



October 2, 2022

Dear First Lutheran,

You are holding a valuable piece of the puzzle! During the week of October 9th, we handed out puzzle pieces to everyone in worship. It was the finale of our “Growing Together” series. Just like each piece in a puzzle is valuable and needed, each one of you is valuable and needed in our church. You all have unique gifts, abilities, and resources that God has given you. When any of those pieces are missing, the picture is incomplete. Yet, when we contribute our part together, the church can become everything God intended for us.

We celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful for all the men and women who so faithfully gave their best to grow First Lutheran to what it is today. Now, God is inviting us to give our best so the church can continue to grow for generations to come.



Each year during the fall, our church has taken a moment to reflect on our stewardship (how we faithfully invest the gifts God has given to us). The theme of our stewardship campaign this year is “Growing Together.” When you give your best, you help our church grow together in three specific ways. Your giving helps us deepen connections with *Christ* through our worship services and ministry programs. Your giving helps us deepen connections with our *congregation* through small groups and fellowship activities. Your giving helps us deepen connections with our *community* through local and global serving initiatives.



First Lutheran could not be what it is and do what it does without your contribution. Thank you for your partnership in ministry! This fall, we invite you to reflect on your stewardship and make a faith commitment for how you will give your best in the coming year. In this packet, you will find two cards. One card focuses on your financial pledge; the other card focuses on how you will pledge your time and abilities for the work God is doing through First Lutheran. Both are vital to the health and growth of our church. Your pledges help us plan for the coming year.

(over)



We ask that you prayerfully consider your plans for giving and serving and return your pledge cards one of the following ways during Commitment Week, October 17-24, 2022:

- Bring your completed cards with you to worship
- Fill out the forms on our website [www.firstlutheranalexandria.com](http://www.firstlutheranalexandria.com) by clicking the “Growing Together” button on our home page
- Mail your cards to the church at 1655 18<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Alexandria, MN 56308
- Drop it off at the church office

We are so grateful for your faithful support and the opportunity to grow together in a new season of ministry!

With Gratitude,

*Pastor PJ Malin*  
 PJ Malin  
 Lead Pastor

*Greg Tvrdek*  
 Greg Tvrdek  
 Church Administrator

**Year to date financial snapshot.**

Thank you for your financial support of our ministries. We end the third quarter as follows:

Year to Date 2022 Income	\$904,064
Year to Date 2022 Expenses	\$979,365
Difference	(\$ 75,301)

God’s blessings are abundant here at First Lutheran. As we come out of our summer season and kick off a full fall season, we count on your gifts and generosity

to make up this difference. As you know, costs have risen greatly this year and we have felt that here at church as well. We know that we can overcome this gap and look forward to all that is ahead as we worship, learn, and serve together.



Thank you for your continued support to the Building Fund. The building fund has received over \$1 million in contributions since June 1, 2021 in support of our “Beyond the Building” capital campaign. This puts us well on our way to eliminating our mortgage in 2024. The response has been great, and it is never too late to contribute.