



First Lutheran Church
1100 East Superior St
Duluth, MN 55802

June/July 2026

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Duluth, Minnesota

The Mustard Seed

Welcome Statement

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes you into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities, or where they might be on their faith journey. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We are committed to the work of racial justice. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.



Administration

Vision Council Corner - May 2026

The Vision Council met on May 7. Both pastors gave updates on all of their work in the past month. Amy Merchant described her experience at the Synod Assembly that she attended with Pastor Andrea and Pastor Dianne. The Global Refuge Benefit Event on May 3rd raised \$7831.62. Also on May 3rd, a congregational meeting regarding the sale of the chiropractic building in our parking lot resulted in a vote overwhelmingly in favor of moving forward to pursue purchasing it. A task force will be formed and 15 people with a variety of applicable expertise volunteered to be on it. There will be a congregational meeting on June 14th at 9:00. FLC will host the installation of our synod's new bishop in September. The Vision Council's next meeting will be June 4.

Respectfully submitted by Susanna Ojakangas, Vision Council Past President

Meet the Vision Council !

President:

Diana Ream

Vice President:

Beth Ann Johnson

Past President:

Susanna Ojakangas

Treasurer:

Bob Boman

Secretary:

Rachel Johnson

Councilors-at-large:

Tim Climis – Worship & Music

Jeff Karlgaard – Local & Global

Stephanie Lundorff – Evangelism & Welcome

Amy Merchant – Stewardship

Miranda Oliphant – Lifelong Learning

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 14th 9am annual congregational meeting with a light breakfast fare. We will vote on our vision council leaders and have updates concerning the chiropractor building

SUPPORT LIVESTREAM/RADIO MINISTRY

When you donate \$100 to these ministries, the Foundation matches your donation. Your generosity is what makes these ministries thrive.

Church Office Hours

Friday — Monday
Church Office is Closed

Tuesday - Thursday
9am - 4pm

Chiropractor Building

We have a task force that has divided up into two groups: building/finance and partnerships/grants. Both teams have been following up on necessary next steps. So far we have a couple of organizations that have expressed interest in working with us: a housing group, a childcare group and a clinic. The building/finance team is working on getting inspections of the building.

First Lutheran Foundation Dialogue in Action Speaker Series 2026.

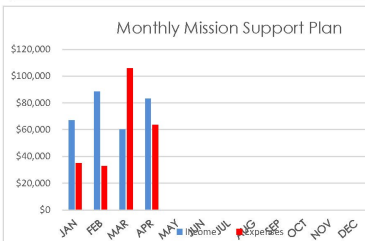
On May 12, 2026, over 100 people from across Duluth, Hermantown and Superior attended the 3rd annual Speaker Series with Austen Hartke at First Lutheran Church. The evening started with music from Parker MacIver Hinnenkamp and Riley Hinnenkamp that followed three themes: Awakening, Becoming and Belonging. Following the music, Austen Hartke, the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* and founder of *Transmission Ministry Collective*, shared his personal story and educated the audience about terms, current issues challenging the transgender community and ways to become an ally. The evening ended with a gathering in the common area and a book signing. Conversations occurred and overwhelming positive responses were heard by all



****A book study of Transforming will be announced at a future date**

2026 Mission Support Plan

Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Income	\$66,882	\$88,578	\$60,239	\$83,146								
Expenses	\$34,912	\$32,808	\$105,795	\$63,612								



Ministry & Mission Offerings	\$262,651.00
Holiday Offerings	\$9,934.00
Other Budgeted Income	\$11,164.00
Rental Income	\$10,900.00
Foundation Grants	\$4,495.00
Total Income	\$299,144.00
Total Expenses	\$260,089.00
Total Surplus/Deficit	\$39,055.00

Thank you for your generosity. Please remember ministry still happens and we're still here while you're away. Your continued financial support is needed and appreciated

Stewardship

Springs of Water moments

Do you have a story to share how you have experienced this faith community as an oasis in the desert or how you were blessed by being that oasis? Write it on one of the drops of water on the bulletin board in the gathering space or offer to share it as a spring of water moment in worship. Speak with Carlene Sippola, Carolyn Karsell, Joe Stasney or Margaret Broderius.

"Passing through the valley of Baca (a dry place), they make it a place of springs ..." Psalm 84:6

In scripture we are called to be springs of water for each other and the world. There are many dry places in our lives and in the lives of others that need care and nourishment. Last month I witnessed a powerful event that will help provide springs of water to a vulnerable group. First Lutheran Church (FLC), with the support of the FLC Foundation, hosted a fundraising event for Global Refuge, a nonprofit that supports and empowers immigrants and refugees who are rebuilding their lives in the US.

Our own Wilmer Roballo, local immigrant artist donated his beautiful sculpture, Angel Gabriel, to be auctioned off with 100% of the proceeds going to Global Refuge. Eduardo Sandoval Luna, local immigrant owner of Oasis del Norte Taqueria, donated a delicious spread of food and drink for the attendees to enjoy. Both Wilmer and Eduardo shared their moving personal journeys of leaving their homes where they grew up to rebuild their lives in Duluth. Their journeys were not easy but extremely successful. Both say they love their new living environments and are thankful to everyone who helped them along the way. Not everyone is so lucky.

The event was a success and will support what Global Refuge is doing – providing springs of water to people in need. A huge thank you to all who participated. Please consider how you can be springs of water to others and the world.

Carlene Sippola, Financial Stewardship Team



Global Refuge

Thank you to everyone who made the Global Refuge Benefit Event a success. We raised \$7831.62 for Global Refuge and Wilmer Roballo sold many of his sculptures. You are still welcome to make a donation and help us get to or over that \$8000.00. Give to FLC with a note that it is for Global Refuge. Thank you to the FLC Foundation for helping to make this event possible.

Habitat for Pollinators



Sometimes it seems we can do nothing to help. But there is! Insects, vital to our food production, are disappearing from our earth. To help alleviate this problem we need to provide habitat for pollinators. Our church property has one of the largest Pollinator Gardens in the City of Duluth. What an example to the community. But the garden needs help to keep providing habitat for these life-giving creatures. Join us in the effort to protect and preserve these vital beings? Contact Jane Ward at jward1942@gmail.com or John Sippola at johnsippola2@gmail.com

Celebrate Pollinator Sunday June 21

We are one of 53 Pollinator Sanctuaries in the NEMN Synod

GRADUATES

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please send in a photo, where they are graduating from, and what their plans are for next year. We will celebrate them on

June 7th at the 10am worship service.

Pastor Taryn Montgomery was elected Bishop at the Synod assembly the last weekend of April. The installment will be at FLC in September 12th

THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER
ISSUE OF *The Mustard Seed* IS JULY 16
Please send all submissions to office@fldduluth.org

Local & Global

TEEN CLOSET NEWS

New volunteers are always welcome!

**THE TEEN CLOSET IS NOW ACCEPTING
BRAND NEW/ALMOST NEW SUMMER CLOTHING
AS WELL AS BRAND NEW HYGIENE PRODUCTS
FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN.**

If you have questions about volunteering, donations, or anything else relating to the Teen Closet, please call or email Brad & Lezlie Oachs at 218-310-2226 or lezlieoachs@gmail.com.

We'd LOVE to have you volunteer with us to keep this important community ministry going strong! If you have any questions, please contact FLC Community Meal Lead Planner & Coordinator Susanna Ojakangas by cell: 651-983-9100 or email: skmojak@gmail.com

Free Community Meal

**LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
12:00-1:30PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



1100 EAST
SUPERIOR
STREET

**The Next Community Meals will be on
June 28 and July 26**

Rhubarb Festival - Saturday, June 27

There are many opportunities on the day of the Festival. Use QR code to find something to fit your interests.



21st Annual Chum Rhubarb Festival

Making and Baking

From its humble beginnings as a pie sale that brought lines to First Lutheran to purchase a few hundred pies to over 4,000 visitors last year at Asbury United Methodist Church, the Chum Rhubarb Festival is about more than sweet treats. This event is instrumental in raising awareness of and funds to support Chum. Last year, FLC provided and hosted almost 1/3 of the 1,950 volunteer hours through making baked and canned goods, cooking up food for the festival, and working at the festival.

This year we were invited to partner with Elim Lutheran Church to make 200+ pies (rhubarb & strawberry-rhubarb) at their church using their equipment. We will also make pies, jams, salsa, and relish at FLC. Rhubarb cleaning and chopping will happen at both churches. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to make these sweet treats!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you have used a knife to cut in the kitchen, you are qualified! It takes many hands to clean & chop rhubarb, make dough and fill pie pans, process jams, salsa, and relish, and setup and cleanup to get it all done. Our production schedule begins the week of June 15 through Saturday, June 26. Watch for signup information (daytime and evening shifts) in First News, the bulletin, and at worship. We cannot do this without you! Come and make new friends and engage with others in our community.

For more information contact Suzanne Rauvola: suzanne@hbrstudios.com - 218.393.8229.

Rhubarb Fest Prep - June 15-26

Exciting developments as we plan for the the Chum 21st Annual Rhubarb Fest on June 27 at Asbury Methodist Church. Watch for more information and how you can help with pie, jam, relish, and salsa production. Our greatest needs are half-pint jars and quarter-pint canning jars plus rings and new lids. Drop off jars in the box next to the Chum donation box outside the sanctuary. We also need rhubarb! Talk to your plants and encourage them to grow, also check out your neighbors and friends rhubarb patches. Chum will send out pickers if people are willing to open their patches. If you have any questions contact Suzanne Rauvola (suzanne@hbrstudios.com - 218.393.8229) or Deb Wichmann (Sunday AMs).

FLC & Juneberry Table Community Garden

You may have noticed some new activity this spring in the garden at the eastern end of our parking lot. This year, First Lutheran Church is partnering with Juneberry Table, a community dinner and relationship-building group that has been gathering in our space. Together we are co-creating and re-imagining the FLC garden as a space to grow food that can be used in community meals for both of our groups, and to share with others in our community. We've already been preparing the garden beds, planting a few seedlings, and improving the space with rain barrels and a shed. Want to help with the FLC/Juneberry community garden? Use this QR code to fill out the form to receive updates and opportunities to volunteer.



Local & Global

FLC Flyers

Did you know we have a summer softball team? We play through the YMCA softball league. If you are interested in playing talk with or email Vic Krause at victor3rd@gmail.com. Games are played at the UMD Softball Fields in the evenings. If you do not want to play, come out to the games and support the Flyers this season. The schedule will be released soon.



Tomatoes for Chum

As we swing into summer, don't forget to bring cans of tomato products to church for the Chum Food Shelf. Hunger doesn't go away when the temps get warmer.

REFUGEES ROLLING BACK HUNGER

There is great celebrating in the refugee camp as the South Sudanese women have reached an important milestone in their efforts to decrease food insecurity. In April, they completed a two-year goal of planting 1,000 kitchen gardens to help feed their families and the camp as a whole. Their crops include tomatoes, okra, beans, peanuts, onions, and greens.

Their gardens both feed their households and yield surplus that they sell in the markets for income to pay children's school fees. Rebecca Riak, a mother with four children, says, "Hunger is still a big problem for us. But we are determined to keep expanding our capabilities until everyone in the camp is fed."

South Sudanese Leadership and Community Development Project

RUSSIA

As reported in April, the Industrial Company Pastor Alex Krongolm has had some employment opportunity in Finland closed, and, since they had no other source of funding to augment the support Vision Petrozavodsk has been able to provide to continue living in Finland, they had to return to Petrozavodsk for Easter for at least through the summer. Unfortunately, there is little chance for work in Petrozavodsk as well, and they were very concerned about finding housing accommodations and some means of support (Vision Petrozavodsk is unable to get any support to them in Petrozavodsk.). Communication has been difficult and we have not had any information about their plans or situation. The good news is that Pastor Krongolm is able to be physically present with his congregation, which is a blessing for them and the congregation! Your prayers for the Krongolms and the Petrozavodsk congregation are appreciated. Paul Anderson, 218-728-5853.

News from the El Salvador Team

Hope in Challenging Times

On April 13, 2026, a group of 36 people across various states and Sister Parish communities in Guatemala and El Salvador joined together virtually to share the challenges facing our respective countries as well as signs of hope. From El Salvador, Marisela Ramirez spoke to the realities facing those living in El Salvador. She shared that the economy is getting worse and it is getting harder for some people to get basic food/needs. The president of El Salvador and his government are corrupt and taking advantage of the country's resources. Schools and hospitals are shutting down and fewer students are going to school. Overall, the regime has decreased in its popularity and a bright spot is that some people are coming together to work to make things better.

In Duluth, Melisa Gomez- Romo, is a social worker for CHUM and shared challenges in Duluth (and Minnesota). For Spanish speakers seeking help with food, shelter and basic needs, Melisa said that she is the only shelter advocate that speaks Spanish. The top challenges Melisa shared with the Latino population is a lack of trust with law enforcement, a fear of deportation or profiling, and language & cultural barriers. There are economic challenges including finding jobs, housing and a higher cost of living. In Duluth, there is a strong network of community organizations, increased access to free legal services, community foundation support for equity, youth and grassroots activism. Duluth has become a more inclusive community with education, advocacy, and trust building being of key importance. We also have great state representatives who advocate for immigrants. Overall, Melisa shared, "*Services and community are better, but the immigrant community is still struggling.*"

Prayers: Please pray for a successful school year for the students and for good health for the families of Los Ranchos.

For more information on joining the team's virtual meetings with students and community members, please contact Joanne Jokela, Brenda Schrader, or Dory Sjoblom.

Local & Global

Migrant Justice Team News for Mustard Seed for June/July 2026

Matthew 25:35 *For I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

Update: Our sponsored asylum seeker, A, appeared to all of us on zoom with smiles and words in English. He continues to work two jobs and R reports that A is feeling safe enough now to attend ESL classes. A's hosts said that A talks a lot when he has someone to speak his language with. They also said that his immigration hearing is scheduled for next year. A's hosts feel that immigration has changed a lot since last August (because of ICE and other federal law enforcement officials).

Our FLC team meets regularly with the Gloria Dei team (we have cosponsored our asylum seeker for over 3 years) to provide hope and support for him and for each other. At our April meeting, Beth was working with A on English worksheets and Dory was going to check on budgeting resources to help him with.

What You Can Do:

- *Continue to pray for peace, safety, and justice for A and for all immigrants in our community and country.
- *Contact the Twin Ports Rapid Response team for information on supporting our community members who are under attack: <https://twinportsrapidresponse.org/>
- *Attend the pro-immigrant rallies from 12-1 pm on Wednesdays at 60th Ave. E. and Superior St. *Call or write your legislators about immigration matters (the 5 Calls app can be used). *Join the Migrant Justice Team at our next meeting - Contact Beth Holst (bethie.holst@gmail.com), Lezlie Oachs (lezlieoachs@gmail.com), Dory Sjoblom (dstinkrain@aol.com), or Nancy Rova (nanole@boreal.org) for more information.

Read articles on people detained and find out how to advocate for them:

Minnesota woman in ICE detention with ovarian cyst denied humanitarian parole – May 5, 2026

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2026/05/05/minnesota-woman-in-ice-detention-with-ovarian-cyst-denied-humanitarian-parole>

Border visit spurs advocacy for detainee - May 11, 2026 <https://www.minotdailynews.com/news/local-news/2026/05/border-visit-spurs-advocacy-for-detainee/>

You can contact your US House representative at (202) 224-3121 to urge support of HR 7335 (the Humanitarian Standards: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/0878/2026/en/>

Standards for Individuals in ICE and CBP Custody Act: <https://www.congress.gov/.../119th.../house-bill/7335>



The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them.
-Ida B. Wells

Gather with the community to reflect on our history and to honor the lives of the three young workers who were lynched in Duluth on June 15, 1920.

CLAYTON JACKSON MCGHIE MEMORIAL

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
graveside memorial service
5:30pm @ Park Hill Cemetery
2500 Vermillion Road, Duluth

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026
Day of Remembrance event
12 noon @ CJM Memorial in downtown Duluth
corner of East 1st Street & North 2nd Ave East

JUNETEENTH 2026

Planning is well underway for the NAACP's annual Juneteenth celebration in the Central Hillside area on **June 19th**. Volunteers from FLC are again needed to help staff different stations that include serving food, handing out tickets, giving away clothing, etc. It's a great coming together of different races together to share our joy in the ending of slavery, which is the focus of the day.

We will be working the afternoon shift from 1-3 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, there will be sign-up sheet at the welcome table beginning May 31st. - from the Racial Justice Team

Lifelong Learning

Women's Summer Bible Study

Please join us for a 3-session Bible study. We welcome all who identify as women to come together in study. Pass the word . . . bring a friend. Session dates are: **Thursdays, June 11, July 9, & August 6 at 6:30** in the education space on the London Rd level. Our study from the *Gather Magazine* is "I am Worthy" by Rev. Sara Olson Smith. The sessions are not cumulative, attend one, two, or all three. You are welcome whether you feel you are a biblical scholar or haven't opened a Bible in quite some time. This is open to all ages as we study and learn from each other. For more information contact Suzanne Rauvola: suzanne@hbrstudios.com - 218.393.8229.

Women of FLC Duluth Facebook Page

Please join the Women of FLC Duluth Facebook Group and invite your friends. This uplifting group offers faith conversations, rejoices together in triumphs, and upholds each other in trials. This page is where you can find info on Gathering Circles and other events.



Lifelong Learning

Friday and Sunday morning Bible Study will resume in September

Evangelism

Sunday Hospitality and Birthdays

If you have a June or July Birthday, sign-up to bring treats in June. We will celebrate both months on June 21st! August and September Birthdays will be celebrated the third week in September. Thank you to Don Lessard for donating the funds for the May Celebration!

Transjoy Festival on June 7th, 2026

Come on down to the Park Point Rec. Area from 11 to 4 pm.

Enjoy a vendor fair, kids activities, food trucks, and music, all for free!

Show your support for our transgender community.

Prayer Shawl: We will not meet June, July and August.

We will resume again on **September 10th**.

Please keep knitting shawls as our supply is low.

Grandma's Marathon - Saturday June 20

Let us know if you are running or if you can come and cheer on the runners. There are sign-ups at the You Are Loved Table.

Nature Walk & BioBlitz

On Saturday, May 16, FLC adults gathered at Bagley Nature Area for a Nature Walk. It was a perfect day to explore God's creation. Some used iNaturalist to indulge their curiosity about plants and animals, others used binoculars to find numerous warblers and other small birds, and others enjoyed a walk in nature. We ended the day with lunch together where we shared many stories. Watch for more opportunities to connect with other FLC adults in First News and the bulletin. For more information or to get on the email list contact Suzanne Rauvola: suzanne@hbrstudios.com - 218.393.8229.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build Event

April 25 brought cool spring temps but dry skies as we sanded, cut, drilled, stapled, dipped, and branded piles of wood into 20 beds for children in our community who do not have a proper bed. Our group ranged in age from 15-80+ and everyone was busy at a variety of stations set up by *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*. The sheets, pillows, mattress pads, and beautiful quilts (lovingly made and tied by FLC quilters) we immediately put to use as SHP has placed 20+ beds since our build.

Spring cleaning of the quilt closet has become summer maintenance. Please continue to check the free table in the gathering space for crafty items. All unclaimed items will be donated within the community.

Let's get crafty!!

Worship and Music

BAPTISMS in Lake Superior; July 19th

If you wish to have your child baptized or be baptized yourself, please let Pastor Dianne or Pastor Andrea know.

Worship in the Park Volunteers

We are looking for people to help with the set-up and tear down of Worship in the Park beginning Sunday, July 5. We need at least one truck to help with hauling gear and 4 people to help with the set-up and tear down. If you are interested in helping for any Sunday in July or August please sign-up at the You Are Loved Table.

Worship in the Park Communion July and August

Help will be needed to set up and "clean up" communion for the 9 Sundays of worship in Leif Erikson Park at 10:00. Please contact Margaret Broderius (mabroderius@gmail.com) if you are willing to help.

Do you have a current yard sign?

If you don't, pick one up; let's blanket the town with invitations.

Worship in the Park begins
July 5th at 10am



Please remember to send your photos and stories to flcannualstories@flcduluth.org

We hope you have enjoyed looking through the collection of stories and photographs in the 2025 Annual Report. Your submissions for next year's report are so important to this publication! Anything as simple as: If you take a photograph at an event, or have an experience to share, a witnessing of God's work through FLC, send it in. —Thank you!

Worship and Music

One Service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary, 610 KDAL, and YouTube



May 31	The Holy Trinity
June 7	Second Sunday after Pentecost Graduate Blessing
June 14	Third Sunday after Pentecost Juneteenth
June 21	Pollinator Sunday Father's Day June-July Birthdays Congregational Meeting
June 28	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

JULY - AUGUST WORSHIP

8:30 am service In the sanctuary, 610 KDAL, and YouTube
10:00 am Service is in Leif Erikson Park

July 5	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Bike Blessing
July 12	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 19	Lake Superior Sunday – Celebration of Summer Baptisms in the Lake
July 26	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Pet Blessing

July 4th

All are invited to watch the harbor fireworks from Pastor Dianne and Erik's house on West 3rd St. Bring blankets and chairs to sit on, snacks to share and your own beverages. Arrive anytime after 8pm



Summer Handbells (music readers youth through adults):

We will meet occasionally through the summer to practice for small ensemble music for church and for outreach visits. If you'd like to be included in emails, or interested in trying out ringing/joining our group, let Karen Sande know (karen@flcduluth.org).

Summer Choir

Michael Fuchs has planned 2 Sundays for summer choir to sing: July 12 and August 16 (both 7:45am rehearsal, 8:30 am service). If you'd like to sing and you're not currently in the choir, let Mike know and he'll add you to the email list (michael@flcduluth.org).

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza at First Lutheran Church on Saturday June 6th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Families with 2nd-6th graders are invited to learn about, play and explore the pipe organs. There will be interactive stations from 10-11am, featuring our 2 pipe organs plus an orgelkids kit, which the young people will help assemble and play, a mini concert at 11am featuring Arrowhead Chapter of the American Guild of Organists scholarship recipients, followed by a free pizza lunch for participants and their grownups. Contact Karen (karen@flcduluth.org) for more info or to let her know you're coming; or just come on that morning!

Festival of French Organ Music on Sunday, July 7th at 3:00pm

Pilgrim U.C.C. (2310 E. 4th St., Duluth) will host an organ recital at 3:00pm, with a reception following. Pilgrim is the home of the 67 rank Daniel Jaeckel pipe organ Op. 11 completed in 1988. Area members of the Arrowhead Chapter-AGO will be performing.

First Lutheran Ukuleles (FLUKES)

Strum your cares away with the First Lutheran Ukuleles (FLUKES). We strum **June 7 and 21, July 5 and 19 and August 2 and 16** (1st and 3rd Sundays) in the Parish Hall at FLC. We have ukuleles available to try or bring your own. No experience is required. We will teach you one or two easy chords and you can join right in. For more information contact Suzanne Rauvola: suzanne@hbrstudios.com - 218.393.8229.