



First Word

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

Now What? Updates from Pastor Jason



By Pastor Jason Burggraff

“It’s like cows standing out in the pasture, staring at a newly opened gate...”

I clearly remember one of my beloved seminary professors, Jim

Nestingen, joyfully quoting his beloved colleague, retired Professor of Systematic Theology, Gerhard Forde, who used this picture to describe what happens when you hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time (and the Gospel always comes as new news, so this hopefully happens often). When you hear and trust that despite all of your bluster, sin, and pride, all has been done for you, and that

you don’t need to do anything...when you hear now that Christ has died for your sins and was raised so that you too will be raised...well what do you want to do now? All of a sudden, the whole of God’s creation is opened up to you. And you know what? It has!

Cows in the pasture with a newly opened gate pretty well describes these weeks after Easter. He is risen, Alleluia! This is truly good news, but now what? Those disciples of Jesus weren’t quite sure what to make of the resurrection. They heard it preached to them and didn’t believe it. (moo!) But then Jesus appeared to them in bodily form. Mark says he “upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness” (a refreshingly human and brotherly response to those guys!). But then he charged them to “Go into all

the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:14-17). Luke’s Gospel tells us that Jesus appeared, startling the disciples, reassured them, asked for something to eat, and then began to preach that he (the Son of Man) was the fulfillment of all the promises of scripture. He then said they would proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. What a wide-open gate those disciples had! Yet they had to wait until Pentecost and the Holy Spirit’s power to carry their preaching—cows staring at an open gate.

We too often sit in the wonder of it all that Christ has been raised from the grave, really—and that your sins are all taken

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Pueblo de Dios Fundraiser

Sunday, May 5 • 10am to 12:30pm
Reformation Hall

Buffet:

\$20 Adults and Youth 13+

\$10 Youth 7-12

\$5 Youth 6 and under

Dancing • Salsa Making • Piñatas!

Pre-order tamales, enchiladas, and salsa to go!

Call church office, 605/336.3734

Board Updates

February Council Highlights



*By Cami Jacobsen,
Council President*

Reports

Financial

The year-to-date net income is \$31,000 better than budget. Total revenue is \$45,000 better than budget; offerings are \$51,000 above where we were at this point in 2023. YTD expenses are also up \$14,000 to-budget due to increased property maintenance.

Pr. Jason

The Lent theme, “Hymns of Our Faith,” has been well received along with the hymn bracket. The Mark Bible studies are being presented three times per week and are being well attended and enjoyed. The youth are putting on “FLC’s Got Talent” as their fundraiser for summer camps and trips.

Executive Committee

Randy Olawsky is working on updating the payment request forms for the restricted accounts. He coordinated a training session for the board chairs on Monday and will have one-on-one meetings as needed.

Capital Campaign

The current Capital Campaign projects include asbestos abatement, new flooring in the Gathering Room, Control Room update to the HVAC system, and the new sound systems in the Sanctuary and Chapel.

Discussion

Capital Campaign projects were discussed, specifically which projects Council should move forward with. Two important projects were suggested: Welcome Center restroom remodel and Sanctuary entrance remodel. It was decided that a subcommittee be formed to discuss this further and that the restrooms at the back of the sanctuary be also looked at. A motion was made and approved to rehire Architecture Incorporated to create new plans to renovate the Welcome Center restrooms and Sanctuary entrance.

The Awareness Campaign has \$50,000 earmarked in the annual budget. The goal of the campaign is to welcome 20-30 families to the congregation as pledging members to financially justify an unpausing on the third pastor call process. It was brought up that this could include the “Next Big Thing” subcommittee that

informally formed after the 2023 Council Retreat to review the possibilities of a daycare or music school. An Awareness Campaign subcommittee was formed to move this forward.

Other Business

A new insurance policy has been received and signed. Our old property insurance premium was \$30,000, and the new policy is approximately \$37,000 if paid in-full.

The parking lot will be getting a facelift in the spring. The project will cost \$30-40,000 to reseal, restripe, re-level low spots, and replace worn sections. There is a match for the parking lot fund to encourage further giving to this project. Donations to this project will be greatly appreciated.

The two new, replacement Council members, Eric Severson and Karon Gubbrud, were approved.

Val Peters asked each Board to consider how they could help with the Sidewalk Arts Festival. The Evangelism and Outreach Board needs more volunteers to be committed to justify signing up for a booth again this year.

May Special Offering – Journey of Hope

*By LeAnne Klemme, Evangelism and
Outreach Board Member*

The May Special Offering supports Journey of Hope. This program was started in 2020 by Kari and Darin Palmer in memory of their son, Sven.

Sven was gifted with what his parents describe as an “old soul.” He had an innate ability to understand the troubles of this world at an early age. It wouldn’t be long until depression and hopelessness planted in his mind, and he turned to “self-medicating,” using drugs and alcohol, hoping this would ease his pain and suffering. Sven always carried a blue

tote with him wherever he went. This tote contained clean socks and basic hygiene items.

Sven’s family hoped and prayed he would be able to recover and share his story of hopelessness to hope, but he passed away on February 19, 2020. Through his passing, his family learned how Sven was able to share hope through his music wherever his life took him.

Remember that little blue tote?

Through Sven, Kari and Darin continue to spread Christ’s love to others through Journey of Hope. They developed a program to fill and give away blue

Journey of Hope drawstring bags filled with hygiene items, socks, and words of inspiration for people experiencing mental health issues, incarceration, or homelessness.

As you read this brief article, prayerfully consider providing financial support or volunteering by filling those blue bags or writing notes of encouragement. Use your special offering envelope or write Journey of Hope in the memo line of your check to contribute financially. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will be used to spread hope, grow compassion, and spark change!

Board Updates

FLCW/WELCA – An Opportunity for Growth and Service

An “Opportunity for Growth” can be yours by joining FLCW/WELCA, participating in a Bible Study Circle, and attending our quarterly meetings. Our May 2 Salad Supper is an excellent way to get started. Cynthia Sheppard, our guest speaker, considers her presentations an opportunity to be of service to God. Through her topic “A Garden of My Heart,” she will help us understand how the seeds we sow in our lives can truly make a difference for God’s people. Please join us in the Gathering Room at 6 p.m. for salads and desserts, fellowship, inspiration, and growth.

Lutheran World Relief was organized after World War II to help Lutherans in need. It is one of the safest and most effective agencies in the world. As such, Lutheran World Relief has been the focus and recipient of many warm quilts and kit projects at First Lutheran Church for decades, and our work continues.

Fabric kits sent to various countries are used to teach recipients how to sew, thus giving them a trade with which they can start a business to support themselves.

Health care kits provide items to many who have suffered extreme loss due to wars and conflicts. In the U.S., most of us can take for granted getting to be clean, but items such as a bath towel, soap, and a toothbrush can mean the world to those living in refugee camps. Often baby showers hosted by family provide for our newborns. In other countries, our items such as blankets, sleepers, and cloth diapers can provide a safe start to God’s tiny children. Locally, school supplies are collected and distributed at the Banquet. Items for learning such as notebooks and pencils collected and sent to LWR can give students in underdeveloped countries the confidence to attend school and learn skills needed for

success. Studies have shown that some children lack the courage to attend school without the proper tools for learning because they are embarrassed to be unprepared.

In the highlands of Tanzania, research showed that children were not able to grow because in the cold nights their little bodies used calories to keep warm.

Our warm quilts allowed them to turn their calories into food for growth. What a blessing our kits and quilts have been worldwide. Your gifts as members of FLC have made a big difference. You are invited to check out the LWR service display on one of the new bulletin boards in the Atrium. This is your “Opportunity for Service.”

First Lutheran FLCW Church Women

Think Spring – Grow and Blossom

Think First Lutheran Bazaar 2024.

To hit the ground running, we will have the first 2024 planning meeting on Monday, May 13, at 4 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

ALL are welcome. Please come with your new suggestions and enthusiasm. Bring your creative ideas for a Bazaar theme with a supporting logo design.

Thank you for supporting First Lutheran’s mission Bazaar as we reach out to touch lives around the world.

Cameroon Journey a Success!

It took 70 team members 46 days to compile their individual walking, running, or biking miles each week during Lent to reach the 6,875-mile destination of Ngaoundere in the western African nation of Cameroon. We even had enough miles to get a good start on the way back home!

First Lutheran, the ELCA South Dakota Synod, and the Pastor Tom Stadem family all have a special connection to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon (ELCC).

This was our third Lenten journey, which has included past journeys to Jerusalem and Kyiv. The journey to Cameroon has been the longest one

completed. The First Lutheran team is a group of committed individuals who wish to participate in this meaningful Lenten experience.



Board Updates

Happening in Youth and Family Ministries



By Pastor Tom Stadem

March and April were active months for Youth and Family ministry, as 9th graders and parents gathered to learn the key tenants of

our faith and prepare their own faith statements. This is one of our 9th graders' final requirements on their road to confirmation this fall.

March also included a big important milestone for fifth graders who received their first communion on Maundy Thursday evening in worship. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the workshop men who turned out a variety of chalices for our fifth graders from which to choose. Each of the 14 youth decorated their chalice with the symbols of this blessed sacrament, then used them during their First Communion.

For Easter Sunday, our Youth and Family Board put together sack bags that tell

the Easter Story. We handed these out to children after each Easter worship service. It was also fantastic to see about 50 children come forward for the 9 a.m. children's sermon on Easter Sunday! Thank you for making sure our kids make it to worship!

On Sunday, April 14, kindergarteners will celebrate the learning of the Ten Commandments along with a kid-friendly understanding of their meanings.

April will also be a big planning month for the Youth and Family staff along with the board, as we look at planning our August through May 2025 programs, worship, and event activities.

As we look into May, we want to highlight our May 5 Senior Recognition Sunday in worship. May 15 is the last day of Confirmation, Wednesday School, and Youth Group until the fall, but we will have events and bonfires this summer!

We have an all-day Valley Fair

trip scheduled for Thursday, May 30, for middle and high school youth. We hope to take a bus full of kids ready to enjoy the park! Get registered now in



the Church Center app or on the FLC website.

Save the date for VBS, June 3-5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This summer we learn about the "Kingdom of God" through the Bible, songs, lessons, snacks, and games. VBS is for children in preK-5th grade. You can register now in the Church Center app or on our website.

We continue to make it our mission to walk alongside parents and grandparents as they strive to keep those life-giving baptismal vows! God Bless you and yours. He IS Risen! Amen.



Back, left to right: Devin Kruger, Carsten Jensen, Joseph Fink, Isla VanRuler, Owen Zeeb, Annika Kimber, Katie Ohling, Kielan Kaiser

Front, left to right: Burke Walter, Peyton Beatch, Athena Callahan, Benjamin Reilly, Taryn McElroy, Brinley Visser



Students prep the bread for Maundy Thursday communion.

Board Updates

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away—really, and that because of this you too will be raised from the grave—really. This is all beautifully freeing news, but now what? What is that open gate in front of us? Well, the work and freedom of the Church continues from Jesus' charge to the disciples through today—to proclaim Christ's death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. This does truly take work, time, support, and sometimes trial, error, and trying again—as the people of First Lutheran know. But it is accomplished out of the freedom that

Christ has already given to us—that there is nothing left now to be earned, for Jesus has accomplished all—he has been raised!

We started this year with a budgetary decision to pause our call process for a third pastor who will work with Evangelism and Outreach. From this pause, we have taken time to begin developing an awareness campaign for FLC. While these conversations have begun with Mason VanEssen (Congregation Secretary), Michael Kedik (Congregation Past-President), Deb

Nelson (Past Chair of Welcome and Community Board), Jodi

Hoyt (Communications and Technology Director), and myself—we hope that the awareness, processes for increased member engagement (new and existing), increased pledging so that we can comfortably plan for a third pastor, and excitement for the Gospel being proclaimed through this congregation will continue through our Council, Boards, and all members. FLC has an incredible witness to share, and the Holy Spirit will carry this proclamation out to those who need to hear it. I give thanks for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus. Most of all, I give thanks for the open gate that Christ has opened for us all and which allows us to freely ask the question: what do you want to do now, now that you don't need to do anything?

"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."



5th Graders Receive First Communion, Maundy Thursday



"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Around the Church

Capital Campaign Updates



By Jean Hoff, Director of Finance and Administration

What did you think of Palm Sunday and Easter with the new sound system? We have some tweaking to do, but in the construction field, it is called a “punch list.” Dave Palmer and Mid-States are crossing items off the punch list. If you know Dave, please be sure to thank him for his efforts on the sound system. His tremendous knowledge and expertise in this area have been invaluable to First Lutheran.

For more than 15 months, the church has been looking for a company to handle the repair and rebuilding of the gingerbread areas of the Bell Tower and Steeple as well as any structural issues. If you recall, Journey Construction took 3D imaging of these two areas of the church last year to

send to the company in Wisconsin. The slate tiles will need to be replaced on part of the steeple as well. The bid was a bit of a shock. The cost came in at \$427,700. This was much more than we anticipated. Architecture, Inc. has looked at the bid and believes it is reasonable, so we now need to make some decisions. You can count on the Church Council to do what is best for First Lutheran.

I hope you take time to look at the Gathering Room. We have removed the wallpaper, painted, removed asbestos, replaced the carpet that runs from the Atrium through the Gathering Room, and installed new vinyl plank flooring in the kitchen and a small portion of where food is served. The windows will be installed on the south side of the education building by the time you are reading this May edition of First Word.

Fellowship Hall has been painted, thanks to a member of the congregation. In May,

Fellowship Hall will also get new carpet, in part by a member who gifted two thirds of the cost and by the Youth and Family Board that covered the remaining third. Just think how wonderful it will be for our children and families to have events in Fellowship Hall next year with it all spruced up. The carpet was 34 years old, a question I have been asked, and was fraying in areas.

First Lutheran is grateful to all the members who have contributed to the God’s Grace: Our Heritage and Future Capital Campaign. The church has honored the promise to not do projects without the funding to pay for them. We are slowly crossing off projects on the campaign list. If you note things that need to be improved, you can reach out to the church or to one of the members of the Finance, Property, and Administration Board. Their names are listed on one of the movable boards in the Atrium.

First Lutheran Church Cares about the ONE!



By Pastor Dennis Tranberg, Visitation Pastor

As a visiting pastor to the homebound and shut-ins of First Lutheran, I often hear, “My home church cares about me!”

Most homebound members were actively involved in church worship and activities, but now they are unable to attend. First Lutheran cares for those individual members through the Visitation Ministry Team and its commitment to bring the Church to where its members live. “I feel

connected to my home church,” they respond even though they are no longer involved in church life.

We see, first hand, how emotionally significant it is for the homebound members to have a pastoral care visit and to hear a personal spiritual meditation and to receive the Holy Sacrament. First Lutheran truly does care about every member.

Let us invite you to consider that if your loved one needs a pastoral visit or if you know of a church member who might wish such a visit, please notify First Lutheran Church Visitation Ministry by calling the church at 605/336.3734.

Happy birthday to these who members who turn 90+ this month!

- 1 – Patricia Dossett
- 2 – Ken Kessinger
- 5 – Barb Matson
- 11 – Thelma Juel
- 18 – Ruth Linnemeyer
- 21 – Lorna Kilian
- 22 – Pr. Dave Johnson
- 25 – Bud Hult
- 26 – Flo Toft
- 30 – Arlene Krueger
- 31 – Joyce Raines

Giving

March Memorials

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation

In memory of Don Toft

Tom and Ginny, Christopherson, Phyllis Day, Alma Kalleesen, Jeffrey Wicklund

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church

In memory of Don Toft

Susanne Miller

In memory of Joan Anderson

Susan Steinle, Sue Taylor

In memory of Lottie Rollag

Kenneth and Athelene Gerber, Jane King, Jack and Lona Miller, C.E. and D.H. Mitchell, Mary Sutter

Media Ministry

In memory of Darlene Fletcher

Phyllis Day

In memory of Larry Pederson

Judith and Don Gohl

In memory of Lottie Rollag

Shirley Drobny, Judy and Don Erickson, Eugene and Betty Erickson, Janet Halstenson, Sandra Holleman, Cherie Hopper, Mary Nicolai, Tracie Osthus, Irene Rezac, Gloria and Mike Simpson

In memory of Lauren Rhude

Jean Ahlers

Acts of Kindness

In memory of Lottie Rollag

James and Mary Paulson

Caring Ministry

In memory of Lottie Rollag

Susan Othus

In memory of Elaine Gehrke

Edna Husman

In memory of Jan Outka

E.N. and Jay Wood

Community Outreach

In memory of Lottie Rollag

Kristine and Paul Macaluso

Thank You, March Broadcast Sponsors!

March 3, 2024

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in honor of Paul & Donna Willadsen's 70th anniversary, which would have been March 5.

March 10, 2024

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

March 17, 2024

- 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.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Orville Hill, who would have turned 100 on March 17, by his daughter and son-in-law, Arlys & Ken Reitan.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM and livestream on YouTube were sponsored in memory of Norman

Salem, whose birthday would have been March 19, by his family.

March 24, 2024

- 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.

March 31, 2024

- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in honor of Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, and Rick & Judy Berdahl and their families by Mike & Gloria Simpson.

Giving is a joyful expression of our faith, and we want to connect your joyful giving to your passion for ministry. Explore this month's giving opportunities, and if you can't find what you are looking for, let us know how we can help you give joyfully!

Online giving is secure and simple. Donate one time or set up recurring donations in the Church Center app or at fclsf.org/give. You can also donate via Venmo or text any amount to 84321.



Life Transitions

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Baptisms

March 9, 2024

Weston Walker Frankforter,
child of Matt and Melissa
Lommen Frankforter

March 16, 2025

Elliot Dean Van Horn,
child of Courtney and
Graham Van Horn

Deaths

March 25, 2024

Janis Outka

March 28, 2024

Jim Fink

March 30, 2024

Elaine Wiese

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DOWNLOAD THE
**CHURCH
CENTER**
APP TODAY
flcsf.org/apps



- View your worship volunteer schedule, sign up for open slots
- See the weekend announcements
- Register for events
- Check in at worship, Sunday School, and more
- View the daily calendar
- Give, see your donation history, set up recurring donations
- Participate, stay up to date with small groups
- View published meeting minutes

On the Calendar – May

2 – WELCA salad supper 6p, Gathering Room

3 – First Fridays Book Club 5p, R Wine Bar & Kitchen

4 – Grieving with Grace 10a, Friendship Room

4 – Men's spring retreat 10a, Plain View Farm; *register in Church Center app, at flcsf.org/events, or by calling church office*

5 – Pueblo de Dios Cinco de Mayo fundraiser buffet 10a, Gathering Room

5 – senior recognition Sunday 11a

5 – new members meeting 5p, Gathering Room

7 – new member class 7p, Friendship Room

11-12 – new member installation, all services

13 – Bazaar planning meeting 3:30p, Gathering Room

15 – final week of Wednesday education, meals, and youth music ensembles until fall

27 – office closed, Memorial Day