

The *First* Word

Volume 27, Issue 9

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL — HELENA, MONTANA

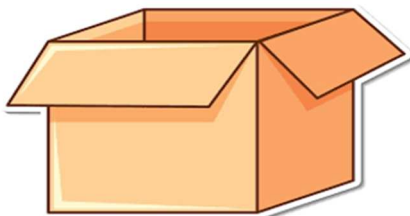
September 2026

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

Special September Dates

Back to School Night.....	Sept. 1
First day of classes at FLS.....	Sept. 2
Dorcas Circle quilting begins	
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....	Sept. 6
Labor Day.....	Sept. 7
Church office closed NO FLS Classes	
WOW! Bible Study.....	Sept. 8
Lifelight: <i>John, Part 2</i>	
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....	Sept. 13
First <i>HIS Kids</i> Choir rehearsal	
Grandparents Day	
Dorcas Circle quilting.....	Sept. 16
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost.....	Sept. 20
WOW! Bible Study.....	Sept. 22
Lifelight: <i>John, Part 2</i>	
Human Care Ministry.....	Sept. 26
Priceless Garage Sale	
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost.....	Sept. 27
St. Michael and All Angels.....	Sept. 29
Dorcas Circle quilting.....	Sept. 30

Can you fill this box?



Cleaning out, simplifying your life?

Don't toss it! Remember our **Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, September 26**. Let your items have a second life as somebody else's treasures.

We'll be accepting donations beginning after the evening service on Wednesday, September 23, throughout the day on Thursday, September 24, and up until 1 p.m. on Friday, September 25. Help

is also needed for setting up and displaying items, and loading up items remaining after the sale.

All proceeds will be distributed to First Lutheran families in need and to community organizations. Thank you for helping us to help those in need.



— Human Care Ministry

Thank God for Christian teachers

Lord, in my work — whether at a job, at home or in a service—

help me
to do it with
purpose and
peace.

Keep me from being
overwhelmed, and remind me
that my worth is not in what I
produce, but in
who I am in You.
Amen.

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity, and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks, and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories, and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional, or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect, or uncertainty, a caring

teacher can become a source of hope, stability, and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their vocation, and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.



— The Newsletter Newsletter

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Dorcas quilters are back at it!



The Dorcas quilters at First Lutheran will take up needle and thread and begin tying knots again on Wednesday, September 2, 2026. We will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month, beginning at 9 a.m. We usually meet until about noon, with time for coffee at about 10:30 a.m. Knowing how to quilt is completely unnecessary because we spend our time knotting crochet thread to hold the three layers of each quilt together. We would happily welcome new knotters!

If you would like to help in other ways, contact Bridget Michel at (406) 438-6214. We have quilt squares that have

been arranged that need to be sewn together. The tied quilts need to be hemmed. Squares can be cut, and we always need good used or new flat sheets for backs. Due to price increases in batting and postage, we would even accept cash donations or help Thrivent Financial members apply for grants.

We currently have a number of Baptism quilts that have been lovingly made by members of the congregation, and we like to keep a supply on hand for the church to give to infants or others when they are Baptized. If anyone would like to create quilts for Baptisms, that would be an additional blessing.

Many thanks to all who have donated fabric, thread, and other supplies in the past.

— Bridget Michel



Fall Retreat

September 18 - 20, 2026

Trinity Lutheran Camp — Bigfork (Cabin experience)
Mountain Top Retreat — Bozeman (Complete amenities)

You will be treated to food, fellowship, and fun as we unplug and enjoy the beauty of the world around us.

Registration fee is \$135.

Please see the Montana Missive for further information.

A Peas-ful departure

A funeral director once shared a lighthearted epitaph he found on an old tombstone. It read:

Here lies the body of Solomon Peas,
 Under the sod and under the trees.
 Peas is not here, 'tis only the pod;
 Peas has shelled out and gone to God.

— The Newsletter Newsletter



A blessing for teachers

God grant you a towering wisdom to impart all blessings of education.

And when your wisdom fails like a \$1.79 transistor radio — God grant you an awesome understanding to accept the young scoundrel who tests your eminent intellect.

And when your understanding is tricked and sidetracked into babbling bewilderment — God grant you the serenity of divine grace to forbear.

And when your grace is threadbare and an alter-ego imp whispers the delicious promptings of retaliation — God grant you a magnificent strength to endure.

And when that last ounce of strength drains pitifully away, and it is scarcely 2 p.m. on the opening day of school — God grant you the blessed breezes of good humor to bring the whole, hopeless mess into a new and delightful perspective. Amen.

— Pastor John J. Walker
 (from *Holy Humor* by Cal & Rose Samra)

The *First Word*

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 2231 Broadway
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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 23.**

**Place articles in the *First Word* box
 in the church office
 or email them to:
 lindafromm@mac.com**



Pastor's Potpourri . . .

a mixture of comments concerning our life together in Christ!

our Adult Bible Study

beginning at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday
in the Fellowship Centre

The General Epistles

We'll read and study these seven letters,
a rich treasury of spiritual wisdom
and strength. They are intense,
deep, beautiful, and inspiring!

Join us to study these precious words!



+ Confirmation Classes +

for youth in the 7th or 8th grades?

For further information and/or to let us
know that you (or someone you know)
could be interested, please call us
at the Church office (406) 442-5367!

We are also considering holding
a Bible story class for younger students.

Let us know if you are interested!

+ Older Wiser Loving Saints +

(55ish+ older)

are invited
to our next gathering
Thursday, September 17,
11 a.m.

as we go "back to school!"



Watch for the details!

We're never too old-er to learn!

+ A Membership Class +

for folks becoming one of the newest
members of *FLCS*

or "older" members

wanting to review the basics
is being planned to begin this fall!

*Are you or someone you know
interested?*

Please let us know at (406) 442-5367.

+ With A Full Heart +

I am thanking God
for many miracles these days!



On May 26, this year, and in the days
before my surgery and these days following,
I have personally experienced
unbelievable miracles from His hands,
through the hands and care of many people:
doctors, nurses, therapists, technicians, and
so many more, through my heart surgery,
appointments with medical professionals,
rehabilitation sessions, and much more!

I am also thanking God for YOU!

For your cards and prayers,
your love and support throughout
and, even more, for sharing with us
your trust and faith in our gracious God
and all He has done!

It is my prayer

that God will continue to bless you,
in ways that will fill your heart with
thanksgiving and joy, in Jesus, our Savior
and the greatest miracle, His love for us!

Pastor Miller



Happenings at First Lutheran School



Director
Sue Taylor

Get Set Teacher
Shannon Champagne

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher
Lori Radtke

Pastor
Larry A. Miller

The new church/school year is upon us, and we are equipped to:
"Share God's Word with Everyone, Everywhere."

First Lutheran School

First Lutheran School will be starting classes on Wednesday, September 2. We will be holding our Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, September 1, beginning at 6 p.m.

Our enrollment numbers have fallen this year and, as a result, we have chosen to reduce the hours of work for each of our staff members. This has required an adjustment of the class structure, which involves some combination of the classes. We will, however, continue to have two classes: the Get Set class and the PreK class.

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.

— Sue Taylor
School Director

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:

TENACIOUS
 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)

ENERGETIC
 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)

ATTENTIVE
 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)

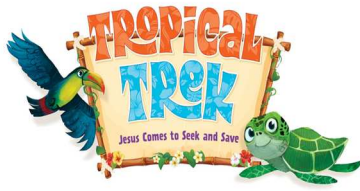
CREATIVE
 Bless our teachers with sharp, creative, resourceful minds. Supply every need and help them make wise, efficient, & productive use of all the time, talents, gifts, & resources You've entrusted to them. (Jer. 17:10; Phil. 4:19; Matt. 25:20-21)

HUMBLE
 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)

ENCOURAGING
 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)

RESPECTED
 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)

It was a marvelous Trek!



Our “TROPICAL TREK: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save” Vacation Bible School (VBS) adventure, held during the week of August 10-14, was a great success!

We had 76-80 students in attendance, with over 20 volunteers who made this special event possible.

A mission offering was collected throughout the week, and we raised \$522 for LWML (Lutheran Women’s Missionary League) missions and grants.

A big THANK YOU to Susan and Brian Buhr for applying for — and receiving — two Thrivent Financial grants, worth a total of \$500. These grants blessed us in purchasing supplies, snacks, and crafts.

Thank You, Lord, for equipping us with the talents and abilities to share Your Word with others.



Sixth Month Secret sister — Join fellow “Sisters in Christ” by encouraging one specific person, chosen randomly for you, to pray for, send notes to, celebrate life, or just say “Hi ... I’m thinking of you.”

Open to all daughters in Christ who are young or young-at-heart, and willing to commit to having a Secret Sister.

Interested? Complete the survey sheet available in the Fellowship Hall and **return it to Lillian Buhr by Sunday, September 13.**

Questions? Call Lillian at (406) 475-2206 or email her at yellow_moose@msn.com.

Define your life by how you give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. When we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and

family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35).

— LCMS Stewardship Ministry



Christian Symbol



BREAD — One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or “bread from heaven,” to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, “*I am the bread of life*” (John 6:35), pointing to Himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord’s Supper, where it is Christ’s body, given to us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God’s provision, Christ’s presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

— The Newsletter Newsletter



Can you hear the choir singing?
We are starting up Chancel Choir
on Wednesday, **September 16**.

It means 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.

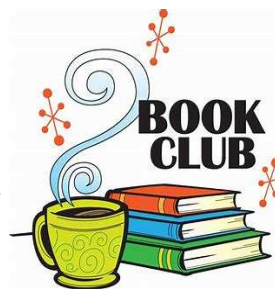
Are you a “shower singer?” Are you interested in joining
us this year? Our choir just might appeal to you. We’ll have
exciting music and really hope that you will join us.

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

First Edition Book Club
members will meet on Saturday,
September 12, at 12 noon at
Joyce Nachtsheim’s home
(Touchmark). Members are
reading — and will discuss — *The
100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed
Out the Window and Disappeared*,
by Jonas Jonasson.

**Please RSVP to Joyce by Saturday, September 5,
at (406) 459-9002.**

The October meeting will be held on Saturday,
October 3, at 10 a.m. **at the church**, and will be hosted
by Eileen Burns. For this meeting, members will
read — and discuss — *Under the Tulip Tree* by
Michelle Shockley. **Please RSVP to Eileen by
Wednesday, September 30, at (406) 475-2265.**



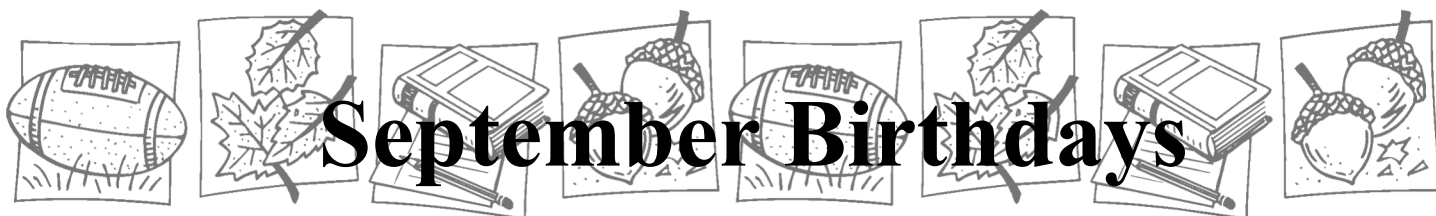
HIS Kids



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 **Sunday, September 13**, immediately following early
service (around 9:15).

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!** Please contact Shari
Miller or Darcy Goodson if interested or for more information.



September Birthdays

September 1
Asher Woehl

September 2
Shari Miller
Gary Walker

September 3
Chase Moxley
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
Amanda Miller
Connie Young

September 8
Kaitlyn LaForge
Jean Maier
Margarie McKeever
Natasha Peterson
Shannon Walker

September 10
Larry Larison

September 11
Kenzie Criswell
Caleb Wareham

September 12
Brooklyn Brown
Karla Greer
Tom Smith
Caleb Sparks

September 13
Rachel Matthews
Augusta McIntosh

September 15
Heidi Hultin
Jared Piilola

September 16
Sus Everson
Dave Kraft
Joe Mitchell

September 17
Jacob Blokzyl

September 18
Wesley McIntosh

September 19
Adam Cole

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
Daniel Kluth

September 26
Daniel Kluth
Daniel Koehl
Lincoln Nettleten

September 28
Mary Ann Tramp

September 30
Tom Cook



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

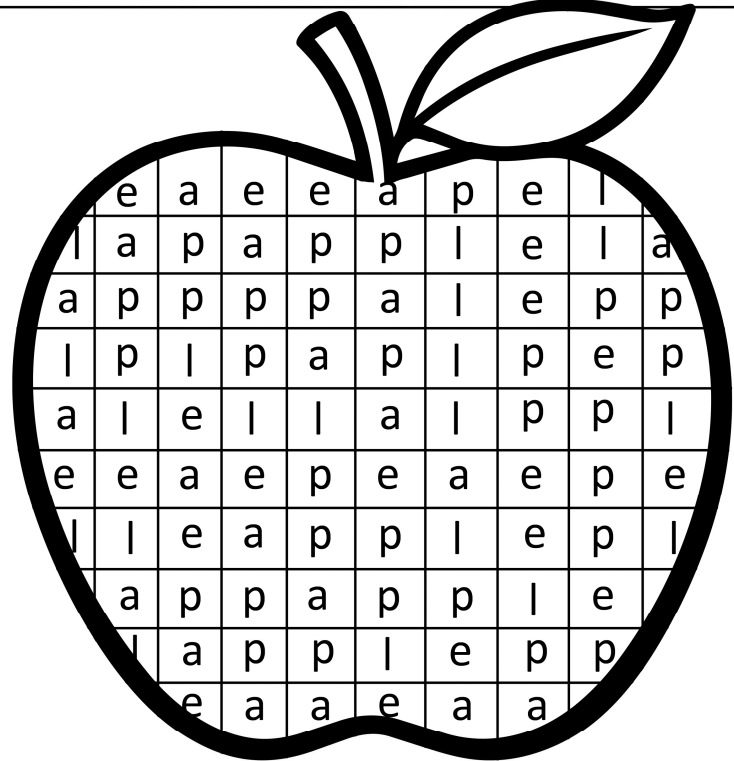
Just for KIDS!



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!



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

— Alex Haley



First Lutheran Church & School
2231 Broadway
Helena, MT 59601

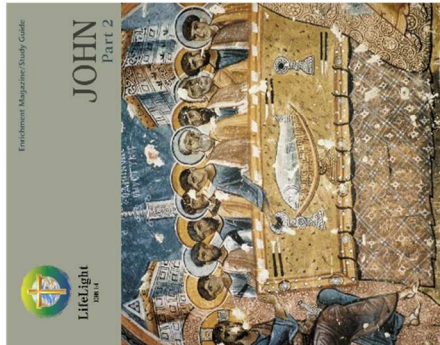
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Website: www.firstlutheranhelena.org
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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH is a Congregation
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
We meet at the church.

It is not too late to join us in studying
the Lifelight series, *John, Part 2*. We
have delved in-depth into this book of
the Bible in *John, Part 1* and have now
begun *Part 2*.

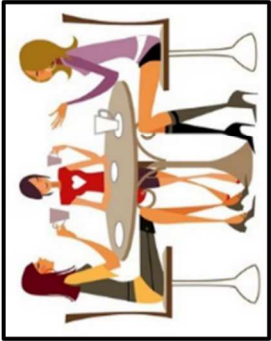
We have five sessions to go as we finish up the Book of John. If
you need a copy of the study, please let Shari know by **August 15**.
Upcoming sessions include:

- Session 5—Learn of Jesus Christ to Pray
- Session 6—Jesus: Tried and True
- Session 7—He Suffered, Was Crucified, Dead, and was Buried
- Session 8—He Rose Again from the Dead
- Session 9—The Ministry of Jesus Continues

Our WOW group meets **the second and fourth Tuesdays of
the month**. We meet at the church and we’d love to have you join
us!

September 8 and 22
October 13
November 10 and 24

WOW! Bible Study,
Lifelight: *John, Part 2*,
begins September 8, 2026,
at 9:30 a.m.



The **Women’s Christmas Event**
will be held on Thursday, **December 10**. Mark these dates on your
planners, tablets, phones, calendars,
and **join us!** Talk to Shari Miller for
more details.