

# The *First* Word

Volume 25, Issue 10

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

September 2024

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. 2	
<b>Church office closed</b>	
FLS Back-to-School Night.....Sept. 3	
First day of classes at FLS.....Sept. 4	
Dorcas Circle quilting begins Confirmation Parent/Student Orientation	
First Edition Book Club..... Sept. 7	
Home of Eileen Burns	
Grandparents Day.....Sept. 8	
Sunday School classes for ages preschool through high school begin	
WOW! Bible Study.....Sept. 10	
Grace Upon Grace	
Confirmation classes begin.....Sept. 11	
HIS Kids Choir practice begins Chancel Choir practice begins Patriot Day	
Human Care Garage Sale.....Sept. 14	
Dorcas Circle quilting.....Sept. 18	
OWLS.....Sept. 19	
LWML Fall Retreats.....Sept. 20-22	
(Bigfork and Bozeman)	
WOW! Bible Study.....Sept. 24	
Set Your Minds on Things Above	



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## Many ways to give tithes and offerings

Our church is blessed with generous church giving. We also have volunteers who generously give of their time and talents to count the offerings every week to ensure that your offerings are accurately calculated for year-end summaries. As a friendly reminder, for those of you using envelopes, we ask you to please observe the following:

- Please ensure that you use envelopes with the correct day and year for each Sunday that you give an offering. Please use 2024 envelopes until the end of the year.
- If you want all or part of your offering to go to the school, please indicate on the front of the envelope the dollar amount you wish to give to the school and the dollar amount you wish to give to the church general fund. In this way, we can accurately summarize your giving at year's end.
- Please use your envelopes if you are giving by check. If you give a check offering without an envelope, it may not be totaled correctly on your year-end summary. The envelopes help us to accurately summarize your giving.



As an alternative to using envelopes or



giving in cash, you may want to consider giving using our VANCO platform. This is especially useful if you give a regular offering amount each month or each week. By using this platform, you can have your offering amount withdrawn electronically from your bank account on a regular basis, without having to use envelopes, giving cash, or writing checks. Your automatic withdrawal is automatically recorded and tracked, and you can receive a summary statement of your giving at the end of the year. It is convenient and secure. To sign up for this option, please contact Beth Schmeltzer.

You can also give online by using the church's website. You can access First Lutheran Church's website, click on the "give online" button, and follow the instructions for registering, giving amount, and giving interval. You can give one time, or on a regular interval. This is another option for giving in lieu of envelopes and checks.



Our church could also use volunteers to help count offerings. If you are interested in helping in this way, please see Kate Johnson.

Thank you,  
Jerry Michel

## The gift of work

Missionary and author Elisabeth Elliot considered work a gift and a blessing. Ponder the following quotes of hers as you celebrate Labor Day. How do they mesh with your own views of work?

"This job has been given to me to do. Therefore, it is a gift. Therefore, it is a privilege. Therefore, it is an offering I may make to God. Therefore, it is to be done gladly, if it is done for Him. Here, not somewhere else, I may learn God's way. In this job, not in some other, God looks for faithfulness."

"Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

— The Newsletter Newsletter

## What Would Jesus Do?

- WHAT?** Gather no longer needed items for the Priceless Garage Sale
- WHEN?** Saturday, September 14, 2024, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- WHERE?** Fellowship Hall, First Lutheran Church
- WHO?** First Lutheran Congregation — **We Give Because HE Gave HIS Life for Our Eternal Life**
- WHY?** We pass on the proceeds from this sale to:
- ⇒ First Lutheran members as needed
  - ⇒ Good Samaritan
  - ⇒ Family Promise
  - ⇒ Option Clinic
  - ⇒ Florence Crittenton Home
  - ⇒ Individuals with developmental disabilities



Please bring your bags, boxes, and bundles to church after the Midweek Service on Wednesday, September 11, OR from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, or from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, September 13.

Sign up to help set up/organize on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, and/or to help with the sale on Saturday. Sign up sheets are in the Fellowship Hall in a yellow folder on the table. Help box clothing and books that are left starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday and deliver these to Good Samaritan and/or Goodwill. Many hands make light work! Thank you!

Don't forget to come and shop on Saturday! You'll be amazed at the treasures you'll find!

Please pray for generous contributions of merchandise, lots of customers, generous giving for the treasures they select, and many helping hands to make this a fun-filled fellowship opportunity for our First Lutheran faith family!

Sincerely,  
Your Human Care Committee

## Quilt with us ... you will be blessed!



### QUILTER'S BLESSING

May your Bobbins  
be full and everflowing.

May your Stash  
be rich, colorful,  
and abundant.

May your  
Stitches-in-the-Ditch  
be even and straight.

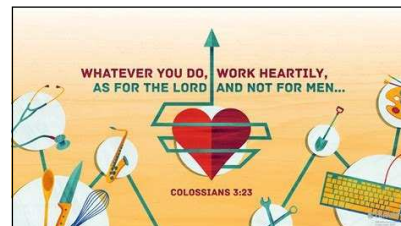
And may your heart  
be joyfilled and  
your life...

SEW BLESSED.

The ladies of First Lutheran's Dorcas Circle gather in the Fellowship Hall on the first and third Wednesdays of each month to tie quilts. It is a very social, low-key activity that provides quilts for Lutheran World Relief, local causes, and Baptisms at First Lutheran Church. Our wonderful fellowship also includes time for coffee and a snack.

The first session this fall starts at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 4. We work until about noon, although some of the women attend the Wednesday Bible Study at 11 a.m.

We would love to have you join us! Please contact Bridget Michel at (406) 438-6214 if you have questions.



### The First Word

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Rev. Larry A. Miller.....Pastor  
Linda Fromm.....Editor  
Shari Miller.....Calendar/Servant Schedule  
Volunteer Staff.....Printing/Collation

**Deadline for the October First Word is  
Wednesday, September 18.**  
Place articles in the First Word box  
in the church office  
or email them to:  
[lindafromm@mac.com](mailto:lindafromm@mac.com)

# Pastor's Potpourri . . .

a mixture of comments concerning our life together in Christ!

## Pre~Confirmation Classes

for Bible readers in grades 2-5

## Confirmation Classes

for students in grades 6-8

### Orientation

for students and parents

Wednesday, September 4 after Worship  
in the **Sanctuary**.

### Classes Begin

Wednesday, September 11 at 3:30 p.m.

### Call us in the Church Office

to register and for answers!

**442-5367**



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## Membership Classes

for Adults\*\*

and

High School -&-

College-aged Students

We plan to begin in September!  
Meeting days and times to be set  
according to participants' schedules.

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

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

Our **Adult Bible Study** for autumn

**+ GALATIANS! +**

Sundays ~ 9:30ish ~ in the Fellowship Centre

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Our September

**O.W.L.S.\*** event

**Thursday, September 19**  
from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Details will be announced!

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

#####

~ **Amidst all the Busyness** ~

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



but the truth of what  
God **has** done for us  
– 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 live through  
these times **with Jesus** and His mercy,  
His grace, and His love!

In CHRIST alone,

*Pastor Miller*



# Happenings at First Lutheran School



Director  
Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher  
Shannon Champagne

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher  
Lori Radtke

After Care Providers  
Melanie Middlebrook/Emily DuPre  
Lillian Buhr

Lunch Assistant  
Jeannie Hubbard

Pastor  
Larry A. Miller

*We ask for prayers for all the teachers in our church and school.  
May they have a positive year nurturing our children and  
helping them to grow in their knowledge and faith.*

**The new church/school year is upon us,  
and we are ready to  
“SHARE GOD’S WORD  
WITH EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE!”**

*A Prayer for the*  
**TEACHER**

Lord, thank you for school teachers and for all the important work they do. I pray You will make them:

**T****ENACIOUS**  
Help our teachers hold fast to what is right without wavering, stand boldly upon the truth without backing down, and diligently teach the kids in their class to cherish wisdom and understanding. (Heb. 10:23; 2 Tim. 1:7; Deut. 6:7; Prov. 19:8)

**E****NERGETIC**  
Strengthen and empower our teachers to go above & beyond what their jobs require. Renew their energy. Build their endurance. Equip them for every good work & guard them against weariness. (Col. 1:11; Isa. 40:31; 2 Tim. 3:17; Gal. 6:9)

**A****TTENTIVE**  
Keep their eyes & ears open to all that is going on with their students. Give them an extra measure of wisdom & discernment. May they consistently praise good behavior & subdue potential problems. (Matt. 13:16; Prov. 14:33; 1 Pet. 2:14)

**C****REATIVE**  
Bless our teachers with sharp, creative, resourceful minds. Supply every need and help them make wise, efficient, & productive use of all the time, talents, gifts, & resources You've entrusted to them. (Jer. 17:10; Phil. 4:19; Matt. 25:20-21)

**H****UMBLE**  
Cultivate in their hearts a spirit of sincere humility. Guard them against pride and arrogance, Help them resist any urge to answer students with impatience, condescension, or biting sarcasm. (Eph. 4:2; Prov. 8:13; Col. 3:12; James 4:6-7)

**E****NCOURAGING**  
Help our teachers find effective ways to encourage their students, to build them up, to spur them on to love and good deeds, and to motivate & inspire them to put forth their best effort. (1 Thess. 5:11; Phil. 3:13-14; Heb. 10:24; 12:1)

**R****ESPECTED**  
Show our teachers the inestimable value of a good name. May they live lives of integrity—both in and out of the classroom—and enjoy the respect of their students & colleagues as a result. (Prov. 22:1; Prov. 11:3; James 3:1; Rom. 13:7)

© 2024 by Jennifer Flanders. For more free printable prayer guides, please visit <https://lovinglifeathome.com>

*The prayer above is part of a wonderful collection of free printable prayer guides on the Jennifer Flanders Loving Life at Home website:  
<https://lovinglifeathome.com>*



We will have Sunday School classes every Sunday morning starting at 9:45 a.m. Children preschool to high school age are invited to join us for Bible study. We will meet in the chapel before splitting off into groups to study God's Word.

Our Sunday School teachers  
**Darcy Goodson**  
**Tara Mercer**  
**Hanna Hollatz**  
**Chantel Duty**  
**Rick Northrup**

**First Lutheran School classes will start on  
Wednesday, September 4.  
Back-to-School Night  
is Tuesday, September 3, at 6 p.m.**

Our classes are nearly full for this school year, but we have one spot remaining in our Get Set class. If your child is 3 years old and potty trained, we welcome him/her to join us to learn and live in God's Word.

Fun **YOUTH GROUP** events each month; activities and dates to be determined. Watch the church calendar for specifics.

**Following the Lord (FtL)** meetings will continue to be held each Monday evening at 6 p.m.



*In your  
presence there is  
fullness of joy ...*

*Psalms 16:11*

## LWML Fall Retreats

September 20 — 22, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Camp — Bigfork  
Mountain Top Retreat — Bozeman

You will be treated to food, fellowship, and fun as we unplug and enjoy the beauty of the world around us. There are two locations from which to choose.

Registration fee is \$125.

**Due no later than September 2, 2024.**

**Please see the Summer *Missive* for a registration form, which will include items you need to bring, depending on the location of the retreat you choose to attend.**

## **Stewards, called to forgiveness** — from your Board of Stewardship

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO: “Garbage in, garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data, you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds, all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to

reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

*Forgive us, Lord, for shallow  
thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and  
sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and  
harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re  
unaware.*

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that he or she loses sight of the treasure: Jesus!



***Unthankfulness is theft.***

— Martin Luther

***“The devil is most happy when he can snatch from a servant of God true joy of the Spirit. He carries dust with him to throw into the smallest chinks of conscience and thus soil one’s mental candor and purity of life. But if joy of the Spirit fills the heart, the serpent shoots his deadly venom in vain.”***

— St. Francis of Assisi  
*Second Life*, Celano



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 11**, 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.

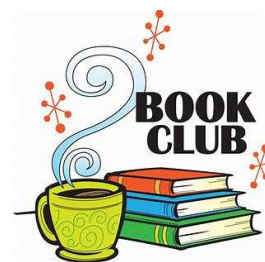
Wednesday schedules will be flexible as the music is learned and practice times will be discussed at our first rehearsal.

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 7, at the home of Eileen Burns. Those wishing to carpool will meet at the JoAnn Fabrics parking lot at 11:45 a.m. Club members are currently reading — and will discuss — *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. **Please RSVP to Eileen by Wednesday, September 4**, by calling or texting 406-475-2265.

Members will meet for lunch at 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 5, at the home of Connie Onstad. We will meet at the JoAnn Fabrics parking lot at 11:30 a.m. and carpool to Connie’s house. For the October meeting, members will read — and discuss — *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.



## HIS Kids

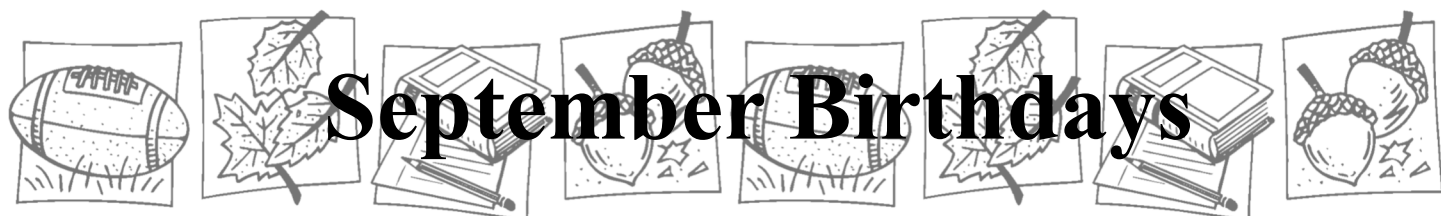


If you are in first (1st) to eighth (8th) grade, YOU are invited to be a member of **HIS Kids!** We have a LOT of fun and practice to sing in church about one Sunday a month.

Our first **HIS Kids!** rehearsal is **Wednesday, September 11**, 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



## 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**  
Charlotte Goodson  
Kelly Shields  
Carol Smith  
Robert Veach Jr.  
Tamara Ziegler

**September 7**  
Aurelia Klapmeier  
Connie Young

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

**September 10**  
Emma Hall  
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 18**  
Wesley McIntosh

**September 20**  
Charlie LaForge  
Michele Morgenroth

**September 21**  
Natalie Gochis  
Faye Myles

**September 22**  
Shadron Frank  
Jim Leitzke

**September 23**  
Nancy Bowe  
Lauren McGrane

**September 24**  
Daniel Kluth

**September 26**  
Daniel Koehl  
Lincoln Nettletten

**September 28**  
Mary Ann Tramp

**September 30**  
Tom Cook

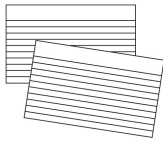


## Keepsake BOOK

With your grandparents, create a special book to preserve cherished memories.

### What you need:

- Index cards
- Pencil
- Hole punch
- Binder ring (or yarn)
- Crayons or markers



### What you do:

1. Brainstorm questions to ask one or more of your grandparents (topics can include their childhoods, favorites and advice). Write one question on each index card.
2. Ask your grandparent to write his or her answers on the blank sides of the cards.
3. Make a cover by decorating one index card.
4. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.
5. Use a binder ring or string yarn through the holes and tie to secure the cards together.

# Just for KIDS!



## From generation to **GENERATION**

Grandparents are a bridge of love for future generations. The greatest heritage they can pass on is their faith and love for God.

*Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.*

JOEL 1:3, NIV

**Directions:** List as many words as you can create from the letters in **GENERATIONS**. You may want to challenge a grandparent to this!

**2-letter words**

**3-letter words**

**4-letter words**

**5+ letters**

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Add up the total number of words you found. >>> \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will vary.



*“Nobody can do for little children what grandparents can do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children.”*

— Alex Haley



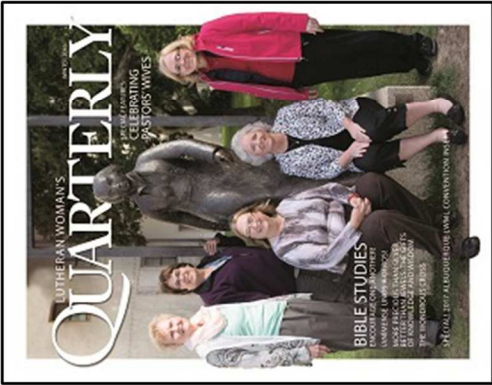
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation  
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
  
**THE MISSION of First Lutheran Church**  
is “Sharing God’s Word with Everyone,  
Everywhere”

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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

# Women of the Word



The **Women Of the Word (WOW)** group meets this fall beginning **September 10, 2024**. We meet at the church and we'd love to have you join us!

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* is published four times a year and for many years each issue has included three Bible studies. Our Bible study group will use six archived Bible studies this Fall.

- Session 1: *Grace Upon Grace*
- Session 2: *Set Your Minds on Things Above*
- Session 3: *Life in God's Kingdom*
- Session 4: *Changeless!*
- Session 5: *Milestones of Faith*
- Session 6: *Shhh! Peace Be Still*

**WOW! Bible Study,  
Grace Upon Grace, begins  
September 10, 2024,  
at 7 p.m.**

**September 10 and 24  
October 8 and 22  
November 12 and 26**



The **Women's Christmas Event** will be held on Thursday, **December 12**. Mark these dates on your planners, tablets, phones, calendars, and **join us!** Talk to Shari Miller for more details.