

# The *First* Word

Volume 23, Issue 10

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

September 2022

Seek FIRST His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

## Special September Dates

Labor Day.....	Sept. 5
<b>Church office closed</b>	
FLS Open House.....	Sept. 6
First day of classes at FLS.....	Sept. 7
Dorcas Circle quilting begins	
Confirmation Parent/Student	
Informational meeting	
First Edition Book Club.....	Sept. 10
Home of Connie Onstad	
Patriot Day.....	Sept. 11
National Grandparents Day	
High School Bible Study Class begins	
Preschool-8th Sunday School begins	
WOW! Bible Study.....	Sept. 13
<i>Mountaintop Journeys with Jesus</i>	
Confirmation classes begin.....	Sept. 14
HIS Kids Choir practice begins	
Chancel Choir practice begins	
LWML Falls Retreats.....	Sept. 16-18
(Flathead Lake and Bozeman)	
Human Care Garage Sale.....	Sept. 17
Dorcas Circle quilting.....	Sept. 21
WOW! Bible Study.....	Sept. 27
<i>Mountaintop Journeys with Jesus</i>	

## It's a new school year!

— from Director Sue Taylor



Sue Taylor

The 2022-2023 school year is about to start at First Lutheran! On September 6, we will have our Open House, where we will welcome 20 students and their families to the building.

On September 7, they will all return for their first day of the school year. It will be a morning filled with excitement and trepidation, giggles and tears, whispers and shouts, and lots and lots of hugs.

We are thrilled to announce that our Get Set class will be held five days a week with our new teacher, Hanna Hollatz, leading these little ones through their daily routine as they learn about God's

message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Our Pre K class will continue under the very capable and loving guidance of Ms. Lori Radtke, as she returns for her third year of teaching at First Lutheran School.

Our school director, Susan Taylor, will return for a third year of joy in giving service to our Lord.

Thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement as we strive to promote enthusiastic, life-long learners, who know Christ, who can think for themselves, who work well with others, and use their imaginations while they solve problems in creative, kind ways.



Lori Radtke



## Welcome our new Get Set teacher



Hanna Hollatz

My name is Hanna Hollatz. I was born and raised in Helena, and I have been married to my husband, Aaron, for 20 years. Together we have six children and a lovely new daughter-in-law.

I have been a stay-at-home mom for all 20 years, and have homeschooled our children right from the beginning.

I am also a member of the Helena Xpress Singers Chorus. I have been given the talent of singing, which I love, and try to share it when I am able.

I was raised in the WELS church in Helena. When I married, I baptized all my kids in the same church I grew up in. Two years ago, God led us in a difficult direction spiritually. Not knowing what His plan was, we made the decision to leave our former church.

We were led to First Lutheran and right from the start saw God's hand in everything that followed. To this day I am still amazed at the doors that have been opened, not only to me, but to my entire family. We are blessed beyond measure and thankful for such an amazing church family. (Isaiah 55)

## In This Issue

A Look At Our Budget.....	2
Train up a child . . .	
The Pastor's Page.....	3
Delegate report: 2022 LCMS Montana.....	4
District Convention	
Offerings: An easier way to give.....	5
Register now for LWML Fall Retreat!	
Celebrating September Birthdays at First....	6
You're Invited!.....	7

*"There is a divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps. The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you."*

— Elie Wiesel



If you are in first (1st) to eighth (8th) grade, YOU are invited to be a member of HIS Kids! We have a LOT of fun and practice to sing in church about one Sunday a month.

Our first HIS Kids! rehearsal is **Wednesday, September 14**, promptly at 5:15 p.m. We only have a short time to learn our songs, so please plan accordingly.

It will be an exciting year as HIS First Lutheran Kids join their voices in praise to our awesome God! YOU are invited to become part of HIS Kids! Contact me with questions.

**Shari Miller**, Director

## Memorial Gifts guidelines

Many of you at First Lutheran generously give memorial gifts as a remembrance of our loved ones. Recently there have been a substantial number of financial gifts given as memorials.

As a friendly reminder, if you write a check as a memorial gift, please pay to the order of First Lutheran Church, rather than to the family of the deceased. By writing the check to First Lutheran Church, the check will smoothly deposit to the Church's account. A check written to the family of the deceased, or some other name, may result in the delay or denial of the check to be deposited.

Thank you all for your generous memorial gifts.

— Jerry Michel



## Train up a child in the way he should go ... Proverbs 22:6

First Lutheran Sunday School will kick off on Sunday, September 11! Students in Preschool through 8th grade will meet in the Chapel downstairs at 9:45 a.m.

This year, we will learn about God's plan of salvation and the life and ministry of Jesus.

All students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Children's Christmas Worship Service.

If you feel called to serve your Lord and the congregation as an alternate teacher, share a class with another teacher, or have a class all to yourself, please contact Darcy Goodson (406-581-5768) or Tara Mercer (406-438-3402). Materials and curriculum are provided, and you can teach your preferred age group.



A report from your Board of Finance

	<u>July, 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023 Y-T-D</u>
Income (Church & School)	\$ 52,243.57	\$ 52,243.57
Expense (Church & School)	\$ 43,303.13	\$ 43,303.13
Gain/Loss (Church & School)	\$ 8,940.44	\$ 8,940.44

### The First Word

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**Deadline for the October First Word is Wednesday, Sept. 21. Place articles in the First Word box in the church office or e-mail them to: [lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com)**

# Pastor's *Potpourri* . . .

a mixture of comments concerning our life together in Christ!

~ It's September and time to get back on track with our **MANY** activities ~

## Confirmation Classes

for students in grades 6-8

### Orientation

for students and parents  
Wednesday, September 7 at 7:15 p.m.  
in the **Fellowship Centre**.

### Classes Begin

Wednesday, September 14 at 3:30 p.m.

### Pre-Confirmation Classes

for students in grades 3-5 begin  
Wednesday, September 14 at 3:30 p.m.

## Membership Classes for Adults\*\*



We'll begin September 22  
and meet Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.!

For further information,  
or to express your interest in participating  
please contact Pastor Miller or Susan  
in the church office (442-5367).

(\*\* Those preparing for membership  
**and** those who are already members.)

## our Adult Bible Class for Fall

A Study of Proverbs

## God's Gift of *Wisdom*

begins Sunday September 18-ish!



## First Lutheran's 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

will be observed **Sunday, October 30**  
The details are on the way!

If you would like to help plan  
and carry out this special activity,  
please give me a call!

## Our September

**O.W.L.S.\*** event  
will be September 22.

Watch upcoming Bulletins  
and your email box  
for the precise details!

\***O**lder **W**iser **L**oving **S**aints  
are 55ish and older!



## ~ Amidst all the Activity ~

what is most crucial for us, as God's people  
is NOT what we do

but the truth of what God has done  
– HIS saving activity –  
in Jesus Christ, our Lord!

**"God shows his love for us  
in that while  
we were still sinners,  
Christ died for us."**

Romans 5:8



Rich blessings as we enter  
this **BUSY** time of the year  
**with Jesus!**

With LOVE for YOU in CHRIST,  
*Pas+or Miller*

## Delegate Walter Wareham's report and observations on 2022 LCMS Montana District Convention

The theme of the convention was “Thy Word” based on Psalm 119:105, “*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*”

A convention, in my mind, is a meeting to determine the health of an organization (taking the temperature, so to speak), and what needs to be done to keep the organization healthy and in tune with its foundational values, which for the LCMS are God's Word and the teachings of Martin Luther.

Ideas are brought to the convention as overtures to be discussed by floor committees. Ideas being brought to the convention showed me that our church body, as a whole, seems to be divided down the middle as to whether we should adhere strictly to God's Word, or let the world's current ideas have sway in our beliefs. Some of the overtures presented were as follows:

- **Resolution 2-01:** To Emphasize the Teaching of Law and Gospel (*passed*)
- **Resolution 2-02:** To Believe, Teach and Confess the Biblical Practice of Frequent Holy Communion to Completely Reject and Condemn the Schismatic Teaching and Practice of Virtual (on-line) Communion (*passed*)
- **Resolution 5-02:** To Restore the Binding Key to the Rites of Ordination and Installation of a Pastor....  
John 20:21-23 (*passed*)

The point of this resolution is to instruct the LCMS Montana District President to include the following words in the Rites of Ordination and Installation of Pastors: “...and do you promise to retain the sins of those who are impenitent as long as they do not repent?” Currently, this question is not included in these rites, meaning that the Loosing Key is mentioned but the Binding Key of the Office of the Keys is omitted.

- **To Implement the 2019 Synod Resolution 12-03a:** To Encourage and Train Parents and Guardians and Members to be Active Teachers and Life Long Learners of the Faith (*passed*)
- **Resolution 1-02:** To Repent of Prejudice that We May Serve the Gospel (*failed 27/31*)
- **Resolution 5-03:** To Prevent the Admission, Reinstatement, or Colloquization of a Divorced Man into the Office of the Public Ministry who has Married Another Woman (*passed*)  
As with other resolutions, 5-03 is based on God's Word; however, this one generated considerable discussion. The resolution passed, affirming God's Word while allowing for case-by-case decisions based on the circumstances of a particular situation.

- **Resolution 3-04:** To Acknowledge that Drag Queen Performances are an Offense to God (*passed*)  
This resolution was composed to comment on an event at Zoo Montana, Billings, while the Montana District Convention was in session. A news release was issued to publicize the church's stand on exposing children to the influence of a drag queen.

The Convention Bible Studies were based on *The Formula of Concord: Epitome*.

The Montana District has 68 total congregations with 11,335 baptized members with an average attendance of 48 people per Sunday (Montana District Statistics). I think the Montana District congregations are healthy, anchoring themselves on God's Word.

*“In closing, Luther says, regarding the use of God's Word in the conflict of the spirit with the flesh, ‘You must be sober and vigilant in order that the body may become fit but thereby the devil is not yet vanquished; more than the outward training of the body against sin is needed. The real sword is this, that you are strong and firm in the faith if with your heart you take hold of the Word of God and cling to it in faith, the devil cannot win, but must flee. If you can say; this my God hath said; on this I take my stand you will see that he slinks away, and with him will depart the sluggishness, the evil desires, anger, miserliness, melancholy, and doubt. But the devil is sly, he will not have you put your trust in the Word and reaches out to wrest it out of your hand; if he can make you lazy so that your body becomes unfit and filled with knavish desires, he will soon wrest the sword out of your hand. He thus had his way with Eve; she had God's Word, and if she had clung to it, she would not have fallen. But when the devil saw that she held the Word, so loosely, he tore it out of her heart, so that she let go of it; and thus he had won (2 Cor. 11:3, Gen. 3:4, 13.) Thus St. Peter has sufficiently instructed us how we are to fight the devil. Running will not do, nor any work that you might perform; what is needed that you cling to the Word by faith. When he comes and would drive you into despondency because of your sin, just take hold of the Word of God which promises forgiveness of sins and take that to heart and he will soon have to leave off’” (Christian Dogmatics, Franz Pieper).*

This sword is at work in you and in the world, and it will continue to be victorious. You can always depend on it for it is truly a lamp to your feet and a light to your path.

If you would like to further discuss the convention proceedings, please contact me, delegate Walter Wareham.

## Last call to register for LWML Montana District Fall Retreat



“Grab Your Shoes and Go” ... to one of the two LWML

Montana District fall retreats, set to begin on Friday, September 16, and run through Sunday morning, September 18.

Again this year, two locations are being offered: one at the Mountain Top Retreat in Bozeman, the other at Trinity Lutheran Camp on Flathead Lake.

You will be treated to food,

fellowship, and fun as we unplug and enjoy the beauty of the world around us.

Registration is \$100 for the weekend, and includes lodging and food.

If you choose to go to Trinity Camp on Flathead Lake, you'll have a “cabin experience,” so bring your sleeping bag and a pillow, along with your Bible, good walking shoes, another favorite pair of shoes, and personal items.

If you choose Mountain Top Retreat in Bozeman, you'll be housed in a modern home tucked into the mountains. You need only bring your Bible, good walking shoes, another

favorite pair of shoes, and personal items.

Both retreats will offer the same program, and both will offer serenity and a peaceful haven in God's magnificent surroundings.

**Registration deadline for both retreats is Friday, September 2, 2022, or as soon as possible**, so please don't hesitate to get your registration form and check in the mail!

**A complete registration form is included in the Summer 2022 issue of the *Montana Missive*.** Pick up a copy at church and make plans now to attend with your sisters in Christ!

## Quilters appreciate support from congregation

Thank you First Lutheran members and friends! Dorcas Circle women have sewn quilt tops throughout the summer, and we will be well prepared when we begin meeting again on Wednesday, September 7. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, starting at 9 a.m. Feel free to drop in to see what we do, and join us if you have time.

Dorcas Circle members appreciate the donations of fabric and sheets for quilt tops and bottoms. We do, however, have some guidelines. For quilt backing, we can use sheets or larger pieces of fabric to make the required 64" by 84" size. We prefer something other than white. Due to the



difficult conditions of the recipients, it's probably hard to keep white quilts clean. Sheets also need to be new or only gently used and without spots. Cotton or cotton/polyester blends are

preferred to knits or stretchy fabrics. For quilt tops, we find it easiest to work with eleven-inch squares. Again, cotton or cotton blend are best.

Thank you for your interest and support in providing quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The organization distributes thousands of them each year in many troubled areas of the world. Although we can't use fabric with patriotic or religious symbols, quilt recipients know that they come from Christians who care for them and want to help. God bless you for your support.

— *Bridget Michel*

## An easier way to give your offering

Many of us at First Lutheran are familiar with giving our financial gifts through the use of checks, cash, and envelopes. But did you know that First Lutheran church has a digital option?

Our Vanco platform, which has been in place for several years, is an alternative to giving by check, cash, and envelopes. After filling out a simple one-page form, your offerings can be automatically withdrawn from your bank account and deposited directly into the church's account.

You can decide the amount of the offering, as well as the frequency with which you give your offerings. You can track your contributions on your bank statement, as before. You will also receive your year-end contribution summary, as before. If you are on vacation, or otherwise unavailable to come to church, your offerings will continue to be deposited in the church's account. You don't have to remember to give your offering, or mail it to the church office.

It is done automatically. You also won't need to write checks, give cash, or use envelopes.

If this giving option appeals to you, please contact Jerry Michel and he can provide you with the one-page form to complete, and can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

— *Jerry Michel*



Can you hear the choir singing? We are starting up Chancel Choir in September after summer break. What does this mean?

It means that **beginning September 14**, we will meet on Wednesdays following our church services (about 7:15 p.m.) and sing for our church services during the months of September through May.

Wednesday schedules will be flexible as the music is learned.

Are you a “shower singer?” Are you interested in joining us this year? Our choir just might appeal to you. We’ll have exciting music and really hope that you will join us.

Please contact Shari Miller if you are interested. Please share your musical gifts with us!

First Edition Book Club members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 10, at the home of Connie Onstad. We will meet at the JoAnn Fabrics parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and car pool to Connie’s house. Club members are currently reading—and will discuss—*The Crossing Places*—by Elly Griffiths.

**Please RSVP to Connie by Wednesday, September 7**, by calling 406-461-8741.

Members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 1, at the home of Eileen Burns. We will meet at the JoAnn Fabrics parking lot at 11:45 a.m. and car pool to Eileen’s house. For the October meeting, members will read—and discuss—*The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See.



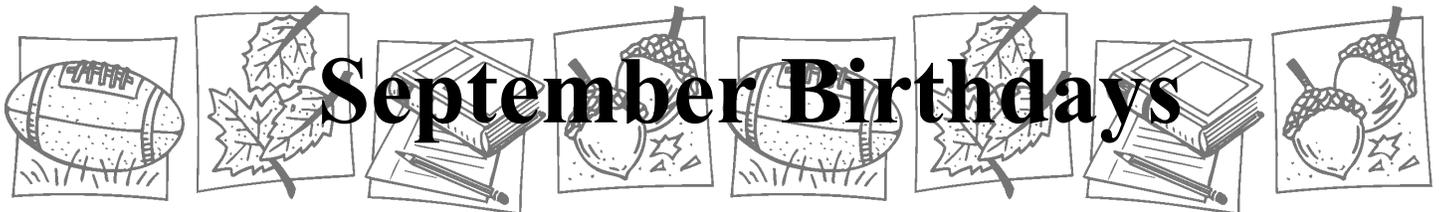
## Pursuing peace

The 2021 book *Love, Loss and Endurance: A 9/11 Story of Resilience and Hope in an Age of Anxiety* explores the dangers of extremism, both religious and political. Author Bill Tammeus, whose nephew died on 9/11, suggests three ways to be peacemakers. First, we can become more religiously literate, because “our human tendency is to fear what we don’t know or understand.” Second, we can deepen our knowledge of history, because “shock waves” from past events often spark modern-day unrest.

Finally, we can spend time with people who are facing profound grief. “This is the emotional equivalent of

walking a mile in someone else’s shoes,” Tammeus writes. “It can open our eyes to the countless ways that death — particularly unexpected, violent death — can affect almost every aspect of the lives of survivors. ... At the very least, go to funerals of people whose families you know, even of people who died of old age or of some illness late in life. Be present. Hear their stories.”

—adapted from *The Wired Word*  
from The Newsletter Newsletter



## September Birthdays

**September 1**  
Asher Woehl

**September 2**  
Shari Miller  
Gary Walker

**September 3**  
John Onstad

**September 4**  
Stephanie Cable  
Lisa Olson

**September 5**  
Loren Anderson  
Joel Ebert

**September 6**  
Ken DeKam  
Charlotte Goodson  
Kelly Shields  
Carol Smith  
Robert Veach Jr.  
Tamara Ziegler

**September 7**  
Amanda Miller  
Connie Young

**September 8**  
Jean Maier  
Margie McKeever  
Natasha Peterson  
Shannon Walker

**September 10**  
Larry Larison

**September 11**  
Kenzie Criswell  
Carla Cross  
Caleb Wareham

**September 12**  
Brooklyn Brown  
Karla Greer  
Tom Smith  
Caleb Sparks

**September 13**  
Rachel Matthews  
Augusta McIntosh

**September 15**  
Heidi Hultin

**September 16**  
Sus Everson  
Dave Kraft

**September 17**  
Jacob Blokzyl

**September 18**  
Tammy Boucher  
Wesley McIntosh

**September 20**  
Charlie LaForge  
Michele Morgenroth

**September 21**  
Natalie Gochis  
Norma Myles  
Dylan Reichert

**September 22**  
Shadron Frank  
Jim Leitzke

**September 23**  
Nancy Bowe  
Lauren McGrane

**September 24**  
Leola Beatty

**September 26**  
Daniel Koehl

**September 28**  
April Boucher  
Mary Ann Tramp

**September 30**  
Tom Cook

## *You're Invited!*

**WHO:** Men, Women, Students of all ages – members, guests/visitors

**WHAT:**

- \*Gather items for the Board of Human Care Garage Sale
- \*Drop items off after mid-week service Wednesday, 9/14, or Thursday, 9/15, or Friday, 9/16
- \*Set up tables in the Fellowship Hall after mid-week Service, Wednesday, 9/14
- \*Help unpack and display items on Thurs. 9/15, and Fri. 9/16 (sign-up in fellowship hall)
- \*Assist customers, work at check-out, load leftover items on Sat. 9/17 (sign-up in fellowship hall)
- \*Shop for needs/wants and give generously for the price-less items you select

**WHEN:** Now through Saturday, September 17...the Garage Sale date!

**WHERE:** First Lutheran Church and School Fellowship Hall

**WHY:** *Give* your TIME, *Share* your TALENTS, do not store up for yourselves TREASURES on earth where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal, but *store up for yourselves* TREASURES in HEAVEN where moths and vermin do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Help support these community programs through the purchases you make:

- + Family Promise
- + God's Love
- + Good Samaritan
- + Options Clinic
- + Individuals with developmental disabilities

Thanks for the great support you've given in the past, Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

**Board of Human Care**

*Tammy Anderson, Pippa Davis, Julie Eklund & Laurie Stelter*

First Lutheran Church & School  
 2231 Broadway  
 Helena, MT 59601

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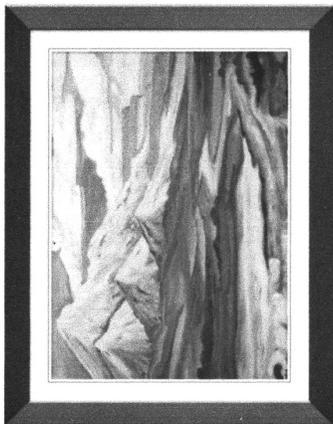
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**THE MISSION of First Lutheran Church is “Sharing God’s Word with Everyone, Everywhere”**

Tune in to **“The Lutheran Hour”**—Sundays at 8 a.m. on the Christian Satellite Network 91.1-FM, or listen on “Family Talk” on Sirius XM 131  
**“Woman to Woman”**—Sundays at 9:30 p.m. on KMTX 105.3-FM

# MOUNTAINTOP JOURNEYS

*with Jesus*



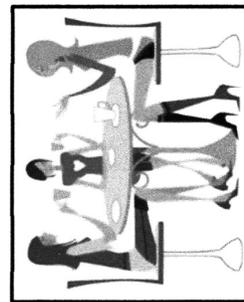
The aim of this Bible study is to take mountaintop journeys with Jesus to visit some of the mountains that marked His earthly sojourn among us and, throughout our travel, to remember and celebrate His unconditional love for us. When you ascend to such heights, the view is fantastic! We can see a long, long way. With such an expansive overview, it’s easier to put

things into the proper perspective. We sometimes get so caught up in the “busyness” of this work-a-day world that, as the expression goes, “we can’t see the forest for the trees.” We have trouble setting priorities. We put first things last, and last things first. We forget our Savior. We lose hold of His hand and get lost in the wastelands. Sometimes it’s so necessary just to stand back and “get you up into a high mountain.”

Our Women Of the Word (WOW) group meets **every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** beginning **September 13**. We meet at the church and we’d love to have you join us!

**WOW! Bible Study,  
 Mountaintop Journeys  
 with Jesus, begins  
 September 13, 2022,  
 at 7 p.m.**

**September 13 and 27  
 October 11 and 25  
 November 8 and 22**



The **Women’s Christmas Event** will be held on Thursday, **December 8**. Mark these dates on your planners, tablets, phones, calendars, and **join us!** Talk to Shari Miller for more details.