



First Word

The newsletter of First Lutheran Church • Sioux Falls, South Dakota

A Message from Bishop Constanze Hagmaier

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit!

The minute-by-minute updates about the Russian invasion of Ukraine overwhelm many of us. At the same time, we are trying everything to find our way out of the pandemic and its aftermath. At this point, we are mentally, emotionally, and physically exhausted.

We are a tired people.
We are a tired world.
We are a tired church.

It can easily feel as if we have nothing more to give. But we are not alone in our weariness, even when we have no words left to say. The Apostle Paul reminds us that in our weariness, the Spirit is with us: *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”* (Romans 8:26-27)

It is an ancient pattern that the people of God turn to the words of those gone before them. When the unfathomable finds its way into our lives, when we are without words, God’s Spirit invites us to pick up the words of those gone before us and make them our own. Take Mary for example. When overwhelmed by the news that she will be with child and that God is about to do a new thing that is unprecedented in human history, she turns to Hannah for language. Adopting Hannah’s words as her own, Mary begins to find and use words to express her state of heart and mind. Picking up Hannah’s words Mary herself finds her way out of the darkness of her soul. Hannah’s words help her to courageously live and lean into her unknown and undoubtedly frightening

future. And through the adoption of Hannah’s words, Mary finds her footing again. Hannah’s words remind her that God is ever-present and will not forsake his good creation or people.

In a recent workshop at the Conference of Bishops, Dr. Betsy Stone shared the following insight: *“Trauma is the response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual’s ability to cope, causes feelings of helplessness, diminishes their sense of self, and their ability to feel a full range of emotions, and experiences.”* Did you catch that? The trauma is not the event, but the response. Trauma manifests itself in a part of the brain, the amygdala, that has no access to words. In order to work through trauma and learn to manage it, we will need to allow the trauma to move into parts of our brain that can give it language.

So, when you find yourself overwhelmed by life and without words, accept my invitation to journey with the saints gone before us. They are ready and standing by in scripture and in hymns to join you on your journey from the darkness of the soul to light and hope. Now is not the time to retreat to one’s own self and privacy, now is the time that the people of God lift up their voices with those who have gone before us, who have withstood the trials of time and temptations of the devil, who have survived fiery furnaces and genocide. We lift our voices with them for our neighbor in need of light and hope. Now is the time to be church together, to gather and remind each other of Isaiah’s words *“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”* (Isaiah 43:2)



Dear South Dakota Synod, I invite you to commit yourself with me to pray Psalm 121 daily. As we pray together word by word, we will find our sure footing to courageously live into the next moment that God has ordained in time. While at the same time we will speak God’s hope and light, which no darkness can overcome, into our neighbors’ lives. Thanks be to God for words of promise.

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- 6 the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
- 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

Journeying with you in Christ,
Rev. Constanze Hagmaier
Bishop of the South Dakota Synod

Donate to Lutheran World Relief

To express our Christian love for God’s people in the Ukraine, the First Lutheran Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) sent a \$4,000 gift to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to provide aid to the Ukraine people who have fled their country. Our gift is being matched by a congregation in Wisconsin that will match up to \$258,000 for any money received by LWR prior to April 25.

If you would like to provide a gift as well to Lutheran World Relief, you may mail your gift to:

Lutheran World Relief
P. O. Box 17061
Baltimore, MD 21297-1061



DAILY UPDATES

Social Media • Website • FLC Now

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@flcsf), and visit our website, flcsf.org, for daily updates and posts—FLC Now videos, event photos, calendar updates, and more! More of a paper person? No problem! Pick up an FLC Now sheet outside the sanctuary, or get one mailed to you.



WEEKLY UPDATES

eNews

See what’s happening around the church in the next 10 days. View the weekly pastor’s vlog, previewing the week’s worship. Sign up on the website, flcsf.org, or call the church, 336-3734.



MONTHLY UPDATES

First Word

Pick up a copy of First Word to see the stories of First Lutheran. Get a copy in your mailbox, pick one up at the church, or get it digitally. Sign up on the website, flcsf.org, or call the church, 336-3734.



Lent Kicks Off with Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday Fun!



By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director

So many people ask “What exactly is Shrove Tuesday?” Well... Lent officially begins with Ash Wednesday, but the church has a long history of celebrating the day before, Shrove Tuesday.

More commonly known by the French name, Mardi Gras, or the Spanish, Carnival—both names suggest food! Traditional foods for Shrove Tuesday are rich and fatty, but in some places of the world, by the end of winter, there was no meat left, so pancakes or some similar food became traditional fare.

Shrove Tuesday is also a celebration of foolishness and humor before the seriousness of confession on Ash Wednesday. People dress up in costumes, paint their faces, or wear masks; and they tease each other. So...before we settled in for the 40 days of Lent and a time to reflect on the road Jesus took to the cross, we celebrated!

Over 200 children, youth, and adults of all ages came to Reformation Hall on March 1 for all-you-can-eat pancakes by Chris's Cakes, Mr. Twister's balloon creations, amazing face painting, crafts, games, and a cake walk. It was beautiful chaos! Mardi Gras beads, pancakes flipping through the air, friends from Lowell Elementary, generations of families coming together!

In a world where the news often gives us little to celebrate—war in Ukraine, cancer, struggling marriages, mental illness, and so much more—the hope in butterfly faces, laughter, and the freedom to be together in community is wonderful and beautiful and yet...it is the hope in Jesus dying for you and for me on the cross to forgive our sins where we can truly rest and know the freedom of a life eternal.



Capital Campaign Update: Your Help Is Needed!



By Jean Hoff, Capital Campaign Coordinator

Your church needs you! In this article you'll find a list of all the items that still need to be met in order to accomplish the reduced goals of the God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future Capital Campaign.

The first goal is to complete the tuck pointing of the bell tower and north side of the church building. The cost is \$121,000

and we have the money to complete this project.

The atrium remodel has a cost of \$160,000 and we have \$100,000, so we are still in need of at least another \$60,000.

A committee is working on what is needed for atrium and church security and what the cost might be for this project. At this time, we do have \$60,000 that was designated for this purpose, but we could need additional funds.

More information will come once the committee has had time to develop a plan.

The sanctuary ceiling is estimated to cost \$750,000. At this time we are in need of additional money to fund this project.

The sound system is estimated to cost \$250,000. We currently have \$178,000 in the bank to help pay for this system. Additional money has also been pledged for this project.

Finally, First Lutheran has always committed 10% to mission projects.

See below for ways to donate!

- Request pledge card- Call 605-339-1983 ext. 236 to speak with Jean

- Request a visit-A member from the congregation will bring you a pledge card during this visit.

- Donate online-Visit our website at flcsf.org/give.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday: April 14, 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: April 15, 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter: April 16, 5 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 17, 7, 9, and 11 a.m.



Baptisms:	Deaths:
Jan. 22: Cole Bradley Wangsness, son of Brittany and Christopher Wangsness	Jan. 10: Wanda Lee
Feb. 20: Brooks Michael Zellmer, son of Jenna and Michael Zellmer	Jan. 11: Shirley Lloyd
	Jan. 11: Zachary Zuraff
	Jan. 12: Kenneth Thompson
	Jan. 26: Beverly Lamp
	Feb. 9: Glenice Johnson
	Feb. 18: Viola Peterson

Council Highlights: February 24, 2022

If First Lutheran members wish to add items to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Jodi Hoyt, jhoyt@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

- Income continues to be steady. Those unable to attend in person are still contributing.
- The first meeting of the Communication and Marketing Advisory Committee was held and went well. Items discussed included First Word and the engagement with the digital congregation.
- Prs. Jeff and Dave have intentionally welcomed the digital congregation the past two weeks, and Pr. Jeff has received two emails thanking him.
- Pr. Dave shared two critical needs with infrastructure: tuckpointing and security.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sat. 5 PM	Traditional, Sanctuary
Sun. 8 AM	Radio—rebroadcast of previous week on KELO-FM (101.9)
Sun. 9 AM	Traditional, Sanctuary Watch live at youtube.com/flcsf
Sun. 11 AM	Contemporary, Sanctuary Watch live at youtube.com/flcsf
Sun. 11 AM	Traditional broadcast, KSFY Sioux Falls, KPRY Pierre, KABY Aberdeen

Financial Update as of February

Total Revenue, year-to-date	
2022 Budget	\$343,836
2022 Actual	\$372,221
2021 Actual	\$390,333
Total Expenses, year-to-date	
2022 Budget	\$348,089
2022 Actual	\$326,640
2021 Actual	\$305,618
YTD Net Profit/Loss	\$45,582
Contract For Deed, Ideal	\$53,591
Worship Attendance	1,630

January and February Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation

In memory of Bob Brekke
Roger and Donna Schiager
In memory of Bev Lamp
Dorothy Grevlos
In memory of Jerry Koplín
James Fink, Dorothy Grevlos

Gifts to First Lutheran Church

Gifts to Caring Ministry

In memory of Bev Lamp
E N Wood

Gifts to Media Ministry

In memory of Mary Bullis-Hoyt
Mary Eich

In memory of Ray Ehrman
Karen Lidel

In memory of Rev. Al Erickson
Phyllis Day

In memory of Jan Everetts
FLCW, Stephen Johnson

In memory of Jackie Hanson
FLCW

In memory of Enid Johnson
FLCW

In memory of Glenice Johnson
Brian and Denise Aamlid, Larry and Marilyn Anderson, Gary and Shirley Barlow, Bob and Carolyn Bauman, Elaine Berg, Alfred Borgen, Jim Carlson, Gary Earl, Mary Eich, Joan Hansen, Bob and Karen Hemre, Karen Hohman, Barb Matson, Charlotte Peters, Lawrence Satterlee, Ruther Werner

In memory of Jeff Johnson
Marilyn Johnson

In memory of Bev Lamp
Larry and Marilyn Anderson, Bob and Carolyn Bauman, Howard Bich, Paul and Jean Colon, Bob Doescher, Mary Eich, Lyle and Jean Eidsness, Gene and Betty Erickson, James and Sandra Fink, Betty Gednalske, Shirley Gortmaker, Donald and Joyce Helberg, Bob and Karen Hemre, Karen Hohman, Cherie Hopper, Kenneth Johnson, Emil and Carol Knapp, Gregory Lee Lamp, Barb Matson, Nancy Oaks, Rosaaen Olson, Susan Osthus, Tracie Osthus, Carmen Reinholt, Don and Harriet Scott, Michael and Gloria Simpson, Kathy Stelzer, Alan and Penny Thorson, Hazel Wek

In memory of Ursala Maiwald
FLCW

In memory of Ron Mathison
Bruce and Joanne Crain

In memory of Doris Graff Minaxovic
Jeanette Edman

In memory of Cindy Olson
Larry and Betty Olson

In memory of Ken Thompson
Ronald and Deborah Hesla

In memory of Bruce Williams
Karel Williams

Gifts to God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future—Soundboard

In memory of Sarah Wollman
Stan and Norma Schmidt

Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

Thank you for your generous support. The continuing pandemic has shown how critical our Media Ministry is to our extended congregation outside the walls of First Lutheran Church.

We have heard from many of our viewers and listeners who have been able to stay connected and worship with the family of First Lutheran. Providing a weekly worship experience for those unable to attend in person has been part of FLC ministry for decades.

Sponsorships Available Now

To learn about sponsoring, please visit flcsf.org/media-ministry or call the church at (605) 336-3734. Sponsor opportunities include weekly worship:

- KSFY telecast
- Closed captioning
- KELO-FM radio
- YouTube live stream

Additional opportunities include church holiday worship and special events. General Media Ministry donations are always welcome.

Thank You, January and February Sponsors

January 2, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Stephen Johnson in honor of his mother's 100th birthday.

January 9, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in honor of the FLC staff.

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Samantha Kramer, made possible by earnings from a gift by family and friends to the FLC Foundation.

The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of William Bentzinger Sr., Harold Spitznagel, and Wallace Steele, through earnings of a gift to the FLC Foundation, by Spitznagel, Inc. of Sioux Falls.

January 16, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was given in memory of Leo Roti, whose birthday would have been January 11, by Alta Roti.

January 23, 2022

The telecast and closed captioning on KSFY were sponsored by Lori and David Melemseter.

January 30, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM and closed captioning on KSFY were sponsored in remembrance of Dick Matson and Martin and Margaret Summervold by Barb Matson and family.

February 6, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Les Rollag, whose 90th birthday would have been February 15, by his family.

February 13, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM and closed captioning on KSFY were given in celebration of Mike and Gloria Simpson's anniversary.

February 20, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Pam & David Marburger and family in memory of Robert and Dorothy Davis. Their 75th wedding anniversary would have been January 26, and Dorothy would have celebrated her 95th birthday on February 23.

February 27, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in honor of Jerry and Kathy Bloch's 60th wedding anniversary on February 24, 2022.



church center

Install the Church Center App

The Church Center app allows you to explore, engage, and get involved with the church throughout the week. See a calendar of events, give, check in for worship and Scripture First, and register for events—all at your fingertips. Visit flcsf.org/apps.

Around the Church

April Special Offering

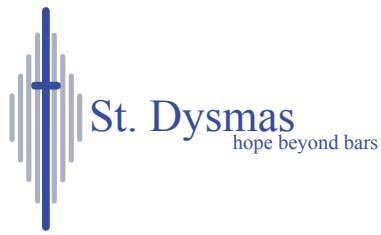
By Jon Martin, Evangelism and Outreach Board Member

St. Dysmas

In 1989, in response to a need to provide worship, ministry, and fellowship to those in prison at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, St. Dysmas was born. The name St. Dysmas comes from the name of the thief believed to be hung on the cross next to Jesus. This man asked Christ to be remembered. The St. Dysmas ministry strives to minister to those incarcerated who also feel lost, forgotten, or abandoned.



Pastor Wayne Gallipo has recently retired as pastor and development coordinator for this ministry, and the church is in the call process. The



pastor of St. Dysmas is assisted by Pastor David Bentz in Springfield and Re-entry Coordinator Mitch Wilson.

The re-entry program is a new ministry that has emerged within the last few years. The goal of the re-entry program is to assist newly released inmates with re-establishing a life in the community. Assistance includes helping with housing needs and employment as well as having a mentor group to help them be successful in navigating the world. FLC has a group that is waiting for a person to mentor. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Pastor Jeff.

Over the last couple of years, the pastors and visitors have been restricted from the facilities at different times, but visitors are now allowed back inside the walls for worship. Typically, First Lutheran has organized a group twice a year to join the St. Dysmas congregation in their Thursday evening worship service. The experience is

quite unique. If you are interested, watch FLC media channels for sign-up opportunities. Security paperwork is required to attend and takes several weeks to be approved.

Family Connection

To help meet the needs of people visiting loved ones in prison, Family Connection was established in 1996. Family Connection strives to strengthen the bond between family members separated by incarceration and provides support to those visiting the South Dakota Penitentiary.



Family Connection provides housing and meals for these family members through their hospitality houses.

Two hospitality houses currently function in Sioux Falls. In addition, Family Connection provides support to children of incarcerated parents and facilitates visitation between family members and their incarcerated loved ones. The ministry has been restricted at times over the last couple of years but strives to continue to provide services in a safe manner. To learn more about Family Connection, visit sdfamilyconnection.org.

Please consider financial support of these important ministries. Donate via any of the following:

- Use your special offering envelopes.
- Use a regular envelope. Please indicate Prison Ministries in the memo line of your check.
- Donate online. Visit flcsf.org/give to submit your donation electronically.

Please note "Prison Ministries" on the memo line of any check made out to First Lutheran Church. Unless otherwise indicated, your donation will be divided equally between St. Dysmas and Family Connection.

Please keep the work done by St. Dysmas and Family Connection in your prayers, and thank you for your support!

Fellowship in Katie's Commons

By Deb Nelson, Welcome and Community Board Chair

The Welcome and Community Board invites you to come to Katie's Commons on Sunday mornings between worship services. Come to the Gathering Room and have a cup of coffee, a treat (usually a donut), and conversation with family and friends. Maybe make a new friend!



Martin Luther and Katharine von Bora had guests in their home on a regular basis. Katie was a wonderful host and as we renamed our gathering on Sunday mornings a few years ago, we thought it fitting to honor Katharine.

Come, gather, and build community in Katie's Commons.

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Get to Know Katie



Hello everyone! My name is Katie McGuire, and I'm the new Communication and Media Coordinator for FLC! I'll be behind the scenes working on member communication and various media for the church.

I grew up in Sioux Falls and have been a member of FLC since 2009. I graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in Media & Journalism and a minor in creative writing.

When I'm not at work, I spend a lot of time with my friends, family, my fiancé TJ, and our precious dog, Dottie girl. We currently live downtown and love the atmosphere, especially during the summer!

I'd like to think I'm a movie buff, and film history is a hobby of mine. My goal is to collect all of American Film Institute's top 100 films of all time; I have 23 and counting! I also really enjoy exercise. If I'm not working out in a gym, I love to cycle the trails and go for walks.

After working in the fitness industry for six years, I'm excited for the change in my career! I'm especially excited to be more involved with the First Lutheran community and look forward to meeting you all!

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104
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Give Electronically

Donate through the Church Center app, or text to give.
Visit flcsf.org/give