kolden Gerber on August 13.



Congratulations to Margaretha and Brian Magnusson on the birth of their first great grandchild who was born on August 18.

If you have a prayer of praise to share, please inform one of the staff in the office.

COUNCIL CORNER

Your Church Council met on Tuesday, August 11, with a full agenda as we continue our work during this important time of transition.

Council received special presentations from Tim King of the Endowment Committee and from Brad Hall and Preston Johnson regarding the agenda and procedures for the Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 30. Members are encouraged to carefully review the mailing regarding the Special Meeting when it arrives, as it contains important information about the meeting. The agenda will be available at the meeting on August 30.

Council also recommended approval of a preliminary 2026-2027 budget. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation in September for review and consideration. We were very pleased to learn that the church has received a generous \$230,000 gift from the estate of Gerald Mueller. In accordance with the gift, the funds will be divided equally between the Endowment Fund and the Parish House Transitional Housing Project. We give thanks for this remarkable legacy and for the lasting impact it will have on the ministries of our congregation and community.

Looking ahead, the Church Council has agreed to serve as the Stewardship Committee for the 2026-2027 year. Council held a work session on August 18 to discuss the Synod listening gatherings and what we have learned from them, as well as to hear about Pastor Stephanie's first weeks with our congregation. There is much happening at our church. We appreciate your continued participation, prayers, and support as we move forward together in ministry.



EVENTS HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER

- ♦ Saturday Worship, – 5:30 p.m.
- ♦ Sundays –Worship Service in person and livestreamed at 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Nursery Sundays – 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
- ♦ Sunday School Hour – 10:45 a.m., Room 5, Fly Room
- ♦ Adult Forum Class, 10:45 a.m. – Conference Room Starting September 6
- ♦ Brass Angels Bell Choir – Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m., Choir Room, Starting September 8
- ♦ Staff Meeting – Tuesdays, 1:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Adult Lectionary Study – Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., Fireside Room, Starting September 17
- ♦ Chancel Choir Rehearsals – Thursdays, 7:00 p.m., Choir Loft, Starting September 10
- ♦ Parish House Return to Housing, – Wednesday, September 2, 9:30 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group – Wednesday, September 2, 9:00 a.m., Room USW-B
- ♦ Touch of Craft – Wednesday, September 2, 11:00 a.m., 2:00 P.M., Room 6
- ♦ Reconciling in Christ Meeting, – 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 3, Conference Room
- ♦ Homebound Communion – Sunday, September 6
- ♦ Coffee with Council – Sunday, September 6, Fireside Room
- ♦ Sunday – September 6, Last Worship Service, 8:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Labor Day – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
- ♦ Worship Planning Meeting, – Wednesday, September 9. 10:00 a.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Budget Committee Meeting, – Thursday, September 10, 1:00 p.m. Conference Room

- ♦ **Prayer Shawl Group** – 9:30 a.m., Friday, September 11, **CANCELLED**
- ♦ Gluten Free Bread Baking, – Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m., Downstairs Kitchen
- ♦ **FLW** – 8:30 a.m., Sunday, September 13 **CANCELLED**
- ♦ God's Work. Our Hands. – Sunday, September 13, 10:45 a.m., Sunday School and Confirmation classes
- ♦ Council Meeting – Tuesday, September 15, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Seasoned Saints – Wednesday, September 16, 9:00 a.m., Estes Park, Upper Parking Lot
- ♦ LWR Sewing Group – Wednesday, September 16, 1:00 p.m., Room USW-B
- ♦ Reconciling in Christ Meeting, – Thursday, September 17, 5:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Budget Committee Meeting, – Thursday, September 17, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Personnel Committee Meeting – Thursday, 4:00 p.m., Conference Room
- ♦ Mission and Mahjong –Friday, September 18, 9:30 a.m., Room 5
- ♦ Third Saturday Game Night – Saturday, September 19, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Mission Spending Planning Review – Sunday, September 20, 10:45 a.m., Big Room
- ♦ Acolyte Training – Sunday, September 20, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary
- ♦ Youth Group with Bethlehem, September 20, 5:00 p.m., TBD
- ♦ Touch of Craft – Wednesday, September 23, 5:00 p.m., Room 6
- ♦ Mission Spending Planning Congregational Meeting – Sunday, September 27, 10:45 a.m., Big Room
- ♦ Confirmation Class – Sunday, September 27, 11:45 a.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church



THURSDAY MORNING LECTIONARY STUDY

The Adult Bible Study has changed its name to Adult Lectionary Study. Classes start Thursday, September 17 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Led by Pastor Stephanie and Pastor Sally



CHANCEL CHOIR

After a summer of resting our voices, it's time to tune them up for the start of Chancel Choir! Anyone who enjoys lifting your voice in song is welcome to join us! Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, September 10th at 7:00pm in the balcony, and we will be singing our first service on Sunday, September 20. If you can't make it on the 10th, please feel free to join us any Thursday evening.



The time commitment for Chancel Choir is very flexible! Everyone has such hectic lives, perfect attendance is not required. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., with treats and fellowship at the end. We sing at least two Sundays per month. We warm up at 9:00am in the Music Room downstairs prior to the service and then head up to the balcony for the 9:30am service. Choir members are welcome to join their families in the main sanctuary after singing the choir anthem.

We are looking forward to seeing you on September 10 at 7:00 p.m. Don't be shy – give it a try!! Please feel free to contact Sally Campbell, Chancel Choir Director, with any questions at: sallycampbell.music@gmail.com or 303-652-3064

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) UPDATE

Including pronouns on nametags is a simple way to help us create a welcoming community where everyone can be known and addressed as they are. Sharing our pronouns helps us avoid making assumptions about one another and normalizes the practice for people of all gender identities. It's a small gesture that communicates: you belong here, and we want to get your name and identity right. Please include your preferred pronouns when signing up for a new nametag - the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Maria's office.



SEASONED SAINTS

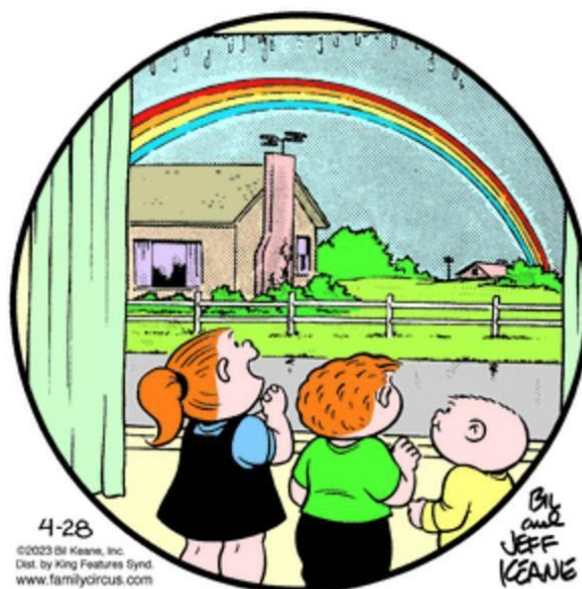
Our trip to Estes Park is Wednesday, September 16. Meet at Church by 9:00. We'll return mid-afternoon. Thank you, Andrew Howell, for being our most capable Uber.

Let's fill up the van! I guarantee beautiful sights, a tasty lunch and good conversation! I can't guarantee we'll see large animals, or perfect weather but am most hopeful! There will be limited walking and bathroom stops. Bring your water bottle, appropriate clothing, snack and camera.

Let me know if you can spend a beautiful day in the mountains with fellow Seasoned Saints.

God's Peace,

Leslie



"I'm glad God thought up rainbows."

DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR FIRST LUTHERAN'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

A Daily Gift of Faith: First Lutheran's 150th Anniversary Devotional

As we celebrate First Lutheran's 150th anniversary, we are creating a special daily devotional booklet featuring reflections from members and visitors of our congregation.

We invite you to be part of this meaningful celebration! Sample devotionals are available on the table in the narthex for inspiration and guidance.

Please keep your personal reflection to **300 words or fewer**. You may submit your devotional in any of these three ways:

- ♦ **Online:**
<https://forms.gle/XtsGQVrcde9rrwx29>
- ♦ **Handwritten:** Place your completed devotional in the drop box on the narthex table. Printed templates are available, and we are happy to type your handwritten submission for you.
- ♦ **Email:** Send your devotional to Holly Keenan or Susan Osberg at the email addresses below.

Submission Deadline: October 31, 2026

Our hope is that this devotional booklet will be a lasting source of **comfort, encouragement, and blessing** for our congregation. What a wonderful gift it would be to share a daily devotion from each of you as we celebrate 150 years together!

Questions or need assistance? Please contact:

Susan Osberg – sosberg@hotmail.com

Holly Keenan – hekeen77@comcast.net

Thank you for helping make this special anniversary project a blessing to our church family!

Holly Keenan & Susan Osberg



Devotionals



"Blest Be the Ties That Bind"

Celebrating our **Past**, our **Present** and our **Future**

Did you know...

...our church's 150th anniversary is January 3, 2028?

...a Steering Committee was appointed by Council in January 2026 to plan special events?

...a church-wide celebration will be held the weekend of January 8-9, 2028, in recognition of this incredible milestone?

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

We are looking forward to September 13, 2026 for the God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. The many events scheduled for that day provide a multitude of ways to serve. Don't forget to wear your T-SHIRTS that day. The Thankoffering boxes have been put out on the table across from the windows. Please take one and fill it with extra change, cash or check made out to First Lutheran Church. FLW will match whatever we collect and send that amount to the Women of the ELCA. The boxes will be collected at the



Thanksgiving Eve service. Advent bags will be filled and distributed again this year. Included in the bag are four flameless blue candles, an Advent Calendar, an ornament, Scripture Jelly Beans, Advent activity book, Advent devotions and a message from First Lutheran. They will be filled at the November 8, 2026 meeting accompanied by a list of those who haven't been able to attend First Lutheran in person for a while. There will be a sign-up sheet left with the bags for those who can deliver them on November 29, 2026, the first Sunday of Advent. Judy Burris and Margaretha Magnusson have compiled all the recipes of Jean Larson and are ready to go to print. Thank you to a gift from Thrivent, those costs will be covered.

SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			9:00 a.m. – Parish House Transitional Meeting 9:00 a.m. – LWR Sewing Group 11:00 a.m. – Touch of Craft	5:00 p.m. – Reconciling in Christ Meeting,		5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Homebound Communion Coffee with Council 8:00 a.m. – Worship in the Courtyard – Final Worship 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Adult Forum Class	LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir, 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m. – Worship Planning Meeting,	10:30 a.m., – Adult Lectionary Study, 1:00 p.m. – Budget Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m., – Chancel Choir Rehearsal,	9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Group – CANCELLED	10:00 a.m. – Gluten Free Bread Baking 5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30 a.m. – FLW Meeting 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – God's Work Our Hands 11:45 a.m. – Confirmation Class God's Work Our Hands		9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir, 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. – Council Meeting	9:00 a.m. – Seasoned Saints, Trip to Estes Park 1:00 p.m. – LWR Sewing Group	10:30 a.m., – Adult Lectionary Study, 1:00 p.m. – Budget Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. – Reconciling in Christ Meeting, 7:00 p.m., – Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m. – Mission and Mahjong	5:30 p.m. – Worship Service 6:30 p.m. – Third Saturday Game Night
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Children's & Youth Sunday School 10:45 a.m. – Acolyte Training, Sanctuary 10:45 a.m. Budget Review		9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir, 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting	5:00 p.m. – Touch of Craft	10:30 a.m., – Adult Lectionary Study 7:00 p.m., – Choir Rehearsal		5:30 p.m. – Worship Service
27	28	29	30			
9:30 a.m. – Worship Service 10:45 a.m. – Children's & Youth Sunday School 10:45 a.m. – Congregational Meeting, 11:45 a.m. – Confirmation Class – BLC		9:00 a.m. – Brass Angels Bell Choir, 1:00 p.m. – Staff Meeting				



FINANCIAL UPDATE: JULY 2026

	July 2026 Month-To-Date			July 2026 Year-To-Date			Full Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)	Actual	Budget	Variance Fav/(Unfav)	Budget
Income	46,347.57	47,151.63	(804.06)	414,111.73	429,080.38	(14,968.65)	702,462
Expenses	64,972.92	66,884.91	1,911.99	460,098.50	484,788.74	24,690.24	833,142
Net Income/(Loss):	(18,625.35)	(19,733.28)	1,107.93	(45,986.77)	(55,708.36)	9,721.59	(130,679.51)

GIVING OPTIONS

Giving Online is available on our website! Giving online allows you to make one-time or recurring offering contributions with a Credit or Debit Card or ACH bank transfer through Breeze ChMS (our church management system) who partners with Stripe for secure financial services. As with any electronic transaction, our church pays a small transaction fee to process the online payments. If you choose, you September cover that fee for the church at the same time you give which increases your contribution.



<https://firstluth.breezechms.com/give/online>

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Eligible clients with Thrivent membership can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled nonprofit organizations, including churches.

Thrivent Action Grants – Thrivent Action Grants are financial awards designed to empower individuals and groups to initiate small-scale projects that benefit their communities. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial, these grants provide up to \$250 to help kickstart service projects addressing various social needs, such as feeding the hungry, supporting education, or enhancing community facilities

King Soopers Community Rewards – This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your King Soopers Rewards Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at King Soopers and swipe your Shopper's Card.

Safeway Community Giving Card Program returns 5% of amounts loaded on reloadable grocery gift cards provided to First Lutheran after we meet minimum thresholds. Simply load your gift card at the grocery store, shop for groceries at Albertsons or Safeway using the gift card and reload the card when it gets low. Every time you reload the gift card, we get closer to earning 5% cashback. See Maria in the office to pick up a reloadable gift card that is linked to First Lutheran.

Please contact the office at (303) 776-2800 if you would like more information about any of these ways of sharing your generosity!

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

Conni Hopp	September 01	Steve Benscheidt	September 19
Margaret King	September 01	Audra Wehling	September 19
Ross Hansard	September 02	Phyllis Luedtke	September 20
Karen Hopper	September 02	Kayla Morelli	September 21
Lena Oliver	September 03	John Oppenlander	September 21
Heidi Peterson	September 03	Barbara Steege	September 21
John Fenstermaker	September 04	Danny Bohnen	September 22
David Hathcock	September 04	Scotty Bohnen	September 22
Fran von Hagel	September 04	Elaine Day	September 22
Caryl Zukauskas	September 04	Patty Vickland	September 22
Stephanie Geyer	September 05	Bobbie Gruendl	September 23
Karen Cain	September 08	Sarah Lovik	September 23
Rhianna Dobson	September 08	John Short	September 23
Greta Sugai	September 08	Lynda Dunnell	September 24
Abby Koschade	September 09	Stewart Jordison	September 25
Ot Derr	September 10	Sandy Maeda	September 25
Lisa Jayne	September 11	Connor McCormick	September 26
Louise Keinath	September 11	Paul Rutt	September 26
Linda Tveten	September 11	Daniel Hathcock	September 28
Darlyce Grabow	September 12	Chris Hertz	September 28
Char Lemkee	September 12	Tim King	September 28
Ryan Gould	September 13	Pat Rositer	September 28
Max Nieberger	September 14	Katie Nieuwlandt	September 29
Caryl Sitarski	September 14	Jennifer Ramsey	September 29
Dick von Bernuth	September 14	Corby Young	September 29
Jennifer Turner	September 16	Matthew Carter	September 30
Lynn Ferguson	September 17	Dottie Hargrave	September 30
Alan Manley	September 17	Bard Steward	September 30



First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Third Avenue and Terry Street
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