

LAMPLIGHTER

First Evangelical Lutheran Church



Pastor Kurt's final worship service at First Lutheran. We are so thankful to him for leading us the last two years as our part time interim minister.

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Welcome Pastor Jason Cooper!

We are thrilled to officially welcome our new pastor, Jason Cooper!

The installation of Pastor Jason will be held on **Saturday**, **September 13**th **at 4:00 p.m.** All are invited and encouraged to attend to give pastor and his family a warm welcome to First Evangelical Lutheran Church. We hope to see you there!

Learn more about Pastor Jason in a letter to the congregation on page 2.

<u>Pictured (right):</u> Pastor Jason and his family; wife-Julie, 3 sons-Jensen, Evan, Luke, daughter-Maia. <u>Not pictured:</u>

son-in-law-Russell and foreign son-Abe.



Letter from Pastor Jason

Typically, when we meet new people two questions are asked: "What do you do?" and "Where are you from?" Well, you all know what I do. I have been a pastor in Iowa for over 21 years but I'm not originally from Iowa. When asked where I'm from my answer is usually, "I was raised in New York, but I'm an Iowan by the grace of God."

I moved to Iowa in 1994 to attend Grandview University. After one year at GVU, I worked for a summer at Riverside Bible Camp in Story City, IA where I met my first wife Amy. God led us from Iowa to Washington (Graduated from Concordia University, Portland, OR), Nebraska (Hall Director, Midland Lutheran College), Pennsylvania (Gettysburg Theological Seminary) and back to Iowa. My daughter Maia was born in Fremont, NE and now lives in Eagle Grove with her husband Russell (and corgi Rory). My sons Jensen and Evan were born here in Manchester while I was serving my first call in Strawberry Point. Jensen is graduate student at the Iowa studying political science and Evan is a first year Junior at UNI. One year ago I welcomed Abe (Ya-Bo) Lin to our family. Abe was our foreign exchange student from Taiwan and came back this year to attend the University of Iowa.

While serving Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church (EGELC), Amy was diagnosed with cancer and for six years the congregation supported us with grace until Amy died in July 2023.

In 2024 the folks at EGELC granted me a sabbatical to rest and renew my spirit. Part of my sabbatical plan was to make friends outside of the church for companionship. Having friends to attend concerts, sporting events and just talk with was something I felt was missing in my life. Through the use of social media I met Julie, telling her I had no plans of dating as I would be traveling out of state for my sabbatical etc. However, through phone conversations and a few "outings" I quickly realized she was an amazing godly woman and I consented to dating despite her being an ISU fan (GO HAWKS!).

Julie was born and raised in Vinton, IA and has a fond memory of West Delaware from High School, when their schools regularly played each other. She is a graduate of UNI and has lived and worked in the Des Moines area for over 20 years. Julie has one son, Luke who is 11 and in 6th grade. Both Julie and Luke are new to the pastor family/parsonage life so please be gracious to them. Julie likes to say she met me as just Jason, not Pastor Jason, so she is well aware of my saint and sinner natures.

Julie and I were married January 1st of this year and to say it has been a whirlwind start to married life is no exaggeration. In 8 months, we have "tried" to combine two 4-bedroom homes, move 3 boys to college, and as you know, we are in the midst of moving stuff from Ankeny in Manchester. Julie will be staying at home for at least the rest of this year to get us settled and ensure Luke gets a great start in middle school and breathe a little after being a single Mom for 9 years.

We look forward to meeting you all and making lots of new friends. Julie is gifted at learning names but I'm not. The best way for me to get to know folks is to spend time over a cup of coffee so let me know where to meet you and let's get to know one another.

SEPTEMBER 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 September Radio & Flower Sponsors!

KMCH Sunday Radio Ministry Sponsors

Sept. 7...To The Glory of God

Sept. 14...Ron & Tirzah Wedewer

Sept. 21...Jenny & Brian Pettlon family in

honor of their parent's anniversaries

Sept. 28...Brenda Saunders in memory of

deceased family members

<u>Altar Flower Sponsors</u>

Sept. 7...Ardelle Brooks in memory of

Vance Brooks

Sept. 14...Kirk Baumgartner

Sept. 21...Jenny & Brian Pettlon family in

honor of their parent's anniversaries

Sept. 28...TBD

Church Ladies Lunch

Church Ladies Lunch will be held on Thursday, September 4th at 11:30 at Olive That Deli. Order and pick-up your food before coming to the back room.

Music Notes: First Lutheran's Adult Choir Could Be Looking for You!

Have you been searching for a way to become more involved at First Lutheran? Looking for a way to engage with other members that is both meaningful and fun? Finding yourself singing in the shower or in your car with the radio? Having a "flashback" to singing in chorus in high school (which could be from a few weeks ago, or a few years ago - or dare I say even a few decades ago?!) There is a solution: join the adult choir at First Lutheran!! Our current members would love to welcome new singers who are in grade 9 or older. We are seeking people who sing/read all parts - soprano, alto, tenor/baritone, bass.

Here are the details to get started... This choir season's first rehearsal will be on Sunday, September 14th following the 9:00 worship service (approx. 10:15 a.m.). Feel free to come and check things out, ask questions, etc. You can also direct questions anytime to myself or any current choir member! Come be a vital part of worship. We'd love to see you on the 14th!

-Kathy Moorhouse, Choir Director

Donate to the Delaware County Food Bank this Month!

September is First Lutheran's month to stock the shelves at the Delaware County Food Bank. Food donations may be placed in the grocery cart in the narthex. Suggested items to donate are: cereal, canned foods, macaroni & cheese, hamburger helper, cake mixes, pancake mixes. flour, sugar, oil. Another item you might consider donating is a can opener if you are donated canned goods.

Cash donations may be sent directly to the Delaware County Food Bank, PO Box 467, Manchester, IA 52057 or given to Corene Messer. If ,you have any questions, feel free to contact Corene.

Fair Food Stand Report

Thanks again to everyone who helped with making the Fair Food Stand a success!

Although we had 2 days of rainy weather, with the donated meat from Herb and Diane Kilberg and Alex Glew at D&K Meat Co. worth \$1,800, we are able to give \$21,000.00 to 20 nonprofits. A listing of these nonprofits which were approved by the church council and a copy of my balance sheet will be in the annual report.

-John Zietlow, Feast at First Chairman

Kitchen Clean-up

The kitchen has many unused items and would like to offer to others to put to use. Items that are ready for repurpose include but not limited to old dinner plates, old small plates, old serving platters, old serving bowls and old coffee cups. Example items will be displayed in the narthex of the church.

Dishes available to take are in boxes in kitchen. Also, if you have brought food for events and containers are still in kitchen, please pick-up.

Any questions about items being given away, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

Food Box Outside (near driveway)

To help community members in need the food box outside of the church driveway will be supplied with nonperishable items that are quick to prepare. Examples of foods needed for the food box include but not limited to are Knorr rice and noodle meals, canned soup or meats, peanut butter, jelly, mac and cheese, cereal, canned fruits or vegetables. Feminine products are also appreciated.

Anything for this box should be quick and easy preparation. Feel free to put your donation in the box itself or in the box in the narthex of the church. Questions, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

Fellowship Following Sunday Church Services

Fellowship hour is a wonderful time to connect with other individuals. Let's work together and have fellowship hour every week. If you are willing to provide food and/or serve please sign up on the lay ministry sheets in the church or online. Any questions, please contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

Martin Luther-Life Timeline

Brenda Saunders went on a tour of Germany in July. Her time was spent on Martin Luther's Path. It was a very interesting presentation of Martin Luther's Life on Wednesday Evening, August 20th. The guide was excellent, and the bus driver was very informative also. When asked if she would go again, it was a resounding "yes"!

Thank-you Brenda, for taking us back to Martin Luther's Path in Germany.



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. It's not too soon to start sending us the 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!

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



He likes cake a lot, so we had 7 different kinds of cake for the luncheon.

Thank you, but not Goodbye!

Sunday August 24th the Congregation said thank you to Pastor Kurt for his last two years as our part time interim minister with a Service and luncheon.

He has taken care of the ill and consoled the broken hearted. This Shepherd bridged the gap between the old and the new. We will be forever grateful that he took this Flock and continued down a healthy path. We hope that in his new retirement, he will find Peace, Rest and Contentment! Godspeed to you and Dulcie!

Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our September mission of the month for our noisy can offering is the Good Neighbor Home.

We will be collecting for them on September 14th and September 17th . Please consider giving to this worthy cause.



Blessing of the Backpacks

School is right around the corner. Pastor Kurt was Blessing the Back Packs of the young members at First Lutheran on Sunday August 24th. Have a great year at school!



Installation of Sunday School Teachers

The installation of the Sunday School Teachers was held on Sunday August 24th. Thank-you to the teachers for taking the time to teach our children at First Lutheran about God's Love for them.



Sunday School Registration

Sunday School starts up again this month! The first day of Sunday School will be Sunday, September 7! Join us from 10:15-11:15 a.m.

Sunday School is open to children in preschool through 6th grade. Please register by completing the online registration form **HERE** or the paper form found at church. There is no cost for children to attend!



Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting

7th and 8th graders and their parents are invited to a Confirmation Student/Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 3rd after worship, approx. 7:00 p.m. Acolyte training will be held after the meeting.

Confirmation classes will begin on September 10th and continue each Wednesday in September.

Heaven Bound Youth Upcoming Events

September 14: Super Scavenger Hunt from 3-6 PM at Alana DeMoss' house. Join us for an exciting and friendly competition. A meal will be served afterwards. Contact Alana for more information.

October 5: Can Drive Fundraiser. Please let one of the youth know if you have cans you would like picked up.

First Lutheran Church Special Congregation Minutes - August 3, 2025

The special congregation meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 10:00 am by President Max Andrews.

Opening devotions were given by Pastor Kurt.

Call Committee: Lucas Thomas

- Present Pastor Jason Cooper as a call candidate and proposed financial packet.
 - Base Salary: \$68,000
 - 4 weeks vacation
 - Parsonage
 - \$2,500 relocation/moving expenses
 - Housing equity allowance
 - Continuing Education allowance
 - o Health Insurance/ Disability/ Social Security
 - Retirement/Pension

Lucas Thomas motioned to vote to call Pastor Jason Cooper to First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Manchester as Pastor, seconded by Dan Glew; motion carried to close the floor for discussion.

Vote was 104 members - Quorum was met to vote

- 95 yes
- 9 no

Vote Passed, with a move in date of August 11, 2025 and a start date of September 1, 2025.

President: Max Andrews

- Thank you to the call committee and prayer groups.
- Big Thank You to Pastor Kurt for filling in during the interim of finding a Pastor.
- Ballots will be kept for 1 year before they can be destroyed per our constitution.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am

Respectfully submitted, Connie Wright

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes - August 11, 2025

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:03pm by President Max Andrews.

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

Opening devotions were given by Pastor Kurt

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

Approval of July Treasurer's Report: Motion by Lucas, seconded by Cathy to approve treasures report; motion carried.

Total Income YTD (July 2025) Total Income YTD budgeted	\$185,812.76	Total Income previous YTD	\$216,051.58
	\$237,604.10	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(51,791.34)
Total Expenses YTD (July 2025) Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$169,859.41	Total Expenses Previous YTD	\$144,872.27
	\$237,158.60	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$(67,299.19)
Operating YTD Loss/Profit	\$15,953.35	Operating Previous YTD Profit	\$71,179.31

Treasurer's Report - David Johnson:

- Income for the month of July was \$2344.00 less than budget. Year to date, income is \$51,791.00 less than budget.
- Expenses for the month of July were \$1,048.00 over budget. Year to date, expenses are \$67,299.00 less than budgeted.
- Net income for the month of June was \$3,305.00 and year to date we are positive \$15,508.00.
- Overall, giving is down; however, so are our expenses.

President - Max Andrews:

- Do we need to review the eligibility criteria for "Voting Members"
- Bringing conclusion to phase 1 of "Membership Audit"

President - Elect - Millie Kehrli: No report

Christian Education - Lucas Thomas:

- Sunday School start date is September 7th.
- Mission Trip was a success.
- New Sunday School curriculum: Sonshine Kids
- God Squad will not be holding Wednesday evening meetings this year.

Evangelism - Jen Cassutt:

- The Evangelism committee will be meeting again in early August to schedule upcoming events.
- Let us know if you have ideas for future plans.

Lay Ministry - Billie Zumbach:

- Pulpit supply:
 - Pastor Kurt
 - Saturday, August 9th Willie/Lyons Wedding 1:00pm
 - Sunday, August 10th, Sunday, August 24th (Blessings of Back Packs, Installation of Teachers, Pastor Kurt's Thank You Lunch)
 - Wednesday, August 13th, Wednesday, August 27th
 - Vacation 8-28 thru 9-3
 - Pastor Cooper @ 9:00am
 - Sunday, August 17th with Communion, Sunday, August 31st with Communion and Riley Schneider Baptism, Sunday, September 14th with Communion and Sullivan Baptism
 - Leah Beaman @ 6:00pm
 - Wednesday, August 6th
 - o Brenda Saunders @ 6:00pm
 - Wednesday, August 20th

Clarified that whoever is ushering at church services is also responsible for taking care of the
offering after the service.

- Communion, Altar Guild and Usher training will be scheduled soon.
- September 14th Choir practice begins
- Susi offered to assist with extra items Accompanist schedule, Attendance and Communion sheets

Properties - Duane Nieman:

- Water came into the Quilting room by the office door window.
- Thermostat malfunctioned in Sunday School wing and has been repaired.
- The parsonage has been cleaned, and several items need repair including trash/recycle bin in kitchen and blind in the master bedroom.
- Motion by Lucas that Duane can replace the blind, up to \$1000.00, in the Master bedroom at Parsonage, Billie seconded; motion carried.
- Have received bids for patio/porch lifting or replacement of concrete.
- Some shelves have been put in the parsonage storage area and fixed down spout to drain properly.
- SMI is coming at the end of the month to work on the exterior of the church and caulking windows.

Social Ministry - Cathy Glew:

- Freezer meals 7 meals 9 servings.
- Homebound, GNH and Meadows visits continue.
- Assisted with Pastor Cooper and Julie's Meet & Greet Meal.
- In September will be starting to host coffee fellowship on Sunday mornings.
- Assist with and Appreciation Meal and Installation Meal in September.
- Discussion on kitchen budget.

Stewardship - Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:

- We raised \$102.05 for Camp Courageous in July.
- We will be collecting for the Randy Helmrich's Family on August 10th and 13th.
- We will be collecting for the Good Neighbor home in September.

Secretary of the Council - Connie Wright: No report

Pastor Kurt:

• Fee schedule for weddings – needs to be reviewed and revised.

Call Committee Update:

- We have voted to extend a call to Pastor Jason Cooper.
- Move in date will be August 11th.
- Start date is September 1st.
- Working with Pastor Shelley and Staley on Formal call documents and installation.

Old Business:

- Security System Analysis
 - Billie motioned to hire Wulfekuhle Electric for security system for no more than \$5000.00, Lucas seconded; motion carried.
- Good Samaritan Fund Expansion Church Council guiding the administration of these funds.

New Business:

- Cathy is going to go through the kitchen and clean out unused items/dishes.
- Starting October 1st, we will be creating an account for kitchen budget instead of having multiple committees having their own individual kitchen budget.
- Food box Bobbi Jo cleaned out the expired items. It was decided to post a list of specific items to donate for the food box to hopefully eliminate items not getting used.
- Duane motioned to approve the 2025 Fair Food Stand Funds Disbursement, Lucas seconded; motion carried.
- Will ask john for further clarification on the missionary funds, so we can have updates.
- Will fine tune the parsonage usage agreement.
- Umbrellas for the picnic tables have sun damage will look at them to see if they need to be replaced.
- Parsonage Patio and Porch
- Petlon concrete quoted \$5900 to replace.
- Mike Short quoted \$3200 to lift it plus caulking and still not sure if it can even be done.
- Lucas motioned to have Petlon Concrete replace the patio, Billie seconded; motion carried
- Duane motioned to have Petlon Concrete replace the porch, Lucas seconded; motion carried.

Next meeting will be held on September 8, 2025 @ 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

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		
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 OR	DER FORM	Contact Brenda with questions: 563-920-3191		
BUSINESS %	DENOMINATIONS	BUSINESS %	DENOMINATIONS	
Amazon.com 2%	1025100	JCPenney(CC)<*> 5%	25	
American Eagle 10%	25	Joanne's Fabrics 6%	25	
Applebee's 8%	25	Kohl's (CC) 4%	25100	
Arby's 8%	10	Kwik Trip 4%	2550100	
Aunt Emmy's (L) 4%	10	Kwik Trip Grocery 15%	25	
Barnes & Noble 9%	51025	Lowe's <*> 4%	25100	
Bath & Body 13%	1025	Maurices 7%	20	
Bed,Bath & Beyond 7%	25	Menard's 3%	25100	
Best Buy 4%	25	Michaels 4%	25	
Boubin Tires (L) 5%	See Brenda	Old Navy/Gap 14%	25	
BP Gas 2%	50100	Outback Steakhouse 8%	50	
Buckle 8%	25	Palmer Hdwe. (L) 5%	See Brenda	
Bushel & A Peck 3%	10	Panera Bread 8%	1025	
Burger King 4%	10	Pizza Hut 8%	10	
Cabela's 8%	25	Pizza Ranch (L) 8%	525	
Casey's 3%	2550100	Posy Place (L) 5%	10	
Castle Theatre (L) 10%	5	Red Lobster 8%	1025	
Cenex 3%	25	Red Robin 9%	25	
Chili's 11%	25	Staples 5%	25	
Chuong Garden (L) 10%	1025	Starbucks 7%	1025	
Culvers Restaurant 5%	10	Subway 6%	10	
Dairy Queen (5-L) 10 & 3%	510	Sunset (L) 10%	1020	
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars 8%	1025	Target 3%	1025100	
Dick's Sporting Goods 8%	25100	Texas Roadhouse 8%	25100<*>	
Dollar Fresh 3%	25100	TJ Maxx 7%	25	
Express 10%	25	Ulta Salons 4%	25	
Exxon/Mobile <*> 2%	50	Visa/Discover pp (CC) 1%	<*>50100	
Fareway 3%	25100	Walmart 3%	1025100	
Gap/Old Navy 14%	25	Wendy's Carwash(L) 20%	25	
Gift Holder 10%	2	KEY TO SYMBO	OLS -	
Hardee's 5%	10		can be ordered	
Home Depot 4%	25100<*>		or special details	
Honey Creek Furn. (L) 3%	See Brenda	. ,	oating businesses o pay on credit card –	
iTunes 5%	15	, ,	_	
For a full list of p	articipating businesse	s, go to: https://www.r	aiseright.com/brands	



SEPTEMBER 2025

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 a.m. Quilting 6:00 p.m. Lay Ministry Meeting	3 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Confirmation Meeting Heaven Bound	4 11:30 a.m. Church Ladies Lunch at Olive that Deli	5	6
7 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. First Day of Sunday School Choir Rehearsal	8 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	9:00 a.m. Quilting	6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Confirmation Heaven Bound	11	12	3:20 p.m. Choir Warm-up 4:00 p.m. Installation of Pastor Jason Choir Sings
9:00 a.m. Worship Sullivan Baptism MOTM Noisy Can Offering 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal Sunday School 3:00 p.m. HB Scavenger Hunt	15	16 9:00 a.m. Quilting	6:00 p.m. Worship MOTM Noisy Can Offering 7:00 p.m. GIG Confirmation Heaven Bound	18	October Lamplighter Deadline	20
9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	22	23 9:00 a.m. Quilting	24 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Confirmation Heaven Bound	25	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal Sunday School	29	30 9:00 a.m. Quilting		5 6 12 13 19 20 26 27	1 2 7 8 9 14 15 16 21 22 23	2025 3 4 10 11 17 18 24 25 31