



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls SD

New Staff to Kick Off 2022

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to First Lutheran: Sarah Maag and Sarah Skajewski. Sarah Maag serves as the Office Manager, overseeing all things administrative and facilities. Sarah Skajewski serves as the Youth and Family Coordinator, assisting the Youth and Family staff administratively and with programming.

Meet Sarah Maag, Office Manager

Tell us about yourself:

I am an only child from Tripp, South Dakota. Until the past few years, I played an active part in our family's show cattle production business. While growing up, I was extremely active in showing cattle locally, regionally, and nationally through 4-H, FFA, and Breed Associations. I am proud to now be the third-generation owner of our family farm. I obtained a Political Science degree and Animal Science minor at South Dakota State University. *Go Big, Go Blue, Go Jacks!* Upon graduation, I decided to make a pivot in my professional career into the hospitality industry where I have significant experience in restaurants, convention centers, and hotels. I have resided in Sioux Falls for 15 years and spend my time with my boyfriend of 13 years, Troy, and our amazing little 11-year-old Boston terrier, Hank!



It excites me when industries and organizations decide to put a real focus on hospitality within their business. I am so proud to be a part of the First Lutheran team that is looking to make a real impact on our guests' experience from how we are connecting with them outside of the church, to the moment they drive into our parking lot until the next time they are with us again. I am thrilled to share my 20 years of hospitality and guest experience with the team.

What do you enjoy in your free time?
In my free time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family and most importantly, Hank. I am an avid concert goer and have obtained expert level status in shopping.

Some Quick Favorites:

Ice cream? I would actually pass, but I haven't found any chips and salsa I would turn away!

Soda, tea, coffee? I am a sugar-free Red Bull lady!

Season of the year? I love late summer and fall because I enjoy the weather, watching my little cousins play football, and county/state fair time!

Meet Sarah Skajewski, Youth & Family Coordinator

Tell us about yourself:

I grew up in Sioux Falls and have attended First Lutheran since 2004! I have three daughters: Harper (8), Eta (3), and Nora (1). We also have two furry friends in our home—a golden doodle named Milton and a ragdoll cat named Theodore.



I have been a stay-at-home mom for the past four years and recently had a need to return to the workforce. A happy coincidence informed me that FLC was looking for a Youth & Family Coordinator, and I instantly applied. I am drawn to FLC for so many reasons, and now I get to also call it home for work!

I am eager to get to know the youth of FLC as well as be involved in Necessities for Neighbors. I have a genuine love of people, and I am looking forward to getting to know all of the families and members of FLC.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

What is "free" time? HA! I have a photography business, and I absolutely love capturing moments via photos. I am also an avid home DIY'er and enjoy flipping furniture!

Some Quick Favorites:

Ice cream? Chocolate!

Soda, tea, coffee? Dr. Pepper, unsweetened black ICED tea, ALL THE COFFEE

Season of the year? Give me all the sun and heat!!

Capital Campaign: Next Goals

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator



Thanks be to God for the many gifts that were received from the members of First Lutheran that retired the debt of the HVAC loan! The first goal of the campaign has been completed. We still have four goals, outlined below, that need to be funded. With the exception of the tuck pointing, the goals are listed in no particular order.

Tuck pointing of the bell tower and north side of the church building: The cost is \$121,000, and a contract has been signed so the work can begin in the spring. This project was determined to be the number one project by the Church Council. We are confident that with the pledges that are to come in the first five months of the year, we will have the money to pay for this project when the work begins. The property board also has some reserve funds that could help pay for the project should the campaign fall short.

Atrium remodel at a cost of approximately \$160,000: If you attended previous campaign meetings, you are aware there is a need to move the reception desk so the receptionist has a greater sight line to see who is coming into the building. This makes it easier for visitors to know where to find the receptionist, and it provides greater safety for the visitors, members, and staff. We do have \$100,000 designated toward this project.

Sanctuary ceiling: This project is the largest project and has increased in cost since the campaign began. The original cost was estimated at \$650,000. Construction costs have increased significantly due to COVID. After discussion with contractors that specialize in these types of projects, the cost is now estimated at \$750,000.

Sanctuary sound system: This is the final project approved by the Church Council to be completed under the God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future Capital Campaign. The approximate cost of this project is \$250,000. For this project, we have received pledges that total \$100,000 and non-pledge money of \$7,500.

We do not have enough in pledges to complete these four necessary projects, and we are looking to the congregation to help us raise the money/pledges to complete them. Please prayerfully consider how you might help.



Bella Noche

Dinner & Auction

Sunday, February 27 ♦ 5-8 PM
Reformation Hall

Dinner ♦ Live & Silent Auctions ♦ FUN!

Purchase tickets, \$25/each or \$200/table:
in Church Center app • at flcsf.org/events • or call 336-3734

All proceeds benefit youth attending camps and mission trips this summer

Childcare is available for \$10 per child; pizza dinner is included.

Auction items needed! *Vacation stays, adventure experiences, hand-crafted items, framed artwork, theme baskets (meals, family fun, chocolate, etc.)*

Congregation Annual Meeting February 6
12:15–1:15 p.m.

This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6, at 12:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Annual reports will be available to read online at flcsf.org/annualreport.

Walking Through Lent at First Lutheran



Walking to Jerusalem during Lent

By John Hegg, Care & Health Board



We have often heard “it takes a village to raise a child.” During the upcoming season of Lent it will take the community of First Lutheran to complete a challenging endeavor. During the 40 days of Lent, we will be walking or running the 6,400 miles from Sioux Falls to Jerusalem in a straight line “as the crow flies.” What a meaningful way to work together as First members to complete a task that keeps Lent a focus in our journey of faith in 2022! Why not **add** to the spirit of discipline during Lent rather than **giving up** something? We can remember Christ’s walk as we walk or run our miles.

The walk/run can be done by individuals, groups, or family systems. It is a great way for individual meditation or for a family, or groups friends to work together on a journey of faith through Lent by adding their miles to our goal.

Some simple instructions:

- To indicate your commitment, all individuals, groups, and families need to register by contacting John at, 605-339-2582 or johnhegg@sio.midco.net. You may also register between services in the Atrium Sundays in February.
- Each Tuesday during Lent March 8-12, report your total miles for the week so we can announce our progress on Wednesday.
- Pedometers to track miles are available from John with a donation of \$15.
- 2,300 steps can be equated to one mile.

Look for the progress poster in the Atrium beginning Wednesday, March 9. Please contact John with any questions or suggestions.

MARCH 1, 2022 • 5-7PM • \$5/PERSON

SHROVE TUESDAY

PANCAKES • BALLOONS • FACE PAINTING • CRAFT



Ash Wednesday Worship, March 2

11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Imposition of ashes and a solemn reminder of both our mortality and God's eternal life for us.

The Ash Wednesday worship service will be broadcast on KSFY at 3 p.m.

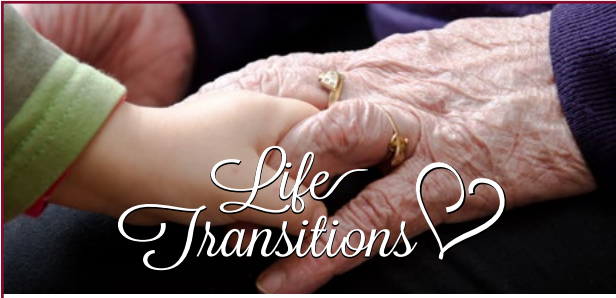
If you know someone who is unable to attend worship at First Lutheran, please let them know about the television broadcast.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays, March 9–April 13

Worship will be held at 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The evening services will be live streamed on YouTube.

Wednesday night meals continue, 5-6 p.m., in Reformation Hall for \$5 per person.



Baptisms:
 Dec. 5 Theodore Michael O'Toole, son of Lyndsay and Ryan O'Toole
 Dec. 18 Isla Rae Bittner, daughter of Kristen and Brett Bittner

Deaths:
 Dec. 16 James Parks
 Dec. 17 James Raker

Council Highlights: December 16, 2021

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.

- We ended the month positive for November, bringing us to +\$75,550 for the year. Offerings are still down approximately \$150k for the year. Total income is below budget \$167k for the year. Personnel numbers continue to be below budget for the year, which provides savings and allows budget numbers to be positive.
- This week we welcomed Pr. Dave Zellmer and our new office manager, Sarah Maag.
- Pr. Jeff shared that we've received a great number of requests for help in our community.
- Pr. Dave shared that historically, pandemics break cultures. He mentioned that a primary purpose of church leadership is to help the congregation remain calm. Pushes will be made for things to happen more quickly. The leadership can help ease those anxieties by leading with calmness.
- The HVAC balance is now \$38,228. Jean is still optimistic that the loan will be paid in full by the end of the year.
- With Dr. Steve Paulson ending his time at Luther House mid academic year, it was decided that this year's donation would be \$25k (vs. \$50k as originally planned)

First Word

First Word is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD for members of the congregation and others upon request. Opinions expressed in First Word are those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by the FLC congregation or staff. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions.

Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of the month for publication the next month. Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Communications Director, Jodi Hoyt, at jhoyt@flcsf.org. Reader feedback is welcome.

First Word mobile version and PDF download are available at flcsf.org/firstword.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sat. 5 PM Traditional, Sanctuary
 Sun. 8 AM Radio - rebroadcast of previous week on KELO-FM (101.9)
 Sun. 9 AM Traditional, Sanctuary
 Watch live at youtube.com/flcsf
 Sun. 11 AM Contemporary, Sanctuary
 Watch live on YouTube
 Sun. 11 AM Traditional broadcast on KSFY Sioux Falls, KPRY Pierre, KABY Aberdeen

December Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in honor of:
 Pastor John's retirement: Jack & Linda Heilman, Paul & Karen Van Bockern

Gift to God's Grace Our Heritage: Capital Campaign in honor of:
 Pastor John's retirement: Jean Hoff

Gift to God's Grace Our Heritage: Capital Campaign in memory of:
 Kathryn Griffith: Raymond Sr. & Elizabeth Neuroth

Gift to God's Grace Our Heritage: Tuckpointing, in honor of:
 Pastor John's retirement: Sharyl Wolf

Gift to Care and Health Ministry in memory of:
 LaVonne McElroy: Curtis & Cathy Paulson

Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:
 Pastor John's Retirement: Shirley Drobny, Hazel Wek

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:
 Jan Everetts: Clint Baldwin, Paul & Jean Colon, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Patty Haugen, Ann Lea Niedert, Tracie Osthus, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Ronald & Lynnette Rother, LTC James & Mary Stafne, Jeffrey Toft, Don & Florence Toft, Orrin & Patricia Townswick, Robert & Marilyn Van Demark
 Enid Johnson: Jean Edman, Reed Scott
 Marlene Kuchta: Roger & Bev Lamp
 Ronald Mathison: Wayne Deist & Marietta Finke, Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Mary Joneson, Thomas & Kathy Linneweber, Gregory & Mary Magnuson, Diane Mathison, Lois J. Peterson, Peggy Cuddy & Tammy Taylor
 Irene Quast: Phyllis Beuckens
 Leland Vlastuin: Jeff & Edna Husman
 Bill Westerdahl: Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Sandy Holleman, Ruth Lone
 Kristy Zuraff: Leroy & Janet Halstenson

Gifts to Outreach, Lowell Project, in memory of:
 Jan Everetts: Jeffrey & Sarah Herbert
 Ron Mathison: Jeffrey & Sarah Herbert

Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:
 Jackie Hansen: Lynn Stenseth Campion, Pr. Peter & Norma Strommen, Renee & Lewis Weinberg
 Ron Mathison: Roger Braaten

Gift to Music Ministry, Hand Bells, in memory of:
 Charles Osthus: Betty Wolff

Gift to Music Ministry, Organ Fund, in memory of:
 Jackie Hanson: John & Marcia Kittelson

Financial Update as of December 31, 2021

Total Revenue, year-to-date	
2021 Budget	\$2,191,382
2021 Actual	\$2,145,982
2020 Actual	\$2,155,182
Total Expenses, year-to-date	
2021 Budget	\$2,191,382
2021 Actual	\$2,035,133
2020 Actual	\$2,934,747
YTD Net Profit/Loss	\$110,848
Contract For Deed, Ideal	\$66,118
HVAC System	\$0
Worship Attendance	1,794

**Mobilize your giving
 Donate through our app
 or "Text to Give"**

Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

Thank you for your generous support throughout 2021. The continuing pandemic has shown how critical our Media Ministry is to our extended congregation outside the walls of the First Lutheran Church.

We have heard from many of our viewers and listeners who have been able to stay connected and worship with the family of First Lutheran. Providing a weekly worship experience for those unable to attend worship in person has been part of FLC ministry for decades.

You can sponsor a radio broadcast, television broadcast, closed captioning, or YouTube live stream in honor of or in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special life event, or to the glory of God.

2022 Sponsorships Available Now

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.

Thank You, December Sponsors

Dec. 5: The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of John Drobny's 83rd birthday, which would have been December 30, by his wife, Shirley; and children, Mary, Dan, and Laura.

Dec. 12: The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Don E. & Karen Tiede in memory of their parents, Ernest & Emma Tiede and John & Clarice Yttreness.

Dec. 19: The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Margaret Doescher by her family. The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Ralph and Priscilla Hillgren and their daughter, Sonja Hillgren. It was made possible through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Dec. 24: The Christmas Eve telecast on The CW was sponsored by Lori and David Melemseter in honor of Lori's parents, Dr. J. David & Sally Larsen; in memory of Lori's grandparents, Rev. J. David & Helen Larsen and Dr. H. C. & Alice Peterson; and in memory of David's parents, Harold and Berniece Melemseter.

Dec. 25: The Christmas Day re-telecast and closed captioning on KSFY were sponsored by Judy Jasper in memory of her parents, Jack and Mabel Jasper.

Dec. 26: The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by the First Lutheran Church Women as a tribute to the pastors and staff of First Lutheran.

Download our Church Center app today (for Apple and Android) and donate one time or setup recurring donations. Visit flcsf.org/give

Evangelism and Outreach Ministry



February Special Offering: Local Missions

Union Gospel Mission | Bishop Dudley House | St. Francis House

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor for Evangelism and Outreach



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." –Matthew 25:35

The most recent statistics show that there are more than 1,000 homeless adults and more than 700 homeless children in the Sioux Falls area.

This month's special offering envelope supports three local missions that provide crisis support to people in our community experiencing poverty or homelessness: Union Gospel Mission, Bishop Dudley House, and St. Francis House.

Union Gospel Mission

Union Gospel Mission started in Sioux Falls in 1900 and for 121 years has provided spiritual nourishment, housing, meals, clothing, and household items to needy folks in our community. The Mission provides safe, comfortable lodging and showers for individuals who find themselves without shelter and needing a place to rest and get out of the elements. Lodging is offered for up to 80 men and 48 women and children. Guests might be transients passing through the area; some are people struggling as they work to get back on their feet, and a few others are individuals that choose to join our discipleship program and become accountable in several areas of their life.

In addition to providing three meals a day, UGM also provides daily chapel, adult learning, medical care, and



more. Learn more about this ministry and how you can volunteer at ugmsf.org.



Bishop Dudley House

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House is an ecumenical ministry in Sioux Falls that provides a central, first-stop resource for those in crisis.

Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers daytime and overnight emergency shelter for those who find themselves homeless and vulnerable, housing some 80 men, 20 women, and 7 families nightly. Like Union Gospel Mission, their programming serves the holistic needs of the individual. The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers a warm, safe, secure place to start the road back to a more stable, long-term way of living.

To learn more about this ministry, as well as explore volunteer opportunities and donation needs, please visit bdhh.org.

St. Francis House

St. Francis House is an emergency and transitional housing program for up to 120 men and women and seven families. St. Francis House began as an ecumenical partnership between First Lutheran Church and the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese in 1987. The primary mission of SFH is to move people from homelessness to hope.

Besides providing housing for those in need, SFH provides three meals each day as well as case management services to assist guests with obtaining and maintaining employment, attending treatment classes, rebuilding their relationships with family, and paying off their debts to society.

SFH requires guests to obtain and maintain employment. Guests are required to place every paycheck into a savings account. While at the House, guests must remain alcohol, substance, and gambling free; perform household chores; and attend two self-improvement classes each week.

SFH provides guests with shelter, food, debt management, basic essentials, case management, and HOPE! Visit stfranchishouse.com to learn more.

Please consider financial support of these ministries by using one of the special offering envelopes our church provides or by writing "February Local Missions" on the memo line of a check made out to First Lutheran Church. Unless otherwise indicated, your donation will be divided equally among these three organizations.

No matter what you do, please remember the ministries of Union Gospel Mission, Bishop Dudley House, and St. Francis House in your prayers. Thank you for your support!



First Lutheran will be closed on Monday, February 21 in honor of Presidents' Day.

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WELCA Projects in 2022

By Jean Hoff, WELCA President

WELCA/FLCW is spearheading a number of projects this year. As you are cleaning things out of your home or out shopping for good deals, please keep these in mind.

- **Health care kits:** nail clipper, dark colored bath size towel, toothbrush, large comb, full-size bars of soap
- **Dress kits:** fabric and thread
- **Baby layette kits:** cloth diapers, undershirts, sleepers, sweaters, socks, hats, dark colored hand towels, Ivory soap; (please note that the clothing should be size 6 to 24 months and 2T)
- **School kits:** pens, pencils, ruler, blunt scissors, pencil sharpener, 24 count crayons, 70 count wide rule spiral notebooks
- Special offering for Ephphatha Services
- Wrapped full-size soap (kits)
- Pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Eye glasses for Lions Eye Bank
- Fabric, gently used sheets, pillow cases, yarn

Unfortunately, we can no longer accept used stamps. Our outlet for these no longer exists. Thank you for the stamps you have brought in the past. The organization appreciated all our efforts on their behalf.

For more info about these projects and how you can help, please contact Jean at 605-941-7352.



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**



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Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice Dollars are used for a variety of events at First Lutheran such as outreach with Lowell Elementary, Care and Health, and children's ministry. Please remember to designate First Lutheran Church if you have Thrivent Choice Dollars. When designated to First Lutheran, these dollars support all ministries of the church. If you have dollars available, you must make an annual request for them to be distributed. The last date to apply for 2021 Thrivent Choice Dollars is March 31, 2022. Please contact Pr. Jeff Backer, jbacker@flcsf.org or Jody Bymers, jbymers@flcsf.org, or call (605) 339-1983 ext. 209.

First Word
First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

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