Volume 72, Number 10

October 8, 2026

The Light

Staying Connected

through Home Communion

What would it mean to you or a loved one to know that, even when you are unable to attend worship in person, you remain a valued part of our faith community? Through the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you can continue to share in God's grace and hear the invitation to "taste and see that the Lord is good."

To help members participate in Holy Communion when they are unable to attend worship, First Lutheran offers to bring a little bit of church to you via the Home Communion Ministry.

Trained members of First Lutheran volunteer to bring Holy Communion to those who are homebound due to illness, health concerns, or other circumstances. This ministry extends the fellowship and blessings of worship beyond our church walls by sharing the bread and wine that have been consecrated during our regular worship services.

Holy Communion kits are returned to the sacristy the visits, where they are prepared by the Altar Guild and placed on the altar to be consecrated again during a future worship service. Members of the Home Communion team then receive the prepared kits for their next visits, allowing this ministry to continue serving those who cannot be present in person.

Holy Communion kits for the visitation ministry are consecrated on the Altar each weekend in worship.

Do you know someone who is unable to attend worship and would appreciate receiving Holy Communion at home, in a care center, during an extended hospital stay, or in another setting outside the church? We would be honored to visit!

To arrange a Home communion visit for yourself or a loved one you can scan this QR code, visit firstlutherancr.org/visit-request, or simply call the church office at 319-365-1494.

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The story of how our Saturday Evening Meal Program, or SEMP, came to be always stops me in my tracks. Have you heard it? It's one of the most powerful stories of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst in very real and tangible, yet miraculous ways, in our modern world.

for our NEIGHBORS

Annual Stewardship Campaign

The year was 1989. First Lutheran called a new young pastor from the East Coast, Peter DiVino. Before his first day on the job, he wanted to discover what it was like to be a person living in Cedar Rapids with absolutely nothing, so he grew out his beard, picked out some secondhand clothes and lived on the street for a week before showing up at our church.

He found he could get meals during the week, but on the weekend, no one offered to help. By Monday he was starving. Leading worship the following weekend he shared his story. You could hear a pin drop.

Vicki Hughes invited the young pastor over to her house along with four other members, and around her kitchen table, the idea for the Saturday Evening Meal Program (SEMP) was born. "When we got together at Vicki's house, we understood we were being called to be Christ" said Pr. Peter, who now goes by Peter Hebert to honor his mother. Giving our best to God by giving our best to those in need was a core commitment from the very beginning. "Doing ministry is not about giving Christ what we have at the end of the day, it's giving our very best at the beginning," said Pr. Peter.

Today 13 serving teams from six different churches serve up to 200 hungry people each week at SEMP. Over 37 years we've served tens of thousands of meals and touched tens of thousands of hearts in what's become the cornerstone ministry of our downtown congregation. And now that ministry faces one of its biggest challenges and opportunity for us.

Due to $15,000 of government cutbacks and loss of grants, SEMP has lost nearly one-third of its funding. We can most certainly sustain this program and all of our ministries that help us bring Christ love to our neighbors, but it's going to take help from all of us. For this reason, we've named our fall campaign, "For Our Neighbors."

Preparing for the Year Ahead

At its core, this is the time when we ask every church member to prayerfully make a pledge to support the ongoing mission and ministry of our church in 2027. Your annual commitment sustains worship, faith formation, outreach, and the ministries that touch every member of our congregation.

Any increase you make to our church this year will help us fund all the programs of the church, and make a difference for our SEMP ministry. Here are ways of imagining the difference you could make:

+ A new gift of $5 a week could buy one person's meal for the year
+ An increase of $750 could feed everybody at SEMP for one week
+ An increase of $3000 could fund SEMP for a month
+ A gift of $15,000 could fund the gap for SEMP for the year.

Doing something new such as increasing our giving can be a scary proposition; but we know God goes with us. I draw strength from the origin story of SEMP. Pr. Peter returned to First Lutheran on April 8, 2018 to celebrate our 150th year as a congregation. We gave SEMP the white glove treatment that weekend and Pr. Peter spoke to SEMP and the congregation about transforming Cedar Rapids from a food desert to a place of hope and help right inside the walls of our church.

Pr. Peter and Vicki Hughes, center, with the SEMP Banquet Servers in 2018

Partners in Faith:

Sharing in Ministry Beyond Our Walls

First Lutheran was asked by the Southeast Synod of the ELCA to support Ascension Lutheran after Daniel Luepke concluded his time and entered into ordained ministry. Ascension has two lay ministers, known as Synodical Authorized Ministers (SAM), who have been appointed by the synod to serve the pastoral care and worship life of Ascension. Pr. Steve and Pr. Katie are providing that support.

What does this support look like? For worship, Ascension joins with us each Sunday at 9 a.m. by streaming worship from First Lutheran into their sanctuary from the prelude through the sermon. After the sermon, the SAMs then lead a local worship from the hymn of the day through dismissal, including holy communion. This allows their worship experience to be personal and local. Once a month, a pastor from First Lutheran preaches and leads worship at Ascension at their 9 am worship. Pr. Steve also meets with the SAMs twice a month via zoom, to check in and support their work.

How the church organizes for ministry is changing. This partnership of support is one simple way to allow another smaller congregation continue. Also, our current 10 Commandment study, "Love Does," is being used by Ascension, and by Holy Redeemer for their discipleship and youth ministries. Another sign of that change is happening with Daniel Luepke, who is serving a yoked parish between First at Conroy and a UCC church outside of Marengo.

The synod and congregations are finding new creative ways to support ministry in a time of change, both in the size of congregations, and the availability of pastors. Whether fostering pastoral interns - of which we have supported five in recent years - or through partnerships like this, First Lutheran is using our strengths to multiply ministry beyond our own congregation.

After the conclusion of Pr. Daniel Luepke's internship, Pastor Katie Lowe Lancaster (center) presided over the commissioning of two Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs) to lead the Pastoral Care of Ascension Lutheran Church on August 30, 2026.

The SAMs are, left, Susan Lafontant and right, Sue Boyens. This was a full-circle moment of Ministry for Pastor Katie as Ascention was her internship congregation in 2009-10.

"Neighbors" Cont'd from page 2

"They were frightened cause we were taking on such a massive thing but there was just a surety that we were one in our view that this was what needed to be done. Ther was a lot of excitement also among us."

Now the mantle of caring for the poor rests on our shoulders as the people of First Lutheran in 2026. I know we can meet the challenge before us. God's got us and we've got this. Please watch your mail for our Celebration Weekend RSVP takes place at all services on Nov. 11-15 and prayerfully consider how God might be using you to make a very real difference in the lives of those who need us the most. As Pr. Peter said, "That's what this place is about. It's transformational. And that impacts lives. And that's Christ for the world."

Discover More: Together

with our Youngest Members

Twice a week the church building is filled with a lot of extra laughter and sounds of joy as the kiddos in preschool through 4th grade arrive and depart each week from the Discovery Zone for Kids located on level 3! Their hands are filled as they leave church to go home! There are many stories of singing and games they played as they grow in their faith!

Each week we offer 45 minutes on either Sundays or Wednesdays for our youngest members to grow in their faith. The space they meet in is vibrant, inviting, and certainly – kid friendly.

It is our Faith Leader Team members who brings life into the ministry as they share their gift of faith, time, and energy with the kids from pre-school through 4th grade.

The "job" requirements? Team members come with a heart to serve children. All training and supplies are provided! You would be serving in-person from 10:00-11:00 on Sundays or 7:00-7:45 on Wednesday nights. We need help! Currently, we have a handful of amazing faith leaders to lead our kiddos. However, there is a huge gap in the size of our team. Everyone must be here every weekend, and some are serving on both Sundays and Wednesdays. So – team members serve every Sunday and Wednesday. This includes our youth volunteers!

The kids need you, the ministry needs you, and the team needs you! Please contact Pr. Katie today and say yes, I will serve!

Thank You to our Current Leadership Team:

Pam Musil – PrK-Kindy
Elissa Kuennen- PrK-Kindy
Ruby Ehm - PrK-Kindy
Tanya Malloy - PrK-Kindy

Emily Hannes – 1-4th grade - Sundays and Wednesdays
Greta Malloy – 1st-4th grade - Sundays

Jazzy Draeger – 1-4th grade - Wednesdays
Pr. Katie – Sundays and Wednesdays

Join the CFM Facebook Group!

This private group, just for active families is where we will share our weekly lessons, announcements like how to use the Check-in system, and pictures from ministry events. Visit facebook.com/firstlutherancr and click on the "Groups" tab.

ECHO Worship Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Pastor Steve chatting with parents before our Wednesday evening Echo Worship

ECHO Worship is a relaxed, welcoming worship experience for children, youth, families, and everyone in our congregation. With engaging music and a youth-led, adult-supported approach, ECHO creates a space where all ages can worship, connect, and participate together. Communion is celebrated each week, reminding us that everyone has a place at the table. Come as you are and join us on Wednesday nights!

5:15p Meal Pizza and other family-friendly options.

6:30p ECHO Worship Youth-led, adult-supported

7:15p Groups Discovery Zone for Kids and age-specific small groups, adults included!

LOVE DOES is also our Echo Worship series for youth and families that connects what we're exploring in ECHO with the message we hear on Sunday mornings. Each week, we take a fresh look at the Ten Commandments through the lens of Jesus and discover what it means to put God's love into action.

Families Worshiping Together at ECHO

We believe worshiping together as a family matters. ECHO Worship gives parents, guardians, and youth a chance to worship side-by-side each week, to sing, pray, hear God's Word, receive Communion, and grow in faith together in a welcoming, relaxed worship space.

As part of our Affirmation of Baptism ministry, ECHO is one-way families can practice and experience what it means to live out our baptismal promises together. Faith isn't something we want youth to do on their own; it's something we hope families grow together.

Affirmation of Baptism Week

Saturday/Sunday October 24 - 25 & Wednesday, October 28

During each worship service the week of October 24/25 & 28 (ECHO Worship), we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism with our youth. This is a special time when youth who were baptized publicly affirm their faith and God's promises in their lives.

In the ELCA tradition, this milestone invites the whole congregation to support and encourage these young people as they claim their faith for themselves and commit to following Christ in daily life.

We invite you to participate in worship as we support and congratulate these youth as they take this milestone step in their walk of faith:

Lucy A.	Aleah G.	Ivy M.
Jasmin D.	Evelyn H.	Adalyn O.
Ruby E.	Emily K.	Corbin S.
Natalie F.	Greta M.	

Every youth affirming their baptism gets to pick a quilt made by our Comfort Makers group as a gift to mark the milestone in their faith life, like these two students from 2025.

Upcoming Youth & Family Ministries

ECHO Worship - Wednesdays
October 14, 21, 28

High School Ministry Sunday Nights -
October 18- #wheresmichael

5-8th Grade Lock-in Coming SOON!

Follow us at:
@FLCRYouth

Spiritual Formation Opportunities

Deepen Your Faith Journey

Individual Spiritual Direction

What if you had a little more space to notice what God is doing in your life?

Individual Spiritual Direction will be available again this fall, offering a quiet space to slow down, reflect, and listen for God's presence in the midst of everyday life. Whether you're navigating a transition, carrying questions about faith, seeking a deeper connection with God, or simply curious about your spiritual journey, spiritual direction provides an opportunity to talk with someone who will listen, ask thoughtful questions, and walk alongside you. There's no particular place you need to be on your faith journey, or problem you need to solve. Spiritual direction is simply an invitation to pause, pay attention, and discover where God may be meeting you in this season of life.

If you are curious about spiritual direction or would like to schedule a session this fall, contact Michael at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org

Spiritual Formation, whether with a group or as an individual is about being intentional about seeing how God is moving and working through your life, or the lives of others.

Group Spiritual Direction

Group Spiritual Direction returns this fall beginning Thursday, October 15, from 6:00–8:00 PM and will continue meeting on the third Thursday of each month. This monthly gathering offers a space to slow down, listen deeply, and notice where God is present in our lives. Through prayer, reflection, and conversation, we journey together as we grow in awareness of God's work in every season of life. Whether you are new to spiritual direction or have participated before, you are invited to join this meaningful practice of faith and reflection.

For more information, contact Michael at michaelb@firstlutherancr.org, visit our website at firstlutherancr.org/spiritual-formation, or use this QR code to register through Church Center.

Michael Beckmann helping two of our youth get set up for packing!

Thanks for Supporting College-Age Care Packs!

Last Sunday our Youth gathered to sort and pack thirty-one college-age care packages that are being sent to young adults connected to our congregation. These boxes don't just contain snacks and fun supplies - they carry with them the message of care and compassion from the church to young adults going through a transformative time in life entering the workforce, military and colleges. Even with rising postage costs, we receive the feedback that this ministry is worth it the for the impact created, so watch for details on our next packing & sending opportunity in the Spring!

Dr. Ken Sundet Jones to speak on The 10 Commandments Nov 1.

Dr. Ken Jones will offer insights and a fresh take on Luther's explanation of the 10 commandments on Sunday, November 1, at 10 am, in the Youth Room. Ken always has something interesting to say and brings his years of experience bringing Lutheran teachings to the lives of college students. This will be a great complement to the study "Love Does" and the sermon series we have experienced this fall.

Dr. Jones is the Gerhard O. Forde Professor Emeritus of Church History and Theology at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. He is also a contributing author to the recent book on the catechism, By Heart. He is also author of A Lutheran Toolkit, a book on how the Lutheran witness can make a compelling case for faith in our time.

Servant Project Sunday, Nov. 22

Mark your calendars for an All-Church Servant Project Morning on November 22 from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m.; so late-service worshippers – you need to come early!

It is going to be a morning of fun, snacks, and purposeful service for our neighbors. The projects include filling friendship kits with hand warmers for our local neighbors, or making centerpieces to decorate the entire church for the season of advent or preparing wooden crosses to share with our homebound friends for Christmas. All are small but tangible ways we can show and share God's love with others this fall.

Can You help Coordinate?

If you can help coordinate some of the activities on the big morning, please contact Pastor Katie Lowe Lancaster at KatieLL@firstlutheranCR.org!

Ministry Partners Fair Sunday, Oct 18.

Did you know our church has a relationship with and financially supports a number of local ministry partners doing good in and around Cedar Rapids? We'd like to give you a chance to meet them, ask questions and look for opportunities to strengthen our relationships.

You are invited to our Ministry Partner Fair at 10-11 a.m. Sunday, October 18 in the First Lutheran Narthex. While a final guest list is still pending, invited organizations include Catherine McAuley Center, Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity, Ecumenical Community Center/Helping Hands, EWALU, HACAP, His Hands Medical Clinic, Kids First, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Riders Club, Willis Dady, Mission of Hope, and Wartburg Seminary.

Camp EWALU, above, and His Hands Clinic, have been long-time partners of First Lutheran and joined us for previous partnership events.

Community Concerts & Events

54th Annual CR/Marion

CROP Hunger Walk

THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
1:30 pm at Thomas Park, Marion

Join or Support our Team
at Firstlutherancr.org/CROP

Yes! You can still join or support our First Lutheran team in the 2026 CROP Hunger Walk this coming Sunday, October 11, 1:30 pm at Thomas Park in Marion. Out of nearly 500 CROP Walks across the U.S. last year, our local walk raised over $32,000 and we were ranked *52nd in the nation*. Twenty-five percent of the funds we raised benefit three local food programs: Linn Community Food Bank, Churches of Marion Food Pantry and Green Square Meals. The remaining funds are used by Church World Service to help farmers improve their harvests, provide communities with clean water and equipping families to rebuild and replant after a disaster.

Vocal Artists of Iowa presents

"Local Legends"

Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4 p.m. at First Lutheran

This concert will feature conductors who have made their unique stamp on choral music in eastern Iowa as well as nationwide.

Guest conductors Dr. Ann Howard Jones, Carol Tralau, Dr. Gerald Kreitzer, Allen Chapman and Dr. Greg Grove have over 200 combined years of experience in choral conducting and will lead us through some of their favorite selections.

Admission for this performance is a free-will donation.

Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale presents

"Psalms & A Vision Unfolding"

Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2:30 p.m. at First Lutheran

The first half of the program features three powerful settings of the Psalms by Allen Koepke, Gustav Holst ,and John Rutter.

The second half presents Kyle Pederson's *A Vision Unfolding*, a five-movement work exploring themes of social justice, compassion, and hope.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for $18 each, plus processing fees at CRChorale.org. Tickets will be available for day-of purchase for $23 each, plus processing fees. Students are Free with ID.

Together in Song Chorus

Voices of Life Fall Concert

2:30 p.m. – Nov. 5 & 6

You are invited to the Together in Song Chorus' Fall concert! Join us at either performance as we celebrate the "Voices of Life". Sing along to familiar classic tunes such as "I Dreamed a Dream", "Both Sides Now", and more. Both performances are hosted at the DeWolf Innovation Center, 9000 C Ave. NE.

Together in Song is a fun, low-pressure chorus for individuals living with chronic conditions, their care partners, and volunteer singers; and many First Lutheran members are involved!

The Harmony Hawks

Best of Gospel Concert

Friday, November 6th at 7 pm.
A Benefit for the His Hands Free Medical Clinic.

The Harmony Hawks will anchor the program with several selections, and will be joined by artists Mike Maas and Carlis Faurot, and by the Mt. Zion Men's Choir. This performance is hosted by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1340 Third Avenue SE

Admission is free and no tickets are required. A free-will offering will be collected, with net proceeds going to His Hands Free Clinic.

First Lutheran Senior Adults

November Monthly Luncheon!

To what lengths would you go to stop a crippling disease? For Peter Tehan the answer is close to 40,000 miles! Peter has now completed two epic flights; around the world in 2023 and a Ring-of-the-Atlantic flight in 2025 raising funding and awareness for the global fight against polio. Together these flights have raised over $5 million to end polio.

Listen to his adventurous tails of travel, and learn more about the global fight against polio during our November monthly luncheon on Thursday, November 12 at 12 noon. Cost for the presentation with lunch is just $5 and you can RSVP at the welcome desk, by calling the church office, or visiting firstlutherancr.org/luncheon.

Ladies' Night Out

Ladies Night Out is a monthly get-together just for the fun of spending time with friends united in Christ's love. All the women and friends of First Lutheran, especially new members and visitors, are invited to gather once a month at a restaurant for food and fellowship.

On Monday, October 26, 2026 we will meet at 5:30 PM at 4755 1st Ave SE, in Cedar Rapids. Pat Young is this month's hostess, her phone number is (319) 409-4367. If you plan to come, please call her to make a reservation, or put your name, phone number and email address on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center at church. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Preparing our Neighbors for the Cold Ahead

While the weather still feels like summer for now, the inevitable season of cold is fast approaching. We have two efforts underway to help ensure our neighbors in need are cared for and have what they need in the winter months.

Boot & Gear Drive

If you are cleaning out closets and have boots, hats, coats, gloves or mittens that still have some life left in them, set them aside and bring them to church. In mid-October we will distribute items collected to guests at our Saturday Evening Meal Program. If you could help distribute on Oct. 24, please call the office.

Nourishment for Shelters

In the dead of winter many unhoused people in Cedar Rapids have no where to turn to stay warm except area shelters. Getting to the shelter is a challenge in itself for people with no transportation, and getting a meal on the way - even harder.

We want to stock the emergency shelter with basic staples that our neighbors can eat when they arrive. We will be collecting bottled water, granola bars, and pull-tab cans of hearty soups now through Nov. 1 so no one has to choose between a full stomach and a warm place to sleep this winter.

Join Us in Italy: October 4–16, 2027

Pastor Steve Knudson invites you to join a 13-day trip to Italy with NAWAS Travel, departing from Chicago. We will trace the story of the Christian faith from its earliest days in Rome through the Renaissance in Florence, ending in Venice.

Trip highlights will Include:

- **Rome (4 nights):** Tour the Roman Forum and the Colosseum, and visit the San Callisto Catacombs, where Rome's early Christians buried their dead and gathered for worship. See the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and St. Paul Outside the Walls, the traditional burial place of the Apostle Paul. We'll also walk to the Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain.

- **Pompeii and the Amalfi Coast:** Explore the city buried by Mt. Vesuvius in 79 A.D., then drive the coast to Positano and Amalfi.

- **Assisi:** Visit the hometown of St. Francis. We'll see his tomb in the Basilica of St. Francis, with its Giotto frescoes, and the Basilica of St. Clare.

- **Florence (2 nights):** Stop at a Tuscan winery on the way. In Florence, see Brunelleschi's dome, the Baptistery's "Gates of Paradise," and Michelangelo's David.

- **Ravenna:** View the early Christian mosaics of San Vitale and the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia.

- **Venice (2 nights):** Finish with St. Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Rialto Bridge.

Along the way we'll worship in places where believers have gathered for centuries and enjoy good fellowship with old and new friends. Whether this is your first trip abroad or your tenth, we'd love to have you along.

Learn More: Pastor Steve will hold an information meeting on **Wednesday, November 4, at 5:45 p.m.** in the Chapel (rm217) . Bring your questions, and bring a friend!

The Colosseum in Rome, Italy is just one of many sights we'll see along the way!

FLC Financial Giving Summary

as of Sept. 30, 2026

2026 Annual Operating Fund:

Y-T-D Actual Income	1,130,918
Y-T-D Budgeted Income	1,131,107
Giving over (under) budget	(189)

Thank you for your strong continuation of giving during the summer. We are right at our budgeted income for the first nine months of 2026.

Renewing for God's Mission Capital Fund:

	3-Year Budget	*Project-to-Date Actuals:*
Income	3,192,000	2,450,560
Expenditures	3,192,000	2,530,780
Surplus/Deficit	-	(80,220)

The RGM project work is complete. The 3-year pledge period for income has now passed the 50% mark. Thanks to your up-front payments, we have aleady received 77% of pledged giving. We expect the project to end with a 3-Year balanced budget.

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in October!

Barb Dietz celebrates 96 years on October 2
Faye Roberts celebrates 97 years on October 15
Barbara Munson celebrates 93 years on October 19
Ken Torno celebrates 93 years on October 26
Betty Kosek celebrates 92 years on October 31

... and in early November:

Bill Schoon celebrates 94 years on Nov. 3.
Jean Schneider celebrates 91 years on Nov. 6
Betty Lietz celebrates 90 years on Nov. 4.
Mary Carson celebrates 90 years on Nov. 6.

50+ Wedding Anniversaries in October!

Paul & Kathy Braithwaite celebrate 50 years October 2.
Jean & Joe Reed celebrate 59 years on October 22.

Celebrate the Newly Baptized:

Emma Elm, child of Adam and Kristin Elm on Oct. 4.

Prayers for Healing: Hospital/Surgical, etc.

Lou Banker	Maria Hein	Kim Benser
Marge Bode	David Stortz	Leroy Bradway
Pat Stieglitz	Melanie DiBernardo	Robin Wagner
Sue Padget	Sue Hughes	

Submit Your Prayer Requests to our First Lutheran Prayer Chain by calling the church office at (319) 365-1494, or clicking the Prayer button on our home page firstlutherancr.org. Consider joining our Prayer chain to receive and pray over the concerns of fellow members each week.

Hospitalized?

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, has a birth announcement or have experienced a death in the family, please call the church office to let us know, as privacy laws limit the information hospitals can share with us. If we know you are in the hospital, our pastors and lay visitors will come to visit and pray with you.

WORSHIP GUIDE

Piano-led Traditional Worship: 5 p.m. Saturdays
Organ-led Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sundays
Band-Led Contemporary Worship: 11 a.m. Sundays
Sundays & Wednesdays - worship LIVE online at firstlutherancr.org/live
Radio worship radio on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on KMRY 1450 AM or 93.1 FM, or anytime at firstlutherancr.org/podcast

Oct. 10 & 11 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Love Does: The Fifth Commandment
Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Scripture: Isaiah 25:1-9; Matthew 5:21-26 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Resonaré Ringers

Echo Worship - Each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
Echoing our Sunday "Love Does" theme with practical application for Youth.

Oct. 17 & 18 - 21st Sunday after Pentecost
Love Does: The Sixth Commandment
Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10
Matthew 5:27–30 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Youth Choir; Intergenerational Bells
(11a) Handbell Ensemble

Affirmation of Baptism Week *see pg 5.*

Oct. 24 & 25 - Reformation Sunday
Love Does: The Seventh Commandment
Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8
Matthew 22:34–46 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir, Resonaré Ringers,

Oct. 31/Nov. 1 - The Festival of All Saints
Love Does: The Eighth Commandment
Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Scripture: 1 John 3:1–3, Matthew 5:1–12 *NRSVue*
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir
(11a) Junior Choir

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on November 5, 2026

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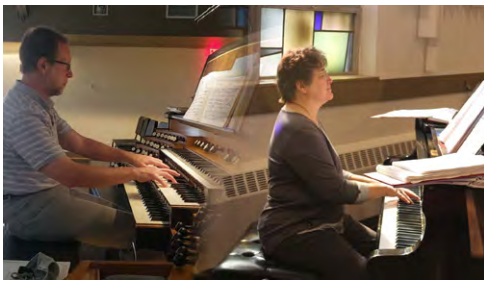
PERIODICAL

Change Service Requested

Hymn Settings Through the Ages

Brett & Marita Wolgast in Concert Sunday!



You are invited to come back to church this Sunday afternoon, October 11, at 3:00 PM for a concert featuring First Lutheran's music staff, Brett and Marita Wolgast. The concert titled, *Hymn Settings through the Ages*, will focus on settings of hymns old and new with music for solo organ, organ and piano duets, and congregation and First Lutheran's Adult Choir participation. The program includes arrangements of such familiar hymns as, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" and "O God Our Help in Ages Past," to American hymns and Spirituals like, "Go Down, Moses," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," and "Shall We Gather at the River."

This year, 2026, also marks the 5th Anniversary of First Lutheran's pipe organ built by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canandaigua, NY. Installed in the spring and summer months of 2021, the instrument was dedicated to the glory of God in August of that year. Through worship, concerts, and other special events, the Opus 50 Parsons pipe organ along with the church's grand pianos, other instruments, and the choir and handbell ministries continue to enhance and inspire the congregation and community with God's wonderful gift of music.

The Musical Arts Committee hopes you will come and enjoy this first event of our 2026-2027 Musical Arts series. See the entire lineup of this years' concert series at firstlutherancr.org/music-arts

First Lutheran
Musical Arts Series

First Lutheran
discover more : together

1000 Third Ave. SE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
Ph: (319)365-1494 | Txt: (319) 423-9383
text-to-give: text "give" to (319) 895-1494
firstlutherancr.org @firstlutherancr

General Voicemail / After-hours: Extension 100

Rev. Dr. Steve Knudson extension 106	**Senior Pastor** stevek@firslutherancr.org
Rev. Craig Brown extension 105	**Lead Pastor for Outreach** craigb@firstlutherancr.org
Rev. Katie Lowe Lancaster extension 113	**Lead Pastor for Discipleship** katiell@firstlutherancr.org
Michael Beckmann extension 112	**Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries** michaelb@firstlutherancr.org
Brett Wolgast extension 111	**Cantor** brettw@firstlutherancr.org
Marita Wolgast extension 110	**Dir. of Traditional Worship** maritaw@firstlutherancr.org
Tanya Rosenkranz Malloy extension 132	**Junior & Youth Choir Dir.** tanyar@firstlutherancr.org
Joel Reeves extension 109	**Dir. of Contemp. Worship Music** joelr@firstlutherancr.org
Bob Koenig extension 108	**Director of Support Services** bobk@firstlutherancr.org
Maddy Newhouse extension 103	**Director of Ministry Engagement** maddyn@firstlutherancr.org
Megan Roling extension 103	**Office Administrator** meganr@firstlutherancr.org
William Mittelsteadt extension 115	**Director of Communications** willm@firstlutherancr.org
Ruth Ehrhardt extension 131	**Food Service Coordinator** ruthe@firstlutherancr.org
Rich Hillyer extension 116	**Custodians** richh@firstlutherancr.org
Todd Cornell	toddc@firstlutherancr.org
Ernie Decious	ernied@firstlutherancr.org
Audrey Montgomery Gardes	**Worship AV Director** AudreyM@firstlutherancr.org
Jacob Bartels, Avery Karkosh, Kraig Wilford	**AV Production Team**