



January: First things first...at First!

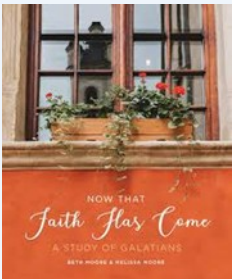
GRACE

This year at First, we are putting “First things first” by leaning and living into mission in new and exciting ways. This month we will be learning about God’s amazing GRACE in Baptism & Discipleship. What did Jesus’ own baptism mean for him? What does baptism mean for us? And how are baptism and discipleship connected?

Season 5 of the Chosen ends on January 14th and will hopefully resume in the fall with season 6.

I am excited to announce a Beth Moore bible study will begin on January 21st! We will be getting a very in-depth discovery of Galatians...with video and workbook series entitled “Now that faith has come.” Erin Anderson has agreed to lead this exciting 7-week study.

On Sunday January 11th, we thank our outgoing council members and we welcome in the new people by making it official with the installation service. On January 18th, the new CCC (congregational care commission) will embark on their first meeting. I am excited to see how we can more fully lean into and live into our mission at First... putting “First things first!”

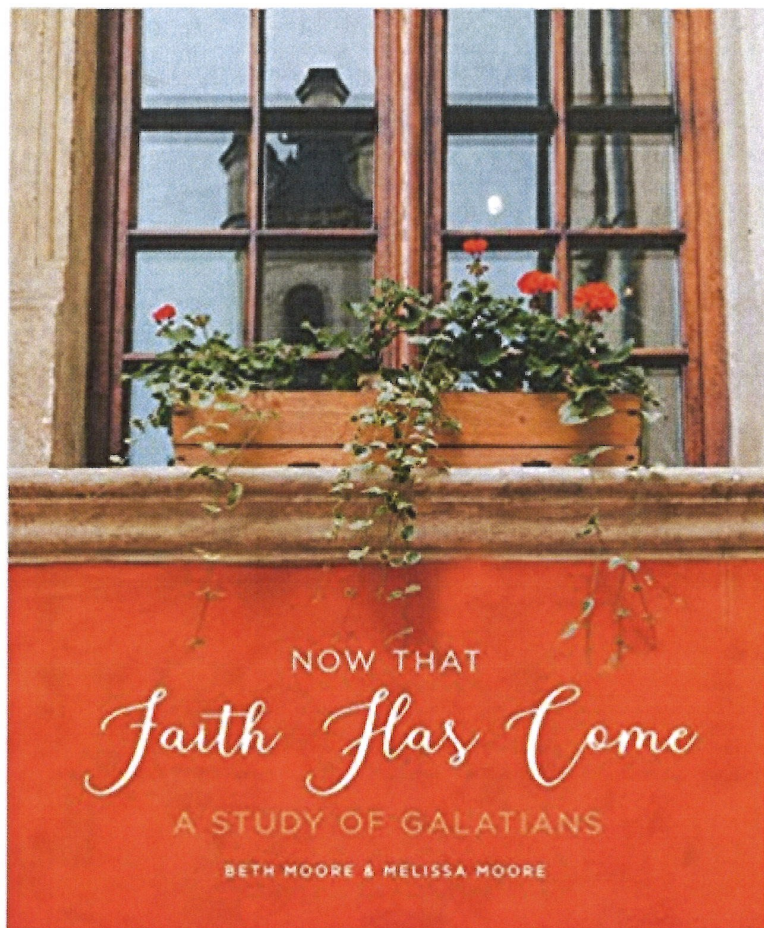


January 4 th	Christmas 2	“Grace upon Grace”	John 1: 10-18
January 11 th	Baptism of our Lord	“Baptized & Beloved”	Matthew 3: 13-17
January 18 th	Epiphany 2	“Come & See”	John 1: 29-42
January 25 th	Epiphany 3	“Catch & Release”	Matthew 4: 12-23

Come & See!

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Pastor Hans



Meeting Dates

January 21
January 28
February 4
February 11
BREAK FOR LENT
April 4
April 15
April 22

Starting on January 21, 2026, at 5:45 pm

This will be a 7 week study of Galatians.

ALL ARE INVITED

FLCW NOTES

Thank you to everyone that brought cookies/candy or and/or shopped at the FLCW "Cookie Sale". We made \$1,574.50! The lefse was sold out in 15 minutes and we had many requests for more! Thank you to the great crew making lefse and we will consider making more next year. Thank you to Irene Gearey and JoAnn Nelson for making and selling delicious caramel rolls and coffee. This made \$100.00! Thank you to Rhonda Wippler for the Thrivent donation to use for supplies and expenses. Keep those recipes handy for next year! Holly Knutson and Annette Newton.



The December 7th Red Stocking Offering totaled \$419.30. The FLCW Treasury added \$200.00 to this amount, The \$619.30 was given to the Pine River Backus Family Center for needs of women and children in our community.

43 quilts made by the Dorcas Sewing Circle are now on their way to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all whose hands and donated materials made this ministry

Great News! Marlys Riess and Penny Siewert are now the co -chairs of the FLCW Kitchen Committee. THANK YOU to Denice Smith for her many years service!!!!

The kitchen committee will meet on Monday, January 5th at 1:00 PM

THANK YOU TO:

Cindy Zaffke for the homemade cut out cookies for the WOW Christmas party.

Holly Knutson and Annette Newton for coordinating the FLCW Cookie/Lefse Sale.

Denny Aleckson for leading the packing and the delivery of quilts/blankets to the pick up spot for delivery to Lutheran World Relief.

The **Shamp Family** for taking us Christmas caroling.

Marly Riess and Penny Siewert, the 2026 co chairs of the FLCW Kitch Committee.

Denice Smith for her many years of leading the FLCW Kitchen Committee.

NEEDED!!!! Help with the sound ministry here at First Lutheran. Training is available to man the sound board one Sunday per month for the church service and as needed for funerals. If this is something you could do for your church, please contact Denice Smith, @ 218-820-4522. Thank you

FLCW NOTES

Fifteen FLCW members gathered for the 2025 December 8th Advent dinner and enjoyed the blessing of being together.



FLCW gave monetary Christmas gifts to Good Samaritan Nursing Home, River's Edge, Pine River Group Home, First Lutheran Staff, Twin Ports Ministry, Lutheran Social Services, Pine River Library and Voyageur's Ministry.

January Circle Meetings

Dorcas Sewing Circle

Gatherings are the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the lower-level Quilting Room in the church.

Dorcas is quilting and fellowship; no Bible study.

January 15th, no gathering on New Year's Day

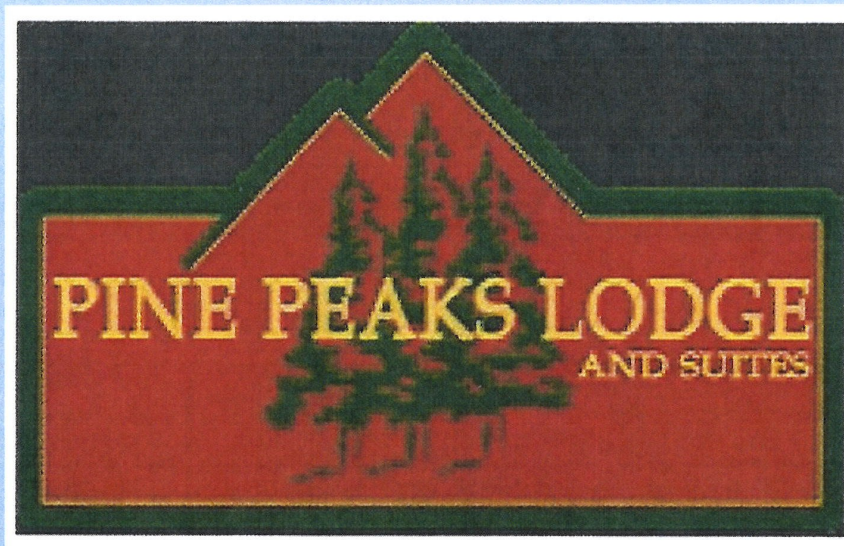
Naomi Circle

Will meet on Thursday, January 15th at 1:30, in the church Fellowship Hall.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Our January outing will be to
Pine Peaks Restaurant
in Crosslake

We will meet on January 20 in the church
parking lot at 11:00 AM



The “Crosslake favorite” family restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner and tastefully decorated in a northern decor that is accentuated with a beautiful fieldstone fireplace for that touch of “up-north” coziness!

January 2026

Worship Volunteers

January 4, 2026

Second Sunday of Christmas

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Denice Smith

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

Readers:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Dean Johnson

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday of Epiphany

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Denice Smith

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

January 25, 2026

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Reader:

Communion Assistants:

Sound: Val Johnson

Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt

Ushers:	Paul Pearson & Paul Sasse
Counter:	Irene Gearey
Altar Guild:	Irene Gearey, JoAnn Nelson & Penny Siewert
Coffee:	Mary Krecklau

FINANCIAL DATA
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 20, 2025

Budgeted Income (all areas)	\$59,120.84
Actual Income (all areas)	<u>50,898.87</u>
Difference (BELOW BUDGET)	(\$ 8,221.97)

Budgeted Expenses	\$59,120.30
Actual Expenses	<u>48,226.27</u>
Difference (BELOW BUDGET)	(\$ 10,894.03)

Actual Income (all areas)	\$50,898.87
Actual Expenses	<u>48,226.27</u>
Difference	\$ 2,672.60

ACTUAL PREVIOUS MONTH CHECKING:

Nov. 30	Ending Balance	\$56,034.13
Nov. 1	Beginning Balance	<u>56,748.54</u>
Difference (loss)		(\$ 714.41)

Nov. Income	\$13,212.98
Nov. Expenditures	<u>13,927.39</u>
Difference (loss)	(\$ 714.41)

Because there are some changes in income and expenses after this report is written, you will see the bottom portion of the report giving the actual previous month's numbers.

January's noisy offering will be going to the Freedom Ranch in Brainerd. Our mission is to help individuals first feel safe, then supported through their healing journey.



January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office	2	3
4 Worship 9:00 AM Coffee 10:00 AM	5 Kitchen Committee 1:00 PM	6	7 Bible Study 10:00 AM WOW 3:30 PM Meal 5:00 PM Chosen Video/ Confirmation	8	9 Howard Peterson Memorial Service	10
11 CCC Installation Worship 9:00 AM Coffee 10:00 AM	12	13	14 Bible Study 10:00 AM WOW 3:30 PM Meal 5:00 PM Chosen Video/ Confirmation	15 Dorcas 9:00 AM Naomi 1:30 PM	16	17
18 Worship 9:00 AM Coffee 10:00 AM CCC Meeting	19	20 Out to Lunch Bunch Pine's Peak	21 Bible Study 10:00 AM WOW 3:30 PM Meal 5:00 PM Chosen Video/ Confirmation	22	23	24
25 Worship 9:00 AM Coffee 10:00 AM	26	27	28 Bible Study 10:00 AM WOW 3:30 PM Meal 5:00 PM Chosen Video/ Confirmation 6:00 PM	29	30	31



First Lutheran Church Welcomes you!

**January brings the snow,
makes our feet and fingers glow.**



Sunday Worship & Study:

Worship & Communion 9:00 AM.

Coffee & Fellowship 10:00 AM

Pastor: Hans Anderson

Church Office: 218-587-2316

www.1stluth.org