



# 2025 Annual Report of the Congregation

First Lutheran Church  
Columbus, Indiana  
January 18, 2026

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**Our mission is to know Jesus Christ and bring Him to the hearts of others.**

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# First Lutheran Church

Columbus, Indiana

## 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 2024

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### Agenda

CONVENING OF MEETING CHRISTI TAM, PRESIDENT  
DEVOTION PASTOR AMY BARTLESON BALCAM  
REPORT OF ATTENDANCE TELLERS

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Ratify Church Council Members
- Motion to ratify Beverly McDermott for a five-year term (2026-2031) on the First Lutheran Foundation Board of Directors.
- 2026 Budget

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#### ADJOURNMENT

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# Pastor's Report

Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam

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## **Siblings in Christ,**

I give thanks to God for the ways this congregation has so warmly welcomed me—and my family—into its life and ministry. Since I began serving as pastor of First Lutheran Church on May 5, 2025, these months have been marked by many new conversations, shared worship, and the steady, faithful work of getting to know one another.

As we have worshiped, prayed, and served together, I have seen many signs of God's faithfulness at work here. I am deeply thankful for the kindness, patience, and trust you have shown during this first year, and I look forward to continuing our shared ministry in the year ahead.

## **Highlights of the Year**

Over the past year, much of our shared ministry has taken place through worship, pastoral care, learning, and connection—both within the congregation and beyond it. I have been grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside members of this congregation through times of joy, grief, and everyday faithfulness. This has included pastoral care visits with homebound members, conversations with walk-ins, and moments of prayer and presence that often happen quietly but are deeply meaningful.

Our life together has also been shaped by worship and sacramental ministry. This year included the funeral of Gordon Starr, a private memorial service for the son of a church member, and committal services at Garland Brook Cemetery—holy moments in which we entrusted loved ones to God's care. We celebrated new life in baptism as well, including the baptism of Hazel Joy Bednarek, granddaughter of Gary and Theresa Forkert, and shared in baptisms alongside Rev. Ed Boone for his four great-grandchildren. These moments remind us of the fullness of the Church's life—from beginnings to endings, and all the faithful steps in between.

I have valued the opportunity to work closely with the congregation's leadership through meetings with committees and our monthly council meetings. I am especially grateful for the faithful service of our council president, council members, committee leaders, and volunteers, whose dedication and care make our shared ministry possible. In June, I was formally installed as pastor of First Lutheran Church and deeply appreciated the joyful and generous reception that followed. That day was a meaningful marker of our shared commitment to ministry together.

Beyond our congregation, I have remained engaged in the wider Church and community. I participated in the First Call Theological Education group through the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and attended the I-K Synod Assembly in Indianapolis. Regular meetings with area clergy have strengthened collegial relationships and mutual support. I also participated in several continuing education opportunities and had the privilege of presenting on Trauma-Informed Churches at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Bloomington.

Our congregation continues to be connected to the broader community through our involvement with Love Chapel. This year included participation in worship planning, preaching at Worship in the Park, and helping plan and lead Love Chapel's Blue Christmas service. I also joined other I-K Synod clergy in planning and leading a prayer vigil at the Miami Correctional Facility under the direction of Bishop Timothy Graham—an experience that underscored the Church's call to prayerful presence in all places.

Within the congregation, we have focused intentionally on faith formation and connection. I created and am implementing a monthly pre-Confirmation curriculum for our youth and meeting one-on-one with a high school student for Sunday School faith formation. We re-started the Prayer Chain with the leadership of Lois Steeb, and I have regularly hosted “Coffee with Pastor Amy,” offering space each week for conversation, questions, and prayer. I also began a series of “Why Do Lutherans Do That?” discussions to help us explore and deepen our understanding of Lutheran worship and liturgy.

Finally, I developed the Advent 2025 theme, *God With Us: Living the Promise*, as a way of grounding our worship and reflection in the heart of the gospel—God’s faithful presence among us. I also created the 2026 First Lutheran Prayer Challenge as a way of nurturing our individual and shared relationships with Christ through intentional prayer.

As I look to the year ahead, I am grateful for the many ways First Lutheran Church faithfully serves our neighbors through Love Chapel, San Souci, All Saints Housing Community, Blessing Boxes, and many other ministries. I am grateful and honored to be your pastor, and I look forward to our next faithful steps together as we continue bringing Christ’s love into the hearts and lives of others.

*In Christ’s service,*

**Rev. Amy Bartleson Balcam**

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# President's Report

Christi Tam

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Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

As I write this, I am reflecting on all that is good in our family. We have a way of pulling ourselves up by the boot straps and continuing to move forward.

We are friendly and welcoming to our visitors, sharing the love of Christ when they attend a service or other activity.

We support our local community in so many ways...from collecting socks and underwear for those less fortunate than ourselves to contributing food, time, and money to Love Chapel and keeping the Blessing Boxes filled with all kinds of essentials for our neighbors. We provide a Thanksgiving meal for elderly folks who may be alone for the holiday. We do service projects during Mission Week that benefit those in our community as well as those who are in need in far away places. We are God's hands and feet.

And not only do we love and support our community, we gather around each other, holding our members up in prayer, participating in fellowship, studying God's word together, etc. We know how to fulfill the Great Commission as well as the fundamental command to love one another.

I would venture to say that all would agree with me that the highlight of 2025 is the blessing of Pastor Amy as our long-awaited shepherd. The search was long and difficult, but certainly worth it. God has truly smiled upon us and blessed us with an amazing pastor. Yes, we are a well-oiled machine and are capable of "running" ourselves, but how nice it is to have the spiritual guidance, experience and knowledge that Pastor Amy provides us?!

Let us continue to love one another, love our neighbor and spread the Good News!

Your humble Council President,

Christi Tam

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# Christian Education

Ann Haas

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## I. PURPOSE

The Christian Education Ministry Team is responsible for much more than Sunday School. They are engaged in the faith formation of the members of the congregation, which is ordained by Jesus when He said to “go and make disciples”. The Christian Education Ministry Team is responsible for creating an environment which equip, encourages, and empowers those committed to life long faith formation in an ever-changing world. In very general terms, the CE Team does the following for First Lutheran Church:

- Provide resources and educational opportunities
- Facilitates Bible centered communication and conversation
- Offers networking, idea sharing and mutual support for the congregation to integrate Biblical teachings into their daily lives
- Nurtures spiritual growth for all members of the congregation

## II. TEAM MEMBERS AND TEACHING STAFF

Ann Haas – Team Leader

Lois Steeb – Sunday School Superintendent

Dave Parsons

Gary Forkert

Karla Fuhs – Elementary School Children

Sue McKinley – Confirmation Class

Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam – High School Class

Adult Sunday School – Lynn Starr

Fellowship & Prayer Wednesdays – Pastor Amy

## III. CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL

For the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, Karla Fuhs has received additional DVDs for the Holy Moly – Connect. The DVDs adds to the quality of the lessons.

Attending class: Estelle Holcomb, Sasha Fuhs, Isaac Fuhs, Riley Tam and Arya Seelye

## IV. CONFIRMATION CLASS

Sue McKinley has been using the Collaborate material for class.

Attending are Anna East and Aiden Fuhs

## V. HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Pastor Amy has been teaching this class with Ella East attending

## VI. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Lynn Starr has been leading the adult class in 2025.

We studied and completed Corinthians and Evangelism – A Way of Life

## VII. GRADUATION RECOGNITION

The graduation of Owen East from high school was recognized by the congregation.

## VIII. DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Lent: Book of Faith Marks of the Christian

Advent: from Advent Reflections: You Shall Have a Song

## IX. SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

*“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man (and woman) of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Haas

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

1. Baptisms - October 12 – Braelyn McKenzie, Emmalia Rose, Layla Jean, Colton Keith (all of the Fletcher family) Pastor Boone baptized these great grandchildren!  
November 29 - Hazel Joy Bednarek, great granddaughter of Gary & Theresa Forkert
2. First Communion
3. Sunday School End – May 17<sup>th</sup>
4. Sunday School Start – August 10<sup>th</sup>
5. Confirmation – October
6. Teacher Recognition - June
7. Graduate Recognition - June
8. VBS – July 14,15,16
9. Christmas Program – December 21<sup>st</sup>
10. Other events as required.

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# Fellowship

Magen Pillar

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As we look back on the past year, the Fellowship Team at First Lutheran Church gives thanks for a year filled with warmth, joy, and meaningful connection. Throughout 2025, our focus remained on creating opportunities that strengthen the bonds of our church family and invite people into deeper relationships with one another.

One of the highlights of the year was welcoming Pastor Amy to First Lutheran. We were grateful to gather as a congregation for multiple receptions in her honor and to celebrate this new chapter in the life of our church. We were also pleased to welcome Mary Ellen Wyman as a new member of our Fellowship Team, and we are thankful for the gifts and energy she brings to this ministry. She has a special talent for creating centerpieces that truly stand out.

Our Fellowship Team includes Magen Pillar, Mark Pillar, Linda Trautman, Terry Trautman, Carla Wolff, Paul Wolff, and Mary Ellen Wyman. Together, we work to create spaces where connection can grow and relationships can flourish.

We began the year with Fellowship Friday Dinner, a favorite tradition of good food, laughter, and conversation beyond the church walls. We also enjoyed our Annual Adult Dinner, which took on a lively cruise theme. From the food to the trivia, the evening was full of fun and enthusiasm, with such strong trivia knowledge that we ran out of prizes—something that has become a familiar experience with our witty, intelligent congregation.

Looking ahead, the Adult Dinner is February 2026 and will be Mardi Gras themed. Sign-ups are happening now.

Easter Sunday remained a cherished highlight, as our annual pitch in brunch allowed us to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection together around the table. Summer brought a group outing to Victory Field for an Indians game, followed by a fall bowling outing that helped us enjoy the changing season. We closed the year by celebrating our youth with an Advent Reception following their Christmas play.

As we step into 2026, we do so with gratitude for the year behind us and excitement for what is ahead. We look forward to continuing to build connection, share laughter, and create meaningful moments together in the year to come.

## **Save the dates for these 2026 Fellowship Events:**

February 7: Adult Dinner

March 5: Fellowship Friday

April 5: Easter (Team organizes brunch after service)

May 14: Fellowship Friday

Aug. 23: Indians Game

Sept. 20: Event TBD

October: Team open to supporting (or even leading) a Trunk or Treat event with buy-in from other teams

November: Team to support other teams in Thanksgiving events.

Dec. 20: Probable Advent Reception

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# Finance

Lois Steeb

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The past year was another financially successful one for First Lutheran Church. Contributions were greater than budgeted. Expenses were less than anticipated. The primary reason for less expenses was the decision not to fill the budgeted Youth Director position. The generosity of the congregation is the reason for contributions exceeding the budget. Seeing a need and taking financial action is a blessing for First Lutheran.

The external audit was finalized. All financial transactions were found to be in order. The external auditor's suggestions were limited to processes and documentation. We will strive to implement them during 2026.

The finance team has done a terrific job of processing the transactions required. The Ministry Teams are regularly notified of their performance against budget. The team is always available to respond to any questions and issues raised, and comply with Council direction.

We will continue to be led by our guiding scripture: *For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man.* 2 Corinthians 8:21.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Steeb, Chairperson

Finance Team Members:

Joy Doup

Josh Fuhs

Bob Stricker

Terry Trautman

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# Foundation

Steve Tam

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Beverly McDermott	2026 Vice President
Steve Tam	2027 President, Treasurer
Tom McKinley	2028 Vice President
Diane Parsons	2029 Secretary
Kim Jones	2030
Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam	Ex Officio

The First Lutheran Foundation is a holding company under the authority of the membership of First Lutheran Church. The sole purpose of the Foundation is to receive assets and expend money to promote the religious, educational and charitable purposes of First Lutheran Church.

During 2025, the Foundation received a total of \$3,675 in unrestricted contributions and no designated gifts. Listed below is a summary of grants made in 2025 and the Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2025.

Ecumenical Assembly/Love Chapel	\$10,000
Clarity Pregnancy Center	\$2,000
Foundation for Youth	\$2,000
Turning Point	\$2,000
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries	\$1,500
Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$1,500
SonRise Bible Study	\$1,000
Hoosier Trails Council	\$500
Total	\$20,500
Investment Portfolio	
Equities	\$383,540
Preferred Trusts/Fixed Income	\$33,730
Money Market/Operating Funds	\$6,880
Total Investment Portfolio	\$424,150

Please consider the Foundation as a donee for memorials and other gifts, along with individual estate planning. All of the assets received by the Foundation enable us to further the ministry of the Church.

Respectfully,

Steve Tam  
President

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# Property

Jenny Boggs

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*“The church is made of people. But the people need a home...  
There is spirituality about the place where the church repeatedly gathers.”*

*M. Craig Barnes*

## **2025 Efforts and Accomplishments:**

- Digital Sign installed and members trained. March 2025
- Outside lights on south side taken off old timer and reset by Miller Eads to come on at dusk and off at dawn daily. May 2025
- New refrigerator for the church kitchen. August 2025
- New control box installed in digital sign. Sept. 2025
- New breaker box installed outside the Fellowship Hall. Sept. 2025
- Scout cabinets and supplies removed from the choir loft and relocated to the choir practice room downstairs. Nov. 2025
- Additional shelving acquired for choir loft cleaned and stalled. Nov. 2025
- New lighting stalled behind the organ in the choir loft. Nov. 2025
- Church Disaster Plan written and approved by the Property Team, and Submitted to Council. Nov. 2025
- Track lighting updated and re-positioned in choir loft. Dec. 2025
- Sanctuary and outdoor lighting repaired. Dec. 2025

## **The Property Team is offering the following Capitol Project considerations to the congregation for the 2026 fiscal year:**

- ❖ **Exterior and interior security system for our church home.** We were hoping to get this accomplished in 2025, but upon further consideration realized that more input from other ministry teams and the congregation was needed.

### **Also:**

- ❖ The Property Team has been looking ahead at the replacement of our main air conditioning system for the Narthex and Sanctuary. The current unit is old and on it's last legs, and we are blessed that it has lasted as long as it has.
- ❖ Our parking lot surface, and the drains in the lot, is also in need of replacement. Given the quotes received thus far, this will be an expensive endeavor.

*It has been my great honor to serve in the role of Property Chair for the past 4 years!*

John and I are so thankful to Jenny Boggs and Jane Francisco for our beautiful landscaping, and to our other Team members for their time and commitment to keeping all of our property in good shape! **Our team welcomes anyone who would like to join us in this ministry.** We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of most months, at 7:00 pm. Please join us. 812-350-0368.

*Respectfully Submitted,* Mary Ellen Wyman, Chair

**Team Members:** Karla Fuhs, Mike Langevin, Ben Holcomb, Jenny Boggs, Pete Khensouri, and John Wyman.

*“Everyone who graduated from Sunday school got the lesson that the real church is a family of Christian faith and not the building where they meet. Right. But every family needs a home.”*

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# Scouting

Brian Jones

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## **Scouting America at First Lutheran Church, units 557 for year 2025**

The mission of the Scouting America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

At First Lutheran Church, we have the following units, preparing about 100 youth each week: Cub Scout Pack 557 - Cub Scouts is for boys and girls, kindergarten to 5th grade. It is a program where youth develop the foundations for leadership, citizenship, and personal fitness through fun activities involving parents and legal guardians.

The pack has 38 youth and 14 adult leaders that meet on Thursday evenings.

Here are some highlights from 2025 for the Cub Scouts:

- Campout at Spring Mill State Park
- Campout at Columbus Municipal Airport with tour of Columbus Propeller Makerspace, and a disc golf clinic at The Flying Ace Disc Golf Course.
- Multiple other events involving youth and adults including Pinewood Derby, Rocket Rally, Rain Gutter Regatta, and Bike Rodeo.

Scouts BSA - Troop 557 (co-ed combined troop) - The traditional Scouting program, Scouts BSA is where youth, ages 11-17, develop outdoor survival skills, self-confidence, and ethics through youth planned activities with increased attention to service, community engagement, and leadership.

The troop has 50 youth and 31 adult leaders that meet on Monday evenings.

Here are some highlights from 2025 for the Troop:

- Camping every month of the year to locations such as Camp Louis Ernst, Maumee Scout Reservation, First Lutheran Church, Milestone Lodge and Holiday World.
- Members of the troop attended a high adventure trek at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico and Sea Base in the Florida Keys.
- The troop participated in over 950 hours of service.
- There were 39 rank advancements and over 170 merit badges earned.
- We had 2 Scouts earn the rank of Eagle – Rishabh Rajesh and Philip Mattern

Venturing Crew 557 - Venturing is a coed, ages 14-20, youth-led program where Scouts experience positive mentorship and develop leadership skills in a fun, supportive environment. The crew has 4 registered youth and 5 adult leaders.

Yours in Scouting,

Brian Jones

Chartered Organization Representativ

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# Shepherding

Ann Haas/Karla Fuhs

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Christ is the good shepherd and He continues to shepherd His flock! He accomplishes this by our Shepherding Ministry.

In John 17:20 Jesus prays: *“I pray for those also who will believe in me through their message, that all may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”*

In this ministry we provide Christian unity.

We pray, listen, guide, communicate and encourage showing Christian love by the actions of sending cards or getting in touch with FLC members with sincere care at times of joys and at times of hardships. We want our congregation to know we are aware of births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and other significant events in their lives.

Our Shepherding Ministry is composed of Twenty-five people (Shepherds) who each have Families (flocks) they shepherd at First Lutheran Church with the reasons given above.

THANK YOU, Shepherds!

1 Peter 5:2 *“Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care . . . not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be.*

Respectfully submitted,  
ANN HAAS/KARLA FUHS

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# Sonrise Bible Study

Annette Hull

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Sonrise Bible Study has completed its 25<sup>th</sup> year of sharing love of Jesus with the participants the Bible Study reaches. The volunteers and participants look forward to seeing what is in store for our 26<sup>th</sup> year.

Through the past 25 years, the study has overcome a variety of obstacles. The biggest obstacle was COVID. Fall of 2025 has seen an increase in participants. Participants continue to enjoy singing songs with Sue McKinley accompanying on the piano or the Wounded Healer providing the music. Then, it is onto prayer. They continue to pray for family members, friends, and themselves. They enjoy hearing Bill Haas provide the lesson. Occasionally, Bill will have them engaged by asking for volunteers to assist with telling the story. Everyone enjoys completing a craft. Both the volunteers and participants enjoy the friendships that have developed.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers, Bill Hass, Pam King, Diane Parsons, Sue McKinley, John Wyman, Wounded Healer, and Murry Saunders. Each one brings their love of Jesus and friendship to share with the participants.

Your sister in Christ  
Annette Hull

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# Social Ministry

Joy Lindsay

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**Philippians 1:3-5 KJV 3: *I thank my God upon every remembrance of you***

The Social Ministry team is grateful for lovingkindness and generosity of this Congregation. You are truly disciples of Christ and our strong partners in God's work. None of this would happen without you!

**The Social Ministry Team members are:** Ed and Terri Devoe, Diane and Ben Parsons, Sue McKinley, Sarah Boggs, Debra Richard, Reverend Ed Boone, Dave Stocks, Ronda Stocks, and Joy Lindsay (Chair). Ed Devoe acts as Council Representative. The Quilting Ministry, led by Linda Pillar and Pam King, are a big part of Social Ministry's mission as well. Jennifer Langevin leads the Funeral Meal ministry which is hosted out of Social Ministry budget.

## **In 2025:**

We were very active as part of the Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches (Love Chapel); Reverend Ed Boone is our representative on the Board and attends the monthly meetings with Diane Parsons as his alternate. In February we hosted the Ecumenical Assembly Board Meeting at First Lutheran. In October, Pastor Amy gave the message at Worship in the Park and Social Ministry Team Lemonade served beverages as part of the free meal afterwards.

The team coordinated, counted, and delivered alternating monthly donations of food to Love Chapel and Hope Food Bank. A total of **907.1** lbs of food were donated by First Lutheran in 2025. See also monetary donations for Holiday Feasts. Debra and Dave are the bedrock of this effort.

All the team members support Love Chapel for other activities like shopping, stocking shelves, delivering food, etc. when called upon. Terri Devoe worked with Love Chapel staff to find opportunities to staff the food booth at the Bartholomew County Fair for this year.

This year we collected **\$8700** in donations, which provided **106** Love Chapel Holiday Feasts. Our goal was 50 Feasts!

The team helps to support and stock the two Walk Up Pantries on the church property.

Jenny Boggs led four Hot Meal site dinners on the first two Wednesdays in January and February.

The Run for the Buns in April raised **\$500** to be evenly split between two causes: Mill Race People Trail projects (\$200) and Just Friends Craft Supplies (\$300). Thanks to Master Baker Carla Wolff and all the participants.

We collected about **1380** items of underwear and socks in partnership with Sans Souci, holding 2 Community Drop Off opportunities. Thanks to Dave Stocks for counting and packaging the items. Items were distributed to clients in August for start of school. In 2025, at Sans Souci's request, we ended the very successful Soles for Santa program due to reduced ability to staff the program and distribute the shoes.

The Quilting Ministry met regularly on Tuesday mornings and sent **46** quilts to Lutheran World Relief in October. Starting in 2025, quilts are provided by LWR to needy people in the US as well as abroad.

This year we engaged with Graceworks All Saints Community, a low income senior community located at 5400 Yellowwood Drive in Columbus, in these ways. (1) We are providing monthly food pickup at Love Chapel and delivery for 3 residents. (2) Members of our team picked up 18 Holiday Feasts and delivered them to All Saints Community residents on December 11<sup>th</sup>. (3) Sue Mckinley led a Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixins for about 25 residents onsite at All Saints, with First Lutheran kitchen as the staging area. Thanks to all the team and congregation members who supported this new event!

Jennifer Langevin graciously acted as our Funeral Meal Coordinator (2024-2025) and served two bereavement meals in May.

We enjoyed a Social Ministry Team dinner at Zaharako's at our last meeting of 2025.

**Thank you to Ed Devoe for continuing to be our team representative on the Council in 2026!** Joy will continue to lead the team by setting the Agendas, running the monthly meetings, and producing the minutes and annual report for the team.

**Respectfully and Gratefully Submitted,** Joy Lindsay

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# Stewardship

Kelly Shelton

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## Annual Report on Stewardship: 2025 Review and 2026 Vision

**Members:** Bev McDermont, Richard Finley, Bill Haas, Kelly Shelton & Bob Stricker

### A Message from the Stewardship Committee

**The Stewardship theme for 2025 was from *Acts 20:30* *It is more blessed to give than receive.***

We are pleased to present this Annual Report on Stewardship, reflecting on the abundant grace and generosity shown by our Church community throughout 2025. This report is a testament to what we can accomplish when we prayerfully dedicate our **Time, Talent, and Treasure** to God's mission. It offers an opportunity for transparency, celebration, and a clear vision for the coming year.

As we look toward our 2026 Stewardship Campaign, we are inspired by the theme:

**“JUST AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE OTHERS, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE VARIED GRACE OF GOD.” — 1 Peter 4:10**

This verse reminds us that stewardship is not merely about meeting a budget, but about recognizing the diverse gifts God has given each of us and utilizing them faithfully to serve one another and the world. Every act of giving—from a welcoming smile to a financial pledge—is an essential thread in the tapestry of our community's grace.

### 2025: A Year of Faithful Stewardship

The congregation at First Lutheran went above and beyond in 2025 by using their Time, Talent, and Treasures.

The past year was marked by deep commitment and faithful service across all our ministries. Our collective stewardship allowed us to sustain existing programs and embrace new opportunities to serve.

#### Ministry Time and Talent

The true impact of our stewardship is seen in the lives touched by our ministries.

We maintained Vibrant, in-person and online worship services, increased support for the local community, the church family volunteering to allow First Lutheran to be self-sufficient is truly amazing.

**Financial Stewardship** -We are grateful for the financial faithfulness of our congregation. Your giving ensures the health and vitality of all we do.

### 2026 Stewardship Campaign: Serving with Varied Grace

Our 2026 Stewardship Campaign, rooted in **1 Peter 4:10**, calls each of us to a deeper, more holistic understanding of our role as stewards. The **Varied Grace of God** means every gift, no matter how small or unique, is essential.

#### The Call to Action

The 2026 campaign is an invitation to examine how you have been gifted and how you will use those gifts in the coming year.

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..."** Our shared life depends on your unique contribution.

#### Conclusion and Gratitude

Thank you. Your faithfulness in 2025 has been a powerful demonstration of Christ's love in our community and beyond. As we embark on the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, let us embrace the call to be **Good Stewards of the Varied Grace of God** and serve one another with renewed joy and commitment.

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# Worship & Music

Jennifer Langevin

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The Worship and Music Team organized and led weekly worship services along with these special services:

1. Scout Sunday – February 2, 2025 – Joint service - Scouts provided breakfast before service
2. Good Friday Service – Following speakers spoke one of seven last utterances of Christ with message - Terry Trautman, Matt Pillar, Ed Boone, Larry Rowe, Bob Stricker, Pastor Marjorie
  - a. Special Music provided by Sue McKinley and Karla Fuhs
3. Easter – Joint Service – pitch-in after
  - a. Pre-Service music provided by Praise Team
4. Pastor Marjorie’s last Sunday – May 4, 2025
5. Pastor Amy’s 1<sup>st</sup> Service at First Lutheran Church – May 11, 2025
6. Pastor Amy’s Installation – Joint Service – June 15, 2025
7. Christmas Program – Joint Service – December 21, 2025
8. Christmas Eve
  - a. Pre-Service music provided by Praise Team, Sue McKinley, Christi Tam, Kim Jones, Karla Fuhs, Richard White, Brian Jones, Terry Trautman, Steve Tam, Elizabeth Clark, Matt Pillar, and Anna East

## New Worship Related Items

1. Organizing choir loft
  - a. Scout cabinets and Eagle Scout paraphernalia brought downstairs
  - b. Bookshelf next to railing emptied and cleaned
  - c. Filing cabinets emptied and cleaned (organ filing cabinet left as is)
  - d. Disposed of old and unused computer
  - e. North Christian music being slowly added to FLC music library
  - f. Coat rack dismantled and removed
  - g. Lights added behind organ and above choir
  - h. Quote being gathered for movement of sound and audio equipment downstairs
  - i. Clean-up of sound and audio space will take place when equipment is moved
2. Brought back all singing parts of liturgy to traditional service
3. New wreath for Advent wreath

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# Youth & Family Ministry

Christi Tam

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The Youth & Family Ministry Team members are: Karla Fuhs, Kim Jones, Laura Holcomb, Gary Forkert, Theresa Forkert and Christi Tam.

The mission of this team is to provide opportunities for fellowship, outreach, service and recreation for our youth and families. It is important that all members of FLC and their friends feel welcome to attend and support the activities and events planned by the Youth & Family Ministry Team.

The year 2025 started out with a Hibernation Party, a pseudo lock-in. It was the perfect amount of time to play, eat, craft and watch a movie...so much better than finding activities to last the whole night! Adults and children alike enjoyed the party.

During the spring, we bowled, skated and stuffed eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt.

In May, a group of adults and children met in Spring Mill State Park to visit Pioneer Village, hike and picnic. A fun time was had by all!

This was the third year for Mission Week. We collected supplies and put school bags together for Lutheran World Relief. Many thanks to the overwhelming support of the congregation for donations! We helped Jenny with landscaping at church, bagged food at Love Chapel for mobile pantries, picked up trash along the People Trails and made stationery for Operation Gratitude. We ended the week with a celebration including food and water fun.

First Lutheran hosted VBS this summer. Melissa (Sandy Hook UMC), Rebecca (Petersville UMC) and I realized that it would be a LOT less work to take turns hosting, rather than move locations each night. We had such wonderful support! There were many more volunteers than kids...I think that's due to feeling like kids at heart!

This fall, we had our kick-off with a Mexican-themed meal, pinata and games. Everyone had an opportunity to give their input for activities they'd like to do for the year. We also celebrated Halloween at the airport with a pizza supper at church afterwards.

The year ended with roller-skating in November and card-making and caroling for our homebound friends in December.

Pastor Amy started a faith-building curriculum this fall geared toward 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders to bridge the gap between Sunday School and Confirmation Class. They meet the fourth Sunday of every month.

A consistent, dedicated group of families faithfully attends the activities. This adventurous, energetic, loving, supportive group continues to grow in relationship with one another.

All are welcome to participate in the Youth & Family events. We want everyone, young and old, to feel valued, supported, loved and cared for. If you love kids or are a kid at heart and are looking for a place to share your time and talents, please consider joining the Youth & Family Ministry Team!

Respectfully submitted,

Christi Tam

Youth & Family Ministry Team Leader



**A member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**