

First Lutheran Church

521 N. 8th Street Manitowoc WI 54220 USA March 2025

MESSENGER



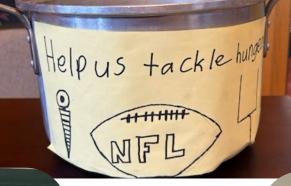
Our God-given
mission is to

Gather in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,



Grow

in faith and love,



Go out to serve and invite other to faith in Christ.



Photos from the FLC 30 Hour Famine advocacy campaign.
All proceeds were divided between ELCA World Hunger,
The Manitowoc Salvation Army and The Walking with our Neighbors Misson.
Thank you for your support!



Join Us! Sunday Services at 9am

Holy Communion—Every Sunday

10:10am Sunday School through May

WOMT 1240AM, womtradio.com YouTube Facebook live

Walking With Our Neighbors

At our most recent congregational financial meeting, we passed an exciting motion to partner with our friends at First Presbyterian Church in seeking to create a permanent warming shelter for Manitowoc. During 2025, First Lutheran will be giving \$10,000 to support this effort while also hoping to match another \$10,000 raised from the congregation with another \$10,000. So our total goal is \$30,000, at least!

If you would like to support this effort, please know you can give to the church for the "Walking With Our Neighbors Fund" or wait for further information as the planning for this fund-raising gains more steam.

As you may know, it was once hoped that the McKinley Building would be able to house a warming shelter for our area but that project needed to be narrowed in its focus so as to be able to empower Hope House and The Haven in their needs for our community. This left the Manitowoc Warming Shelter with a need to find a new permanent home for their important work and the funds we raise will support those efforts.

First is joining other faith communities in our area at supporting these efforts and we look forward to joyously working to embrace those who are in need in this way. Thank you, Members and Friends, for your courageous faithfulness!

Mission Coordinators Needed

Mission News: NEEDED: A few good LWR Mission Coordinators by May 15, 2025. **COORDINATOR ROLES:** Assure kit items are gathered for confirmation students and



parents to assemble in Oct. each year. HOW MANY KITS: The number depends on the quantity of items collected to complete a kit. This number varies from year to year. WHAT KITS NEED COORDINATORS: * Personal Care Kits- basics including towels, soap, comb, nail clipper, toothbrush * School Kits- School bags, to include notebooks, pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, etc. *OVERALL: Mission Coordinators call for October transportation of kits, schedule times to assemble kits, gather boxes for

completed kits, contact four area churches who may want to share transportation.

WHY NOW? I am trying to be proactive so the Mission Kits can continue. Life is changing and I do not want any health emergencies, on my part, to create a crisis for anyone. I share this only because we all know that health issues can change in a moment. So, before I cannot assist in teaching Mission requirements and answer questions, I pray several people will want to become a Coordinator. I have done

coordinating of the 5 Mission Projects myself and now changes need to occur.

- Mary Ann

Questions: Call MaryAnn Peaslee 920-684-9047

Thank you to all of our you!!! Want to get involved? Call the ofc.

many volunteers. We couldn't do it without 920-682.7742!

WHO'S WH

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Pastor Brian Staude

Visitation Pastor

Connie Dorner

Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman

Contemp. Music Coor.

Brooke Prather

Office Manager

Ana Rodriguez

Financial Secretary

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: Patty Greene 246-4476 V.P.: Yolanda VanHaren 860-5053

Treas: David Bowman 629-5487 **Sec.:** Teresa Laham 790-0993

BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education

Nichole Rabitz

Christian Fellowship

Sheila Hansen

Christian Outreach/Servanthood Patty Greene, Teresa Laham Sheila Hansen, Patti Fellows Sue Bryntesen

Christian Stewardship

David Bowman, Jean Olson

Congregational Care

Harry O'Connell

Finance

David Bowman, Nick Port

Marketing & Technology Patty Greene

Music & Worship

Linda Jurgens, Lorene Jakel

Personnel

Yolanda Van Haren

Property

Andy Jacobson

Youth Ministries

Nichole Rabitz, Ned Jerabek

%ô

Missionaries in Japan

Rev. James & Carol Sack





A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ANDY

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Wow! It is Lent already. Where did the time go? But since it is gone, what is it now time for?

It is time for us to set ourselves apart and take up the disciplines that will guide us into fuller expressions of faithfulness than perhaps we would normally achieve just on our own.

It is time for us to let go of certain things in our life as we seek to center ourselves on that which truly sustains us, that which truly gives us life rather than all the things in which we might ordinarily place our trust.

It is time for us to concentrate on those things in our life that bring us closer to God rather than those which draw us away.

It is time for us to dream, a little bit, about what might be if the world and ourselves were more motivated year-round to center ourselves on the wisdom of God rather than the wisdom of the world.

It is time to gather for evening devotions, studies and simple meals of soup and bread. These are the basics of life which will help form and guide our journey with Jesus to the cross.

It is time to enjoy the strength we receive in gathering as the people of God and to know that we are not alone in this world which seeks to isolate us from one another and from our God.

It is time to hear the stories anew which lead us toward cross, toward Jesus, toward the presence of God in our world.

It is time.

I look forward to journeying with you through this time and hearing the ways in which God is alive in your life as we once again take this Lenten journey.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy



Save the Date!

Let's celebrate 175 years of our Lutheran Heritage! On Sunday, May 18th, we will have a morning service that will feature our musicians and Dr. Faythe Freese on the organ. There will also be a recital/hymn sing that afternoon with a reception to follow. This festive performance will feature the wonderful Berghaus Pipe Organ in fantastic organ pieces as well as hymn singing from the audience. Invite your music loving friends!

And Don't Forget...

Come join our fellow Manitowoc County ELCA Churches in a Festival Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 12, 2025! We will be joining members from all of the Manitowoc County ELCA Churches at the Franciscan Center for a worship service followed by an hors d'oeuvres reception at 3pm. Bishop Ann Edison-Albright will lead a service that honors our collective past while setting the stage for the future!

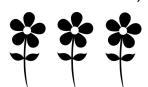
iving by Faith



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Rae Gutschow has been a member of First Lutheran Church for over 70 years. She was born, baptized, confirmed and married to Ernst Gutschow (June, 10, 1978) at FLC. Rae served as a teacher in the Valders School District for over 35

years before retiring in 2011. Rae started volunteering for FLC in 2024. She assists in counting Sunday's donations on Monday mornings, very often puts the bulletins and Messenger together, is an usher, a greeter and on the altar guild. Rae is always up for helping out and goes above and beyond with her generous heart and is sincerely appreciated. Thank you, Rae!!!



THANK YOU!					
Dear First					
Lutheran					
Friends,					
Thank you so					
very much for					
a wonderful					
retirement					
party! Blessing					
to all of you					
and I look					
forward to					
many more					
special times					
in worship					
with you. Love					
to all of you,					
Alice					

March 2	First	Exodus 34:29-35		
	Psalm	Psalm 99		
	Second	2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2		
	Gospel	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)		
March. 9	First	Deuteronomy 26:1-11		
	Psalm	Psalm 91:1-2,9-16		
	Second	Romans 10:8b-13		
	Gospel	Luke 4:1-13		
March 16	First	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18		
	Psalm	Psalm 27		
	Second	Philippians 3:17-4:1		
	Gospel	Luke 13:31-35		
March 23	First	Isaiah 55:1-9		
	Psalm	Psalm 63:1-8		
	Second	1 Corinthians 10:1-13		
	Gospel	Luke 13:1-9		
March 30	First	Joshua 5:9-12		
	Psalm	Psalm 32		
	Second	2 Corinthians 5:16-21		
	Gospel	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32		



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.

Bible Study

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

Zoom Bible Study

1st and 3rd Thursday of each from 9:00-10:30am. Email blitzfarmers@charter.net for more information

First Lutheran Prayer Chain

To join prayer chain or leave a prayer request please call Mary Gammelin (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 the homes once a month. We deliver communion on a short term basis for those unable attend services. Please call the church office to sign up. 920.682.7742

Pastor Andy Wendle PastorAndy@flcmanitowoc.org Ext.104

Pastor Andy Wendle can also be reached for Pastoral support on his cell phone # 541-490-6703.

A FIRST ATTEMPT AT ESTABLISHING A LUTHERAN CHURCH—THE UNTOLD STORY

Norwegians began coming to Manitowoc County in the late 1840s, encouraged by Stephan Olson Helle, who had previously visited here. Some settled on the north side of the city, others in various enclaves out in the forested rural woodlands. Early immigrants, of any nationality, usually gathered around their own kind. This was important for purposes of communication certainly, but it also functioned as a support system in a very strange and new place. This is no different today with new immigrants.

We do not know specifically what induced these particular Norwegians to leave their homeland, but the situation in Norway was certainly difficult in the mid 1800s, prompted by overpopulation, a dearth of food stuffs, and the industrial revolution, which was endangering the working lives of the small cottagers, who possessed special skills such as woodworking, weaving, and pottery making.

Once settled, it was not uncommon for an immigrant group like the Norwegians to gather in each others' homes and discuss calling a pastor. They felt a deep need for a clergyman to baptize their children, bury their dead, and administer Holy Communion. Sermons could be read from books available to both pastors and lay persons.

The first protestant church established in Manitowoc was the Anglican St. James Episcopal Church. This is not surprising, since a large share of the area population in the late 1840s were easterners who had migrated west from the New England states to work in the lumbering industry. Their religious backgrounds were in the Episcopalian or Congregational churches. Rather ironically, however, the first pastor of the St. James parish was a Swedish immigrant named Gustavus Unonius.

Unonius had come to America in 1841 and settled in southeastern Wisconsin near Pine Lake in Waukesha County. When he decided to leave farming and enter the ministry, the only available seminary was the newly-opened Episcopalian Nashotah Seminary near where he lived.

Given the similarity between the Norwegian and Swedish languages, the local Norwegians approached Unonius about ministering to them as well. In what has to be a reference to these Norwegians, Gustavus Unonius writes in the second volume of his book *A Pioneer in Northwest America* (p. 153):

"The next day the few church members living in the town met, along with a few others who felt they ought to cooperate in securing a minister for their town. The latter group would have preferred that he be selected from the church they had formerly belonged to, or to which they thought they still belonged, or from some other denomination with which they felt more closely related than to the Episcopal Church; but since that could not be done and since regular services, of whatever kind, were admittedly better than no services at all, they agreed, at least for the time being, to make common cause with the members of the Episcopal Church." Nine of the twenty-two charter members listed in the records of St. James congregation are Norwegians, and Unonius, in a report to the larger church, states that he holds services in Norwegian for "a few" of his members. Sadly, Gustavus Unonius remained in Manitowoc only one year. He had been a well-liked and highly respected pastor and citizen, and his departure had to be especially difficult for the Norwegians. With little prospect of another Anglican -Scandinavian pastor, the St. James record book notes a transfer for each Norwegian, when it states next to their name, "Removed to Norwegian settlement." Now a more serious effort would have to be made to establish a Lutheran church in Manitowoc.

Thank you to Karyl Romelfanger for providing us with this historical vignette.





FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Sunday School, Confirmation and High School Faith Formation

Connie Dorner, Faith Formation Director



The following verse is our theme for our winter Synod Youth Gathering Weekend.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 8:38-39 (NRSVUE)

Greetings First Lutheran Family!

As I prepare this letter, I have the old Steve Miller Band song running through my head. "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future..."

March?! Wasn't it just December? What true and totally relatable song lyrics. (And I hope you sang as you read them!) I don't know about you, but the weeks fly by here at First. There's always something new on the horizon and I love it!

But before I tell you about some of those things in this Messenger, I'd like to take a moment to recap some of the great things that have been happening with our youth program in the past few weeks. We have just completed our 30 Hour Famine to raise funds for ELCA World Hunger Relief, Salvation Army and the 'Walking with Our Neighbors' giving project. It is always such a blessing for me to gather with our teens for service and to spend time with them to learn a little bit about world hunger. The group who volunteered this year was so much fun. When we gathered together to create our covenant for the weekend, the first idea offered was, "No scaring Connie!" Haha! It's something they love to do!

Two middle schoolers and an adult chaperone will also be joining me to attend our winter synod gathering, "Journey with Jesus: Inescapable Love" at Imago Dei camp this coming weekend. We will explore how God is with us through the highs and lows of life as we gather for bible study, games, crafts, and worship and hear our keynote speaker, Pastor Jenn Pockat. It truly is a wonderful

weekend; I look forward to sharing more about it when we return.

Our Sunday School children continue to meet each week. We are a small – but kind and mighty crew! We've also had visitors join our classes in the last several weeks; it's always fun to meet new friends as we pray, play, sing and learn together.

I will also be planning a few more family events in the following months and hope many of you will decide to join us. If you have any gathering ideas that you'd like to share, be sure to let me know. Lastly, I'll be filling you in on our upcoming events for our Servant Learning Trip to Denver this coming July. There goes that "slippin' into the future" again...

Cheerfully in Christ,

Connie

Baptismal Anniversaries

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

Alex Gill 3/02/2008

Zachary Kohler 3/25/2012

Molly Taylor 3/30/2008

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

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

Annabel Duxbury March 11
Jacob Gordon March 11
Zachary Johnson March 28







Confirmation News

Confirmation Classes will continue to meet the following Sundays in March:

March 2, 9, 16

4 - 5:30 p.m.

NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES on March 23 and March 30

Please mark your calendar: Summer confirmation camp for current 7th/8th

graders will take place during the week of June 22-27, 2025. Please make sure your child is registered before March 15. Contact me with any questions or for assistance with registration.



Synod Youth Gathering Opportunity Racing the Rapids!



Join us for our first "funraiser" kick-off for our Denver Servant Learning Trip on Sunday, March 9 in the Fireside Room after service. We'll have an entertaining game and

refreshments served by our travelers. We hope you'll join us for some fun on that day!

Family Fun Day! Save the Date!

Let's go to the movies! Children, teens and families, please join me on Saturday, March 15 – at either the AMC Classic Theatre or at the Lakeshore

Cinema Café. We will determine the time and place in a few weeks when I know which shows are playing. Stay tuned for further details!



We're Better Together!

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School students will continue our Lectionary Lessons for the entire month of March from 10:10 - 10:55 a.m. each Sunday morning. We will always meet in the chapel to begin our time together.



Youth Group/ Spark Students and Parents

Youth Group:

2nd Sunday of the month from 5:30 -6:30 pm (March 9)1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month (March 19) *Please note - There is No

Youth group on Ash Wednesday March 5.

During Lent, we will meet on Wednesdays from 7:15 -8:15 p.m. I urge all parents and students to attend Lenten services and join us for the fellowship meal afterward.

Spark Group: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 4 - 5 pm (March 12 and 26)

Again, feel free to call or text with any questions regarding any youth meeting times.

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, April 27—Annual Spring Brunch hosted by the Board of Youth

ALSO: **Calling all musicians and John Denver fans!** Help me plan a special service on April 27 to celebrate our upcoming trip to Colorado. I would LOVE your talent and assistance – see me for more details! Connie

Saturday, May 10—Family Tea! (Time to be determined). Join us at our fancy family fundraiser for our youth travels! This event will also be open to the public. Contact me if you'd like to help coordinate this event!

We Need You!

The Board of Christian Education/Board of Youth needs members! Parents of younger students and teenagers, PLEASE consider joining our Board. It's important for all voices to be heard to support the values of the congregation regarding faith formation. Please help to guide our staff in the planning of educational activities as well as fellowship opportunities for our church youth. I urge you to prayerfully consider this opportunity. If this is a role you feel called to, please contact Sheila Hansen, Nichole Rabitz or Connie Dorner for more information.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

Our ministry partnership with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) supports empowering over 30,000 people each year to live their best lives by offering: a path to recovery from addiction or mental illness, a home that's safe and affordable, a family to thrive in, independence and a life that is truly their own. We are excited to welcome LSS Manager of Faith & Community Partnerships Sarah Halstead on March 30. She will join us for worship and share a Sermon and Children's Sermon, LSS stories of impact and celebrate our decades of shared ministry! An update on the challenges LSS is facing now and in the near future will also be provided. Please keep LSS and the individuals and families they serve in your prayers. As a congregation we lift them up in support and love. For a full list of life-changing programs and services your individual and our congregation's ministry partnership makes possible with LSS visit www.lsswis.org.We are grateful for this opportunity to share the Word and the impact of your congregation's ministry partnership with LSS!

FLC Volunteers hosting at Hope House March 2-11, 5-8pm. FOSTERING HOPE

Hope House is thrilled to share that our capacity has increased from 26 to 35 individuals, enabling us to extend our support to even more families in need. We sincerely thank you for your patience and understanding during our transition as we move offices and transform them into welcoming resident rooms. We pride ourselves on being more than just a shelter; we offer a comprehensive 90-day program designed to empower families through a variety of supportive services tailored to help them achieve lasting stability. Your generous donations are vital to making this mission possible, and we are profoundly grateful for your continued support. We can create a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve, fostering hope and resilience within our community.

FEBTUATY'S SALVATION ATMY



THANK YOU!

Hope House Manitowoc County

THY W

Hope House 1000 S. 35th St. Manitowoc, WI 54220 (920)686-1436 hopehousemc.org

FLC has a dedicated team of volunteers but we are looking to increase our numbers.
Couples, a parent and child, friends or individuals can all serve. We would love to have you join us.

OUR WISH LIST

Laundry detergent (liquid) Laundry detergent pods Liquid hand soap Toilet paper Paper towels Size 3 diapers
Floor cleaner (smaller
bottled preferred, no
larger than 32oz)
Walmart gift cards
Pack 'n Play portable
crib

Pick 'n Save gift cards

Hope House is a United Way Funds Recipient

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Next collection: Sunday, MARCH 2, 2025
(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 kiddos.

Pasta sauces, cereal/oatmeal, pouched meat, all varieties of pasta, coffee in individual portion packets, condiments (including pickles and olives, etc.), bottles of 100% juice, cake/brownie mixes and frostings (can be a nice treat or for a B.D.), canned soups, salad dressings, peanut/almond butter, jelly/jam, crackers, rice, pasta and rice "sides" to go along with a meal, canned fruit, canned beans (black, kidney, baked, pinto, etc.)

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 back your donations on First Sunday. And remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, call or leave a message for Harry at 920-242-2489. THANK YOU!!!

March 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					Global Day of Unplugging	9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School / Fellowship Coffee 4pm-5:30pm Conf.Class 6pm NA Mtg.
10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 5pm Leadership Dev. Team Mtg. 6pm Handbells	4 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 1:30pm Anniversary Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Youth Grp.	9:30am Bible 5 Study 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Lent Svc. Lenten Dinner to follow	6 9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study	7 9am Grief Support Grp.	National Proofreading Day	9am Worship 10:10am Racing the Rapids Fundraiser 4-5:30pm Conf. Class 5:30pm Yth. Grp. 6pm NA Mtg.
10am Pastor Text 10 Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 4:15pm Mutual Ministry 6pm Handbells	11 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 9:30am RUTH 6pm Bd. Of Youth/ Christian Ed. 6pm Bd. Of Worship	9:30am Bible Study 4pm SPARK Grp. 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Lent Svc. Lenten Dinner to follow	13 5:30pm Leadership Dev. Team Mtg.	14 National Potato Chip Day	Family Movie Day (t.b.d.)	16 9am Worship 10:10 Sunday School/ Fellowship Coffee 4-5:30pm Conf. Class 6pm NA Mtg.
10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 4pm Bd. Of Personnel 6pm Handbells	18 9:30am Snip 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 6:30pm Council Mtg.	9:30am Bible Study 1pm Book Club 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Lent Svc. Lenten Dinner to follow 6:30pm Yth. Grp.	9-10:30am Zoom Bible Study	21 9am Grief Support Grp.	22 National Goof Off Day	23 9am Worship 10:10am Sunday School/ Fellowship Coffee 6pm NA Mtg.
24 10am Pastor Text Study 1pm Snip 'N Sew 6pm Handbells	9:30am Snip 25 'N Sew 9:30am Staff Mtg. 4pm SPARK Grp. 5:30pm Bd. Of Outreach (Mtwc. Library)	9:30am Bible Study 5pm Choir Practice 6pm Lent Svc. Lenten Dinner to follow	27	28 National Something on a Stick Day	29	30 9am Worship with LSS 10:10am Sunday School/ Fellowship Coffee 6pm NA Mtg.
31		d Collection to support Nosting at Hope House Ma		Army is Sunday,	March 2nd.	

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

521 N. 8th Street

Manitowoc WI 54220

Phone: 920-682-7742

E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Manitowoc, WI 54220 Permit No. 93

To:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Andy Wendle
Sunday Services at 9am
WOMT 1240AM, <u>womtradio.com</u>
YouTube, Facebook Live

Holy Communion - Every Sunday

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00 Friday: 9:00-12noon **920-682-7742**

Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

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

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.

Ash Wednesday : March 5th Daylight Savings: March 9

Lent Services: March 5-April 9 @ 6pm with

Lenten Meals to follow

April 6: FLC Congregational Mtg. to follow worship

