



# *First Word*

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



## *Blessed to be a Blessing*

Bazaar 2023 has come and gone. What a success it was! Many delightful and heartwarming stories have been shared. Our guests expressed gratitude for this wonderful event. First-time-visiting couples were thrilled with the new experience of our Bazaar. We are blessed with the fellowship of hosting the Bazaar.

It is with sincere and heartfelt gratitude that we humbly say thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who contributed to making "Blessed to be a Blessings" so special. Thank you for supporting our purpose to reach out to others with mission hearts.

-Sharyl Wolf and the FLCW



## Pastoral Updates

### Season of Advent: "The Clothing of the King"



By Pastor Jason Burggraff

The days nestled in between Thanksgiving and Christmas are full. For some, these days are filled with an excited optimism—full of gatherings and worship services throughout the month of December—all anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth. For others, these days ache with a pressure to feel more joy in a season that actually seems to yield less. But whether full of anticipation or emptiness, know that through these days of Advent, Jesus comes to bring to you his perfect peace. He comes to interrupt both our hopes and our fears. He comes in order that we may know true, lasting hope and be freed from the fears of our sins, death, and the devil. Christ comes to accomplish this for you. But how does he do this? He does it through death and resurrection, by giving you a new robe of righteousness.

Our Advent theme for 2023 is "The Clothing of the King." Our midweek Advent worship services (Wednesdays,

December 6, 13, 20 at 6:30pm), our daily Advent devotional available on our [website](#), and our Advent Calendar for youth and families will feature scripture readings connected to clothing God gives to his people. These clothes culminate in the swaddling clothes of the baby Jesus, and finally the clothing he brings to you—a brand new wardrobe of forgiveness and faith to trust this promise. In the clothing of Christ our King, you are baptized into his death and resurrection, born anew in Jesus. In the clothing of Christ our King, you are made perfect in his righteousness and purity, which never go out of style.

In this season of Advent, there is much coming our way—this month we will be joined by our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Family, Pastor Tom Stadem. We have called Pastor Tom to this ministry of proclaiming the beautiful, timeless promises of Jesus Christ to our whole congregation, with an emphasis with our Youth and Family Ministry. We look forward to our children telling the story of Jesus' birth in the Children's Christmas Program on December 10. Our choirs and music groups are working hard

to support the Gospel with much Advent and Christmas Music throughout our worship services leading up to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and beyond. Our Sanctuary and newly remodeled Atrium will also be shared with neighboring groups to celebrate this season and tell the story of Jesus as the SD Symphony and Chorale present Handel's *Messiah*, and German Christmas continues its tradition of festive celebration.

These and many more opportunities to hear God's Word for you are provided for so you may be surrounded by God's grace every day. As our Bible Study on Romans wraps up this month, stay tuned for the next 10-week Bible Study starting in January, and know that there are many more occasions at FLC during the week for you to hear this Word.

Christ surely has a fine wardrobe—one fit for a king—and he clothes you in his most beautiful forgiveness, life, and salvation. While fashions will certainly change from 2023 to 2024, in Jesus, you now have a beautiful set of clothes to wear not only through Advent, but into eternity.

### The Call Committee

is pleased to introduce Pastor Tom Stadem, our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Family.

He earned an M.Div. degree from Sioux Falls Seminary through Luther House of Study in 2019. He graduated with a B.A. degree from Augustana College in 1985. Before attending seminary, he served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tea, where for 14 years he was a certified Youth and Family Minister.

Pr. Stadem has a firm grasp of the distinction between law and gospel and believes that God is at work through

the preaching of the word. He seeks to live out Christ's call to love and serve one another through his ministry. He



has significant experience and success working with youth and families,

having started the Northern Rim Youth Group, and he has a strong desire to continue working in that area. He is an effective teacher, especially with confirmation and small-group Bible study. He is also interested in ways for a pastor to be visible in the community. He is a team player, calm, easy to work with, and comes to us with exemplary references.

He's married to Judy, and they have four grown children. He and Judy are new grandparents as of September 24. His hobbies include music, travel, nature walks, and a love for Scandinavian culture.

## Council Updates

### December Special Offering: The Furniture Mission, Banquet, and Center of Hope

By Maria Neely,  
Evangelism & Outreach Board

#### The Furniture Mission

The Furniture Mission's purpose is to demonstrate the love of Christ by doing his will in providing those in need with gently used furniture and household items. A comfortable home provides dignity, security, and a better environment in which to raise a family. Each person or family who receives furniture is referred by a social service agency, school, church, or hospital. Prequalifying assures that we are serving those truly in need.

This mission is composed mostly of volunteers who carry out the day-to-day operations of pick-up/delivery, necessary cleaning/repair, warehouse organization, and clerical work. A Board of Directors volunteers their time and expertise to assure the mission stays true to its calling to be an effective, efficient, and accountable organization.

Each household receiving furniture also

receives a copy of the Holy Bible along with information about study groups and an invitation to attend.

#### The Banquet

The Banquet's mission is to provide a welcoming place where people in the community can gather, receive nourishment, and feed the body and spirit. This ministry provides assistance to volunteers from Sioux Falls and surrounding areas in providing food and fellowship to those served.

The Banquet meal ministry was founded in 1985 starting with just one meal per week. It now serves 16 meals per week at two locations in Sioux Falls and is a volunteer-based ministry, which means the meals are paid for, prepared by, and served by volunteer groups.

#### Center for Hope

Center of Hope's mission is to walk alongside people, bringing them spiritual and physical health, and ultimately changing our community one life at a

time. Their philosophy is to help people help themselves, encouraging them through their struggles and celebrating their victories. This mission is in need of prayer, winter and seasonal clothing, volunteers, and financial assistance to move people from dependency to self-sufficiency.

Center of Hope provides computers for job searches and applications, phones for long-distance calls, bicycles to qualifying families and individuals for transportation and recreation, faith-based nursing care, pastoral care, and Bible studies for men and women.

Please consider volunteering and financially supporting these important ministries within our community.

You may donate through the Church Center app, online at [ficsf.org/give](https://ficsf.org/give), or by writing a check written to First Lutheran Church with one or all of these ministries written in the memo line. Remember these ministries in your prayers, and thank you for your support.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

Please join in the festivities on Saturday, December 2, at 11 AM, in the Gathering Room as we come together to celebrate and "ring" in the Christmas season at our "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" party. We will enjoy breakfast/brunch treats, we will be entertained by some of our FLC handbell ringers as they ring in the season with Christmas melodies, and we will all join our voices together by singing carols. This is a special way to usher in the holiday yuletide with your fellow Christian friends, so please come and join in the fun.

It is our tradition to have a special offering to help those in need at this holy and memorable time of year. We hope to see you there!



# Youth & Family

## Fall 2023 Recap

Merry Christmas (almost)! What a wonderful whirlwind of ministry these past few months have been! And with Advent here, there is only more to come with the 'most wonderful time of year.' God's Word has come to us in a newborn baby, in hearing His Word, and in the Sacraments. We have been delighted to share God's Word through all of our ministries this fall.

### Affirmation of Baptism



Eighteen sophomores were confirmed at our Affirmation of Baptism service on October 29! They had four years together in Confirmation learning about the Lutheran faith, reading through the Holy Bible, and Luther's Small Catechism. Each student submitted worship reflections, assisted in worship, wrote a faith statement, and met with Pastor Jason...among many other details leading up to the big day! **What a blessing to have these students proclaim their faith in God to their family and friends!** *Please continue to pray for them as they continue a life of faith.*

### Middle School

The middle schoolers got together, outside of confirmation class, to soak in a beautiful fall day at the Yogi Bear Corn Maze! Running through the maze, playing mini golf, and jumping on the pillow were a few highlights from the evening!



Decorating a pencil bag in Confirmation class.

### Apostles' Creed Milestone

The 4th grade class had the Apostles' Creed Milestone where they learned that God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all in one. They decorated photo frames and led the congregation in saying the Creed and singing a song!



### High School Lock-In

The High schoolers got to do a lock-in, and what a treat that was! The Holy Ghost was our theme, and for 12 hours, we were in the church playing games, eating food together, worshipping, studying the Bible, doing a scavenger hunt, painting, and watching Halloween movies. We also made welcome home kits for children in foster care.



**Thank You** to the staff and many amazing volunteers who help make these numerous programs a success!

### Upcoming Events in Youth & Family

**Children's Christmas Program:** Sunday December 10, 2 p.m. We will meet on Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to rehearse and prepare. Please register your child if they wish to be in the program. Following the program will be a holiday bake sale, so if you are handy in the kitchen, please donate a baked item for sale!

**Christmas Parties:** White Elephant Gift Exchange will take place during Youth Group on Wednesday, December 13. Middle school students will celebrate Christmas with a party on Friday, December, 15.

**Christmas Eve Treat Bags:** the Youth & Family Board will be handing out treats during the Christmas Eve worship services again this year, so be sure to find us in the Atrium! **Happy Advent!**



## October Gifts and Memorials

### FLC Foundation

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos  
Anne McDonald, Carrie Congdon,  
Rosaaen Olson

In honor of Eunice Mansfield's 100th  
Birthday  
Russell and Carol Greenfield

In memory of Steve Bushard  
Elaine Berg

### Media Ministry

In honor of Eunice Mansfield's 100th  
Birthday  
Dennis and Jane King, Phyllis Day

In memory of Donna Schiager  
Phyllis Day

In memory of Dorothy Grevlos  
Marilyn and Peter Hegg

In memory of Steve Bushard  
Marilyn McLeod

In memory of Steve Ettles  
Alfred Borgen

### Music Ministry

In memory of Donna Frank  
Jean Hoff

In memory of John Pekham  
Charlotte Peters

In memory of Donna Schiager  
Anita and Larry Bierman

## Worship Services during Advent and Christmas *The Clothing of a King*

**Children's Christmas Program: Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m., Sanctuary.**

*Cookies and hot cocoa to follow.*

**Midweek services: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

December 6, 13, and 20

*These services will also air live on YouTube, [youtube.com/flcsf](https://youtube.com/flcsf)*

*Wednesday night meals served through December 20. Meals will resume January 10, 2024.*

**Advent 4: Sunday, December 24, 9 a.m., Sanctuary**

*No 11 a.m. service December 24*

**Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24, Sanctuary**

2:30 and 4:30 p.m., services feature youth music ensembles

7:30 and 9:30 p.m., services feature brass and strings, Holy Communion served

*The 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. services will be livestreamed on YouTube. The 7:30 p.m. service will air on FOX on December 24 at 11 p.m., and again December 25 on KDLT (NBC) at 11 a.m.*

**Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 10 a.m., Sanctuary**



*Digital copies of Advent devotional booklets available online.*

## October Council Highlights

### Insurance

We were notified by Church Mutual that our umbrella and property/casualty insurance are to be canceled as of December 31, 2023. We are working and hoping to have quotes in time for budget congress as we plan for 2024. So far, we are in contact with Boen & Associates. As of now, this is just an FYI for the council. Michael asked that if anyone has any contacts or recommendations to give those names to Jodi.

### Nominating committee

The nominating committee is looking for suggestions of potential board members. Names can be sent to Jodi.

### Approval of Finance, Property, Admin Board replacement Dave Danielson

Dave Danielson has volunteered to join the finance, admin, and property board immediately as a replacement. Lyle moved to approve Dave, Donna seconded. Motion carried.

### Sound system bid process

James shared that we had three prospective bidders and received just one bid from MidStates. MidStates did our system previously. Their bid was very close to Dave Hosbach's initial estimate, so James was pleased with the bid. Dave Hosbach has worked with MidStates in

the past. We have \$340k dedicated to this project. There are some add-ons to the base bid. We expect the project in total to not exceed \$340k. James recommends making a motion to accept the bid so MidStates can begin ordering equipment. He also recommended capping the project at an amount that did not exceed funds available. Lori moved to accept MidState's bid not to exceed \$340k, Donna seconded. Motion carried.

### Directory update

Deb shared that we will publish the new directory in house this time. The board discussed options much like we had done in the past where someone comes out and takes the pictures and makes the directory. They also looked into companies that would do part of the job. They decided, however, to do the entire thing in house. A paper directory will be published and provided. Knowing that some members will not be able to provide pictures themselves, we'll offer opportunities to come in and have pictures taken at the church. A postcard will go out soon. Deb encouraged everyone to install the Church Center app.

### Financial

Net income is better than budget by \$172k. Salaries continue to keep us under budget. Revenue is down by \$67k (but would be up by \$88k if we didn't have the capital campaign misallocations from previous years). Looking into 2024, we expect expenses to be primarily flat vs. 2023. We met with the auditors regarding the Foundation and removed one deficiency now that the bookkeeping is outsourced. We are expecting the church's audit report in the next couple of weeks. The Foundation is up this year slightly, but we still have a ways to go to catch up to the losses in previous years.

### Pr. Jason

Bible studies are going strong with five pastor-led weekly studies. It has been a busy month with Reformation Sunday coming this weekend, along with the congregational vote and the Affirmation of Baptism service. Pr. Jason is excited about the possibility of having Pr. Tom on staff. Pr. Jason is looking forward to the fun of the Bazaar and All Saints Sunday. We have 18 students being confirmed this weekend. The Y&F staff along with Pr. Jason had a family meeting to discuss plans for 2024. Michael encouraged everyone to attend one of Pr. Jason's Bible studies if they haven't yet.

## Thank You, October Media Sponsors!

### October 1, 2023

- The broadcast on KELO-FM was given in memory of Steven and Julie Johnson, who would have celebrated their birthdays in September.

### October 15, 2023

- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of parents, Leo & Ingrid Knutson and Adolph & Lucile Quail; and brothers, Butch Quail and Leonard Quail; by Allan & Phyllis Knutson.

### October 22, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of loved ones and in honor of our families by Ellie Marshman Mutch and Milton Mutch.

### October 29, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was provided by Lutheran Men in Mission in honor of Norm Ekeland, a long-time member of First Lutheran Church who would have been 100 years old on October 26.

# Life Transitions

First Lutheran Church  
327 S Dakota Ave  
Sioux Falls SD 57104

## Marriages

October 14

Katrinia McGuire &  
Trever Harrington

## Baptisms

October 8

Lou Camilla Haugen  
Daughter of Kiri and Sam  
Haugen

## Deaths

October 3

Donna Schiager

October 6

John Peckham

October 14

Steven P. Bushard—funeral  
service

October 20

Roger Skovly—internment  
service

October 25

Bonnie L. Nelson—funeral  
service

## Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who completed a pledge during the stewardship campaign: *Grounded in Faith, Giving with Freedom.* Grounded in God's promises of faith, forgiveness, and daily bread, we are free to pour ourselves out in service to our neighbor. As we near the end of the year, we truly appreciate your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that allow FLC to preach the Gospel, loud and clear.

*As of November 15, we have received 285 pledges totaling \$972,595.*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1 – First Fridays Book Club 5p, R Wine Bar  
SDSO Messiah Concert 7p, Sanctuary
- 2 – WELCA Christmas Party, 11a, Gathering Room  
Grieving with Grace, 10a, Friendship Room  
SDSO Messiah Concert, 7p, Sanctuary
- 3 – German Christmas, 2p, Sanctuary
- 6 – Midweek Advent worship, 6:30p, Sanctuary
- 10 – Children's Christmas program, 2p, Sanctuary
- 13 – Midweek Advent worship, 6:30p, Sanctuary
- 15 – Middle school Christmas party, 6p
- 16 – Dementia/Alzheimer's support group, 9a, Friendship Room
- 19 – Foot Clinic, 9a, First Lutheran Church  
Necessities for Neighbors, 6p, Atrium
- 20 – Midweek Advent worship, 6:30p, Sanctuary
- 24 – No 11a service in morning  
Christmas Eve worship 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, and 9:30p, Sanctuary
- 25 – Christmas Day worship 10a, Sanctuary  
FLC offices CLOSED
- January 1 – FLC offices CLOSED

*please see page 6 for more details about Advent and Christmas*

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

December 6 – Lottie Rollag  
December 23 – Arlette Scherschligt  
Janet Lyso

