



LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Pastor Jason pictured with his family at his installation service.

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Installation of Pastor Jason Cooper

On Saturday, September 13th we held a special service for the installation of Pastor Jason as the new pastor of our church.

If you haven't met him yet, make plans to attend worship and introduce yourself! You can also learn more about him on page 3 in a letter to the congregation.



OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
at 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAYS
at 6:00 P.M.

We also offer a live radio broadcast of our Sunday service on KMCH 94.7 FM and a live video stream on our FaceBook page, First Evangelical Lutheran Church - NALC.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday and Wednesday worship service.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Thank You to our October Radio & Flower Sponsors!

KMCH Sunday Radio Ministry Sponsors

Oct. 5...Harlin Gilje in memory of Sandy & Kevin

Oct. 12...TBD

Oct. 19...Brenda Saunders in memory of Craig Saunders

Oct. 26...In memory of Charlotte Leslein

Altar Flower Sponsors

Oct. 5...Harlin Gilje

Oct. 12...TBD

Oct. 19...Dan & Bev Beevers

Oct. 26...Bob & Loa Galiher in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary

Church Ladies Lunch

Join us on October 7th at 11:30 for lunch at Dolce Vita. To RSVP call Diane Childs at 563-608-1137 or Marcia Weidenman at 563-920-3789.

Music Notes

Adult Choir Schedule-October 2025

Oct. 12 Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

Oct. 26 Warm-up @ 8:20 a.m.
Sing @ 9:00 a.m. service
Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

Join us for Breakfast

On October 19 breakfast will be served during Fellowship Hour (10:15 AM). Breakfast will be provided by Pat, Carolyn, Kevin, Sheena, Charles, and Anna Maloney. Come and enjoy scrambled eggs, sausage, toast, coffee, and juice.

Fellowship Following Sunday Church Services

Thank you to the individuals who have supplied goodies and served for the fellowship hour.

Would you be willing to sign-up to provide food or serve? If so, sign up on the lay ministry sheets in the church or online. Any questions, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.



A Word From Pastor Jason

Being installed as pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is both humbling and exhilarating. Together, we begin a sacred journey—rooted in Word and Sacrament, shaped by tradition, and guided by the Holy Spirit. Pastoral ministry is not simply a job; it is a divine calling to serve God's people with compassion, integrity, and faithfulness.



From the moment I accepted the call, the weight of responsibility became real. Preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, offering pastoral care, and leading worship are central to this vocation. The pulpit is a place of both proclamation and vulnerability. I promise to preach truth with love and courage, even when it challenges us. If you ever have concerns about what I preach or teach, I welcome a personal conversation.

Administering the sacraments is a profound privilege. These are not mere rituals—they are encounters with the living Christ. Baptism reveals the mystery of grace; Holy Communion invites us into fellowship with God and one another. Through these sacred acts, we are bound together as the family of God.

Pastoral care is the most intimate aspect of ministry. In my first week, I was blessed to visit our shut-in members with Vickie's help. Ministry often happens in quiet, unexpected moments—a phone call, a hospital prayer, a grocery store conversation. I want you to know I'm available to you. My cell is 515-293-0342, email is cooper_jd@yahoo.com, and I welcome your friend requests on Facebook.

Leadership in the congregation requires wisdom and humility. I don't see myself as a CEO, but as a shepherd—called to lead by serving, to teach by listening, and to inspire by example. Please remember: the only perfect church leader was crucified to save us. I will not be perfect, nor will you. May we be gracious with one another.

My weekly rhythm includes office hours from 8:30–11:30am on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Tuesday mornings are reserved for sermon preparation with fellow pastors. Afternoons are for visits, and evenings often involve ministry meetings. I'm committed to family dinners with Julie and Luke at least three nights a week, and Fridays are my scheduled day off (with flexibility for emergencies). I also enjoy attending school events—please feel free to invite me!

In the Lutheran tradition, ministry is grounded in the theology of the cross. It's not about glory or success, but about faithfulness amid brokenness. My calling is to walk with people through suffering, doubt, and joy, always pointing to Christ crucified and risen.

To be a newly called pastor is to enter a sacred trust. It is to stand in the long line of those who have said, "Here I am, Lord. Send me." And it is to discover, day by day, that the call is sustained not by our strength, but by the grace of God, the love of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. I look forward to worshiping together and growing in faith, love and obedience to God. Amen

Caring for our College and Military Members

Letters and gift cards will be sent out in October to our college students and members of the military. Please send us addresses of those people you would like a gift card sent to! Any new students, updated locations, or even just confirming an existing address would be helpful! If anyone would like to contribute to this fund, just note that on your offering or turn it into the church office.

We would like to have this information by October 7. Please send addresses to Jen Cassutt at jencassutt@gmail.com or by texting at 563-920-4173. You could also contact the church office.



Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our October Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is the First Lutheran Freezer Meal Program.

What is the Freezer Meal Program? This mission was started in 2020 during Covid to make meals available to people who were unable to leave their homes, families who had members in the hospital, those who lost loved ones and people who were struggling because they may have lost their job. They made Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for the elderly and those who were homebound. The meals are fully cooked but need to be warmed in the oven. This mission is still active. They try to always have meals in the freezer available for those in need. They will be making Thanksgiving meals again this year to take to older members of our congregation and those who are struggling.

They are thankful for any support you may give. *"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* (Matthew 25:35).

We will be collecting for the First Lutheran Freezer Meal Program on October 12th and 15th . If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Saunders.



Food Box Outside (near driveway)

Let's help our community members! There is a food box outside along the church driveway. Help needed to fill it with nonperishable items that are quick to prepare. Examples of food to put in the box include but are not limited to mac and cheese, quick prepared meals, canned soup or meats, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned fruits or vegetables. Feminine products are also appreciated.

Feel free to put your donation in the outside box itself or in the clear tub labeled Outside Food Box in the narthex of the church. Thank you to those who have donated. This is an ongoing need, we would like it to be full all year round. Questions, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

Operation Christmas Child

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.” Matthew 28:19.
It is once again time to turn our thoughts and prayers to children around the world by participating in Operation Christmas Child. As we begin this yearly journey, let us start with prayer asking that our gifts may send the message “That It’s All About JESUS!” around the world.



As in previous years, there are four ways to contribute to OCC.

1. Take a box, a boy or girl gift suggestion sheet, a label, and a rubber band. Go shopping and fill the box until, when it is shaken, no more rattling is heard.
2. Take a boy or girl suggestion sheet, go shopping for items on the list and return those gifts to one of the boxes under the table. We will do the packing!
3. Give money – Funds may be designated for purchasing items for shoeboxes OR payment for processing and sending the boxes (\$10 per box). Please make the check out to Samaritan's Purse.
4. A fourth way to give is sharing your time and talents. See Mary Maurer for examples and instructions of how to sew pillowcase dresses and fishing kits.

Other Notes:

- We need any extra shoeboxes you may have!
- Please UNWRAP all items (except batteries). More items can fit in the shoeboxes plus they have no place to discard the packaging.

Thanks for helping spread God's Word! Deadline is the week of November 16th.

Shoebox Gift Suggestions:

- Playing cards
- Batteries
- Wet wipes or plain alcohol wipes
- Toy Spiders/bugs/snakes
- Superheroes or other licensed characters
- Items with company logos
- All types of scissors
- Squirt guns (that don't look like real guns)
- Glow Sticks
- Compact mirrors
- Lip balm (non-medicated)
- Playdough (store bought)
- Solid stick deodorant
- Makeup (non-liquid)
- Adhesive bandages (non-medicated)
- Disposable or reusable feminine hygiene products
- Eating utensils
- Marbles
- Bibles or other religious literature or symbols

Items that are NOT acceptable:

- Soap
- Vaseline
- Scary items (things that will frighten a child rather than bring joy)
- War-related items (such as toy soldiers, military vehicles, or wearable camouflage)
- Liquid paint sets or liquid glue
- Rubber balls with liquid filling
- Liquid lip gloss
- Matches or fire starters
- Seeds
- Sand/rocks/shells gathered from nature
- All types of food, candy, gum, medications or vitamins
- Toothpaste
- Nail polish
- Money or play money
- Baby powder
- Baking soda
- Razors
- Liquids or lotions
- Breakable items or glass containers
- Aerosol cans
- Used clothing or toys

Operation Christmas Child (continued)

Frequently addressed that may or may not be allowed



Camouflage or Military-Related Items: Wearable traditional camouflage is not allowed; pink or bright colored camouflage is OK. Camouflage pencils or other non-wearable items are likely fine to include. The words “Army”, “Navy”, etc. are also acceptable when not part of a wearable camouflage item or a military-related toy. Military games like Battleship should be avoided.

Tool Kits; Multi-tools (No Blades): Tool kits are not recommended for shoebox gifts. Most standalone tools are OK to include, with the exception of knives, saws, or razor blades. Hammers, nails, screwdrivers, etc. are fine to include. Entire tool kits can create importation challenges, which are avoidable by opting to pack other toys instead of tools.

Fishing and Sewing Kits: Small fishing and sewing kits are fine to include in shoebox gifts. It is acceptable to upcycle clean label-free bottles, such as prescription bottles, to be used as containers for your kits. Small fishing hooks and sewing pins and needles are all fine to include in your kits.

Homemade Maracas, Bean Bags, or Stuffed Toys: Any homemade items with filling **MUST** have synthetic filling such as plastic beads or pellets. Rice, beans, rocks, aquarium gravel, sand, wood pellets, or any other organic filling are not allowed. A note regarding filling can be included for clarification processing.

Seashells: Store-bought items such as jewelry, picture frames, or other decor that include shells should be fine to include. Seashells that were collected from nature, even when cleaned and polished, are not allowed in order to comply with customs regulations that prohibit this type of items from entering the country.

Playdough, Slime, and Sand: Commercially packaged playdough, slime, or kinetic sand are fine to include in shoebox gifts. Homemade playdough and slime are not considered appropriate. Packaged synthetic play sand shouldn't create any problems.

Chapstick and Deodorant: Solid, non-medicated lip balms and deodorants are fine to include in shoebox gifts. Look for red flags such as drug facts with active ingredients of medication, which is not allowed in shoebox gifts. Liquid lip glosses or gel deodorants should not be packed into shoebox gifts.

Alcohol Wipes and Bandages: Plain alcohol wipes and adhesive bandages are fine to include in shoebox gifts. Avoid any bandages that are pre-medicated with antibiotic ointments. The word “antibacterial” does not necessarily indicate whether or not a bandage can be included. Consider packing fun, colorful bandages that the child might be more excited to see in their shoebox gift.

Bugs, Snakes, etc. Toy bugs and snakes, etc. are all fine to include in shoebox gifts. Avoid including items that might reasonably scare a child when opening the gift such as a frightening mask or grotesque toy. Understand that when volunteers who process your gifts may retain a bit of personal discretion when considering what makes the item scary. We encourage you to pray over the decision to pack the item in question.

Sunday School Registration

Sunday School started up again in September, but it's no too late to join them!

Sunday School is open to children in preschool through 6th grade. They meet each Sunday from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Please register by completing the online registration form [HERE](#) or the paper form found at church. There is no cost for children to attend!



God Squad Youth Group

God Squad will be starting up again on Wednesday, October 1!

God Squad is for 4th-6th Grade students and meet on Wednesday nights at 7 pm and have monthly fun group activities throughout the year!

Please contact the church office if your child plans to participate.



Heaven Bound Can Drive

Heaven Bound is having a can drive fundraiser on October 5th.

If you have cans you would like picked up on this day, contact a HB member.

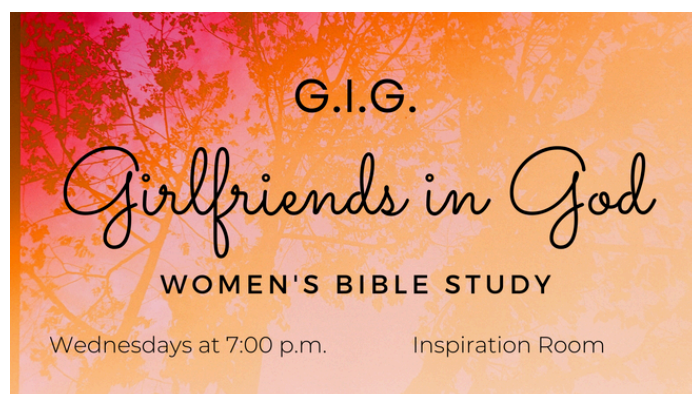


Bible Study Opportunities

We have two bible study opportunities on Wednesday evenings.

Girlfriends in God or GIG for short, meet at 7 PM in the Inspiration Room.

Men's Bible Study just started up again with Pastor Jason. They meet at 7 PM in the Fellowship Hall.



First Lutheran Church Council Minutes – September 8, 2025

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:00pm by President Max Andrews.

Members present: Max Andrews, Donna Millenkamp, Cathy Glew, Connie Wright, Billie Zumbach, Duane Nieman, Millie Kehrli, Jen Cassutt and David Johnson. Absent: Lucas Thomas

Opening devotions were given by Pastor Jason

Approval of August Council Minutes: Motion by Cathy, seconded by Jen to approve minutes; motion carried.

Approval of August Treasurer's Report: Motion by Millie, seconded by Billie to approve treasures report; motion carried.

Total Income YTD (August 2025)	\$199,419.64	Total Income previous YTD	\$231,907.97
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$261,364.51	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(61,944.87)
Total Expenses YTD (August 2025)	\$184,099.00	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$158,079.64
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$260,831.96	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$(76,732.96)
Operating YTD Loss/Profit	\$15,320.64	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$73,828.33

Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

- Income for the month of August was \$10,153.53 less than budget. Year to date, income is \$61,944.87 less than budget.
- Expenses for the month of August were \$9,432.91 less than budget. Year to date, expenses are \$76,732.10 less than budgeted.
- Net income for the month of August was (\$633.57) and year to date we are positive \$15,319.78
- Overall, giving is down; however, so are our expenses.

President – Max Andrews:

- Membership Audit summary – done with phase 1.
- Pastor Kurt has a nice thank you and it is posted on bulletin board inside office door.
- Lutheran Services in Iowa requested donation to help celebrate 160 years. It was decided that our Fair Food Stand contribution was suffice.
- In need of 1 – 2 people to volunteer as money counters as Jean Conrad is retiring as money counter.

President – Elect – Millie Kehrli:

- Name tags have been ordered and will be placed on a table in the Narthex for congregation members to wear during church services.

Christian Education – Lucas Thomas:

- Sunday School started September 7th.
- Heaven Bound has resumed with 15 high schoolers signed up.
- We have a volunteer that would like to resume God Squad on Wednesday nights. We are looking for volunteers to assist, if interested please reach out.
- Pastor will be offering a Men's Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 7pm.

Evangelism – Jen Cassutt:

- We would like to make visitors feel welcomed and that we can keep track of anyone new attending church, so a new announcement will be read to remind anyone new to sign the attendance register.

- We would like to start working on compiling and revising college and military members so we can send gifts to them in October. If anyone has children with new addresses, please let Jen Cassutt know. The Sunday School children will help with coloring the letter to be sent from the church.
- We are looking ahead to the Sherman's Trunk or Treat to work with Sunday School on this event.

Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:

- Pastor Jason Cooper- Svc @ 9:00 AM all Sundays in September
 - Svc @ 6:00 PM All Wednesdays in September
 - Svc @ 9:00 AM September 14th Sullivan Baptism.
- Pastor Kurt – Bishop Wedding September 27th .
- Pastor Jason-Installation Saturday, September 13th @ 4:00PM with Communion, Pastor Staley for installation.
 - Refreshments after in the Fellowship Hall for everyone.
- July of 2026 – No Wednesday night services.
- Try to get more ushers and Alter Guild members. We will have an Altar Guild training Sunday, October 5th after church service.
- For now, ushers are responsible for depositing the offering in the safe.

Properties – Duane Nieman:

- Items fixed at the Parsonage:
 - The recycling drawer in the kitchen and towel racks in the bathroom have been fixed.
 - Shelving has been added in the laundry room and master bedroom.
- At Church:
 - SMI has sealed windows and foundation as needed.
 - A number of light bulbs in the kitchen and hallway have been replaced.
 - Wulfekuhle Electric has fixed plugins on west wall of the Fellowship Hall.
 - Wulfekuhle Electric has ordered a camera system and plans to install soon.
 - Tom Moorhouse has reseeded the lawn on September 2nd .

Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:

- Good Neighbor Home Birthday party, provided cake and had a sing along on September 8th.
- Looking for members to provide food and serve coffee at fellowship following Sunday morning services.
- Group continues to visit members that are homebound, living at the Meadows and Good Neighbor Home.
- Freezer meals.
- Assisted with celebration meals

Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp:

- MOTM update:
 - We raised \$19,641.37 for the Randy Helmrich's Family in August.
 - We are collecting for the Good Neighbor home on September 14th and 17th.
 - We will be collecting for First Lutheran Freezer Meals on October 12th and 15th.
 - Collecting ideas for 2026 MOTM.

Secretary of the Council – Connie Wright: No report

Pastor Jason Cooper:

- Thanks for all the help moving in.
- Thanks Duane and Dan for the help in fixing stuff in the parsonage.

- Went with Vicki to home visits.
- Went to birthday party at the Good Neighbor Home.
- Thank you for the installation, collection during installation will be going to the Food Pantry of Delaware County.
- Would like a one ear head set for church services instead of mic due to it cutting out when you turn head.
- Iowa Mission District will be meeting in LaMars, IA on September 20th. Pastor will be gone Friday through Saturday night.
- I request that First Lutheran reduce my salary by 10% of my letter of call.
- I also request that \$7000 of my 2025 salary be allocated as furnishing allowance.
- Motion by Duane to accept Pastors request, Millie seconded; motion carried.

Call Committee Update:

- Installation service for Pastor Jason will be Saturday, September 13 at 4pm with a reception following in fellowship hall.

Old Business:

- Security System Analysis – cameras have been ordered
- Account Reformation (Dave) – working on it.

New Business:

- Billie made a motion to accept a 3.5% pay raise for employees, Donna seconded; motion carried.
- Annual meeting will be held Sunday, November 9th after church service.

Next meeting will be held on October 13, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Wright

Monthly Offering Comparison

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$13,690.10	\$18,937.13	\$21,906.87	\$13,353.69
February	\$30,109.94	\$28,414.39	\$17,120.64	\$16,450.02
March	\$19,866.51	\$33,049.82	\$18,216.41	\$18,306.05
April	\$17,566.50	\$20,542.21	\$20,210.51	\$17,359.59
May	\$14,277.58	\$25,993.18	\$18,624.85	\$13,893.45
June	\$17,597.90	\$22,744.81	\$13,614.20	\$15,796.30
July	\$20,417.36	\$28,784.78	\$15,272.71	\$13,557.29
August	\$14,562.30	\$22,196.56	\$15,206.24	\$13,397.73
September	\$19,239.02	\$23,810.07	\$12,636.67	
October	\$15,733.97	\$29,430.84	\$16,694.94	
November	\$13,196.34	\$20,937.08	\$11,898.12	
December	\$54,975.22	\$32,662.87	\$8,854.54	
Yearly Totals	\$251,232.74	\$307,503.74	\$190,256.70	\$108,716.39

SCRIP ORDER FORM

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Amazon.com	2%	10 ____ 25 ____ 100 ____
American Eagle	10%	25 ____
Applebee's	8%	25 ____
Arby's	8%	10 ____
Aunt Emmy's (L)	4%	10 ____
Barnes & Noble	9%	5 ____ 10 ____ 25 ____
Bath & Body	13%	10 ____ 25 ____
Bed, Bath & Beyond	7%	25 ____
Best Buy	4%	25 ____
Boubin Tires (L)	5%	See Brenda
BP Gas	2%	50 ____ 100 ____
Buckle	8%	25 ____
Bushel & A Peck	3%	10 ____
Burger King	4%	10 ____
Cabela's	8%	25 ____
Casey's	3%	25 ____ 50 ____ 100 ____
Castle Theatre (L)	10%	5 ____
Cenex	3%	25 ____
Chili's	11%	25 ____
Chuong Garden (L)	10%	10 ____ 25 ____
Culvers Restaurant	5%	10 ____
Dairy Queen (5-L) 10 & 3%		5 ____ 10 ____
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10 ____ 25 ____
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25 ____ 100 ____
Dollar Fresh	3%	25 ____ 100 ____
Express	10%	25 ____
Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50 ____
Fareway	3%	25 ____ 100 ____
Gap/Old Navy	14%	25 ____
Gift Holder	10%	2 ____
Hardee's	5%	10 ____
Home Depot	4%	25 ____ 100 ____ <*> ____
Honey Creek Furn. (L)	3%	See Brenda
iTunes	5%	15 ____

Contact Brenda with questions: 563-920-3191

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25 ____
Joanne's Fabrics	6%	25 ____
Kohl's (CC)	4%	25 ____ 100 ____
Kwik Trip	4%	25 ____ 50 ____ 100 ____
Kwik Trip Grocery	15%	25 ____
Lowe's <*>	4%	25 ____ 100 ____
Maurices	7%	20 ____
Menard's	3%	25 ____ 100 ____
Michaels	4%	25 ____
Old Navy/Gap	14%	25 ____
Outback Steakhouse	8%	50 ____
Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Panera Bread	8%	10 ____ 25 ____
Pizza Hut	8%	10 ____
Pizza Ranch (L)	8%	5 ____ 25 ____
Posy Place (L)	5%	10 ____
Red Lobster	8%	10 ____ 25 ____
Red Robin	9%	25 ____
Staples	5%	25 ____
Starbucks	7%	10 ____ 25 ____
Subway	6%	10 ____
Sunset (L)	10%	10 ____ 20 ____
Target	3%	10 ____ 25 ____ 100 ____
Texas Roadhouse	8%	25 ____ 100 ____ <*> ____
TJ Maxx	7%	25 ____
Ulta Salons	4%	25 ____
Visa/Discover pp (CC) 1%		<*> 50 ____ 100 ____
Walmart	3%	10 ____ 25 ____ 100 ____
Wendy's Carwash(L) 20%		25 ____

KEY TO SYMBOLS

<*> Not stocked, can be ordered

*** See Brenda for special details

(L) Local participating businesses

(CC) Can be used to pay on credit card

For a full list of participating businesses, go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

