



First Word

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

He is Risen! We have made it through Lent and into the season of Easter, and while it is true that our sin likely hasn't changed and the Gospel certainly hasn't changed, you have been changed by your hearing these words from Christ: Peace be with you and your sins are forgiven. That's right, the good news of Easter (which is the good news all year round) is that you have been brought with Christ through death into new life. As we enjoy spring and anticipate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer—know that the news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is news for you and in him you are made new! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Pastor Jason Burggraff



Committee Updates

May Special Offering: Journey of Hope



*LeAnne Klemme,
Evangelism and
Outreach Board
Spreading Hope,
Growing Compassion,
and Sparking Change!*

The May Special Offering supports the Journey of Hope organization. This

is a program that 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. Always praying and hoping that Sven would be able to recover and share his story of hopelessness to hope, Sven 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. These bags are 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. There are also volunteer opportunities including filling those blue bags, writing notes of encouragement, or donating supplies. You can use your Special Offering envelopes to make a financial contribution. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will be used to spread hope, grow compassion, and spark change!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



*Jason VanRuler,
Care & Health Board*

This May the Care and Health Board is focusing on the care and support of persons who have been affected by mental illness.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) states that “A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person’s thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning.” Mental illness can affect persons of any age, race, income, or religion. Those suffering with severe mental illness are greatly impacted in all facets of their life.

It is estimated that one in five adults

experience mental illness and one in twenty adults experience serious mental illness every year while one in six youth will experience a mental health disorder each year.

NAMI works to provide resources and awareness to combat mental illness by empowering people and communities to work together to face the problem of mental illness. During my career as a therapist, I have seen the benefits that NAMI brings to our community and the impact of increased awareness about mental health and mental illness. By partnering with this organization, we seek to increase

awareness and opportunities for people and families who have been affected by mental illness. When we promote mental health treatment, which could include

self-care, medication, and talk therapy, recovery from mental illness becomes a real possibility.

First Lutheran Church is grateful for the opportunity to support this organization through a donation from the Care and Health Board. If you are interested in helping or supporting NAMI of South Dakota, you can find more information at their website, namisouthdakota.org/about-mental-illness/



March Council Highlights



*Michael Kedik,
Council President*

Employee handbook updates were discussed. Two changes were proposed to the employee handbook:

- **Nepotism clause:** passed unanimously
- **Parental leave clause:** This item was tabled until next month to clarify verbiage.

Minutes publishing guidelines: The online site is live, and minutes will be posted per guidelines voted on in February. The promotional language will go out to help members find them in the app, online, and in hard copy form.

Call committee update: Kristin Skogstad shared updates with Council. Everything

appears to be progressing nicely and according to schedule.

Dr. Paulson: A few members asked if we could have Dr. Paulson preach on a regular basis.

Roof updates: Some pieces of slate have moved due to past weather and need to be put back in place. That will be done when the weather improves. Two areas of the roof need to be replaced: the rubber roof on the flat part of the Atrium and the rubber roof under the steeple. Rubber roofs have a life expectancy of 15-20 years, and both of those roofs are currently about that old. Colin Barron (chair of Finance, Property, and Admin Board) added that we have a bid for \$27k to repair the roof on the tower entrance (the same roof referenced above under the steeple). That bid is for a metal roof, which will last considerably longer than the rubber roof. Some funds are available

in the reserve fund and in the Finance, Property, and Admin Board's budget. At this time, no Council action is needed.

Council retreat: Board chairs were asked to discuss with their boards ideas for future growth and development to bring to the retreat to be shared with Council. It was proposed to break the retreat into four 30-minute sessions to discuss ideas brought forward from boards. Our facility is built for 6,000 active members, and we currently have far fewer than that. The goal for the retreat is to discuss how we can grow the number of active members and/or plan for financial shortcomings.

Financial update through February: February ended well when compared to the budget. YTD revenues are up about \$11k to budget, and expenses are down about \$26k when compared to budget. Giving increased considerably in February compared to January.

Mission Accomplished!



*John Hegg, Care &
Health Board*

Lent is a journey that involves our whole life. It is about discerning where our hearts are directed. First Lutheran was on a special journey through Lent where a part of each heart

was directed to the suffering of some of God's people along with the suffering experienced by Jesus.

The goal was to reach Kyiv, Ukraine, by accumulating miles walked, run, or biked during the 40 days of Lent. Sixty-four people registered for the 5,209-mile journey, and all but a few submitted their miles each week of Lent. Our "team" included people from Seattle, Fresno, Minneapolis, and the state of Maryland

joining our journey. Two family groups participated together. Not only was the goal accomplished, but we almost completed a round trip journey back to Sioux Falls. A map in the Atrium displayed the progress of our journey each week.

The journey was initiated at our Senior Luncheon by a visit from five Ukrainian citizens who now call Sioux Falls home. They told stories and showed pictures of their struggles and challenges in the face of war.

A financial donation to Lutheran World Relief in support of Ukraine was also a part of the journey. At this time, the total amount of that donation has not been determined. Donations can still be submitted.

A thank you is extended to all who participated and supported this meaningful journey.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future Update



Jean Hoff, Capital Campaign Coordinator

A picture of what the reception desk will look like when it is completed is included with this article. It seems, to many people

including staff, that this project is never going to be completed. Hopefully, the picture helps you see what the finished product will look like.

The stone will be delivered sometime in the first two weeks of May. The tambour wood for the north wall of the reception area is at the church as well as the televisions. By the time you read this article, we will have added live plants and seating to the Atrium.

Renee and Rose, our receptionists, are

excited to be out in the Atrium where there is a ton of natural light. They are also looking forward to being able to see everyone who comes into the church. This will help members and visitors know exactly where to go to get assistance.

GREAT NEWS on the SOUND SYSTEM. On Friday, April 14, a group got together to go over the sound system design. We are moving toward the bid process. This is a project that everyone in the congregation will be able to appreciate. The word and music will be better heard, and there will no longer be dead spots, crackling microphones, or unusable microphones and microphone channels. A new digital sound board will be installed with the new sound system. I am looking forward to the new sound system, and I hope you are too!

Art work will

continue to be hung in the Atrium as pieces are found. The hope would be for this art work to rotate by church seasons. We are currently reviewing the art work the church has in order to make plans for the future. If you have suggestions of art work you would like to see displayed that you know the church has, please contact me at extension 236.

When the exit was closed in the sanctuary to the area the staff refers to as the "switch room," a new piece of baseboard was needed. Thank you to the men in the shop for doing the work for the church. You are a wonderful asset to First Lutheran.

Let us give thanks to God for the projects completed and those still to be completed from the God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future Capital Campaign.



FLCW/WELCA: All Are Welcome!!

Recently a comment was made to a WELCA member that if you are not in a Bible study circle, you are not part of FLCW/WELCA. We want you to know that all of the women of our church are included! FLCW is the acronym for "First Lutheran Church Women," and WELCA stands for "Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America." Those sound like very broad terms, and in this case, it is most certainly true. If you are a female member of First Lutheran, you

are already part of our Church Women! And even if you attend church and are not a registered member, you are still one of the Women of the ECLA...Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

We would be happy if you would like to join a circle, but even if you don't, you are always welcome to come to our FLCW/WELCA General Meetings. They are a time of fellowship, devotions, singing, special presentations, food, and fun as

well as a chance to become acquainted with other women of the church.

There is still time to join us May 4 at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Room for our Potluck Salad and Dessert Supper where we'll be entertained by a whimsical, light-hearted style show. Please RSVP to Marcia Huffman (605-360-4168) or Lola Coon (605-201-5703) so we are able to accommodate seating. We hope to see you there!

Thank You from the FLC Quilters!

First Lutheran Quilters would like to take this opportunity to thank you and tell you what was accomplished with your help in 2022.

A total of 521 large quilts were distributed to Lutheran World Relief, local agencies, and First Lutheran high school graduates. Additionally, 49 age-appropriate quilts were given to local youth, and 48 lap robes were provided to First Lutheran members residing in retirement homes.

None of this would have been possible without your generous support. God bless you, and thank you!

Please come visit us any Monday or Wednesday morning! Coffee is served at 10 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE

We are **NOT** accepting donations for the 2023 Bazaar at this time. We will advise in First Word, the website, and FLC Now when donations can be accepted in the Fall.

Happy 90+ Birthday!

Below are members of our congregation who turn 90+ this month. If you see them around church, wish them a great day!



May 1—Patricia Dossett
May 2—Donna Hanson, Kenneth Kessinger
May 5—Barbara Matson
May 18—Ruth Linnemeyer
May 21—Lorna Kilian
May 25—Leland Hult
May 26—Florence Toft
May 31—Joyce Raines

Youth & Family

First Communion Milestone



By Valerie Pherson,
Children's Minister

Historically, Lent is a time for learning, and that is exactly what our First Communion students did this year! Pastor Jason led the group

through lessons on the two sacraments we celebrate in the Lutheran church—Baptism and Holy Communion. We studied the two parts of a Sacrament—God's Word and an earthly element. Each week they had homework like practicing the Lord's Prayer and asking their parents about their Baptism day.

We do this class with our 5th graders because to understand why we take Communion they should know what it means to betray someone. Even more, Communion is for the Forgiveness of Sins; therefore it is only for sinners. To understand you are a sinner and betrayed Jesus is pretty deep, and it led to great questions from the class.

These students also did a few fun projects to prepare for their first time at the Communion rail. We mixed up bread, then they baked it, and it was served to the whole church during worship. This year they painted a wooden chalice that was carved by our men in the woodshop. They used these chalices during worship, drinking the wine from it that was given

to them by their family.

The joy and excitement on their faces as they came forward on Maundy Thursday was something I will never forget. Blessed are the young people who remind me how exciting and powerful this sacrament is for all of us as sinners. It was an honor to prepare these 17 children of God for this special day!

Above all we want them 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 us in taking Communion each week.



March Gifts & Memorials

FLC Foundation

In memory of Cathy Christopherson
C. Lyle and Jean Eidsness

Media Ministry

In memory of Cathy Christopherson
Lawrence Satterlee

In memory of Norman Salem
Karla Salem

In memory of Orville Hill
Arlys Reitan

In memory of Norm Ekeland
Shirley Stenseth

In memory of Jerry Bloch
Kathleen Bloch

In memory of Gene Jones
Shirley Jones

In memory of Patricia Husman
Jeff & Edna Husman

FLC Men's Workshop

In memory of Norm Ekeland
David & Marilyn Kerssen, Janet &
Roger Noer, Jerry & Jan Bork

In memory of Larry Anderson
LaVonne & Donald Wolf

Lutheran Men In Mission

In memory of Norm Ekeland
Gerald and Arlene Gackle,
Jacquelyn & Jon Williams

Music Ministry

In memory of Cathy Christopherson
Gary & Shirley Barlow, John Hegg,
Donald & Joyce Helberg, Charlotte
M.E. Peters, Carol & Gregory Puerkel,
Katherine Olson, John & Janet
Pelto, Agape Ringers, Tim & Becky
Heinemann

Capital Campaign

In memory of Marcene Scully
Jean Hoff

Due to a technical error, we were unable to track who the following gifts were made in honor or in memory of. We thank you for your continued support in these ministries:

Camp Assistance

Stephen Johnson

Media Ministry

Arlene Hoek, Donna Willadsen, FLC Women, Gloria Simpson, Jean Hoff, Milton Mutch

Volunteer Shop

Carol, Lerdal, Stephen Johnson, David Melemseter, Donna Jahr, Dorothy Grevlos, Elaine Berg, James Christopherson, James Fink, Jeffrey Herbert, Judy Erickson, Karen Lidel, Kate Heligas, Kenneth Johnson, Kenneth Stark, Marilyn McLeod, Marilyn VanDemark, Paula Bartels, Phyllis Day, Sandra Holleman, Sharyl Wolf, Vance Goldammer

Project CAR

Elaine Nevin

Thank You, March Media Sponsors

March 5, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Paul & Donna Willadsen's 69th anniversary.

March 12, 2023

- 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 FLC Foundation.

March 19, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in celebration of the memory of David & Susan Lankford. It was made possible by earnings through a gift by their family and friends to the FLC Foundation.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Orville Hill, who would have turned 99 on March 17, by his many friends and by his daughter and son-in-law, Arlys and Ken Reitan, of Lincoln, Nebraska.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM and livestream on YouTube were sponsored in memory of Norman Salem, whose birthday would have been today, by his family.

March 26, 2023

- 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 FLC Foundation.



First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Deaths:

March 15:

Cathy Christopherson

March 29:

Sandra Kay Ahrendt

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Baptisms:

March 4:

Sullivan Millie Hubbling,
daughter of Nicole Daggett &
Shane Hubbling

March 4:

Adeline Tillie Rezac, daughter
of Daniel & Christina Rezac

March 18:

Mitchell John Mullen

May Events

May 3—New Member Class, 7pm, Friendship Room

May 4—WELCA Salad Supper, 6pm, Gathering Room

May 5—First Fridays Book Club, 5pm, R Wine Bar

May 6—Grieving with Grace, 9:30am, Friendship Room

May 6—Barb Matson's 90th Birthday Open House, 2-4pm, Reformation Hall

May 7—Senior Recognition Milestone, 10am, Fellowship Hall

May 7—New Member Class, 5pm, Gathering Room

May 7—Final Sunday of Sunday School Until Fall

May 10—Final Wednesday of Education and Meals Until Fall

May 13-14—New Member Installation, all services

May 15—Lincoln High School Choir Concert, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

May 17—Final Wednesday of Youth Music Ensembles Until Fall

May 18—Ascension Vespers, 6:30pm, Sanctuary

May 20—Dementia/Alzheimer's Support Group, 9am, Friendship Room

May 21—Final Sunday of Adult Education Until Fall

May 23—Senior Luncheon, 11:30am, Gathering Room

May 29—Memorial Day, FLC Offices CLOSED