

2024-2025

ANNUAL YEARBOOK

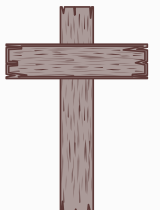
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH - HAYWARD, WI



*Let all that we do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Index of Pages:

Pastor's Report	3
Long Range Planning	4
Children, Youth, and Family Ministries	5
Financial Report	6
Congregational Changes & Stats	7
Committee Reports	8-9-10
Task Force Reports	11
Ministries & Missions	12-13
First Lutheran Women	14-15

Pastor's Report

Annual Meetings and Annual Reports are important because they are about accountability. This is about accountability. The interesting thing about accountability is that those who are made to be accountable to others make better decisions and are less likely to sin – why? – the price is too high. Too many relationships are at stake. The healthiest people in the world have a system of accountability and love that leads them to treasure life and each other.

My leadership style is to trust the Holy Spirit. Not the Holy Spirit as it has energized me, but as it has energized you – my parishioners – the people of God. I believe that most religious people tend toward saying “NO!” to things because they believe that God is all about the things we shouldn’t do. But Jesus is God’s “YES!” to the world. I believe in saying “YES!” to how God’s Spirit incarnates itself in each and every one of you. You all have wonderful skills and talents and ideas and insights, and it is my intention to say “YES!” to those in as many ways as possible. Our church calendar reflects that. Our relationships in the community reflect that as well.

My whole goal as a Pastor is for the parishioners, the worship life, the good works, and the physical structure of the church grounds, to say “YES!” to the world so that the world experiences God’s Grace, God’s “YES!” to the world in Jesus Christ.

Most of the good things being reported in this booklet I can take no credit for whatsoever. And that is how the Kingdom of Heaven should be. Most of the good things happening here were your ideas first, not mine, and sometimes all I did was not get in the way. Sometimes I cheered on. Sometimes I blessed.

We are a people of faith and trust, pooling our spiritual gifts together to love the world to a better place. And who knows what the next thing we’ll be adding to the calendar!

In Christ,

Pastor Joel

Long Range Planning

This past January, a new round of long-range planning was kicked off by the First Lutheran church council. Several brainstorming sessions were held for the purpose of identifying the needs of the church, as well as initiatives which could advance our mission of being Christ's hands and feet.

Approximately 40 ideas were referred to the second round of reconciliation meetings, where members were asked to explain/defend their ideas/suggestions. Following these meetings, long-range planning (LRP) team leaders sorted and grouped common suggestions/ideas under titles linked to our respective church committees.

LRP team leaders developed a descriptive booklet, providing an overview of the discussions relating to each of the suggestions from both the brainstorming and reconciliation sessions.

Members will vote on Sunday, July 20, to choose the initiatives they will recommend advancing to the church council for placement in the 1-5-10 year planning process.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

Thank you, faithful people of First Lutheran! Your volunteer generosity gave first-hand opportunity for your faith to stick on our kids as they learned and were loved and affirmed by you. Your financial generosity sent 25 kids to Bible Camp this summer (to the tune of \$10,350). With grateful hearts, our young families and I shout out to you and God, THANK YOU!

The mission-focused curriculum we used in Confirmation this past year received good reviews from participating small group leaders as well as the students themselves. Our year of Confirmation was anchored and guided by these words that we chanted weekly:

MY ANCHOR

Because I am loved by God
Because I am equipped by God
I can be Jesus' hands and feet
in my everyday life.
I can be Jesus' ears and voice
in my everyday life.
I AM loved by God!
I AM equipped by God!
I have everything I need
To love God
&
Love my neighbor as myself!

GOD ROCKS!!!!

At year-end, the students were asked what part of our anchor they best connected with in their everyday life because. Here are some of their responses:

- I have everything I need. Because it makes me feel like I don't need the newest baseball gear.
- I AM loved by God! Because it reminds me God will forgive me and always love me no matter what! Because whenever I feel down, I tell myself this.
- Because I am loved by God. Because it reminds me that he loves me and knows that I can accomplish anything, which helps me feel better about myself.
- I can be Jesus' hands and feet in my everyday life. Because I am loved and equipped by God.
- God. I think about him almost every day, and he helps me along the way, and I just know he is there.
- To love my neighbor as myself. Because I always help people by giving them a shoulder to cry on or helping them work through something.

Last October, we confirmed six youth, and this October we will confirm seven. These maturing Christ-followers are asking, "What's next?" As part-time Children, Youth & Family Coordinator, Council Personnel and I are working to find someone else to lead Terrific Tuesday, so I have time to coordinate High School Ministry. (Or we are open to another solution.) Your prayers are requested and appreciated.

Gratefully,
Julie Jolivette

Financial Report

First Lutheran Church
Income and Expense
2022,2023,2024 and January 1-June 30, 2025

	1/1/2025 Thru <u>6/30/2025</u>	1/1/2024 Thru <u>12/31/2024</u>	1/1/2023 Thru <u>12/31/2023</u>	1/1/2022 Thru <u>12/31/2022</u>
INCOME				
General Offerings	\$ 214,947	\$ 444,102	\$ 414,480	\$ 407,191
Special gifts and offerings	\$ 25,605	\$ 103,634	\$ 78,488	\$ 190,641
	<u>\$ 240,552</u>	<u>\$ 547,736</u>	<u>\$ 492,968</u>	<u>\$ 597,832</u>
EXPENSES				
General mission support	\$ 23,955	\$ 50,069	\$ 48,705	\$ 47,900
Salaries & benefits & Call Process	\$ 148,086	\$ 284,845	\$ 267,875	\$ 234,107
Administrative expenses	\$ 12,329	\$ 21,919	\$ 21,869	\$ 23,211
Education	\$ 4,482	\$ 10,552	\$ 11,431	\$ 12,461
Property and Vehicles	\$ 23,537	\$ 46,432	\$ 50,404	\$ 48,233
Outreach	\$ 4,621	\$ 13,642	\$ 10,349	\$ 6,498
Worship and music	\$ 3,507	\$ 7,468	\$ 8,082	\$ 7,411
Designated gifts & offerings	\$ 50,335	\$ 110,910	\$ 157,792	\$ 113,982
	<u>\$ 270,852</u>	<u>\$ 545,837</u>	<u>\$ 576,508</u>	<u>\$ 493,803</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	<u>\$ (30,300)</u>	<u>\$ 1,899</u>	<u>\$ (83,539)</u>	<u>\$ 104,029</u>

First Lutheran Church
Preliminary Unaudited Balance Sheet
2022,2023,2024 and January 1-June 30, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS				
Cash	\$ 54,194	\$ 54,194	\$ 56,632	\$ 37,120
Designated accounts	\$ 179,832	\$ 179,832	\$ 197,964	\$ 321,105
Property and equipment	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,438	\$ 1,289,438
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 1,523,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,544,034</u>	<u>\$ 1,647,663</u>
LIABILITIES				
Accrued expenses	\$ 4,679	\$ 4,679	\$ 6,573	\$ 7,234
Note payable			\$ 20,574	\$ 40,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 4,679</u>	<u>\$ 4,679</u>	<u>\$ 27,147</u>	<u>\$ 47,234</u>
EQUITY				
Church previous equity	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,496,398	\$ 1,496,398
Church current year equity	\$ 22,387	\$ 22,387	\$ 20,489	\$ 104,029
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,518,785</u>	<u>\$ 1,518,785</u>	<u>\$ 1,516,887</u>	<u>\$ 1,600,427</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$ 1,523,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,523,464</u>	<u>\$ 1,544,034</u>	<u>\$ 1,647,661</u>

Congregational Changes & Statistics

Baptisms:

2024:
Owen Douglas Wegener--August 11, 2024
Daniel & Brianna Wegener
Gabby Mae Stevenson--September 22, 2024
Grant David & Amanda Stevenson
Avery Ann Stevenson--September 22, 2024
Grant David & Amanda Stevenson
Gaige Matthew Diehl--September 22, 2024
Mike & Ginger Hulbert
2025:
Poppi Rose Stark--March 8, 2025
Joseph & Taylor Stark
Parker Lee Stevens--June 29, 2025
Ryan & Hannah Stevens

Confirmed Youth:

2024:
Joseph Bergschnieder, Parker Forrester,
Cole Eckes, George Goette, Sullivan Sportel,
and Celia Strottman

Communion Instruction:

2025:
Silas Burling, Evelyn Burling,
Addison Domagala, and Emersyn Shaw

High School Graduates:

Lydia Bergschnieder
Tara Eckes

NOMINESS FOR JULY 2025:

Madeleine Bernard
Ted Urban
Andy Vergeront

Deaths:

2024:	2025:
Jane Wikum	Douglas Chase
Kay Edwards	Jerome Berard
James Gaul	June Mueller
	Elizabeth Webber
	Lowell Kees

Youth Attended Bible Camp:

Silas Burling	Evelyn Burling	Noah Kennell
Ayden Dahlke	Aiden Domagala	Eloise Lietzan
Addison Domagala	Adya Eckes	Izzy Menk
Emersyn Shaw	Adriana Flintrop	Luci Menk
Eilliot Dahlke	Elijah Flintrop	Jace Murdock
Avery Kennell	Porter Goette	Jenna Murdock
Savannah Mueller	Finley Sportel	Olivia Strottman
Gabby Stevenson	Sullivan Sportel	Oliva Swift
	Avery Stevenson	

New Members:

2024:	2025:
Stan & Jackie Olson	Mark, Ann, and John Straub
Marilynn Benson	Ryan, Amy, and Sulley Sportel
	Tiffany Nielsen
2025:	Jill Meilahn
Robin Griffith	Randy Lueth
Beverly Cuddy	Carole & Ken VanHolbeck
Sarah Adair	Ryan, Amy, Sullivan, and Finley Sportel
Robin Griffith	Josh, Jordan, Evelyn, and Silas Burling
Dianne Wilke	Josh, Elise, and Emersyn Shaw
	Ralph & Julie Eckes
	Jaimie Domagala
	Porter Goette

Statistics

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

Members received	
Baptism	6
Transfer/Instruction	7
Members Removed	
Death	8
Transfer/remove	4
Total Membership	
July 2023-2024	654
July 2024-2025	668

Committee Reports

Memorial & Endowment Committee

As stewards of the gifts given in memory and legacy, the Memorial and Endowment Committee has been blessed to oversee the careful and purposeful use of these funds throughout the past year. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of those who have contributed to the Memorial and Endowment Fund, helping ensure that the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church continue to thrive for generations to come.

Purpose of the Fund

The Memorial and Endowment Fund exists to support ministry opportunities that fall outside the scope of the church's regular operating budget. These are gifts intended to leave a lasting impact—providing for new ministries, strengthening existing programs, enhancing our worship and facilities, and supporting outreach both locally and globally.

2024 Highlights of Spending

Over the past year, the committee prayerfully approved several disbursements that reflect our church's values of worship, community, and service. Key areas of spending included:

***Worship Enhancements:**

A portion of the fund was used to upgrade video equipment, purchase sanctuary banner sets for Christmas and Easter, and replace two hand chimes, enriching our worship experience for both in-person and online services.

***Scholarships and Education:**

We continued supporting students pursuing advanced education and youth attending Camp WAPO in the summer of 2025.

***Mission & Outreach:**

Grants were given to local and global mission partners: Northwoods Community Food Pantry, Stone Lake Food Distributors, ELCA World Hunger, Quilt of Valor, Global Refuge, and ELCA Federal Chaplaincy Ministries, Lutheran Campus Ministry, helping expand our church's reach and support those in need beyond our walls.

***Facilities & Improvements:**

Memorial funds contributed to necessary building updates, including furnishing the Community Room and the Gathering Room, ensuring our church home remains welcoming to all.

***Social Concerns:**

We supported several community programs: Jaeckel & Sheehan ALS Walk, Operation Christmas, Relay for Life Sawyer County-Night for a Cure Event, and Glut 1 Foundation.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward into 2025, the Memorial and Endowment Committee remains committed to honoring the intent of each gift and prayerfully discerning the best uses for these resources. We invite all members to consider how they might contribute to the ongoing legacy of First Lutheran Church, whether through memorial gifts, bequests, or designated giving.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dave Napieralski for his three years of dedication and service to the committee. Many projects and organizations were funded with his help and guidance, including reviewing the bylaws. Newly appointed are Kathy McCoy, Tammy Vergeront, and Lori Clifford.

On behalf of the committee, thank you for your trust and support. We consider it a privilege to serve, and we give thanks for all that God is doing through your generosity.

With gratitude,

The Memorial and Endowment Committee

Connie Shield, Sherry Beckman, Terri Lundeen, Laurie Jacobs, Dave Napieralski, Tammy Vergeront, and Lori Clifford

Plant your seeds now and trust in the Lord that these seeds will bear fruit even when you are gone.



Committee Reports

Outreach Committee

Our Committee thanks the Congregation for their support of the Outreach Committee projects.

Projects: Sweats, underwear, and socks for grades K-2
Winter clothing for grades K-5, Snow pants, and waterproof gloves
Malawi Well
Missionary Aviation Fellowship
Paper and Personal Hygiene items for Hayward Food Shelf
Coffee sales here in the church are to help small coffee farmers
Cash for Cans to raise \$\$ for the Hayward Food Shelf

The Outreach Committee meets annually to discuss our plan for the year and which is in February. We invite new members to join us. Ideas for new projects are welcome.

Pat Olson, Chair

Operation Christmas

Over 50 years ago, around 1970, First Lutheran Church Women worked with local teachers and social service agencies to gather names of families that could use some extra help during the holidays by putting together boxes of food. These were then delivered directly to about 35 family homes as a surprise. Later arrangements were made for the Sheriff's Department to deliver the food boxes. Fast forward to 2024 -the program provided Christmas to 234 families who picked up their food boxes jammed with food, along with a gift for each child (535 children). We are blessed to partner with two other local churches -Hayward United Methodist and Ascension Episcopal Church to cosponsor this outreach along with several local sponsoring organizations. Operation Christmas continues to receive names from local area schools and social service agencies. We also receive names from families or their friends through our phone call center. Each family receives a basket overflowing with non-perishable items like peanut butter and cereal, a pie, fudge, meat, bags of potatoes, carrots, coupons for milk and eggs, and fresh fruit. These provide all the ingredients for Christmas dinner and several additional meals over the Holidays -along with a gift for every child.

Looking forward, we plan to continue to expand along with the Community and the needs of the people in our area. Our goal for 2025 is to provide a blessed Christmas to 240 area families.

The generosity of the members of 1st Lutheran Church has been a mainstay of this program for the past 50-plus years, and I'm confident it will continue to be so for another 50-plus years. Thank you to everyone who participated in this outreach program -looking forward to 2025.

Blessings

Katy McCoy - Chair

Visitation Committee

The visitation Ministry team consists of 11 members who enjoy connecting with folks in their homes or care facilities. We are currently visiting 17 members. We send greeting cards and offer visits and Communion. It is our privilege to be a part of this ministry; it blesses us as much as those we serve.

Pastor Bacon visits and leads Communion Worship at several care facilities on the first Thursday of the month.

We are always looking for volunteers who would like to do the visiting. It is a vital and rewarding way to serve others. If you know of anyone who would like to be visited, or you are interested in visiting, please contact Terri Lundeen.

Chairperson: Terri Lundeen

Committee Reports

Property Committee

This past year was a little less hectic for the property committee, with no major projects or problems to be concerned with. As usual, we addressed a number of ongoing maintenance issues that always come up with any older building. We are fortunate to have many willing volunteers who help out regularly.

We continued to work with the Beautification Committee in revamping several rooms within the church. Work on the old library, which is now considered the Community Room, was started the previous year, but this past year saw additional work. The old wallpaper was removed, then the walls were patched, primed, and painted. The Beautification Committee purchased new cabinets; after they were installed, we finished up installing baseboard and patching up a couple of spots on the floor with leftover vinyl plank.

The room next to the choir room was also addressed. All the old furnishings were removed, including an old fireproof cabinet. The old carpet was pulled up, the walls were patched and painted, and the ceiling was painted. Since we sorely needed new carpeting in the choir room also, we had both rooms carpeted at the same time, with the same pattern as that in Pastor Joel's office. The Beautification Committee also provided some new furniture for what is now called the Gathering Room.

Our committee had some discussions with the task force working on the updated long-range plan and identified some items that we thought should be included. No action will be taken on those items until we see how they come out in terms of priorities.

Stewardship Committee

The First Lutheran Stewardship Committee has met on three separate occasions during the first quarter of the year and has created a "stewardship action plan" to be implemented throughout the year. Tenets of this plan include:

- o Defining and emphasizing the importance of stewardship through a series of temple talks from various congregational members.
- o Placing monthly stewardship messages in the weekly church bulletin
- o Emailing occasional stewardship-related messages to congregational members
- o Posting stewardship informational pieces on the church website and Facebook page
- o Determining a new stewardship theme for the year
- o Creating a new stewardship banner for the church narthex

Stewardship committee members include Pastor Joel Bacon, Jeff Hubbard, Kris Neumann, Andy Vergeront, Bruce Schmidt, and Jeff Reiche

Evangelical Committee

This spring, we were blessed to welcome 15 new families to our congregation. Each family received a First Lutheran tote that included: the Church directory and supplement, the Digital Resources sheet, the First Lutheran Church Ministry Contact sheet, First Lutheran Welcomes You booklet, a sheet containing volunteer opportunities within our church, and their name tags.

We also worked with Sue Reinardy to update the ministry contact information on our website, ensuring easier communication and access for all our members.

In addition, we completed a directory supplement to include our newest members and to keep our records up to date. Submitted by Janet Rivard and Paula Gaida

Task Force Reports

Columbarium/Memorial Wall Task Force

This past year was fairly quiet and not as eventful as previous years. We sold and put up more memory wall plaques, but did not have any more niche sales. We received state certification in January of this year on the columbarium policies. Benches and a sculpture were added last summer, and more flowers and shrubs have been added. We had a required annual meeting of niche owners in June, as well as a celebration of our first anniversary after the columbarium was dedicated. Our first inurnment ceremony was held on June 30th of this year.

Social Media Task Force

First Lutheran's online presence continues to increase with postings on Facebook and Instagram along with our website, <http://www.flchaywardwi.org>

Facebook - We currently have 789 Facebook followers (up 12% over the previous year) who regularly enjoy daily devotions by Pastor Joel, our weekly worship service, special programs, and posts showing the various ministries and activities of our church. In the last 12 months, we had over 250,000 Facebook views.

Website - Our website had almost 3,700 users in the last 12 months, viewing 18,000 pages, with archived worship videos being the most popular webpage. A reformatted website was launched in August 2024, providing improved navigation.

Contact Sue Reinardy at sreinardy74@gmail.com or 715.699.3451 if you are interested in being a part of this ministry connecting with our growing church community.

Coordinator: Sue Reinardy

AV Task Force

The final planned update to the First Lutheran Video broadcast system was installed in early June. We now have five cameras plus one remote camera available to deliver church events, activities, and services to members and guests unable to participate locally. During the past few months, we have been averaging close to 1750 devices viewing services, morning devotions, and events per week. Our largest viewership occurs when we have a youth-focused event, with nearly 800 views for a Sunday youth service! We now have three members who are trained to run the system. Welcome, Scott Nier, for joining the team this Spring.

A big THANK YOU!! To everyone who has donated to the project, including the Memorial and Endowment Committee, who got us over the top to complete the final phase of the project.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Neff, Matthew Neff, and Scott Nier

Ministries & Mission

Purls of Prayer-Shawl Ministry

Members of the Purls of Prayer create dozens of prayer shawls each year. In addition to prayer shawls, several group members also created hats and mittens for Operation Christmas, and prayer patches are available for anyone to pick up in the Narthex. The prayer shawl ministry meets on the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 am at the church. Everyone is welcome to join us for fellowship, devotions, and snacks. The Pastor blesses the shawls that have been created over the year before being presented to someone who may be celebrating a happy occasion or who may need comfort for any reason. If you know of anyone who may appreciate a shawl, contact the church office. Please consider joining this important ministry.

Instruction and supplies can be provided.

Chairperson: Sue Reinardy.

Peace Circle

The women of Peace Circle meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the church lounge at 10 am. We use the Bible study found in the monthly "Gather" magazine of Women of the ELCA. Copies of the Bible study are available for those who attend. All are welcome to join us for coffee, treats, fellowship and Bible study!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a lay ministry serving God by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, as well as maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels. We change the paraments and set up the altar for worship, funerals, weddings, and baptisms. On Saturday mornings, we get ready for the worship services by checking the candles for oil, light dusting, vacuuming around the altar, and getting the communion vessels set up. Depending on the liturgical calendar, the paraments may need to be changed. Prior to, and immediately following each service, we have a few duties to complete, none of which takes much time, especially since there are usually other Altar Guild members to help with this. Every month, an email is sent out asking for volunteers. At least one person for the weekly set-up and one for each service is needed. We welcome you to join the Altar Guild by contacting Sue Reinardy at sreinary74@gmail.com. You can volunteer for whichever task(s) you are interested in doing throughout the year, and as often or as little as you want to help. Chairperson: Sue Reinardy

Cover Girls

Cover Girls was started in April 1972 and has been going on ever since (53 Years). It is a small group of women who meet twice a month, the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of the month, in the morning to make quilts. These quilts are not fancy but easy-to-make tie quilts.

Thank you to the many people who have donated washable material, sheets, curtains (no white), and crocheting yarn. Anyone can tie a quilt. You just have to know how to tie a knot.

If you can join us, these are some of the things that we do:

Sort, cut, and iron material, tie quilts and baby blankets, sew the tops of quilts, lay out material, and cut up scraps used to stuff bed pads for dogs and cats, at the Northwood's Animal Shelter.

There is something to do for anyone who comes to help. Learn how simple our quilts are. Our quilts go to graduating seniors, some stay here to help our families, and most go to Lutheran World Relief, which then sends them all over the world. This year, some went to flood victims and people who lost their homes in the LA fires. We made 94 quilts this year. We also make 39 baby quilts and 12 nursing covers, which go to the hospital or Tamarack Family clinic for expecting parents. In addition, we put together 14 dog/cat beds.

Come join us for an all-morning adventure and learn another way our church reaches out to the world

Ministries & Mission

Jubilee Circle

Jubilee Circle meets September through May on the third Tuesday at church from 6:00-7:00 pm. Women partner with one another choosing a month to host a meeting. A variety of topics and resources are utilized with each host choosing what the group will discuss.

During the summer, Jubilee gathers for a potluck social. December brings a service outreach project and social gathering. Jubilee coordinates the monthly volunteers for Saturday and Sunday worship services.

Decorating the tree at Christmas is also a Jubilee favorite.

All are welcome to join us. Call or email for more information, Paula Gaida, 715-634-0269 or gaidapaula@gmail.com

Community Supper

First Lutheran Church has been doing the ministry of Wednesday Night Supper for the last 28 years. We now serve everything from the fellowship window. Some for those who want to eat in-house, and some who still ask for carry-outs. We are serving anywhere from 70 to 80 people a week. The reason this has continued for so long is the support and volunteering of First Lutheran members. We need to especially thank the following people: Patty Treland, Cheryl Treland, Maxine Poppe, Linda Beck, Carol Schmidt, Paula Gaida, Kathy McCoy, JoEllyn Mulligan, Pat Olson, Patty Nier, and Maureen Schreiber. These people take the responsibility of seeing that there is a meal every Wednesday during the month. They may call people to serve or choose to serve themselves. We are looking for a monthly leader for January.

Also, we want to thank Sherry Beckman, who puts up the monthly signup sheets and writes thank-you notes to all who have served a meal.

The other area of thanks needs to go to the community groups who have stepped up and served meals. The following do more than two meals a year: Hayward Lions, Chequamegon Lions, First Lutheran Church, Frandsen Bank Midwest, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Ascension Episcopal Church, Hayward Area Memorial Hospital, and Individual Families and Friends.

If you are interested, take time to talk with our monthly leaders or Betty Beckman. Why not serve a meal with family members?

"And then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you... And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whenever you did this for the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'"

Betty Beckman

Wednesday Night Suppers Coordinator

Women of First Lutheran

The mission statement of the Women of the ELCA is "mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ". As women of First Lutheran, we continue to grow in our faith through opportunities for worship, Bible study, volunteering, and missions.

First Lutheran Women have three circles: Peace, Faith, Hope, and Love, and Jubilee.

All three circles meet monthly for fellowship and study at First Lutheran Church at different times. The circles use the Gather Magazine and other resources for their monthly Bible studies. Please check the calendar for dates and times for each circle.

Koinonia (Meaning Christian fellowship and communion) meets weekly at church on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am. The Koinonia group is currently engaged in a book study, highlighting the many churches of the world.

Throughout this exploration, they are learning about traditions and customs and comparing these to their faith journey at First Lutheran Church.

Several other opportunities for women to serve are: Purls of Prayer, Card Ladies, Cover Girls, Altar Guild, and Funeral Services.

Recipients of the quilts made by the Cover Girls this year included graduating high school seniors, families within the community, and Lutheran World Relief.

The Purls of Prayer ladies use their knitting talents to create prayer shawls, prayer patches and hats, and mittens for Operation Christmas.

Our Card Ladies use recycled cards to create new cards for any occasion, which are displayed for purchase in the narthex.

Altar Guild is a group of dedicated ladies who prepare the church for worship, funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

The Thankoffering Church Service, is an annual service, led by the women of First Lutheran and was held this year on the weekend of October 5th and 6th. This church service tradition sets aside offerings in thankfulness for the blessings received. The Saturday and Sunday services raised \$750.00 which was in addition to the weekly church offering. This special offering assists the many ways the women of First Lutheran support those around them.

On November 1, 2024, the annual Scandinavian Dinner and Bake Sale was held under the dedicated leadership of Kris Treland-Neumann and members of First Lutheran.

The annual meeting of the FLCW was held on January 18, 2025.

A soup and sandwich luncheon was provided to the women attending the annual meeting. Women were invited to bring their baby pictures. Gwen Mickelson designed a tabletop gallery walk depicting each decade. Women placed their pictures on the table accordingly, based on the decade when they were born. We enjoyed a walk down memory lane and the beautiful photography of a bygone era.

The following officers agreed to remain seated for year two of their two year term.

President - Patti Nier

Vice President - Gwen Mickelson Secretary - Connie Shield Treasurer - Maxine Poppe

Women of First Lutheran

The Love Gifts, proceeds from the Scandinavian dinner and Bake Sale, were voted on and given to a number of local, church, and worldwide nonprofits. The proceeds from the 2024 Scandinavian Dinner and Bake Sale totaled \$7047.58.

We give thanks to the many women of First Lutheran who volunteer their time and talents for their neighbors and those in need worldwide.

2024 FUNDS - LOVE GIFTS DISBURSED IN 2025

Net Proceeds from Scandinavian Dinner	\$ 7,047.58
First Lutheran	
Youth	\$ 1,000.00
Cover Girls	\$ 147.58
Purls of Prayer - Prayer Shawls (yarn)	\$ 200.00
Memorial Garden	\$ 250.00
Wednesday Night Supper	\$ 250.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,847.58
Hayward/Sawyer County	
Cancer Comfort Blankets by First Lutheran Youth	\$ 200.00
Greater Hayward Ministerial/Men's Shelter	\$ 250.00
New Reflections Pathway to Hope	\$ 250.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 150.00
Regional Hospice - Hayward	\$ 200.00
Senior Resource Center (Home delivered meals)	\$ 200.00
Hayward School Character Education Fund	\$ 100.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,350.00
Northwest Synod	
NW Synod WI Endowment Fund	\$ 100.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 100.00
The World	
ChildVoice	\$ 300.00
ELCA School fees and uniform to a girl (5)	\$ 200.00
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 200.00
Glut1	\$ 200.00
Katie's Fund	\$ 100.00
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 500.00
LSS-Immigration and Refugees	\$ 500.00
LWR Project Comfort (Shipping quilts)	\$ 250.00
Malawi Clean Water Fund	\$ 500.00
Malawi Food Security	\$ 500.00
Malawi Literacy (I want to read my bible)	\$ 500.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,750.00
	<hr/>
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 7,047.58