



First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

Faithful Following

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing.”

—Luke 12:22-23

Jesus’ kind words to his disciples in Luke 12, reminding them of God’s care and abiding love, are not unique.

Throughout the Bible you’ll find God speaking into the fears, worries, and anxieties of people’s hearts to bring



them peace. The cycle, it seems, is never-ending because there is always something new to worry about. Yesterday is over and we made it to a new day, but the fears of what is to come next keep us watching around every corner to see what might spring upon us—which is why Jesus tells us not to worry about life and its constant worries, but rather to trust in God’s promise.

Nobody should be surprised to hear that worry and anxiety have been high over the last year. COVID made everyone worried about life. Disease, isolation, and the economy breaking down around the world will cause everyone to worry about life. We have personal concerns about family, friends, and our community, and we need a place of peace and hope strong enough to hold onto through what threatens to overwhelm our lives. Of course, Christ Jesus is this peace for us. He calms the wind and waves and speaks “Peace be with you” to silence fear and doubts.

That peace is often mistaken for a return to normal, where someone can say, “Yeah, that was hard, but now that we’re through that, things can go back to the way they were.” For the past year I’ve heard numerous mentions of adjusting to a “new normal,” but that is nearly the same idea—that there is a normal state of being that might shift over here or there a bit, but finally we will come to a resting place, a place of peace. Hopes in this stream forget

that whenever Jesus Christ comes and brings his peace into our deep worry, fear, and anxiety, he has not come to bring us out of the trouble and back to the calm shore. Rather he brings us peace and security through it all, and that means never being the same again.

Many have hoped that the past year was a speed bump in the rearview mirror, with things at church soon returning to normal. And in some cases, that’s right. Worship has resumed, and ministry groups are back at work, even if getting the gears moving again takes some time. On the other hand, trusting in Jesus to be our peace and quiet our fears also means following him through the next days’ worries. Instead of looking backward to see what has been lost over the past year, we keep our eyes on him our faithful Lord, who isn’t waiting for us on the other side of the worries but is constantly giving us the comfort of his love and grace in the promise that God is always carrying us through.

Things this year are not going back exactly as they have been in the past. Yes, Sunday worship and Wednesday night meals and youth ministries are being planned. However, everything won’t just fall back into the old pattern. In our watching and listening as people return to worship over the past months, it’s been clear that people need more than just the doors open to return. Many are seeking deeper connections with their neighbors at church because isolation has brought out a need many didn’t even notice before. We are going to have to put in the effort to meet one another again—or perhaps for the first time—and learn to talk about our fears and worries trusting that God has brought us together to uphold, encourage, and care for one another. God has gifted us a chance to both bear one another’s struggles and trust in God’s daily provision at the same time!

Scripture First—Building faithful connections at church and at home.

In September, the current worship schedule will continue—Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m. Between Sunday worship services, instead of Scripture First being thought of as “children’s Sunday School,” you are invited to an intergenerational time to get to know people, learn how to talk about faith together, and be able to pray and bless one another throughout the week. It’s a different model for education and fellowship time because we need to re-learn what it means to know one another, share in hope and faith together, and know that in Jesus Christ even the strangest, hardest, and most worrying times of our lives are when we need to know that Jesus’ peace is our peace whenever our hearts, minds, and souls are worried.

Watch for more information about fall programming in the September issue of First Word and on the First Lutheran at flcsf.org/scripturefirst.

*First Lutheran Church Women
100th Anniversary Celebration*

September 2, 2021

All women of First Lutheran Church are invited to attend an event of reminiscing and joyful appreciation, celebrating the 100th anniversary of First Lutheran Church Women.

Tickets: \$10 each
Social 5:30 p.m. • Supper 6 p.m., program to follow

RSVP by August 20 to Jane King 332-2166, janeking1@sio.midco.net; or Arlene Bich 275-6891, habich@sio.midco.net; or sign up at the reception desk at church.

Bazaar 2021 – November 6 Blessed To Be a Blessing

Plan and Prepare

- Visualize your talents and gifts
- Create crafts and gifts
- Choose your favorite baked goods and candy recipes
- Volunteer your time and talents
- Join the fellowship
- Organize now
- Join a team
- Gather your team—invite new members

Pray

- For Bazaar planning
- For the volunteers
- For your servant heart willing to serve
- For our customers
- To be a blessing
- For the Bazaar mission

Questions?

- Sharyl Wolf, Chair
(605) 335-3416
- (605) 521-1026

Shop the Card Shoppe!

It's not just the holidays—every day is reason to send a card! Shop the Card Shoppe, in the Gathering Room South, for all occasions—even just to say Hi! Cards are just 25 cents each, with proceeds benefitting FLCW missions.

Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator



The HVAC loan is now \$286,518. There is great hope that the loan will be paid in full by the end of the year because the congregation is doing a wonderful job fulfilling their pledges! The Council will begin looking at and prioritizing other projects on the God’s Grace: Our Heritage and Future capital

campaign. These priorities will be listed on the website as the list becomes available as well as being printed in First Word. It’s exciting to think we can start looking toward improvements like the sound system, tuck pointing to preserve the integrity of the building, or repairing cracks in the walls throughout the sanctuary. I am looking forward to seeing the priority list; I hope you are too.

August 11 • 5-7PM
Live Music • Food • Fun

Visit flcsf.org for details

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY - ON THE ROAD



Gone Camping!

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



Oh happy day, First Lutheran youth returned to camp this summer! Oh how we have missed it! Sometimes I feel like a broken record talking about how awesome camp is for children and youth. It's such a great adventure in faith and life! It brings us such joy to see campers.

We headed out in mid-June to the northern border of North Dakota and Camp Metigoshe. It's an eight-hour drive, and the highlight is Rugby, ND, the geographical midpoint of North America... so, while awesome, it's a long drive! And... I may have forgotten (neglected) to tell the campers outright that camp had no showers, and they use outhouses.

I got a few looks and comments. Middle School youth are awesome, and they are not afraid to tell you how they feel. At least one of the three was quite grumpy! However, after 24 hours (ok maybe 36), the whole camp experience changed their tune! What a blessing the counselors and staff are, tirelessly working to give our campers the joy of Jesus and at Metigoshe, an "Adventure Anchored in Christ."

We Love... Because God First Loved Us, from 1 John 4:19, was the theme for the week, and they truly lived it out. Our campers got to know other youth their age, hang with college students/counselors/staff, try out a high ropes course, sing songs of praise at the top of their lungs, eat camp food, swim, kayak, pray, so many all-camp games—and four square, four square, and more four square! These are simple things in life, but being able to do them in a place where they are free to be themselves, the good and the cranky, is awesome to witness and a pretty good perk for the Youth & Family staff. Check out the great pictures of Amelia, Caroline, and Elliott, and get ready for next year y'all—you don't want to miss it!



Caroline Zeeb, Amelia Olson, and Elliott Visscher with the new Metigoshe shirts.

Quotes from the Metigoshe campers:

I experienced God at camp when we did the Christ walk. It was a peaceful and calming time. I feel like God wanted it to be that way. I was challenged on the high ropes course and feeling like I can't trust God to keep me safe. I have lots of favorite memories, but one is small group camping. It was fun to do our own things and wake up the next morning and make pancakes over the fire.
— Amelia Olson

I experienced God at camp when we did the Christ hike. The ropes course challenged me. I loved when our cabin went canoeing.
— Caroline Zeeb

I keep going back to camp because I feel connected to the people there, and I have a lot of fun with them. Waking up and doing the Polar Plunge was a challenge for me. I like staying up late with my friends Brant and Jackson.
— Elliott Visscher



Valerie and I got home at around 10 p.m. Friday night, made a quick packing switcheroo, and joined up with Elias and Pastor Jeff the next morning to head out with eleven of our high school youth to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in Montana for their rafting adventure. Two vans, lots of stuff, and excited youth (and adults!). This little road trip makes Metigoshe look like a Sunday drive, Flathead is two days of driving! We were fortunate to stay at Trinity Lutheran in Sheridan, WY, on the way out and on the way home. What a gift it is for churches to give a little respite to weary travelers. It was a ten-hour drive the second day, but we made it and were greeted by another amazing camp staff. Elias and Valerie stayed with the youth to experience the whole adventure (Pastor Jeff and I took some time to rest and prepare for the ride home). But we got to hear all about their adventures, starting with some sunburn and bug bites—oh... maybe you heard, it was in the 90s every day... in MONTANA! Crazy weather. Camp takes us out of our comfort zone—not only are they trying something completely new but there is so much nature—the good and the difficult! There are people around you all day long and all night long. You have to make meals and set up camp. You are dirty ALL the time! But something amazing happens once you move on from all the uncomfortable feelings, you open yourself up to experience God's creation of nature and humans in a whole new way.

After their week in God's amazing creation, I asked the campers three questions. Here are their answers:

How did you experience God this week?

- The scenery helped me remember that God's plan is bigger than I am. — Oskar Hein
- The grandeur of nature really is a great contrast from the very human reaction world of Sioux Falls; each day made that just a little clearer. — Al Deak
- Through some of the nature we saw on the river; a bald eagle was floating down the river and another one landed in a tree and was looking at us almost as if he was looking over us as God does every day. Also, through the campers when they would be so willing to help out around camp. — Tristan Schlecter
- In the stars. On the last night a group of us stayed up until the sun was totally down. To be able to experience God's creation in the stars in Montana was a beautifully wonderful gift. — Ashley Elton
- The scale of the mountains showed me how small we are in God's creation while the amount of nature we had showed how we could still have a big impact on the world despite being small. — Luke Martin
- Seeing God's creation because everything we passed seemed untouched. — Finn Backer

What was your biggest challenge?

- Eating things outside my comfort zone — Oskar Hein
- The bugs. I don't know that I've ever had so many bug bites in my life! — Mollie Brown
- The heat, there were times when you just didn't want to move because the heat was so bad. And the bugs were really bad in some places. — Tristan Schlecter
- How anxious I got for a shower/cleanliness and that made me feel kinda gross, so I had to overcome that to have the most enjoyment. — Luke Martin

Share one great memory/experience:

- Our tent broke on the second day and stayed broken for the duration of the experience. I don't think I'll forget that anytime soon. — Al Deak
- Watching the stars. I loved sitting out with some of the others to see the stars. You can't see the stars the same way in South Dakota as you see them in Big Sky country! — Mollie Brown
- Relationships I made with new friends and seeing what kind of people they are. — Tristan Schlecter



Above: Flathead campers and leaders get a photo op near the Glacier National Park entrance.

- I really loved all the time I got to spend with my friends going on walks, making bracelets, rafting, canoeing, and talking about life. — Ashley Elton
- On the last night, I slept in my hammock and had a great view of the sunset and stars and it looked so beautiful! — Finn Backer



Above top: Campers attempt to fix broken tent poles. Above bottom: Getting the rafts loaded for a day on the water. Below top: Kayaking and canoeing on Flathead Lake the final morning of camp. Below bottom: One final group photo before heading to the river.



FINANCIAL SERVICES



Giving Page Update

Joyfully We Give!

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor

The Stewardship & Giving Board, along with the excellent financial staff of First Lutheran, have been working to bring some helpful updates to First Lutheran's giving platform. When you go to the Give page at flcsf.org/give, you will notice some changes. This change will allow you to register and more easily track your financial support, including managing your regular giving and special designated gifts.

We are migrating away from Vanco, which we have used for many years. If you have registered recurring payments scheduled through the Vanco system, we will be contacting you with instructions for moving to our new system. At that point, we will walk each family through this transition. Some may be comfortable doing this all through our website with written instructions while others will be more comfortable doing this over the phone or in person in the church office. We will work with you however is needed to make this transition go smoothly.

All changes require some care and work to accomplish, and we know that giving support to your church is important to you. For that reason, we will be contacting all of our donors this summer to help you transition to this new giving platform. Our staff will be scheduling appointments to answer questions and help you understand how to make use of these new tools.

Please watch your mail for updates, or call the church office, (605) 336-3734, and talk with Jody Bymers about any questions or concerns.



Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to the FLC Foundation in memory of:

Judy Gaalswyk: Stephen Johnson
Marilyn Maurstad: Phyllis Day, Dorothy Grevlos
Dorothy Mikkelson: Darlene Mikkelson, Brian & Dorothy Peterson, Mary Clare Schuster
Bill Simpson: Dorothy Grevlos

Gift to the FLC Capital Campaign: Tom & Sarah Gunlicks

Gift to the FLC Capital Campaign, Paraments, in memory of:

Dorothy Mikkelson: Dorothy's daughters—Carmen, Karen, Kristen, and Claire

Gifts to the FLC Women, Lutheran World Relief, in memory of:

Ed Mansfield: Elsie Chocholousek
Marilyn Maurstad: Deborah Brace, Jim & Jill Groth, Karen Halling, Sally Kocon, Eunice Mansfield, Elaine Moore, Gayle & Angie Nelson, Ruth Olsen

Gifts to the FLC Women, Lutheran World Relief Health Care Kits, in memory of:

Ed Mansfield: Bill & Marcia Huffman

Gifts to the FLC Women, Quilters, in memory of:

Dorothy Mikkelson: Orrin & Karen Anderson, Corrine Ganske, Dennis & Jane King, Janis Outka, Shirley Thom, Donna Willadsen
Sadie Tammen: Ruth Werner, Delmar & Shirley Wetering

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Alice Brue: Phyllis Day
William R. Cox: Larry & Betty Olson

Phyllis Edman: Jean Hoff
Alan Emerson: Jean Hoff
Virginia Fetzer: Barb Matson
Jake Hofer: Karla Nieman
Lucille Husman: William Schwenck, Matt & Trish Wingert

Mary Malik: Kathy Stelzer
Marilyn Maurstad: Jeanette Edman, Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Marilyn McNeill

Dorothy Mikkelson: Marilyn Eikanger, Corrine Ganske, Sandy Holleman, Timothy & Katherine Killeen, Roger & Joan Lindholm, William & Lorrae Lindquist, Marilyn Moseson, Milt Mutch, James & Carol Oakland, Bonnie Stavig, Kathy Stelzer, John & Kristine Tank

Howard Paulson: Marilyn Eikanger

William Simpson: Orrin & Karen Anderson, Elaine Berg, Howard & Arlene Bich, Alfred Borgen, Faith Christiansen, Russell & Karen Eng, Don & Judy Erickson, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Joan Hansen, Jean Hoff, Sandy Holleman, Steve Johnson, Mel & Carol Klein, Barb Matson, Eleanor McMahan, David & Lori Melemseter, Dave & Linda Munson, Carl & Janet Naessig, Ron & Connie Nelson, Rosella Nerum, James & Carol Oakland, William & Nancy Olson, Marlin & Luann Olson, SFSD Special Services Staff, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Bonnie Stavig, Don & Florence Toft, Dave & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Coletta Venske, Karilee Zea

Gifts to the Music Ministry, Organ Fund, in memory of:

Mary Malik: Mary Eich

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 6/30/2021

Total Revenue, year-to-date	
2021 Budget	\$1,095,691
2021 Actual	\$1,063,446
2020 Actual	\$1,063,794
Total Expenses, year-to-date	
2021 Budget	\$1,097,691
2021 Actual	\$948,229
2020 Actual	\$1,003,025
YTD Net Profit/Loss	\$115,217
Contract For Deed, Ideal	\$102,753
HVAC System	\$284,518
Worship Attendance	1,363



Baptisms:

May 15 Connor Jacob Johnson
 May 30 Easton Matthew Frankforter
 June 4 Calvin Kedik
 June 4 Samuel Reed
 June 20 Christian Thomas Carney
 June 26 Lucille Wynia
 June 27 Otto Howard Skoglund

Weddings:

May 15 Matthew Griffin & Katelin Bergstrom
 June 5 Matthew Frankforter & Melissa Lommen
 June 19 Jacob Meyers & Elizabeth Smorada

Deaths

May 3 Marilyn Faye Maurstad
 June 3 Sadie Tammen
 June 5 Jean Pedersen
 June 9 Lucille Husman
 June 21 Melvin Feuerstein
 June 28 Kristy Zuraff

MAY AND JUNE MEDIA SPONSORS



May 2: Television was sponsored in memory of Jake and Amelia Fritz and their son, Leonard Fritz, by family. Radio was sponsored in memory of Albert and Stella Wold by Jeanne Wold. Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Wayne Hoff by his mother, Jean; and sister, Jennifer.

May 9: Television was sponsored in memory and honor of all mothers by the FLC Women. Radio was sponsored in memory of Harry and Lena Dooyema by their family. YouTube live stream was sponsored by Roger Haugo in honor of his parents' May birthdays.

May 16: Closed captioning was sponsored by Dottie Paulson and family for Min Paulson's 99th birthday, which would have been May 11.

May 23: Radio was sponsored in memory of Erling and Clara Haugo, who would have celebrated their wedding anniversary May 29. It is made possible by earnings of a gift to the FLC Foundation.

May 30: Television was sponsored in memory of Dorothy Mikkelson by her daughters—Corrine, Karen, Kirsten, and Claire.

June 13: Television was sponsored in memory of Muriel and Deborah Ekland by their family—Norm Ekland, Rob and Kari Ekland, and Rachel and Trey Lawson. Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Albert and Esther Berdahl, who were married at First Lutheran on June 11, 1937, given by their family.

June 20: Television was sponsored in recognition of Joyce M. Ashley's parents through earnings from her memorial gift to the FLC Foundation. Radio was sponsored in memory of Doris Salem, who would have celebrated her birthday on June 23, by her family.

June 27: Television was sponsored in memory of David and Susan Lankford by the earnings of a gift to the FLC Foundation from their family and friends. David and Susan would have celebrated their anniversary on June 23. Radio was sponsored in memory of Ralph and Priscilla Hillgren and in memory of their daughter, Sonja Dorothy Hillgren. It is made possible through a gift to the FLC Foundation.

Council Highlights

If 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. Members are welcome to visit meetings.

May 27, 2021

- Finances remain strong. Total income year-to-date is up from budgeted amount, and overall expenses are below budget. HVAC loan as of May 27, 2021, is down to \$237,000.
- Pastor John thanked the pastors, staff, and executive committee for encouraging him to take intentional family time. He will be out of the office June 10 to August 10. He also thanked Jean Hoff for getting the capital campaign going again.
- Pastor Lars shared updates to COVID restrictions and activities resuming. He shared staffing updates: Brian Schipper hired as receptionist, Brett Miller hired as Youth & Family Coordinator, Children's and Youth Music Director position posted, and Donna Jahr retiring June 7. Pr. Lars shared the 2021-22 ministry plan as well as the strategic

communications and marketing plan with Communications Director Jodi Hoyt.

- Pastor Jeff discussed the challenges of retaining guests. He gave updates on the Lowell partnership as well as First Lutheran African Ministry.
- The proposed fall worship schedule was approved.
- A proposal was made to order green banners to match the new green paraments at a cost of approximately \$4,000. Funds will be raised outside of the capital campaign.

June 24, 2021

- Expenses continue to trail below budget, mostly due to personnel expenses being down.
- The executive committee approved the revised Youth Minister job description.
- Based on capital campaign pledges, we believe the HVAC loan will be paid off by the end of the year.



August Special Offering: Lowell Elementary

By Cherie Hopper, E&O Board Member



The special offering for August will support our relationship with Lowell Elementary. We have partnered with Lowell for some time, but

especially these last four years. On October 1, the Sioux Falls District will be 150 years old, and Lowell will be 130.

Because of COVID, First Lutheran was unable to provide the same type of support as the previous years. Last year, we sponsored classrooms where we helped the teachers as needed. In September, 18 classrooms will be available for adoption. Hopefully, we will be able to return to school as reading buddies, mentors, and for our First Thursday movies.

While working at Lowell, I was honored to meet and get to know Lori Rolfe, one of the school's secretaries. She has assisted me with this article. (The following is Lori's contribution!)

"At Lowell Elementary, the vision is that all will learn and achieve beyond what they believe is possible. We value the uniqueness of each individual as an essential part of our diverse community. We foster a caring, respectful, and creative environment and nurture the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each person.

In February this year, FLC gifted Lowell a book vending machine. Through a celebration of "Golden Moments," our students are able to choose a book of their liking. "Golden Moments" are moments recognized by a student for their peers. When students see their peer doing something above what is expected, they write it down. Each week all the students who received a "Golden Moment" from their peers are placed into a box, and names are drawn at

random. Those winners receive their golden coin and get to select a book. At the end of the year, each student receives all their moments to reflect on. These moments have created a positive buzz in the building. Students are looking for the good in others and taking the time to tell their peers.

This past year we were blessed with classroom sponsors. These volunteers were an invaluable resource to our teachers and students—volunteering the time and talent to uplift the teachers and their students during a trying time.

We hope to continue and grow our volunteer opportunities. By volunteering to work with children at Lowell, as they learn to read, improve their math skills, or prepare for their next challenge, you can play a part in helping your community become better educated. By volunteering at Lowell, you can help start a positive cycle of community-building that outlasts your immediate work."

Thanks, Lori!

Please consider supporting our ministry with Lowell by volunteering your time, donating, and praying for the students and staff.

You may use your special offering envelope included with your regular offering envelopes, or write Lowell Elementary on your check and bring or mail to First Lutheran.

Watch for more information coming soon about being a classroom sponsor.

Fifth grader (now sixth-grader) and FLC youth, Garrett Kucker, shows his book from the new vending machine.



Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for worship at 11 a.m. in the McKennan Park band shell with Larry Olson and the band providing worship music. School children may bring their backpacks for a special blessing. (Blessing of the Backpacks will also take place at the Saturday, 5 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. services at FLC.)

The Evangelism and Outreach Board will provide fried chicken and beverages. Bring a dish to share.

Please bring lawn chairs or blanket, and join us! In case of rain, 11 a.m. worship will be held at First Lutheran. For details visit flcsf.org/now

Dementia Support Group

By Barney Brandenburg, Care and Health Ministry Chair



It has been long recognized that dementia caregivers feel as if they are under a great deal of stress, both physically and emotionally, while they are providing care. Yet, when asked, they also feel

a profound feeling of satisfaction about the care they render. Do you feel that way?



It is the mission of the FLC Care and Health Board to tend to the needs of healing and comfort in the areas of body, mind, and spirit. And because we recognize that there is an underserved group of caregivers within our community, we will be initiating a support group for caregivers of dementia patients.

Why is this important?

- It brings people together who may have similar experiences, thoughts, and feelings.
- It helps to counter the sense of isolation and loneliness this often brings.
- It allows for emotional, physical, and spiritual support in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

- It encourages expression of thoughts and feelings by group members.
- It encourages participants not only to receive, but also to give support.
- It offers opportunities to learn new approaches to challenges they may face.
- It allows for trust-building in a world that may otherwise seem uncaring.
- It provides a forum to ask questions and otherwise search for meaning.
- It provides a supportive environment to reawaken the zest for life and redefine how to live a more meaningful life.

The board's goal is to start a support group that meets once monthly. We expect to follow the guidance of a well-written text that group members will be given at the beginning of the session. We expect the session to run for approximately one year and then possibly change into the next phase of perceived need.

The group will be co-led by Jason VanRuler and Barney Brandenburg. We hope to begin the group this September or October.

If you are a primary or secondary caregiver for a loved one with dementia and are interested in joining this group, please contact Barney Brandenburg, (605) 366-3170 or Brandenvfp@gmail.com. Please be ready to share your contact information. The number of participants is limited for each session, so we will be accommodating in order of request. More details will be provided at the time of contact. We hope to play a role for you if you find that any of the reasons listed above seem familiar.

Project CAR Drivers Needed

By Linda Braun, Care and Health Board Member



Have you ever wondered about Project CAR? Sure, we see their vehicles parked in the back lot of FLC and see them out on the road occasionally, but what is this organization all about?

Project CAR began in 1980 when leaders of First Lutheran, First United Methodist, and the Senior Companion Program collaborated to form a non-profit entity to assist those in need of transportation to essential services. It was initially named Call A Ride, and became Project CAR in 2005. It is now part of Charis Ministry involving 14 Lutheran Churches in the Sioux Falls area.

Project CAR requires a one-week notice to provide transportation for a variety of services including medical appointments; church activities such as worship services, Bible studies, volunteer events, quilting, and WELCA meetings; among others.

It also provides rides for Lifescape clients to adult care facilities and workplaces, and Senior Companions to the homes of their clients. One

unique opportunity involves high school students who are planning a career in medicine. These students are furnished with transportation to the Avera Academy.

The organization averages 120 rides per week this year, providing an estimated 6,000 rides in 2021. This is much lower than average due to the pandemic, and when things return to normal, the expectation will nearly double to 10,000 rides per year as it has in previous years.

The only stipulation for a rider is that they must be able to independently get into and out of the vehicle without assistance. Crutches and canes are acceptable, but wheelchairs are not able to be accommodated.

The managing director of Project CAR is Christopher Montgomery. He is continually searching for volunteer drivers. Drivers have flexible hours, and schedules can be adjusted according to needs. There is a consistent need for drivers; there are never enough! Please contact Christopher at christopher@projectcarsf.org or (605) 332-2777.

This ministry is being supported by the Care and Health Board at FLC.

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