



First Word

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

*Zachary Brockhoff,
Director of Worship &
Music*



In 2020, First Lutheran Church celebrated 100 years of ministry, though not in the way so many planned! After two years of planning and rescheduling, the congregation and Sioux Falls community is invited to celebrate this milestone at the 100th Anniversary Concert on Sunday, September 11, at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. As part of the Lankford Arts Series, free tickets can be reserved by calling the church office or online at fcsf.org/music. The concert will feature much of what was planned in 2020, including newly commissioned music by Juilliard professor Wayne Oquin—a setting of Psalms for organ, orchestra, and choir. Music will be presented by GRAMMY-award-winning organist Paul Jacobs of Juilliard, alongside

Maestro David Gier of the South Dakota Symphony. Additionally, Transept—a professional choral ensemble under the direction of Dr. Tim Campbell—will join the First Lutheran festival choir to bring this music to life. More information about those participating in the concert is available below.

In some ways, it might seem strange to turn back the clock and celebrate in this way. Admittedly, it would be a challenge to find someone eager to turn the clock back to 2020! As we prepare to recognize this milestone two years later, it is helpful to frame our celebration in a different way because we see the world in a new and different light.

As we lived through the last two years together, one person shared the following observation: “You know, when we’re on the other side of this pandemic, we’ll give thanks for so much more than 100 years of ministry.” And, she was right! We gather this September to not only

give thanks for the blessings of God in Christ over the past 100 years, but to be reminded God’s promised guidance is for the present and the future. The Psalmist tells us: “Sing to the Lord a new song!” This does not mean we discard the past. Instead, we share the same good news of Jesus Christ in new ways today. The music shared in September will remind us of this good news!

The final movement of the newly commissioned music quotes Psalm 150: “Praise [God] with trumpet, harp, lyre, timbrel, dancing, strings, pipe, and cymbals.” At first glance, these appear to be words written for a concert, summoning all musicians in praise of Almighty God. But, there is more! The Psalmist finally says: “Praise [God] for his greatness and power. Praise God for his mighty acts.” We join in celebration because God has acted for us in Jesus Christ! Over 100 years ago, God’s Spirit moved as this congregation was formed. Over 2,000 years ago, God acted in Jesus

continued on page 2



*Sing to the Lord a New Song
100th Anniversary Concert*

Anniversary Event Cont.

Christ to bring us life beyond death. As we emerge from a pandemic surrounded by death, there is no greater news! In Christ, God has acted to triumph over death for you, your neighbor, and the world. For this, we offer God praise and thanksgiving! Invite a friend as we celebrate 100 years of ministry, hear God's Word of life in Christ, and look forward toward the future God promises—one lived in the hope and promise of Jesus Christ.

Musicians

In celebration of 100 years of ministry, musicians from South Dakota and around the country will join us for the concert. These include:

- GRAMMY-award winning organist

Paul Jacobs of The Juilliard School, who rededicated the Aeolian-Skinner sanctuary pipe organ in February 2011. In addition to his collaboration with the South Dakota Symphony, Transept, and Festival Choir, Mr. Jacobs will also present solo music for organ.

- Maestro David Gier and members of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, including strings, harp, woodwind quintet, and percussion.
- Transept, a South Dakota-area vocal ensemble, and Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Campbell, who also serves as Assistant Professor of Music at The University of South Dakota. Transept will also present solo choral music throughout the program.

- First Lutheran Church Festival Choir will premiere new music for organ, orchestra, and choir alongside these guest musicians.

- Composer Wayne Oquin, who was commissioned to write new music for this celebration in 2020. Over the last two years, Mr. Oquin has added additional music to his initial work, including a setting of Psalm 96.

Tickets

Reserve your ticket today! As part of the Lankford Arts Series, the concert is free, but tickets are required. Tickets can be reserved at the Information Desk or by calling the church office Monday-Thursday, 8a-5p, and Friday 8a-1p.

July At A Glance

See What's Happening at First Lutheran Church this Month



It's that time of year again! Members and guests of our congregation will have a chance to worship in the midst of God's creation! Please join us for our next Worship in the Park event: Sunday, July 10, at 11 a.m. Please bring yourself (and your chairs) to McKennan Park!

FLC middle schoolers are invited to partner with youth from Gloria Dei in Sioux Falls for a fun event! They will serve in the Sioux Falls community and the next day take a trip to ValleyFair! For more info please visit flcsf.org/events.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXCURSION: MISSION DAY & VALLEYFAIR



SERVE
JULY 6
\$25



SLEEP
JULY 6-7



SMILE
JULY 7
\$75

Committee Updates

News From the Senior Pastor Call Committee

*Mason Van Essen,
Call Committee
Member*



On behalf of the 11 members you've called to serve as the senior pastor call committee, I can assure you we are committed to calling the best individual to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ from First Lutheran's pulpit. Put simply, that means proclaiming the Good News that Jesus died and was resurrected for the forgiveness of our sins so that we may have new life in Him.

I have found the call committee to be a diverse group of people with different ages, backgrounds, skills, families, ministries, and pathways to membership at First. From the beginning, we have hit the ground running with equal parts

urgency and appropriate diligence.

Though we offer a fair representation of the congregation, we needed your input to ensure we had the clearest picture of who we are. In June, many of you took the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) survey and attended the Ministry Site Study meeting—thank you for sharing your perspective! As a synthesis of your responses, we have now created the MSP to articulate the state of our congregation and our aspirations for the future in order to promote the senior pastor position to prospective candidates. Please read the document if you haven't had a chance to already. The MSP is posted at flcsf.org/pastortransition, and paper copies are available at the church.

In terms of our timeline, the call committee, executive committee and church council have:

1) Informed the synod office of our rostered minister opening

2) Arranged for pastoral assistance during the transition

3) Completed a congregational assessment (Created a call committee • Completed a Ministry Site Profile)

4) Conducted a Ministry Site Study

We are now at Step 5:

5) Begin candidate process (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 a congregational meeting to vote on the candidate

8) Candidate discerns call

9) Install new senior pastor

The call committee will continue to act swiftly while remaining thorough.

Thank you for your continued prayers for discernment. The Holy Spirit is at work.

Care and Health Board Event: Walk to Defeat ALS

*Sandy
Christopherson,
Care and Health
Board Member*



Join the "Walk to Defeat ALS" and march together toward a cure for the disease: Saturday, July 23, 9a-12p, at Sertoma Park (4300 S Oxbow Ave). The walk begins at 10 a.m.

People all around the state of South Dakota will be walking in support for those affected by Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Funds raised will be used to advance research, care, and advocacy for the ALS community. ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a neurological disease affecting nerve

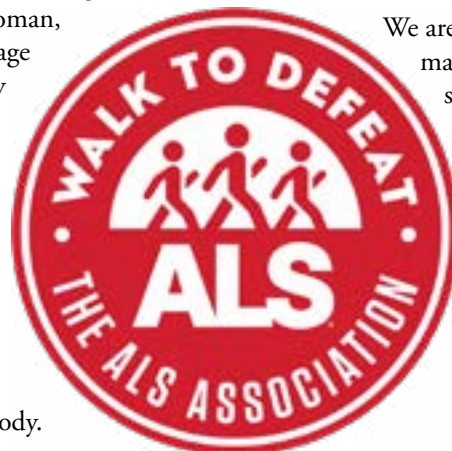
cells that are responsible for controlling voluntary muscle movement. The disease is progressive and randomly strikes people of all ages and races. Currently, there is no effective treatment to halt or reverse the progression of the disease.

Our daughter Carrie, an energetic and healthy young woman, was diagnosed at the age of 48 and died shortly after celebrating her 50th birthday. It was heartbreaking for me, her husband, and their three daughters. Carrie faced the disease bravely as she endured the slow deterioration of her body.

But there is something we

can do to help. If you can't join the walk, your monetary donation will be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to the ALS Association and mailed to:

ALS Association
1919 University Ave West, Suite 175
St. Paul, MN 55104



We are thankful that so many people around our state and the country are 'stepping up' to help this important cause. Together we can achieve a world without ALS.

Committee Updates Cont.

July Special Offering: THRIVE

Bill Bentzinger,
Evangelism and
Outreach Board
Member

*"Let the children
come to me, and do
not hinder them; for
to such belongs the
kingdom of heaven."*

-Matthew 9:14



As people of faith, we are called to change lives, bringing new life to where people are hurting and struggling. This is true not just for the adults but also for the children in our lives, and not just our children but also the children in our church and in our community.

Our July Special Offering recipient is SIOUX FALLS THRIVE, a community organization addressing social issues that place obstacles, often obstacles we do not see, in the lives of our children. As Thrive notes on their website:

"One-third of our school-age children face disadvantages that make achieving their educational and career potential difficult. And those obstacles—housing, income, and opportunity disparities, food insecurity and transportation challenges—

won't be solved one program at a time." To address these obstacles, the 150 local volunteers have identified four critical needs of school-age children in Sioux Falls:

- **Kid Link:** Neighbors and volunteers work to close service gaps that make student achievement difficult.
- **Affordable Housing:** Reduce by 50% the number of families with school-age children who are virtually homeless during the school year.
- **Out-of-School Enrichment:** Reduce by 50% the number of children aged 5 to 18 left unsupervised during out-of-school time.
- **Food Security:** Provide charitable resources to remote neighborhoods where 20% of households receive SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Program) benefits.

These programs of hope are not just for children but involve the whole family.

At McGovern Middle School, Thrive—partnering with the YMCA and Great Life—provides after-school programs focusing on physical fitness and on arts and crafts. At Laura B Anderson Elementary, a collaborative effort between non-profit organizations provides educational family activities, access to food and

meals, and support for parents and guardians.

If you want to discover more about what THRIVE is doing for children and our community, visit siouxfallsthive.org.

Please consider financial support of this ministry by using one of the special offering envelopes or by writing "July 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 Sioux Falls Thrive in your prayers. Thank you for your support.



In April 2022, the Church Council approved an updated facilities use policy, contract, and fee schedule to better meet the needs of FLC members and guests and to provide necessary coverage and staff presence when events are taking place in the building.

If you're looking for a small meeting space, a gathering space with a commercial kitchen, or something in between, we may have a room for you!

Visit flcsf.org/reserve to view the complete policy and fee schedule and to submit a request.



First Lutheran Church

Pastoral Updates

A Letter From Pastor Lars Olson

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at First Lutheran Church,

I am resigning my call to First Lutheran effective June 30, 2022. It has been an honor and privilege to serve you,

the members of Christ at First Lutheran Church, as pastor for the last nine years. Thank you for calling me to preach the



good news of Christ to you and for inviting my family into this community of faith.

Lutherans understand the pastor's role to be one of filling an office, being authorized to preach, teach, and give the sacraments as Jesus commands. This means that pastors are not replaceable, but are interchangeable. When a pastor leaves, another will come to take up that office. So, I am leaving the office of pastor, vacating these responsibilities as we wait in faith for whom God will send to fill this office.

I'm not fond of long goodbyes, but that

feels like what we have had this year. Since January 1 of this year, I have been giving the vast majority of my work to Luther House of Study. I've given about 15 hours per week to First Lutheran teaching, providing pastoral care, and leading worship. The goal was to assist Pr. Dave Zellmer as he has settled into his interim role. I know that my work with Luther House will continue to support congregations like First Lutheran by preparing pastors and providing Lutheran teaching.

The peace of Christ be with you, always.
Pastor Lars Olson



Meet Robin Hofkamp: Interim Visitation Minister

Deacon Robin Hofkamp is a longtime resident of Sioux Falls. For 27 years, Robin served in the Sioux Falls School District as an Educational Interpreter & Tutor, working with deaf and special education students of all ages. In 2015, Robin was consecrated as a deacon in our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She has served in her home congregation, Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, as a Stephen Minister and volunteer, under the direction of Pastor Siri Sorensen. In 2020 and 2021,

Robin served as the Interim Director of Confirmation & Sunday School at Trinity Lutheran in Madison, SD under the direction of Pastor Dirk Hagmaier. Recently, Robin served the people of Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church as part-time office coordinator, again under the direction of Pastor Hagmaier. Robin enjoys gardening, walking, and camping with family. Robin and her husband Wes have three adult children and two grandchildren, who all live locally.



Youth & Family Updates

Vacation Bible School Recap: Summer of Fun!

*Marnie Dahle
Backer,
Director of Youth &
Family*



This year our Children's Minister, Valerie Pherson, led us through VBS week with the theme "Discovering God." Luke 15 led us through three parables: Discover

God's Love, The Story of the Lost Sheep; Discover God's Treasure, The Story of the Lost Coin; and Discover God's Promise, The Story of the Lost Son.

Crafts, songs, games, and activities supported each day's lesson and the overall theme. The lessons included reading the story together as a class accompanied by activity pages and fun sermons at chapel with Pastors Katherine and Dave. Our own Matt Tylutki composed an original song called "Lost & Found." The campers enjoyed learning

the words and actions to this new classic, plus learning lots of other great songs with Larry Olson and Skylar Schwab during chapel time!

We are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers who came together to help make this week happen. Their love and passion for sharing the gospel with our children was so evident. What a gift it is to have our children gather in this way and watch them learn the Bible stories but also build friendships that will last for years to come!



See more on our FLC Now slideshow on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube from June 9!

Upcoming Events You Won't Want To Miss!

Take a trip to the Holy Land with Pastor David B. Zellmer

Join Pastor David. B. Zellmer on an incredible tour of the Holy Land. In April 2023, we will be traveling to many parts of Israel and Jordan to visit the ancient historical sites we read about in the Bible. Don't miss this life-changing experience to grow your faith as we visit Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, and many more places as we follow the footsteps of Jesus and his disciples so many years ago. "Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD." Psalm 122 3-4
visit our [page](#) today for more information!

Join the FLC Choir School!

As a part of the FLC Choir School, we strive to prepare and equip students to make music at the highest level and engage them in sharing their music with First Lutheran Church and the greater Sioux Falls community. In return, we hope students of the FLC Choir School are equipped with the tools to seek out scholarships in higher education, find vocational opportunities, and be lifelong musicians once graduating from the program.

The 2022-23 year will kick off with a retreat for all students on Saturday, August 27. Register your student today at flcsf.org/choirschool.



Council Highlights: May 26, 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.

- Randy Olawksy was introduced as the new treasurer.
- Pr. Dave has met with other Sioux Falls senior pastors regarding the increased request for funerals without the assistance of funeral homes. A new policy was approved to require the assistance of funeral homes for all funerals held at FLC.
- A reception will be held Sunday, June 26, between services celebrating Pr. Lars' end of call with FLC.
- A committee is continuing to work on Sunday morning education for children, youth, and adults to determine what is wanted and needed for this fall.
- Offerings are up for the year, and are currently approximately \$62,000 ahead of budget.
- Jodi Hoyt has taken the role of Director of Operations; she will oversee admin as well as communications and media.
- Bookkeeping has been outsourced. Deb Nelson and Marilyn McNeill have been filling the holes. Needs will be determined by the end of July so a part-time position can be designed and filled.
- Starbucks intends to end their lease when the current term is up.

May Gifts and Memorials

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Music Ministry

In memory of Donna Nesheim
Mary Eich

Media Ministry

In memory of Norma Erickson
Larry and Betty Olson

In memory of Bev Lamp
Stephen Johnson, LaVonne and
Donald Wolf

FLC Foundation

In memory of Barney Friesth
Shirley and Gary Barlow

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.

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.



Baptisms:

May 14: Mya Rae-Hazel Dalton, daughter of Jordan & Calie Dalton

Deaths:

March 31: Lance Stormo
May 21: E. Kevin Buell

Thank You, May Sponsors

May 1, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Jake and Amelia Fritz and their son, Leonard Fritz, by family.

The broadcast on KELO-FM and live stream on YouTube were sponsored in honor of Gerry and Arlene's 60th wedding anniversary on April 29.

May 8, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory and honor of all mothers by the First Lutheran Church Women.

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Harry and Lena Dooyema by their family.

May 15, 2022

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Stan & Sandy Christopherson's daughter, Carrie Inger, whose birthday would have been May 14. It was also sponsored in honor of Carrie's husband, Michael Sprout; and daughters—Katelyn, Kelsey, and Kimber.

May 22, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was partially sponsored by Carol and Andrew Gilmore in memory of Loyd and Lillian Hansen.

The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Erling and Clara Haugo, who would have celebrated their wedding anniversary on May 29. It was made possible by earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

May 29, 2022

The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Muriel and Deborah Ekeland by family—Norm Ekeland and Rachel & Trey Lawson.