

First Lutheran Church

2023-24

Youth & Family
Ministry Programs





Worship

Saturday at 5 p.m. in the Chapel

Sunday at 9 or 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday morning worship includes communion, youth acolytes, youth ushers, a children's message, and a children's offering.



Children's Worship Bags—Children's Crossing, located just outside the Sanctuary near the tower entrance, has worship activity bags including a children's bulletin. Pick one up and use it during worship. Please return to the white crates after the worship service.

Confirmation Students are expected to

- Attend worship weekly (Saturday or Sunday).
- Attend Wednesday night services during Advent and Lent, 6:30 p.m. (Memory work will be distributed to students to learn at home during Lent under a parent's supervision.)
- Complete a weekly Worship Reflection. Pick up a guide sheet at the Welcome Center desk and place completed reflection in the basket in the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. One monthly worship reflection is the **minimum** expectation. Online form available at flcsf.org/youth.

Youth in Worship

- 7th Graders are expected to Acolyte
Training is on Wed. Sept 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- 8th Graders are expected to Usher
Training is on Wed. Sept 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- 9th Graders are expected to serve Communion
Training is on Wed. Aug 30 at 7:30 p.m.



Milestone Ministries



Milestone Ministries provide a faith milestone as a marker along life's journey that says, "This is important, and God is here too." It is a faith formation practice for both families and the congregation to recognize God's presence in everyday life. Information on each milestone will be sent via postcard and text prior to event date. *Please RSVP your family so we know how much food to order.*

Families gather together to learn about milestones and how to incorporate them into their daily lives. Milestones often include a worship component at the 11 a.m. worship service.

Milestones offered this year:

August 20 • Backpack Blessing • PreK-College

September 6 • Confirmation Orientation • 6th Grade

September 24 • Bible • 3rd & 7th Grade

Small Catechism • 8th Grade

October 15 • Confirmation Retreat • 10th Grade

October 29 • Affirmation of Baptism • 10th Grade

November 5 • Apostles' Creed • 4th Grade

December 3 • Money Matters • 11th Grade

January 7, 2024 • Anniversary of Baptism • all baptized in 2023

February 4 • Confession/Forgiveness • 2nd Grade

March 3 • The Lord's Prayer • 1st Grade

March 6, 13, 20, 28 • First Communion • 5th Grade

(We meet for class on Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 p.m. with the students and parents.)

April 14 • 10 Commandments • Kindergarten

May 5 • Senior Recognition • 12th Grade

May 8 • End of Sun/Wed School Celebration • 5th Grade

June 2 • Summer Send Off • all ages going to camp/trips





Children's Ministry

Sunday/Wednesday School

Classes are offered on Sunday mornings (10:20-10:50 a.m.), starting in Katie's Commons and Wednesday evening (6:30-7:30 p.m.) starting in the Chapel or Sanctuary.

You do not need to be a First Lutheran member to attend Sunday or Wednesday School. *Everyone is welcome!*

An important aspect of First Lutheran's ministry is helping parents teach the faith in the home. Sunday/Wednesday School is a way for faith to connect learning at church to what you are teaching at home. Lessons this year will be Bible stories that follow the teachings in Luther's Small Catechism.

3rd-5th graders, don't forget to bring your Blue Adventure Bible with on Sunday and Wednesday!

Sunday Schedule

- 9 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10 a.m. Snack with family (Katie's Commons)
- 10:20 Sunday School Classrooms Lessons
- 10:50 Parents pick up (Katie's Commons)
- 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday Schedule

- 5 p.m. Meal (Reformation Hall)
- 6:30 p.m. Wednesday School
 - 6:30 Worship (Chapel/Sanctuary)
 - 7:00 Classroom Lessons
 - 7:25 Snack
 - 7:30 Parents pick up (Classrooms)

Children's Ministry



Christmas Program

This year the Children's Christmas Program will be **Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m.** with *rehearsal on December 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.* The Children's Minister and Children's Music Director will be working together to teach the children how to tell the Christmas Story. The program will be followed by cookies and hot chocolate.



Vacation Bible School

VBS is 3 days (9am-3pm) at FLC, typically in the beginning of June. These days are filled with worship, learning about God, games, activities, time with friends, and food!



Middle School Ministry

Confirmation is a time of learning the Bible, connecting with others, and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ!

We know your family has taught you to pray, given you God's blessing, and brought you to worship. Now in confirmation, you will be bringing all that you have learned so far, and together we will be opening the Bible, learning the Small Catechism, and trusting in the promises of Jesus Christ.

Middle School Events are a time of fellowship and making new friends through activities, food, and conversations.

Goals for Confirmation

- A deep, living faith in Jesus Christ through hearing God's word
- A solid connection with God's people
- An ability to give the good news of Jesus Christ in word and deed



Guiding Principles

- Baptism, not confirmation, is the claiming grace of God for all of God's children.
- Confirmation is an affirmation of God's promise into a deeper and fuller participation in a life of community-shared faith and work.
- Pastors' involvement in teaching and interacting is essential.
- The home must be given the opportunity and responsibility to be an active partner in nurturing the faith of baptized children.
- Adults involved in confirmation ministry are called to be shepherds and mentors for those under their care.
- The foundational elements of the Lutheran church and the Biblical story must be clearly taught and learned.



Middle School Ministry

Confirmation Ministry Structure

5th Grade

- ☐ Five-week session focusing on *First Communion* preparation (takes place on Wednesdays before Lenten worship services with parents) 5:30 p.m.

6th Grade

- ☐ Seventeen sessions focusing on: *Faith, the Bible, Prayer, Worship, Law & Gospel, and Evangelism.* Led by Valerie Pherson, Seminary Student
- ☐ Serve the Wednesday Night Meal as a family



7th and 8th Grade

- ☐ Year 1, 2022-23: Nineteen sessions focusing on the biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation. Led by Senior Pastor Jason Burggraff
- ☐ Year 2, 2023-24: Nineteen sessions focusing on Luther's Small Catechism. Led by Senior Pastor Jason Burggraff
- ☐ Small group building, prayer/devotion, and service projects
- ☐ Acolyte (7th), Usher (8th)

9th Grade

- ☐ Wednesday Night Youth Group 7:30-9 p.m.
- ☐ Service projects with Youth Group
- ☐ Faith Statement & Faith Photo Project



10th Grade

- ☐ Pastor interviews
- ☐ Banquet with parents
- ☐ Rite of Confirmation on Reformation Day, last Sunday in October

Wednesday Evening Format

5-6 p.m. Wednesday Night Meal (Reformation Hall)

6:30 p.m. Worship for 6th Grade, (Chapel/Sanctuary),
Classroom for 7th & 8th Grade (Fellowship Hall)

High School Ministry

Wednesday Night Youth Group

Meeting in the youth room, Manos de Cristo (Hands of Christ), 7:30-9 p.m. We will worship with the youth praise team, pray together, have small group discussions, play games, eat snacks, do service projects, and have large group lessons about God. The theme this year is: “What do YOU believe?” We will explore together what you believe about yourself, about your neighbors, and about God.



Homework Rooms

We know Wednesdays are busy, and you may need a place to get some work done. We invite you to use Rooms 7, 8, and 9 across from Manos de Cristo prior to 7:30 p.m.

Using Your Gifts

Many opportunities to use your spiritual gifts are available throughout the year. Here are a few:

- **Worship Assistant:** Serve as a reader, usher, acolyte, communion server, or broadcast team member.
- **Wednesday Night Meals:** Help serve the meal with your family, bring a dessert, or be part of the clean-up crew.
- **Sunday/Wednesday School & VBS:** Assist a class of 3-year-olds through 5th grade children Sundays 10:20-10:50 a.m. or Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.)

Music Ministries

- **High School Bells:** 9th-12th grade handbell choir, rehearses on Wednesdays, 7-7:45 p.m., with Matt Tylutki, director.
- **Youth Praise Band:** Made up of guitar players, vocalists, drummers, instrumentalists, and more! If you have a gift you'd like to share, talk to Larry Olson, Contemporary Music Director. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights.



High School Ministry



9th Grade Expectations and Requirements for Confirmation

Worship Participation

- Attend worship weekly on Saturday or Sunday.
- Attend Wednesday Advent and Lenten worship services at 6:30 p.m.
- Fill out a Worship Reflection. One monthly worship reflection is the **minimum** expectation. Online form available at flcsf.org/youth.

Youth Group Participation

- Attend Youth Group. Attendance will be taken. If you're going to miss, please contact the Y&F staff.
- Youth are also required to write a Faith Statement and submit a Faith Photo Project. In the summer after 9th grade, you will have an interview with a pastor to discuss your Faith Statement.

⇒ **A retreat on March 10, 2024, will be focused to help you complete your Faith Statement.**

Serving

Weekly Communion Servers: All students will be assigned to assist with communion clean-up and serving. (If the Saturday 5 p.m. service is better for you, we can make that work.) *Training will be provided.*



Timeline of Events 2024

- **Sunday, March 10, 2024:** Faith Statement Retreat
- **Sunday, April 21:** Faith Statements are DUE!
- **June-August:** Interview with a pastor (for youth and parents).
- **Sunday, October 13:** Banquet and Retreat. Youth and parents gather together to share a meal and work on essential preparation for the confirmation service.
- **Sunday, October 27:** The Affirmation of Baptism service takes place at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Calendar 2023-24

August

- 20 11a Backpack Blessing
- 30 7:30p 9th gr. Orientation & Communion training

September

- 6 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 10 10:20a Sunday School
- 13 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 17 10:20a Sunday School
- 20 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 24 **10a 3rd, 7th, 8th gr. Milestones**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 27 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group

October

- 1 10:20a Sunday School
- 4 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 8 10:20a Sunday School, **6p High School Lock In**
- 11 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 15 10:20a Sunday School, **12p 10th gr. Retreat**
- 18 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 20 **6p Middle School Event**
- 22 10:20a Sunday School
- 25 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 29 10:20a Sunday School, **2p Affirmation of Baptism**

November

- 1 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 5 **10a 4th gr. Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 12 Summer camp & trip announcement, 10:20a Sunday School
- 15 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 19 10:20a Sunday School
- 22 5p Thanksgiving Meal, 6:30 Worship
- 26 *No Sunday School*
- 29 5p Meal, 7:30p Youth Group

Calendar 2023-24



December

- 3 10a **11th gr. Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 6 5p Meal, 6:30p Advent Worship, 7:30p Youth Group
- 9 **9a-3p Children's Christmas Program Practice**
- 10 *No Sunday School*, **2p Children's Christmas Program**
- 13 5p Meal, 6:30p Advent Worship, 7:30p Youth Group (Xmas Party)
- 15 **6p Middle School Xmas Party**
- 17 10:20a Sunday School
- 20 5p Meal, 6:30p Advent Worship, 7:30p Youth Group
- 24 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30p Christmas Eve Worship
- 25 10a Christmas Day Worship
- 31 *No Sunday School*

January

- 3 *No Programming*
- 7 10:20a Sunday School Anniversary of Baptism Milestone
- 10 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 14 10:20a Sunday School
- 17 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 21 10:20a Sunday School
- 24 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 28 10:20a Sunday School
- 31 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group

February

- 4 **10a 2nd gr. Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 7 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 9 **6p Middle School Event**
- 11 10:20a Sunday School
- 13 **5p Shrove Tuesday**
- 14 6:30p Ash Wednesday Worship
- 16 **High School Event**
- 18 10:20a Sunday School
- 21 5p Meal, 6:30p Lent Worship, 7:30p Youth Group
- 25 10:20a Sunday School
- 28 5p Meal, 6:30p Lent Worship, 7:30p Youth Group



Calendar 2023-24

March

- 4 **10a 1st gr. Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 6 5p Meal, **5:30p 1st Com. Class**, 6:30p Lent Worship, 7:30p YG
- 10 10:20a Sunday School, **12p 9th gr. Retreat**
- 13 5p Meal, **5:30p 1st Com. Class**, 6:30p Lent Worship, 7:30p YG
- 17 10:20a Sunday School
- 20 5p Meal, **5:30p 1st Com. Class**, 6:30p Lent Worship, 7:30p YG
- 24 9 & 11a Palm Sunday Worship + Palm Parade
- 28 6:30p Maundy Thursday Worship + **1st Communion**
- 29 6:30p Good Friday Worship
- 30 5p Easter Vigil
- 31 7, 9, 11a Easter Worship

April

- 3 *No Programming*
- 7 10:20a Sunday School
- 10 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 14 **10a Kindergarten Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 17 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 19 **6p MS Event**
- 21 10:20a Sunday School
- 24 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 28 10:20a Sunday School

May

- 1 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 5 10a **12 gr. Milestone**, 10:20a Sunday School
- 8 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group
- 12 10:20a Sunday School (last day)
- 15 5p Meal, 6:30p Wed. School & Confirmation, 7:30p Youth Group (last day)
- 30 **MS & HS Event Day**



Family Ministry

Shrove Tuesday

This event is for the whole family! To kick off Lent, we celebrate by having pancakes for supper along with carnival games, balloon animals, cake, and face painting!

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 13, 5-7p, in Reformation Hall.



Summer Camps and Trips

Away camps make a deep impact on the faith of young people. Children are invited to go to camp with FLC in the summer to learn more about God, make new friends, and spend a week unplugged.

November 12 is Camp Announcement Day!

Fundraising

Everyone can fundraise this year for camps and the music tour! There are many opportunities for you and your family! Be looking in your email and on the website for these events. All year 'round, you can buy Hy-Vee gift cards (5% from each purchase is put into your family's account).



Install the Church Center App!

Explore, engage, and get involved with the church throughout the week. See a calendar of events, give, check in for worship, and register for events—all at your fingertips. Visit your device's app store, and install it today!



Information

Parking Lot Safety

For safety concerns on Wednesday evenings, please follow the traffic signs in the parking lot and keep your children close when coming and going.

In Case of Emergency

All staff have been trained in the safety measures as set in the First Lutheran Safety Policy. In the case of emergency (fire, tornado, lock down), children and families will be kept safe. They will be taken downstairs (tornado), to south parking lot (fire), or relocated as the situation dictates. ***Follow instructions given by church staff.***



Inclement Weather Policy

Cancellation information for events will be available at flcsf.org, facebook.com/flcsf, and via phone at (605) 336-3734. If the Sioux Falls School District has canceled classes or evening activities, First Lutheran Church events involving youth will be canceled as well. Adult activities will be canceled at the discretion of the group leader.

Liability/Medical Release Form

All youth (members and non-members) must complete a liability/medical release form to participate in any off-site activities. Confirmation students fill these out on orientation night; they are good for one year. The form is available online at flcsf.org/youth.

Contact Information



First Lutheran Church



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flcsf.org



facebook.com/flcsf



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Youth & Family Ministry



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