



# First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

## Calling all Resolutionists! It is a New Year!

By Jeff Backer,  
Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach



“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”

– 2 Corinthians 5:17

I do not think I am the only one excited to see us turn the page on the year 2020. As I am writing this, the COVID-19 vaccine is starting to be administered,

and there seems to be hope that we are turning a major corner with the pandemic. The presidential election is pending the electoral college vote. There is no doubt that this last year has shaped us to be a new people, how we interact with each other, how we work, and how we play.

The turn of the calendar to a new year brings with it anticipation for what can be possible. Often, we find that people make all kinds of plans to improve themselves or aspects of their life. Gym memberships usually see an increased spike, self-help book sales increase, people begin new hobbies or even make plans to alter major parts of their life like their occupation, people move to new homes, and the like.

New Year's also brings a renewed emphasis on the church season of Epiphany, which is known as the season of light. The underlying message of epiphany is God's revealing of Christ to the world. The date of January 6 has historically brought the time of Christmastide to a close and is traditionally celebrated as the day of the visitation of the Magi to the Christmas family at Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-12). The Magi were “wise men” from the East and were Zoroastrian Priests, meaning they looked to the stars for signs or messages. They were the ones who followed the star of Bethlehem as the sign that the Christ had been born. This is just one of the ways God revealed his Son had come into the world to dwell among us.

It is the first Sunday after Epiphany that becomes important for our knowing, as we celebrate the baptism of our Lord by John in the river Jordan. It is in this event that God reveals the true nature of why he sent his Son into the world. After John the Baptist had continually preached the message of the one who is coming, Jesus walks up to him on the shore of the Jordan River. Jesus tells John that he must be baptized by him, and John resists. But of course, John is dealing with God incarnate, so like he has any authority to resist



[churchofjesuschrist.org/bible-videos/videos/the-baptism-of-jesus](http://churchofjesuschrist.org/bible-videos/videos/the-baptism-of-jesus)

Jesus. John baptizes Jesus, and as Jesus is coming out of the water, we hear that the heavens are torn open, and the Holy Spirit alights on Christ as God speaks, “This is my Son, my beloved, in whom I am well pleased.”

But why is it important that Jesus is baptized? Who is baptism for?

Well for us, as sinners, it is in this event that the promise that comes in Christ is being founded. From this point forward, Jesus takes on your sins, your actual sins. Not as a sign, not as a payment of some sort of debt. Jesus must take on your actual sin in order to take it to the cross and to die for it. Because, if there was any other way for you to be made right with God, the cross is not only diminished, but is invalidated.

The great message of Epiphany is this: Christ came into the world as the light of God that breaks through the darkest parts of our lives. As a New Year people, let the revelation of Christ and why he has come speak into your life today because the only great potential you have is in Christ Jesus. We know that common resolutions wither away, but the resolution of Christ is to send the Holy Spirit to you again and again, to speak his promises of forgiveness, and that makes you a new creation when you trust in it. This is the good news of epiphany! The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Happy Epiphany to you all!



## Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, January 31

10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Please plan to join us for a brief conference between worship services.

The 2020 Annual Report and 2020 Foundation Annual Report will be available at the church Sunday, January 24, and on the church website, [flcsf.org](http://flcsf.org).

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH



## January Special Offering: Companion Synods

By Dan Lindquist, E&O Board Member



This month's special offering supports our companion synods in Nicaragua: Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua Fe y Esperanza, ILFE (The Nicaraguan Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope), and in Cameroon: L'Eglise Evangélique Luthérienne au Cameroun, EELC (The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon).

I am happy to share my with you my experiences traveling to Nicaragua and Cameroon to work alongside the Lutheran Church in both countries. I have traveled to Nicaragua on four separate occasions with a medical mission group, working in conjunction with ILFE, providing care to those in rural Nicaragua as well as people in the capital city of Managua. What a privilege it has been to go and be the hands of God working in His world!

While many see this as a call to give financially to God (which is exactly what I'm asking you to consider!), I also believe it is a call to give of our individual time and talents! In Colossians, Luke is referred to as a physician (from the Greek for “one who heals”). As a medical professional, Luke's words resonate in my heart as well as in the work of my hands.

In February 2017, I traveled to Cameroon with Bishop Zellmer and a delegation of nurses and advance practice providers from the South Dakota Lutheran Synod, partnering with Global Health Ministries, to provide medical supplies and education to three hospitals in the Adamawa Region. Again, I looked to scripture, to Matthew 9:35-38, “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’”

We traveled 16 hours by train from the capital in Yaoundé to N'Gaoundéré and Garoua-Boulai, spent time at hospitals and rural clinics; worshiped together; embraced our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Leprosarium in Foubarka; met with seminarians at the Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga; and shared prayers, conversations, and meals with those who Christ calls US ALL to love!

I'll leave you all with my favorite travel quote, attributed to Mark Twain: “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.”

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting our Companion Synod Ministries. Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes or visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to donate.



## New Year, New Hopes

By Jodi Hoyt, Communication Director



By the time you read this, it will likely be 2021. I'm surely not the only one to echo Pastor Jeff's sentiment of no hard feelings in turning the page on 2020. It's easy to look back and point out the struggles and hardships. It's easy to see the things that divided us and kept us apart. I would encourage you, though (as I try to remind myself daily), to take a few moments and look back for the good things that happened in 2020.

With our daycare closed and the church staff working almost exclusively from home, I suddenly found myself with more family time than I needed. And though there were certainly times I just wanted some alone time, I have to admit I enjoyed it.

I spent nearly every day outside—pushing the boys on the swings, throwing the dog's toy, tending to the garden, and just enjoying the sunshine. We got to know our neighbors a bit better. We opened our home to foster dogs (one of which quickly became a “foster fail”). We celebrated birthdays via Zoom. I took guitar lessons! (I'll admit that last one didn't stick—not yet anyway.)

And now here we are, countless months later, moving into a new year with new hopes. As you contemplate your resolutions, think back on those good things in your life. Things may not always go the way we plan them to, but I'm sure they are part of God's plan for us even when we struggle to see the light in the darkness.

May 2021 be filled with hope and joy.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)



## Milestone Minute



### Affirmation of Baptism 2.0

On Sunday, November 22, we celebrated confirmation again—lovingly called *Affirmation of Baptism 2.0*. Four families weren't able to be with us on Sunday, November 1, for several reasons, so we were able to bring them together at the 11am worship service. It's been a very different year for confirmation but still a wonderful joy to celebrate with these amazing sophomores as they affirmed their faith.



### Siri Larson's Confirmation service project

As a part of the 9th Grade Confirmation year, students are asked to participate in service hours outside of the church. This year proved a bit difficult to make that happen, so a lot of grace was given. However, Siri Larson found some wonderfully creative ways to share her gifts with other people during a pandemic! Thank you Siri!

## Celebrating our Baptisms

On Sunday, January 10, we celebrate the baptism of our Lord Jesus. We also lift up all the baptisms from the previous year. 2020 was a unique time for baptisms - families and First Lutheran came up with many ways to celebrate this sacrament! Some families used their backyards or a park. Others waited until they could be in the building. Baptisms were held privately with just family and godparents and others were celebrated in worship with a limited number of people. We even had a parking-lot-worship baptism in the fall! We are so blessed by these precious new baptized souls. Here are some of their photos. Please keep them in your prayers as we all have made promises to these children of God. And we rest assured in the promises that God has given to them and to you and I - forgiveness of sins and a new life in Christ.



Clara Joy Johnson-Youngquist with parents, Elias and Abby



Anna Marie Guthmiller with parents, Adam and Alli Guthmiller



Thomas Alan Aylor with family: Adrian & Reed, Hadley and godparents Brittany and Jon Fodness



Andrew Robert Margarit with parents Ted Margarit and Elizabeth Atchison

### Anniversary of Baptism Milestone, January 10

If you had a baptism in 2020, we would love it if you would send a photo of the day (family or the person being baptized by themselves), as we are going to enlarge them to put up in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 10, as we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. Please send photos to Marnie at [mdbacker@flcsf.org](mailto:mdbacker@flcsf.org).



Nora Jean Skajewski with family: Sarah & Nicholas, Harper and Etta and godparents Marnie & Jeff Backer



Crosby Stephen Steffke-Linn with family Jason Linn & Shannon Steffke and godparents Kim Squires and Megan Howard



Callie Cynthia VenOsdel with family Stephanie & Joe and Ethan; and godparents Jackie Buller and David Van Hove

**EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY**



**Book Club Resumes February 2021**

The Education and Discipleship board is excited to announce a new ministry re-starting in February—First Friday Book Club! It will be held on the first Friday of each month. We are hoping to hold our next meeting on Friday, February 5, at 5 p.m. at R Wine Bar (pending recommendations from the COVID task force). We have not decided on a book yet and are open to book suggestions. We're open to reading almost anything! We'd like to have some variety: fiction, nonfiction, biographies, history, Christian, or secular! We hope to make this a book club that appeals to people of all interests. We'd love to see you there; what a great way to kick off your weekend, right?

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**



**November Gifts and Memorials**

**Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in honor of:**  
Cleo Sorenson: Kathy Stelzer

**Gifts to FLC Support of Luther House of Study in honor of:**  
Stormo Family: First Lutheran Church Women

**Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:**  
Pastor Katherine Olson: Doug & Carol Uthe

**Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:**  
Mark Carlson: Orrin and Karen Anderson, Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Phyllis Day, Judy Green, Steve Johnson, Shirley Lloyd, Mary Nicolai, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Joyce Sonnenfeld, Kathy Stelzer, Barbara Wiczorek  
Kurt Carlson: Ruth Werner  
Roger Christiansen: US Bank  
Kathrine Clark: Larry & Marilyn Anderson

Sandra Earl: Claudia Quinnild Souba  
Sharon Eck: Doug & Carol Uthe  
Barb Entringer: Larry & Marilyn Anderson  
Bob Gednalske: Tom & Martha Nelson  
Frank Hansen: Larry & Marilyn Anderson  
Jake Hofer: Orrin & Karen Anderson, Gary & Shirley Barlow, Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Elaine Berg, George & Faye Boom, Ernie & Cynthia Brawner, Tom & Bonnie Brown, William & Rachel Burggraaf, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Phyllis Day, Bob Doescher, Herman & Jeanette Fink, Gerry & Arlene Gackle, Betty Gednalske, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Joanne Hagen, James Hall, Joan Hansen, Bob & Karen Hemre, Orville Hill, Don & Arlene Hoek, Ricky Hoogendoorn, David & Tammy Johnson, Roger & Beverly Lamp, Richard Lauer, Elery Lewis, Karen Lidel and Family, Robert Mathiesen, Marilyn McLeod, Anita Mehaffey, Norma Mueller, Carl & Janet Naessig, Larry Nelson, Patricia Nelson, Tracie Osthus, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Raymond & Jeanine Peterson, Dieter & Betty Proehl, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Ray & Rosalie Ramstad, Stan & Norma Schmidt, Roger Scott, Garry & Gloria Scott, Eric & Sue Severson, Kathy Stelzer, Gillas & Garnet Stern, Arlyn & Jeanine Thomas, Pat & Pam Tiefenthaler, Doug & Carol Uthe, Paul Van Bockern, Dave & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Judith Woodbridge

Norma Hofer: Harry & Kris Goeden  
Ed Mansfield: Larry & Marilyn Anderson  
Jim Moore: Rodney & Jane Capistran, Mark & Tracy Jensen, Rebecca Moore

Warner Muns: Tom & Martha Nelson  
Bob Nesje: Phyllis Day, Ronald & Clarice Konold  
Jeff Okerlund: Marilyn Johnson  
Gary Olson: Larry & Marilyn Anderson  
Ione Pereboom: Mary Ann Hohman, Lois Jean Peterson  
Bennett Stenberg: Tom & Martha Nelson  
Lucille & Clarence Swenson: Howard Swenson  
Ellen Tabbert: Carl & Janet Naessig, Joyce Witt

**Gifts to Outreach Ministry, Lowell Book Vending Machine, in honor of:**  
Pastor Katherine Olson: Bill & Nancy Olson

**Gifts to Outreach Ministry, Lowell Book Vending Machine, in memory of:**  
Joyce Hanson: Anonymous  
Jake Hofer: Jeff & Sarah Herbert

**Gifts to Project Car in honor of:**  
Bill & Nancy Olson's 60th Anniversary: Barbara Jean Peterson

**Gifts to Project Car in memory of:**  
Frank Hansen: Martin & Mary Oyos  
Pastor Leroy Nevin: Larry & Marilyn Anderson

**Gifts to FLCW Quilters in memory of:**  
Mark Carlson: Kathryn Borne, Arlene Hoek, Jane King, Carl & Janet Naessig, Jan Outka, Shirley Thom  
Norma Hofer: Larry & Marilyn Anderson

**Gifts to the Volunteer Shop in memory of:**  
Jake Hofer: Larry & Marilyn Anderson, Steve Johnson, Clara Ranschau

**Financial Update as of November 2020**

<b>Total Revenue, year-to-date</b>	
2020 Budget	\$1,735,250
2020 Actual	\$1,904,407
2019 Actual	\$1,826,069
<b>Total Expenses, year-to-date</b>	
2020 Budget	\$1,982,147
2020 Actual	\$1,893,277
2019 Actual	\$1,946,746
<b>YTD Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$11,130</b>
<b>Contract For Deed, Ideal</b>	<b>\$143,725</b>
<b>HVAC System</b>	<b>\$544,067</b>
<b>Payroll Protection Plan</b>	<b>\$237,445</b>
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	<b>893</b>

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN**



**A Product of Faith Many, Many Tanks!**

By Connie Nelson, FLCW Treasurer



My Great Aunt Anna used to say “many, many tanks.” The Women of First Lutheran Church can certainly echo those sentiments.

For the first time in 40 years, our November Bazaar had to be cancelled, and discussions began about how we might be able to fulfill some of the applications already received.

Hannah Circle opened up their garages, put on their masks, and with the help of many volunteers were able to contribute \$8,000 to the 2020 Bazaar Funds.

When we located a lefse maker, we put in an order, and Sharyl Wolf made a lefse run to North Dakota. We sold out the first order and immediately placed a second order. There are a few packages still for sale (it freezes well). That added another \$3,900 to the 2020 Bazaar Funds.

Knowing how generous the First Lutheran family is, we sent out a letter to

all women of the congregation which to date has garnered another \$9,690

Because of the generosity of all, we were able to approve \$18,900 to missions in December. We have approximately \$3,500 in reserve to address needs during 2021. Following is a list of recipients of the \$18,900.

**MANY, MANY TANKS**

**2020 Bazaar Disbursements**

Center of Hope	\$1,000
Church on the Street	\$2,000
Destiny Healthcare International	\$1,000
Family Visitation Center	\$2,000
FLC Broadcasts Christmas & Mother's Day	\$2,700
Helping Hands for Haiti	\$500
Helpline Center	\$500
Inter-Lakes Community Action	\$500
Lutheran World Relief	\$1,000
Lutheran World Relief, Hunger	\$2,000
Multi-Cultural Center	\$1,000
Pineridge Reconciliation Center	\$1,000
Union Gospel Mission	\$1,200
Pueblo de Dios	\$2,000
St. Francis House	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,900</b>

**MEDIA MINISTRY**



**Thank you November Media Sponsors**

Nov. 1: Television was sponsored in memory of Trudy Peckham, who would have been 86 on November 1, by her family John, Anne, Mary, and Tom Peckham. Radio was sponsored in honor of all First Lutheran Church Women who have served the church, past and present.

Nov. 8: Television and live stream on YouTube are sponsored by Bill and Nancy Olson and their children, Melissa and Dan Guebert, Phil and Myra Olson, Brad and Susan Olson, and Andy and Karin Olson in thanksgiving for the gifts of faith, family, and friendship as Bill and Nancy celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on November 11. Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Drs. Arthur Huseboe and Doris Eggers Huseboe and their parents, Delbert and Erna Eggers and Carl and Lillian Huseboe. Funds have been made available through a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. Radio was sponsored in memory of Chuck Osthus, who would have celebrated his birthday November 5, by his wife, Tracie; and family, Scott, Tezra, David, and Lynne.

Nov. 15: Television was sponsored by earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran

Church Foundation in loving memory of Hilmer and Susie Lillebo. Radio was sponsored in loving memory of Morris and Edith Magnuson, whose anniversary would have been November 25, by gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Nov. 22: Television was sponsored in loving memory of Mark Doescher by his father, Bob Doescher, and sisters—Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah. Radio and closed captioning were sponsored in loving memory of Mark Doescher by his sisters—Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah—and their families.

Nov. 26, Thanksgiving: Television was sponsored in loving memory of Thomas Russell Greenfield and Jill Marie Greenfield by Russ and Carol and Gregg and Julie Greenfield. Closed captioning was given by nieces and nephews in thankfulness for, and in memory of, Bonnie Merrill, Carl Wilkins, Maudie Wilkins, Bessie Thompson, Dorothy Peterson, Mabel Jasper, and Agnes Welch.

Nov. 29: Closed captioning on KSFY was given by Orville Hill in memory of his daughter, Ione Simons.

**2021 Sponsorships Available**

Please consider sponsoring a worship service in honor or remembrance of loved one, or to celebrate a life event. For information, more open dates, or to sponsor, call the First Lutheran Church office at (605) 336-3734. KELO Radio broadcast (\$155), KSFY telecast (\$1350 beg. 1/1/2021), Closed captioning (\$150), or YouTube live stream (\$75).  
Jan. 10: Television sponsor needed. Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube are fully sponsored.  
Jan. 17: Television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed. Radio is fully sponsored.  
Jan. 24: Radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube sponsors are needed.  
Jan. 31: Radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube sponsors are needed.

*There are many sponsor opportunities open in the 2021 Media Ministry schedule. Call now to get the closest date for your memorial or event celebration.*

# A Nunc Dimittis For The New Year

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



Dear family and friends of FLC: listen-in to the following words of “comfort and joy” that continue the Christmas story in Luke, Chapter 2. They’re words in the form of a song, sung by a patriarchal figure in the Jewish faith. And old, nearly blind man, named Simeon. All his life, Simeon had prayed

that he might live long enough to see the promised Messiah ... So now, as he enters the Temple in Jerusalem, in our gospel text ... there stands Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus, ready to offer-up a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God for his birth. And at that very moment, the wings of the Holy Spirit alight upon Simeon, revealing to him that he is now looking into the very eyes of the long-awaited Messiah. And so, taking the baby Jesus in his arms, Simeon breaks into song:

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”



Rembrandt van Rijn, Simeon's Song of Praise, 1669

So here's a question to ponder: “Why, after all the festive celebrations of candlelight services, singing *Joy To The World*, the exchange of colorfully wrapped gifts, or some upon-the-roof-top highs with family or friends gathered ‘round – which we are sore looking forward to again in this coming year – WHAT IN THE WORLD are we doing talking about death in this gospel text?!”

My friends ... in this year of 2020, covered by the dark pall of the Covid virus and all of its tragedies, I think we're in a much better place to understand *the gravity*, **but also** *the grace* of this story. For many of us know all too well how the loss of a loved one has made this Christmas Season particularly difficult. Reminded simply by the lighting of a candle, the singing of a stanza from a carol, or even the touch of a favorite ornament or the taste of a peppermint stick ... some fleeting memory of Christmas past. Well, guess what? Simeon's gotcha covered. He's no different than us, really. An old man now, around the block a number of times, he too has tasted love and lost, felt joy and despair, hope and fears. And so Simeon sings of death simply because he can't help himself; because he, like us, lives with death every day. But take note ...

This is more than merely stark realism. For St. Luke is clear that Simeon is able to speak of death so honestly only in the light of the coming of the promised Messiah; only, that is, by the confidence that in this little child, God has come to redeem Israel and save the world. (Note the mixtures of emotion in Rembrandt's painting of a now nearly blind Simeon, which is actually Rembrandt's self-portrait as an old man – painted just days before his death in 1669. Note also where the light is coming from in this painting. Hmm? Do you see it?)

And suddenly, this side of Christmas, Simeon's peculiar yet confident song is also our own: “*Lord now lettest thou thy servants depart in peace; for your word has been fulfilled*” ... for Christ, the Savior is born! Yes, Christ the Savior is born ... born FOR YOU and your salvation!!

Please join us for worship this Sunday:  
**Sat. 5 PM** Traditional, Sanctuary  
**Sun. 8 AM** Rebroadcast of previous week, KELO-FM (101.9)  
**Sun. 9 AM** Traditional, Sanctuary  
 Watch live on YouTube  
**Sun. 11 AM** Contemporary, Sanctuary  
 Watch live on YouTube  
**Sun. 11 AM** Traditional broadcast on KSFY Sioux Falls, KPRY Pierre, KABY Aberdeen

Yes, Christ the Savior is born... FOR YOU. And it's a NEW YEAR ... in the light of Christ.

John Christopherson  
Senior Pastor

## CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY



## Walk/Run/Bike to the Cure

On October 1, thirty-one First Lutheran members and friends started a three-month journey, where they were challenged to walk, run, or bike daily, and offer a prayer for a cure or vaccine for COVID-19 during their daily excursion.

At this time, the total steps or miles for the three months have not been tabulated, but there is rejoicing that a vaccine is coming.

## Sad Isn't Bad

The mission of Sad Isn't Bad is to support children and their families who have lost a loved one.

Sad Isn't Bad is for the whole family to help children identify and express their feelings in a healthy way, foster open family communication, and provide tools to help individuals continue on their grief journey.

The group therapy sessions are scheduled for four Saturday mornings beginning January 23, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church or virtually.

Registration is required; visit [sadisntbad.com](http://sadisntbad.com). For more information, call John Hegg, 339-2582.

## Life Transitions

### Births:

Nov. 23 Anna Marie Guthmiller, daughter of Adam and Allison Guthmiller

### Baptisms:

Nov. 1 Nora Jean Skajewski, daughter of Nicholas and Sarah Skajewski

Nov. 7 Marlowe Lucille Van Demark, daughter of Rob and Laura Van Demark

Nov. 14 Clara Joy Johnson-Youngquist, daughter of Elias and Abigail Johnson-Youngquist

### Weddings:

Nov. 21 Robert Wayland Mitchell and Sara Jane Weinreis

### Deaths:

Nov. 4 Sharon Eck

Nov. 12 John Kinkead

Nov. 7 Laverne “Jake” Hofer

Nov. 25 Ralph Larson

Nov. 9 Andrew Hoelker

Nov. 26 Betty Johnson

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## 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](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org). Reader feedback is welcome.

First Word mobile version and PDF download are available at [flcsf.org/firstword](http://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](http://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

## Council Highlights

November 19, 2020

- FLC has a strong financial position given the situation with COVID.
- PPP loan has been forgiven.
- HVAC Loan down from \$1.4M to \$602,594.
- City of Sioux Falls issues a mask mandate. FLC takes the “Safer Sioux Falls” pledge.
- Recommendations by Covid task force were approved:
  - Worship services will be continued, including in-person weddings and funeral services.
  - Through the month of December:
    - Church doors will be locked
    - All non-worship related activities suspended
    - Communion distribution suspended
- Hybrid options for virtual ministries are going well.
- Thanks to Pastor Katherine for Grieving with Grace event.
- The month has been full of planning for 2021 and also transitioning due to staff leaving.
- Thanks to the media team for the communication efforts.
- Shout out to all the First Lutheran staff for their help and support.