



# First Things – September 2025

Dear friends,

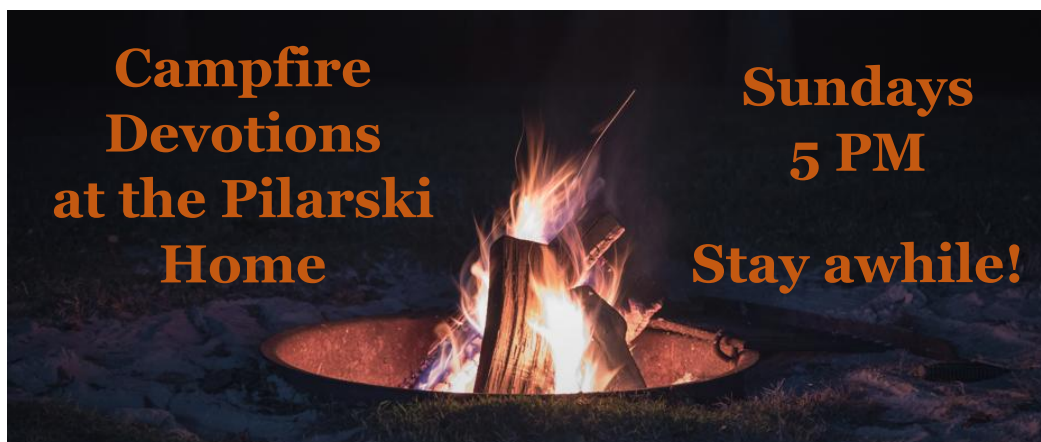
Can you believe that it's September already? Fall really is on its way. It's a new school year now and that means that this is a time of change and transition. We are moving on from the vacationing, relaxation, and sometimes hectic nature of summer into a season of more structure, more work, and cooler temperatures. A lot of things change when the season changes and the things we had previously relied on are there no more. One thing is still always there however and he never changes – that is God and his love.

Seasons come and go; things come and go; people come and go; but your God is with you through it all. He takes care of you when it's sunny and warm and he takes care of you when it's cold and feels lonely. Your God loves you so much that when you did not love him the way you should, he loved you anyway and sent Jesus, his own Son, to die to save you from your failures.

So as we transition into a new season, you can know that when many things change and you lose things you once relied on, you have not lost your God; or rather, he has not lost you. There is nothing you can do that would cancel Jesus' sacrifice for you. So if you begin to feel lonely, worthless, or afraid remember that God showed you how *not alone* you are, how *valuable* you are, and how *cared for* you are by choosing to allow his Son to die for your sins and then remember that Jesus rose from the dead, winning the victory over sin even for you and me.

Romans 5:8 God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pastor Pilarski



## Fellowship Opportunities and Events

### ***Sunday Evenings***

Campfire Devotions- On Sundays at 5 pm, you are invited to Pastor's backyard for a campfire devotion! Bring a chair and stay awhile! Pastor will have hot dogs and marshmallows for roasting. You are welcome to bring a dish to pass or none at all.

### **Sunday, Sept. 7**

Worship Review Open Forum- Sunday, September 7 after worship.

Retirement Luncheon for Pastor Unnasch- ***Sunday, Sept 7 at Noon*** at the Wieser Pavilion, Wieser Memorial Park, 1817 County Rd 6, La Crescent MN. No gifts please, per Pastor U's request. *Please note an RSVP was requested for this event in August.* Hosted by the members of Immanuel Church, La Crescent (South Ridge) and Zion Church, Hokah.



### **Monday, Sept. 8**

Monday Morning Bible Study Resumes at 9 AM!

Women of First Meeting- Calling all ladies, let's us begin gathering together again. This month the agenda includes: updates on great fall women's events in the area, an embroidery project, and a collection for the LWMS Miter boxes for the Fall LWMS Rally.

**Wednesday, Sept. 10** Catechism begins at 5:45 pm and Choir Practice begins at 7 pm each Wednesday evening starting this week.

### **Sunday, Sept. 14**

CrossTalk Begins! Please see the adjoining page for more information on groups and dates for this CrossTalk year. CrossTalk is for students age 4 through High School.

### **Tuesday, Sept. 16**

Church Council Meeting- 6:30 PM

### **Sunday, Sept. 21**

Applefest Parade- Please note that we will have special space reserved for our members and First Steps Early Learning Center families. The exterior double doors to the ELC will be unlocked for anyone that may need the restroom. Keep an eye out for your Luther Knights on the parade route!

### **Tuesday, Sept. 23**

Early Learning Center Business Meeting- 6:30 PM

### **Friday, Sept. 26**

Food Truck Friday with Chef's Table- Chef's Table food truck will be here Friday, September 26, at 5 PM. This food truck is in connection with our members the Dahlgren family. *This event is not a fundraiser of any kind, just a delicious opportunity.*

### **Sept. 1 – 27**

WELS Flourish- FLOURISH! is an annual women's retreat is hosted by St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Lewiston, MN. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Lewiston, MN. Registration is open September 1 – 27. You can find additional information on their [FB page](#) , or search for Flourish Women's Retreat – WELS.



## Church Council Openings

The Church Council is looking for men to serve as members of Council in the following positions: the *Council Secretary* and *Church Treasurer*. If you would be interested in serving in these roles please reach out to the office or Tony Breeser, 507-894-4054.

FIRST LUTHERAN, LA CRESCENT

# CROSSTALK

Classes begin September 14th

### 2025 Dates we meet:

Sept 14  
Sep 28  
Oct 5  
Oct 19  
Oct 26  
Nov 2  
Nov 9  
Nov 16  
Nov 23  
Dec 7  
Dec 14  
Dec 20  
Christmas  
practice 10am  
Dec 21  
CrossTalk  
Christmas 9am

SUNDAYS 10:15AM-11:00AM

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Preschool age 4 - Grade 3

Grades 4-8

High School

Come, let's  
talk about  
Jesus



July

## Summary of Financial Information 2025

Financial Summary				
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Comments
Net Income (Loss) Church	(\$12,381)	\$0	(\$12,381)	
Net Income (Loss) ELC	\$20,341	\$9,930	\$10,411	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,959</b>	<b>\$9,930</b>	<b>(\$1,971)</b>	
Grants (net)	(\$10,898)	(\$9,248)	(\$1,650)	
Without Grants	(\$2,939)	\$682	(\$3,620)	

Total Deficit of ELC	
2018	(\$17,051)
2019	(\$23,087)
2020	(\$2,544)
2021	\$39,832
2022	(\$10,484)
2023	(\$8,202)
2024	\$10,716
2025	\$20,341
	<u>\$9,521</u>

Giving Summary				
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Difference	Comments
Offerings	\$126,916	\$140,006	(\$13,090)	90.7%
Debt Reduction	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126,916</b>	<b>\$140,006</b>	<b>(\$13,090)</b>	

Assets				
	2024 December	2025 July	Change	Comments
Checking Account	\$61,664	\$73,689	\$12,025	
Money Market	\$51,540	\$53,013	\$1,473	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$113,204</b>	<b>\$126,702</b>	<b>\$13,498</b>	Net increase in cash balance

Liabilities & Equity				
	2024 December	2025 July	Change	Comments
Dedicated Funds Total	\$87,041	\$90,866	\$3,825	
Other Liabilities	\$1,830	\$3,544	\$1,714	
<b>Assets less Liabilities</b>	<b>\$24,334</b>	<b>\$32,293</b>	<b>\$7,959</b>	Net increase in equity
Mortgage Balance	\$260,918		Interest Rate	6.34%
Balloon Payment Due	11/1/2027		Monthly Payment	\$2,587.01

Basement Windows Project	
Total	
Est Cost*	\$14,000
Donations to Date	\$6,541
Amount Needed	<u>\$7,459</u>
As of August 31	

Required Offerings				
		Budget	Catch up	Total
August Offerings Needed	\$15,303			
August Offerings Received	\$19,895			
September Offerings Needed		\$22,580	\$8,498	\$31,078

\* West side \$6,000  
East side \$8,000

## First Lutheran Church

Pastor Adam Pilarski  
Church Office  
First Steps Early Learning Center

phone: 605 – 515 – 2388,  
phone: 507 – 895 – 4775,  
phone: 507 – 895 – 5704,

email: [pastorapilarski@gmail.com](mailto:pastorapilarski@gmail.com)  
email: [ChurchOffice@KeepChristFirst.com](mailto:ChurchOffice@KeepChristFirst.com)  
email: [Director@KeepChristFirst.com](mailto:Director@KeepChristFirst.com)

Church Website: [keepchristfirst.com](http://keepchristfirst.com)

Facebook: First Lutheran, La Crescent

Virtual Worship: [vimeo.com/keepchristfirst](https://vimeo.com/keepchristfirst)