



First Word

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

Senior Pastor Call Process: It's a Journey

By Michael Kedik, Executive Committee Vice President



When a senior pastor leaves, a congregation enters the "interim period"—the period between two regularly called senior pastors. The interim period may be difficult for a congregation, as it grieves the loss of the previous pastor and enters a period of uncertainty. However, the interim period can also be a positive and productive time for the congregation, as it re-examines its ministry and mission and seeks to discern God's calling and purpose for it in the future.

Our congregation has already embarked on the interim journey. It began with a farewell to our retired senior pastor and will soon concentrate on a process of discernment. The interim journey will be completed with a grand welcome of our new senior pastor. Some of you have witnessed this process successfully many times at First Lutheran while others will be experiencing this for the first time. To aid in keeping everyone informed, below is an overview of the steps of our journey (we are currently at step 3).

Overview of the steps to seek a new senior pastor:

- 1) Inform the synod office of your rostered minister opening
 - Have time for prayer and reflection as your congregation goes through this transition
- 2) Arrange for pastoral assistance during the transition
- 3) Complete a congregational assessment
 - Create a call committee
 - Complete a Ministry Site Profile (MSP)
- 4) Conduct ministry site study
- 5) Begin candidate process
 - Candidate profiles are sent to the call committee for review
 - Interviews with candidates are scheduled and completed by call committee
- 6) Present a recommendation; Council acts on the recommendation of the call committee
- 7) Hold congregational meeting to vote on the candidate
- 8) Candidate discerns call
- 9) Install new senior pastor

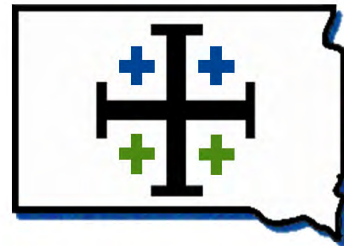
As we enter the call committee formation phase of the journey, I am reminded of the many questions, comments, and good intended suggestions that have been brought forward and shared thus far. I want to remind everyone that based on our Lutheran theology, a pastor is CALLED to serve a congregation, NOT HIRED. The call process is not a popularity contest in which hordes of candidates promote themselves - so that the call committee can select one as "Best in Show."

Suggestions to "let's get started" and referrals of "I know a great Lutheran pastor down in Kansas we should talk to" are understandable, but quite frankly misguided. I understand why there is desire for the process to move quickly, but are we sure we even know what we are looking for? Research indicates that a major mistake is to be overly influenced by reactions to the previous pastor. Some congregations go looking for a new pastor who is "just like the previous one." Other congregations may go looking for a new pastor who is "exactly the opposite of the previous one." Neither approach is a good idea. The anxiety of searching for a new senior pastor brings with it "emotional" ideas and suggestions that can be misguided. The loss of a pastor has left us feeling that "something is missing." What is missing is—obviously—a pastor, so the emotional response is to begin immediately looking for pastoral candidates to fill the missing gap.

We must believe it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who will guide our journey. Many people report that serving on a call committee was one of the most important and inspirational things they have ever done. They report firsthand how the Holy Spirit worked through extremely committed call committee members to help the church be faithful to its calling. They share that it let them participate in opening a new chapter in the life and ministry of their church.

How long is the call process going to take? When will we have our new senior pastor? Have we hired a headhunter? Based upon text messages and phone calls that I have received; those three questions appear to be top of mind for many. Those questions remind me of the #1 question I used to get as a landscape business owner. That question was always: "How long will it take for my freshly planted grass seed to produce a beautiful lawn?" My answer was always: "It depends." For grass seeds to

germinate and grow, many factors come into play. Those of course include soil temp, air temp, moisture level, and even soil type. Even with those variable factors in mind, I always assured them that if they follow my seed growing plan and didn't stop following it, they will eventually have a beautiful lawn. Be patient!



South Dakota Synod, ELCA

Are there things you can do to make grass seed germinate and grow more quickly? Of course. A little-known trick is to do what I call "upsetting the seed." The process includes getting the seed wet, letting it completely dry, and then getting it wet again. If you do the wet/dry process diligently

three times a day without missing a watering, in about a week your seeded area will begin to look fuzzy, and in about 14 days you will have at least 1" high grass growing.

Pastor Zellmer, who oversaw many call processes when serving as bishop, has stated "the congregation really needs to simply take a breath". He said "the Good news of Jesus Christ is still being preached, you are still receiving Holy Communion, people are still being baptized, and those in need are still being visited." "Jesus, is still Lord of the church." When calling a new pastor, there is not a good way to speed up the process. Could it take 6 months, 9 months, or even 12+ months? Maybe? Only time will tell. Furthermore, in contrast to growing grass seed, upsetting the (seed) process will not speed it up. It will actually delay it and make it much harder. Understand that we are starting a new chapter in the life of First Lutheran Church and that the Holy Spirit will indeed guide us. I ask everyone to pray and let the Holy Spirit do great work through all of us.



The Only Constant in Life is Change

By Pastor Jeff Backer



Err, well, the actual quote from Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, is quoted as saying, "Change is the only constant in life."

It has been my joy and delight to serve as your pastor these last four and a half years. But I remind many that my time here at First Lutheran started over 20 years ago, in the fall of 2001, when you hired Marnie to come on board

as your youth director. Some understand this, but when you are the spouse of a church staff member, you are often volun-told to be involved in things, and so even from that time, you started to hone me to be the pastor I am today and will be tomorrow. And it is time to let me take wing and fly.

I have been asked by many of you what encompasses my new call as Senior Pastor of St. Dysmas of South Dakota. The Senior Pastor role is a 50/50 split role. I serve as the pastor to the congregation here in Sioux Falls on the hill. Pastor David Bentz serves as a part-time associate pastor and is the pastor to the congregation that meets at Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD, and Dani Jo Ninke serves as the chaplain to the Yankton Trustee Unit. There are currently seven people on staff with St Dysmas including Pr. David and Dani Jo that carry out the ministry, to which I will serve as head of staff.

The other 50% of my role will be as the Director of Development for St. Dysmas of South Dakota.

What that means is that St. Dysmas does not receive funding directly from the South Dakota Synod. I will be traveling around the state, as well as SW Minnesota and NW Iowa, telling the story of St. Dysmas and fundraising for the salaries and function of the ministry.

There are other programs of St. Dysmas that impact lives. Four years ago, St. Dysmas began a re-entry program to assist men when released from prison. St. Dysmas partners with agencies like the St. Francis House, the Glory House, Kingdom Boundaries Aftercare Ministries, and several others to accompany these men in reintegrating back into society in a supported and healthy way.

Thank you for the many ways you have supported the work we have done in my time here at FLC. While I cannot serve in a pastoral function like baptisms, weddings, or funerals after my departure, I do look forward to coming back to tell you the story of how God is at work through this partnership ministry.

God's richest blessings on you all. Pr. Jeff

Youth and Family Ministry Updates



Children's and Youth Music: Revisioning for Growth

By Matt Tylutki, Children's and Youth Music Director

Registration is now open for FLC's Children's and Youth 2022-23 music ensembles, and I encourage you to sign up for the new offerings we have this year. A committee of parents and I have had the pleasure of imagining how our programming may position itself to grow as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic that halted singing in choirs across the world.



I have had the joy of getting to know the First Lutheran congregation in this first year of serving as your Director of Children's and Youth Music. When hired, one of your long-term goals was to develop a program to not only prepare music for Sunday morning worship, but to nurture lifelong music makers and worship leaders at FLC.

This past year I gathered a team of parents whose children are involved in every aspect of the current program to determine the best way to accomplish this goal. We began by looking at other leading churches in Christian music education across Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Catholic denominations. We consulted with leaders of programs like the Choir School at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN, seeking advice for what does and doesn't work, and gathered up our findings to imagine a program built specifically for the FLC community. The excellent and careful planning of our parent team means that the opportunities for Children's and Youth Music at FLC will look different next year with expanded programming.

It is hard to ignore the fact that choirs at FLC are smaller as we emerge from the pandemic. This certainly gives any conversation around a change in programming a sense of heightened anxiety. However, FLC is not alone in this battle, with high schools and universities in the Sioux Falls area seeing reduced participation in musical ensembles. This reality means this past year was in fact the perfect time to reassess what makes a strong program. We believe the proposed restructuring of vocal and bell choirs at FLC will put us in a strong position to grow

ensembles in the coming years and develop a quality music education program within the framework of the Lutheran faith.

All Children's and Youth ensembles will be under the umbrella of the new First Lutheran Church Choir School. In order to give our work direction, the parent group developed the mission statement, "The FLC Children's and Youth Music program will establish a strong foundation in children for musical and liturgical participation in worship." This program encompasses vocal and bell choirs and signifies that beyond the noble cause of making music in worship, we will focus on educating young musicians to be lifelong leaders in worship.

Carol Choir will continue to be our youngest singers at FLC but will shift to include kindergarten through second grade and sing approximately once monthly in worship. The FLC Choristers will make up the largest ensemble encompassing kids in third through eighth grade and will frequently sing in worship. The Youth Choir will be made up of students in ninth through twelfth grade and serve as an opportunity to pursue small ensemble repertoire and to prepare music for singing with the Parish Choir. Bell choir opportunities will remain the same with middle school and high school ensembles, but we will be adding an opportunity for young ringers and beginners of any age. This new bell choir will be for kids in first grade through fourth grade as well as any older kids who want to begin ringing bells.

The FLC Choir School will also focus on the training of the whole musician. All ensembles will work with the Royal School of Church Music VOICE for LIFE curriculum, which emphasizes musical literacy and understanding the function of music within the worship life of the church. Students in the program will work through VOICE for LIFE at their own pace. There will be scheduled time each week to work one-on-one with leaders on new concepts and to track progress through the program.

The Piano Lab will also resume classes to support the musical development of students enrolled in the chorister program. Students of the Piano Lab will learn keyboard skills through a hands-on curriculum taught either in a classroom setting or individual lessons. Keyboard skills are an essential tool for learning music theory, composition, sight singing, and building a solid musical foundation on which to build other instrumental and vocal skills.

I am excited to see the possibilities of this program come to fruition this coming fall. Thank you for your dedication to continuing the church's song through new generations. Registration will open for all ensembles on May 1 and will continue through August 15.

Working at Bible Camp

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director

Summer Bible Camp—an instrumental piece of youth ministries everywhere! Taking children and youth out of the city, out of their cozy bedrooms and comfort zones, to experience something brand new! Sleeping in a cabin, under the stars, in a tent, on the beach! Worship in the beauty of God's creation or maybe in a barn or on canoes! Playing games with other youth from all over the state or even the country. All that is just some of what a camper experiences.

Now, who is leading them through all these amazing adventures? It's their camp counselor! Camp counselors are often young adults, 18-22 years old. Most of them are attending college or university, studying to be teachers, accountants, doctors, business leaders, and many other wonderful things—maybe even pastors or youth ministers!



I was recently visiting with Randy

Youngquist-Thurrow, Associate Director of Lutherans Outdoors, and he mentioned a study that asked fifty Fortune 500 companies if they would prefer to hire a camp counselor or someone who had interned in their company for three months. The study found that 47 out of 50 said they would hire the camp counselor because they are more well-rounded!

Camp counselors are learning how to manage people (teenagers specifically), walk through difficult emotions, take care of injuries of all types, lead Bible studies, teach games, get youth excited to sing camp songs and do actions, be able to put their campers' needs ahead of their own, arts and crafts, lifeguard, saddle horses, camp, make meals on a campfire, not to mention the myriad of work projects they are asked to do once the campers head home. And at some camps, you're also called on to act in a Christ Hike, musical, or be in the church choir! Frankly, I'm just getting started on the list!

Camp counselors are getting harder and harder to find. The pay is low, students feel the pressure to work in their field of study, it's away from home for the whole summer, and you are working 24 hours a day with maybe a Saturday off to do your laundry—but is it worth it YES! First Lutheran wants to lift up this experience in a young adult's life. Camp raises great leaders in all fields, but here are a couple of comments from a few closer to home:

"Working at camp as a counselor or program director is a marvelous place to practice your faith, learn about leadership, hard work, and building an intentional faith community each week of camp. The vast majority of adult leaders I have worked with in the church can trace their faith journey through one of our Bible Camps." Pastor Dave Zellmer

"Working at Camp Metigoshe allowed me to grow and challenge myself as a leader. It gave me a summer of outdoors, intentionality with my faith, lifelong friends, and the space to teach kids about our amazing God!" Youth Minister, Skylar Schwab

"Working at Bible camp gave me a chance to develop my musical gifts and deepen my faith while in service to others. The best part was that's where I met my future wife!" Contemporary Music Coordinator, Larry Olson

First Lutheran Church wants to offer a college scholarship to any FLC members who work at an ELCA Bible Camp. Our hope is to match the amount camp pays them in the form of a scholarship for their college/university. If you would like to be a part of encouraging folks to be a part of ministry in this way, donations may be made to FLC with "Lutheran Camp Staff Fund" in the memo line, or maybe you have Thrivent Choice Dollars that are looking for a good home!

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First Communion Milestone

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director

In March and April, 19 fifth graders came to the church with their parents to learn about the two sacraments we celebrate in the Lutheran church. What are these two sacraments (parents ask your children now to see if they know)? Baptism and Holy Communion!

Pastor Lars, Skylar, Valerie, and I are all involved in helping bring this milestone to life for families. Each week we spend time getting to know one another, learning about the sacraments. (What makes a sacrament? An earthly item combined with God's word!) And... that when God makes a promise... HE KEEPS IT! We also put our creativity to work making a blessing bowl and chalice out of clay, baking bread together, and then finally having a taste test of communion wafers and wine—so many "this tastes yucky" faces to capture! Above all we want the fifth graders to know that God has claimed them as his own, he forgives them of their sins, and they are made new in the forgiveness of Jesus. Please join us in praying for these young families and celebrate with them as they now join the table each week.





Baptisms:	Deaths:
Mar. 20: Deklan Samuel May, son of Taya and Ethan May	Mar. 9: John Kittelson
Molly Marilyn Sawyer, daughter of Anne and Ethan Sawyer	Mar. 10: Thelma McElhane
	Mar. 15: Thelma Brown
	Mar. 20: John Buren
	Mar. 20: Melvin Anderson
	Mar. 31: Wanda Hernes

Council Highlights: March 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.

- February income was below that of 2021, but we are still on budget.
- Pr. Dave shared that pastoral care is in a great position right now with visitation pastors and onsite pastors at FLC.
- Call committee names will be taken through Easter.
- Beginning with the June issue, *First Word* will be reformatted to the size of a bulletin to allow for easier adjustments to length and improved quality of printing. Content and frequency will not change.
- The facilities use contract has been updated with necessary verbiage to identify fees, A/V needs, and more.
- The wedding policy is being updated. Counseling will be brought back to FLC with the pastors rather than being outsourced.
- A cleaning company has been offered a contract to clean the high-traffic areas of the building three times per week. A replacement has not been hired following Rick East's (custodian) retirement.

God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Capital Campaign Coordinator

The design for the Atrium is coming together! We have had meetings to discuss the design, and the architects have given us costs based on their knowledge of construction prices. It is important that we get the



God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future
First Lutheran Church
100th Anniversary Capital Campaign



receptionist out into the Atrium for safety and security. It is hard for the receptionist to see when people are coming in and where they are going. It is also hard for those coming to the church to see where to go to get help.

Before the architects begin the process of the construction plans, the Church Council will approve the design plan. Once the design plan is approved, the architects will begin. *First Word* will keep you apprised of any information regarding the remodel of the Atrium as well as where we are with the tuck pointing, the sound system, the sanctuary ceiling, and mission component of the campaign.

March Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future

In memory of Vi Peterson
Sharyl Wolf
In memory of Glenice Johnson
Jean Hoff

Gifts to Media Ministry

In memory of John Buren
Howard and Arlene Bich, Kathy Stelzer
In memory of Jan Everetts
LaVonne Wolf
In memory of Karen Hartje
Ruth Werner
In memory of Glenice Johnson
Howard and Arlene Bich, Barney and Mary
Brandenburg, Bill and Rachel Burggraaf, John and
Cathy Christopherson, Jim and DeAnn Clark, Bob
Doescher, Shirley Drobny, Lyle and Jean Eidsness,
Don and Judy Erickson, Gene and Betty Erickson,
Jim and Sandy Fink, Betty Gednalske, Vance and
Sherry Goldammer, Judy Green, Roger Haugo,
Arlene Hoek, Mary Ann Hohman, Delores Johnson,
Stephen Johnson, Emil and Carol Knapp, Earleen
Knauer, Roger Lamp, Marilyn McLeod, Ron and
Cindy Moegenburg, James and Mindy Moore, Milton
Mutch, Carl and Janet Naessig, Bill and Nancy Olson,
Tracie Osthus, Sandra Pedersen, LaMoyné and Karyn
Pederson, Barb Peterson, Franklin Pudas, Mike and
Gloria Simpson, Bob and Marilyn Van Demark, Penny
Volin

In memory of John Kittelson
Larry and Marilyn Anderson, Phyllis Day, Joanne
Hagen, Carmen Reinholt

In memory of Bev Lamp
Phyllis Day, Mary Ann Hohman, Carl and Janet
Naessig, Bill and Nancy Olson, Franklin Pudas, Ray
and Rosalie Ramstad, Irene Rezac

In memory of Vi Peterson
Linda Braun, Vance and Sherry Goldammer, Gregg
Greenfield, Jack and Linda Heilman, Jean Hoff,
Marlene Linton, Gregory and Carol Puerkel, Kathy
Stelzer

In memory of Zachary Zuraff
LaVonne Wolf

Gifts to Music Ministry

In memory of Bill Westerdahl
Bob and Karen Hemre
In memory of John Kittelson
Jeanette Edman, Joan Hansen
In memory of John Buren
Nancy Nervig, Sharyl Wolf

Gifts to Organ Fund

In memory of John Kittelson
Dorothy Grevlos

Gifts to Project CAR

In memory of Karen Hartje
Carl and Janet Naessig

Gifts to Easter Garden 2022

Joe and Jan Barron—in honor of children,
grandchildren, and great-grandchildren
Judy Morstad—in memory of Kent Morstad

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

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, March Sponsors

March 2, 2022 – Ash Wednesday

The telecast and closed captioning on KSFY were sponsored by Judy Jasper for nursing home residents and homebound individuals. It was also in honor of the FLC pastors for their ministry in spreading the word of God.

March 6, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Dr. Doris Eggers Huseboe; her parents, Delbert and Erna Eggers; and her grandparents, Claus and Mary Eggers and Richard and Lena Schneider. Funds for this have been made available through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Paul Willadsen by Donna Willadsen and in celebration of what would have been their 68th wedding anniversary.

March 13, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was given in memory of Marie Steen, made possible through earnings of the bequest of her daughter, L. Inez Rognley, to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in celebration of the memory of David and Susan Lankford. Made possible by earnings through a gift by their family and friends to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

March 20, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Norman Salem, who would have celebrated his birthday on March 19, by his daughters—Karla and Karen—and their families.

March 27, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Orville Hill, who celebrated his 98th birthday on St. Patrick's Day, March 17.

Mobilize your giving
Donate through our app
or "Text to Give"

Download our Church Center app today (for Apple and Android) and donate one time or setup recurring donations.
Visit flcsf.org/give



Around the Church



May Special Offering

By Rev. Dan Johnson of Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries, Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Thank you for supporting the people of Pine Ridge. Ministry continues at the center, but it looks different. We have now gone two years without a visiting group on property. We miss the visitors and the energy they bring. We recently finished up an online intensive course for seminary students from around the country.

Many of our normal ministries continue. We are still doing the energy match. As I write this, we have helped 220 households and over 1200 people stay a little warmer. This fall and winter we have handed out over 600 hygiene kits, 500 blankets and countless diapers. Each week we are feeding 130 kids and providing them snacks and activities. The job corps is hard at work and are doing a great job with the ministries and keeping the building beautiful and ready for guests.

New this year we are working with other organizations and the tribe to address homelessness in Pine Ridge. While our partners run the night shelter, we are providing the center as a day shelter. Each day we have 20-35 people staying warm, safe, clean, and fed in the lower level. They can watch Netflix, play cards, shower, or just relax. But perhaps more importantly we can provide other services such as helping to do addiction evaluations, help them acquire ID's and provide other services.



Speaking of homelessness, we were awarded a grant through the state of South Dakota to address homelessness. We are doing street outreach to let people know what services are available. We are funding the shelter. And we are helping individuals and families acquire new homes.

Working with our partner church bodies Pastor Dan is leading worship at the Episcopal Church, Holy Cross, monthly and at 2 Presbyterian Churches with our local partners. Funerals are a common occurrence, and we maintain the community building at Holy Cross. Pastor Dan is regularly leading funeral services.

Who knows what 2022 will hold for us? We will be here doing our best to make a difference in the lives of the Lakota people. Read more at pineridgereconciliationcenter.org.

Thank you so much for your support of the people of Pine Ridge.

Rev. Dan Johnson
Lutheran/Lakota Shared Ministries
Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Please consider financial support of this ministry by using one of the special offering envelopes or by writing "May Special Offering" on the memo line of a check made out to First Lutheran Church. You may also donate through the Church Center app or at flcsf.org/give.

No matter what you do, please remember the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in your prayers. Thank you for your support!

May: Mental Health Awareness Month

By Barney Brandenburg, Care & Health Board Chair

The month of May is traditionally designated as Mental Health Awareness Month. The Care and Health Board at FLC is assisting those who are having issues with their mental health and their families through the support of two agencies—NAMI South Dakota and the Empire Mental Health Support Group.



NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, was founded in 1979 by a group of families sitting around a kitchen table who saw the need to help individuals and families who have been impacted by mental illness. Over time, NAMI has subsequently grown into the largest grassroots mental health organization in the U.S., and it currently has more than 600 affiliates and encompasses 48 states. It has as its stated goals to raise awareness, provide support and education, strive for advocacy, and in general build better lives for millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

NAMI SD was founded in 1987 and currently has six affiliate sites throughout our state. Even during the pandemic, NAMI was at work in 2021 touching the lives of 5,561 South Dakotans. Among those impacted included students in outreach programs, participants in family support group meetings, and mental health wellness activities. All their services are at no cost to those who receive the support.

In order to meet the financial goals that support their ongoing programs, NAMI SD is hosting a fundraising walk on Saturday, May 21, in Fawick Park commencing at 8 a.m. To register for the walk or donate, visit namiwalks.org/southdakota.

The Empire Mental Health Support group is another non-profit entity that assists those in need by sponsoring care meetings with trained peers and trained family members as well as providing education and outreach efforts within the Sioux Falls area. Their services are also available at no cost to the recipient. Visit empirementalhealthsupport.org to learn more.

If there is one silent side effect of this pandemic, it is that many have suffered from a mental health perspective. If you know of someone who might benefit from these services, please contact either of these resources for help. The need for financial assistance has never been greater. We know that any monetary gift would be deeply appreciated.



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Funerals at FLC

By Jean Hoff, FLCW President

For over 100 years, the women of First Lutheran have been serving funeral receptions. This service has touched many families at First Lutheran over all these years. Even the funeral homes in Sioux Falls remark on how nice the receptions at First Lutheran look with the beautiful centerpieces and colored woven placemats that are used in the center of the tables. This service is a wonderful way for the congregation to be kind and caring to a family that has lost a loved one.



As the size of our congregation has diminished, so has the number of women who are able to serve at a funeral. To help facilitate funerals going forward, teams have been developed. We are looking for couples or individuals who would serve at a funeral. We are also looking for members who would be willing to bake bars, cake, or cookies for funerals. Perhaps you would be willing to wash dishes after a funeral? Serving funerals should be a congregational effort, and so more First Lutheran members are needed to help.

My family has been personally touched a number of times by the love, kindness, and care of the individuals' serving funerals for my parents, my brother, and my son. It may be necessary in the future for families to work with a caterer for funeral receptions. If you're able to help in any way, please contact Jean Hoff at 605-941-7352 via call or text, or jhoff@flcsf.org.

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED