



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

When is First Lutheran Church reopening to in-person worship and ministry?

By Martin Oyos, Congregation President



We know there are numerous questions about when worship and programming activities will resume at First Lutheran Church. A task force is meeting to provide recommendations to the church council about when and how our campus is once again busy with multiple ministries and worship services. Composed of FLC pastors, staff directors, and congregation members who are medical doctors or nurses, the re-opening task force held its first meeting on May 19, 2020. This sixteen-member group reviewed the most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, government, the South Dakota Synod, and the ELCA about safe practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The primary goal of the task force is to develop a plan that minimizes the risk of infection for the First Lutheran, staff, and guests. We believe every person is valuable, and consequently, the recommendations from the task force are based upon evaluating a myriad of information rather than arbitrarily setting a date to re-open.

As of the writing of this article, community spread of the virus continues, albeit at a reduced rate. A peak in virus-related hospitalizations is still projected for the first half of June. Consequently, the task force recommended that in-person activities not resume during the month of May. The task force will reconvene on June 1, 2020, to consider updated information about the local rate of infections, hospitalizations, recovery rates, availability of testing materials, and updated protocols for group gatherings. We want, if at all possible, to avoid a scenario where in-person worship leads to the virus infecting multiple members of congregation, subsequent community spread, and the need to once again suspend in-person worship and ministry activities. That exact scenario has occurred in churches in other parts of the country that re-opened too soon.

A recently updated document that became the center of discussion at the task force's initial meeting is a strategic plan offered by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You may read this document at the following link: elca.org/publichealth. It is entitled "Resources for Returning to In-Person Worship." For those who do not have access to the web, you may call the church (336-6764) and

request a copy of the ELCA document be mailed to you.

This plan utilizes a three-phase approach for re-opening. The task force determined that current conditions meet the criteria for Phase One, but if conditions continue to improve, Phase Two activities may be possible in the near future. Phase One emphasizes a "virtual worship and education model." First Lutheran is blessed by a strong tradition of broadcasts and telecasts, as well as an outstanding media staff.

A multitude of factors make discussions and recommendations about re-opening complex. Please be assured that the work of the task force is approached with collective wisdom and a love for this church and its members. We will provide updates about the task force's recommendations and actions taken by the church council in response to the ever-changing conditions because of COVID-19.

God's grace to all of you as we continue to remain "in-place" for now. Please know in the full assurance of Jesus Christ that you are loved and missed, and we anxiously await the day when the doors of First Lutheran Church are once again wide open.

Sabbatical: Rest & Renewal

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



Summer is typically a time for rest. Schools and students break for the summer. Summer vacations and long weekends are common as families find a few extra days to enjoy the

outdoors, visit family, and enjoy the warm days. Working in a church has a similar pattern. The school year from fall through spring has a "go-go-go" feel as we have Bible study, confirmation class, worship, meetings, and so many other ministries each week. Sundays and Wednesdays are so filled that even though the other days of the week are busy, they seem like a break.

Don't get me wrong here! It's a great honor and joy to be able to minister to so many people. Yet, as summer approaches and the ministry programming slows down a bit, it's nice to have a chance to catch a breath. This year, amidst all the shifting gears into virtual ministry mode, it's been both a slower pace and more exhausting. I'm sure I'm not the only one experiencing this!

This summer I get the chance to take an even deeper breath. Pastors are encouraged to take "sabbatical" after an extended period of service. I will be taking this time from May 15 to August 15—time to turn off the 24-hour on-call phone; disengage from day-to-day ministry; and spend time reading, praying, learning, and resting in God's grace. The goal isn't to produce something, but instead to slow down.

People keep asking what I plan to do for these months. I've never done this before, so I'm not exactly sure what each day will hold. I do plan to read some books including the Bible, spend more time with my kids, and find things every day to thank God for. Things like—the pastors and staff who will be covering for my time away and the leaders of the congregation who have encouraged me to take sabbatical after nearly seven years at First Lutheran.

Christ's peace, and God's grace to you all!

Pastor Lars

The Holy Trinity: Our Life in God

Some Fun Exercises for all Ages ~ for Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



Introduction: Some seventeen centuries ago, so the story opens, the brilliant bishop and father of Western theology, St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.), was writing a book on the Trinity. The reason for this was his deep conviction that this doctrine—of the trinitarian nature of God—is at the heart of the Christian faith. One afternoon,

perhaps anticipating the dictum spoken years later by Friedrich Nietzsche, that ... 'the only true thoughts are those entertained outdoors' ... Augustine went for a stroll along the Mediterranean Sea. There, along the shoreline, he saw a young boy pouring seawater into a hole he'd dug in the sand. Augustine watched him for a while and then asked him what he was doing. "I'm pouring the Mediterranean Sea into this hole," the boy replied. "Don't be so silly," smiled Augustine. "You can't fit the whole sea into that little hole. You're wasting your time." And without even looking up, the young lad responded, "And so are you ... trying to write a book that contains the mystery of God." (This is one of those stories that, if it isn't true, certainly ought to be!) Augustine started working on this book entitled *De Trinitate* ("The Trinity") in the year 400 A.D. and even by 428 A.D, two years before his death, he confessed that it was still not finished. Perhaps the brilliant St. Augustine was also trying to pour the whole mystery of the Mediterranean (the nature of God) into a hole he'd dug in the sand (the sandy pages of a book)?



"Vision of St. Augustine" by Sandro Botticelli, 1488

Martin Luther referred to John 3:16 (which is part of the Gospel Lesson assigned in Year B of the lectionary for Holy Trinity Sunday)—as the *euaggelion in nuce* ("gospel in a nutshell"). Please join in witnessing this well-beloved passage of Scripture with me: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16; **RSV**). And so it is, that when we parse this passage, we gain a glimpse of the three-fold nature of God: reflected in the relational dynamic of **God the Father** ('Creator of heaven and earth'), **God the Son** ('who for us and our salvation came down from heaven'), and **God the Holy Spirit** ('the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son'). Not three gods (1+1+1) but one God in three personae (1 x 1 x 1).

In her book, *The Mind of the Maker*, Dorothy Sayers gives us some help here by thinking of a play, any play, such as Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. In very Augustinian fashion, she explains how the play was *first* in the mind of Shakespeare, *secondly*, he wrote it down on paper, and *thirdly*, the play is acted out on stage. Yet, *all*

three expressions are *Hamlet*. **Do you have a cerebral hernia yet?!** Still, having a simple but fundamental understanding of the Trinity is important—not only theologically, but for our everyday life of faith. It's not some abstraction for scholars to wrangle over; rather, the doctrine of the Trinity speaks of the

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Stewardship Thank You

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



There is no doubt that 2020 is a challenging year. We are still coping with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic at First Lutheran, in our

community, our nation, and around the world. When the virus began to spread and the decision was made to have only broadcast worship and to do as much ministry by phone and internet as possible, we made plans for an uncertain financial future at First Lutheran. As with so many things, we were unsure how the changes in your lives would affect your ability to give to your church.

We want to share some good news. After a couple of low giving weeks in March, the people of First Lutheran Church have been generous so that our giving from January through April nearly matches our expected giving. This is news worth sharing to thank you and to praise God for such a blessing.

Please continue your faithful, prayerful, and generous support! It makes all our ministries possible in this challenging time. It's a difficult situation, and it's exactly difficult times like these, when the message of hope in Christ is so critical.

First Lutheran has a number of ways to give and support our ministries when we cannot gather in person.

- **Simply Giving**—Give automatically from your bank account. You choose the amount and schedule.
- **Text-to-Give**—Give a one-time gift by texting any amount to 84321.
- **Mail** (not online!)—Of course, you can also mail your offering.

Also, remember that Media Ministry sponsorships are greatly appreciated. You can sponsor a radio or television broadcast, closed captioning for television, and now you can sponsor our YouTube livestream.



For help in setting up online giving, or if you have specific questions about supporting First Lutheran Church, please contact Jody Bymers at (605) 336-3734 ext. 211.

The peace of Christ be with you!

The Holy Trinity: Our Life in God continued from page 1

great creative and relational mystery of God and **Our Life in God**. And so it is that we, as Christian people, understand humanity to be “*created in God’s image*” (Genesis 1:26-27; part of the OT lesson assigned for this year). We’ll talk more about this trinitarian image in creation itself at the conclusion.

And so, come Trinity Sunday (on June 7), we are invited by God’s Holy Spirit to pause and consider once more: “What does this mean?” And if we do, we’ll see this trinitarian theme alive in our worship life each Sunday. Listen for it in the *Invocation*, in the *Prayers*, in the *Credo*s, and in the closing *Benediction*. So too does this nature and word of God come to us in our baptism and our death: claimed and committed “*in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*.” Now, the doctrine of the Trinity is not explicitly stated in the Bible. However, it is certainly implicit in the life of Jesus and his teachings through St. Paul—where Jesus points beyond himself to his “Father in heaven” and equally to his “Spirit, the Comforter” who gives life to all creation. (Cf. John 14:16-18, 23; John 15:26; I Corinthians 12:4-6; II Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 4:4-6; and in the Gospel text assigned for this year, Matthew 28:19). Now something to be shared, especially with our children of First Lutheran. (Help me out here: parents/grands/aunts/uncles.)

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD; and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house [or at the kitchen table], and when you go for walks, and when you lie down [at bedtime], and when you rise (Deuteronomy 6:4-7; RSV).
Emphasis added.”*

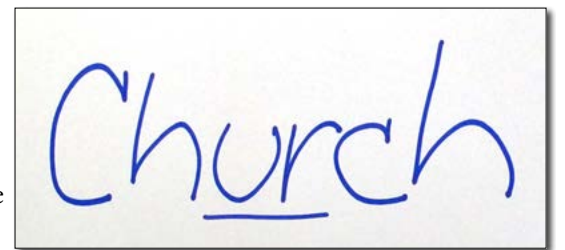
Taking a cue from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 that speaks of the importance of teaching our children in the faith, I would like to engage with you, and especially your children and grandchildren, in some family “conversation starters”—regarding the nature of God, as illustrated by the doctrine of the Trinity. It is my prayer that this conversation will be instructive not only for our children, but for all of us as a congregation—as we seek a silver lining of “holy time” ... consecrating some of the “shuttering” and “staying-at-home” time ... to better listen and teach the story of God’s love and salvation ... especially in the midst of the shadow of dark COVID-19 clouds that are raining disease and death upon God’s creation. And ... like Augustine’s experience, I’m willing to wager that these young people will teach us something too! So to begin, a deeper understanding of the Holy Trinity in the name of the *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*.

I. God the Father. Read the opening verses of the Bible aloud, from Genesis 1:1-5: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ...*” And then read Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 46. Now, if I were to ask you what God is like, what would you say? How would you picture God? (Have your children draw a picture of God. What does it “say” to you when you interpret it together? Does God have muscles? Male or female? Long white beard? Kinda like Dumbledore in *Harry Potter*? Are there clouds underneath or overhead?) So then, what one word perhaps describes God to you from the OT passages of Genesis 1 and Psalm 24 and 46? **Yes, God is the Creator of all things visible and invisible.** And how do you see God related to creation? (Read here from Isa. 43:24; Acts 17:28; Romans 8:22). **So, God is not simply ‘out there’ beyond some distant star, but very near to us ... continuing to nourish and sustain his creation.** St. Augustine once wrote: “God is closer to us than we are to ourselves.” (Read I Corinthians 3:16.) If you know it, sing the hymn: “*What a friend we have in Jesus.*”

II. God the Son. So ... how do we know that God the

creator loves us or cares for us? How do we know what God is like? (There’s a big difference between saying that God *exists* and what God is *like*. You can’t read this off a majestic mountainside or hear it in a babbling brook.) Read now from the Gospel of John 1:18: “*No one has seen God; but his only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.*” Does this give us a hint? Right! **Jesus** reveals the heart of God for us. (Read also out loud from John 10:30; Colossians 1:15-20; and close with Matthew 6:9-13). Note how Jesus even refers to God the Creator as “*Father*.” We might even say that Jesus puts a face to God. Recall stories from Sunday School and also Vacation Bible School ... what stories do you find the most exciting? Where Jesus shows God’s love to people: befriending especially those who felt ill or lost or didn’t have any friends? What is perhaps one word here that we could use to describe Jesus’ relationship to us? (**Companion**) If you only know the 1st verse of the well-beloved hymn, sing: “*What a Friend We Have in Jesus.*”

III. God the Holy Spirit. Now for a kind of tough one ... How is Jesus still present with us today? Listen carefully as you again read aloud these words from the Gospel of John 14:15-20. Does this give you any hints? Right! **The Holy Spirit continues to breathe new life into us through the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.** What is perhaps the one word we could use to describe the Holy Spirit? (**Comforter**) The Early Church Fathers, which included St. Augustine, referred to the Church “as Jesus’ ongoing body in the world” (cf. John 20:22; Acts 2; I Cor. 6: 19-20; 12:1; II Cor. 4:7). Write the word CHURCH on a piece of paper and then ask your children: “Who is the church?”



They might refer to a building or an address like 327 South Dakota Avenue. But then have them underline the two middle letters of the word, CHURCH and ask them again: “Who is the church?” Yes! **UR. YOU ARE!** Together, each one of us is a beloved child of God, called and gathered by the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name and **claimed** by his Word through the waters of baptism, and then we are called to **proclaim** this Word of God’s love and forgiveness as Christ’s ongoing body, his Church, for all the world. Read now in closing the Gospel text that we will hear, come Holy Trinity Sunday on June 7, from Matthew 28:16-20.

Remember we said at the beginning that we were going to consider how it is that we can see or experience some amazing trinitarian expressions of our life in God each day. Here are a few: 1) How many primary colors are there? [3 - Blue/Yellow/Red]; 2) How do we measure human pregnancy from conception? [Trimesters]; and 3) What is the strongest geometric or architectural figure? [A triangle]. Such is the wonder of God’s Trinitarian reflections in life.

“The Trinity is the Church’s way of saying that God is so intimately, inwardly and steadfastly bound up with the whole of reality, both past and future, that nothing can separate us from God. It is this relatedness which is certain, for all eternity, and that is the basis of our hope.”
(Lee Snook; *Word & World*, Winter ’82, p.14)

j.r. christopherson
Senior Pastor

Prayers of Thanksgiving for Mother's & Father's Day

By Pastor John Christopherson

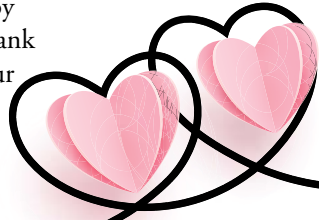
For Mother's Day, May 10

O Lord, in the month of May we're especially reminded of all the precious Moms and Grand-Moms, including all the great Matriarchs-in-the-faith who are now counted among your Heavenly Host ... all who still cheer-us-on with joy from your celestial bleachers (Hebrews 12:1). We thank you for Moms who in their "tender bosom gather" have taught us an Everything We Need To Know in Kindergarten and Sunday School Credo: to share everything; to play fair, to be kind, and seek justice for all; to say we're "Sorry" when we hurt someone; and that yes, that 'Jesus loves all the children of the world.' But most importantly, we thank you for their raising-us-up in the womb of your Church, for continuing to water the seed of faith that you planted in our baptism, and enfolding us in your homing, gospel Word for us this day, and always... (John 14:1-14). "And stay by the cradle of our lives, till your kingdom comes, on earth as it is in heaven." Thank you, Lord for these precious Moms. Bless them and keep them ever close in your tender care. AMEN.

For Father's Day, June 21

Heavenly Father, as we move into the warmth of June ... our hearts as well might be moved, by the sight of an old sedan, or perhaps upon hearing the sound of an old outboard motor, catching a baseball or the familiar scent of Old Spice after-shave ... reminding us of our earthly fathers. But not only so ... may our memories come to be most deeply connected with a fathering-in-the-faith that puts us in touch with a Bible, a strong arm draped over our shoulders at worship, hands that would point us to the wonder of your starry creation, or hands that would lead us into YOUR enfolding hands – pierced hands into which we commend our lives this day and always. In the name of Jesus, by whose resurrection we are lifted beyond all earthly

frame, in hope; yes, who has taught us to pray:
 "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they will be done ..." AMEN.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



Glimpses in Time

By Kathy Stelzer with Janet Naessig

Details become so important. This First Lutheran Church has always found reason to celebrate them and even bring them about. At it's inception women could not vote. But we all know they made coffee, served food, sang hymns, and, above all, prayed to the God they loved and trusted. In part, because of them, the church still stands, STANDS STRONG.

One of our ladies was president of FLCW 50 years ago. I asked Janet Naessig to relay some of her memories from that time. My, how things have changed, while some traditions are still being carried on. The following are some glimpses of her memories.

1. In 1970, First Lutheran Church Women had 493 active members participating in 17 circles. All married women and widows were listed by their husbands' names.

2. A representative of FLCW did not sit on the church council or attend its meetings. Instead, the president was required to report monthly to a one-man Board of Organizational Coordination. As a leader of meetings in the Parish Hall Parlor, she was expected to keep the piano dusted and to switch the curtain panels on the south wall to maintain even exposure to the sun. By 1975 the FLCW president could attend church council meetings, but she did not yet have a vote.

3. Officers and program committees at that time were similar to those of the present day. However, the president was expected to attend a meeting of every circle at least once a year. Circle members regularly visited shut-ins and patients in Sioux Valley Hospital, McKennan Hospital and Yankton State Hospital.

4. The women were responsible for keeping the kitchens well supplied and for serving all events including decorating, food preparation, washing dishes and cleanup. There was one notable exception, the Mother-Daughter Banquet each May. Tickets sold in advance brought large crowds accommodated on long tables placed end to end in Fellowship Hall. Although the women did the preparation, aproned men did the actual serving.

5. Then, as now, engaged quilting ladies arrived at the church early one morning to deliver their wares to the Union Gospel Mission (yes, they still support them also). In one of the rooms off the Service Center, they found quilts that were being used as bedding on a table. Since food had been missing from the Fellowship Hall kitchen, a search was instigated. A young man who was AWOL from the U.S. Navy was found hiding in the storage hall above the kitchen serving area. (Leave it to the women to solve a mystery.)

6. Many stewardship projects done then continue now with much being done at home. The slogan one year was "Never come to circle empty handed."

7. For the bazaar, each circle had a wooden booth on the lower level of the Parish Hall. The food was prepared and served in Fellowship Hall. The lense was made at

8. The "good" china was used only for special occasions like wedding receptions. It had to be hand washed and was kept in a locked cupboard. An employed kitchen assistant kept the silver service polished, but circle members reported hours early to "baby sit" the wedding cake, guide the wedding party and keep the punch from being spiked. Today, an employee assists with laundry and upkeep.

We thank Janet and many others for their years of devoted service. As activities reconvene during this year of 100th Anniversary events, Jane King and Arlene Bich will help us to hear from and about the experiences of many others.



Front L-R: Marcine Matthius, Donna Willadsen, Sandy Teslow, Janet Naessig
 Back L-R: Gert Robson, Lovey Bentzinger, Agnes Trygstad, Edith Pierson, Dorothy Greylos

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN OFFICERS

	President	
Mrs. Carl Naessig	.....	338-7175
	First Vice President	
Mrs. Carl Grevlos	.....	338-3193
	Second Vice President (Receptions)	
Mrs. Richard Thiewes	.....	334-7414
	Vice President (Funerals)	
Mrs. Paul Willadsen	.....	338-3039
	Vice President (Dinners)	
Mrs. Myrle Boesch	.....	338-6618
Mrs. A. L. Loftness	.....	338-5059
Mrs. S. L. Swenson	.....	334-6392
	Recording Secretary	
Mrs. Allan Dow	.....	338-4198
	Corresponding Secretary	
Mrs. Ralph Teslow	.....	332-7627
	Financial Secretary	
Mrs. Lester Pierson	.....	338-1757
	Treasurer	
Mrs. F. C. Trygstad	.....	338-9915
	Education Secretary	
Mrs. Kenneth Herbert	.....	338-0658
	Stewardship Committee	
Mrs. Lester Robson, Chairman	.....	334-4101
Mrs. William Bentzinger	.....	334-8453
Mrs. Bert Ulberg	.....	338-4792
	Nominating Committee	
Mrs. E. N. Sherburne	.....	332-5902
Mrs. Howard Peterson	.....	334-4627
	Auditing	
Mrs. Hal Teslow	.....	332-5617
Mrs. Friel Smith	.....	332-2245
	Bazaar	
Mrs. Don Matthius	.....	334-7856
	FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Board of Organizational Coordination Mr. Maurice Johnson	

the church with the use of a large floor model mixer and gas grills connected in rows for the baking. With no false ceiling, the exposed overhead pipes were used as arrangement guidelines and curtain hangers to create separations. Baked goods were cut, buttered and arranged in the closets. Special permission had to be obtained to move the portrait of Rev. H.J. Glenn so it didn't get splattered with coffee. One year the Friday bazaar was delayed by a blizzard. Because of more available help on Saturday, it was permanently moved to Saturday.



Psalm 23 Insights

The lord is my shepherd: That's relationship.	Your rod and your staff, They comfort me: That's discipline.
I shall not want: That's supply.	You prepared a table before me in the Presence of my enemies: That's hope.
He makes me to lie down In green pastures: That's rest.	You anoint my head with oil: That's consecration.
He leads me beside the still waters: That's refreshment.	My cup runs over: That's abundance.
He restores my soul: That's healing.	Surely goodness and mercy shall Follow me all the days of my life: That's blessing.
He leads me in the paths Of righteousness: That's guidance.	And I will dwell in the House of the lord: That's security.
For his name's sake: That's purpose.	Forever: That's eternity.
Yes, though I walk through the valley Of the shadow of death: That's testing.	
I will fear no evil: That's protection.	–Marcus Lamb, Founder & President
For you are with me: That's faithfulness.	Daystar Television



Staff Updates



Mandie Wendt, Director of Administration

Please join us in welcoming Mandie Wendt, who will take over for Marilyn McNeill as business administrator. Marilyn is retiring July 31 after nearly 18 years on First Lutheran's staff.



Mandie has an extensive background in business management. She was working towards a master's degree in Education with plans to teach but went into bar and restaurant management instead. Most recently, she was the General Manager of the Crooked Pint Ale House, opening both the Sioux Falls and Grand Forks locations. Prior to opening the Crooked Pint, she was General Manager of The District, overseeing two full-service restaurants as well as a 1,200-capacity event space. She also previously owned Brite Lites Photography in Sioux City, photographing special events.

Mandie grew up in the Sioux Falls area. She and her husband, Drew, are the proud parents of three boys, (Parker, Talon, and Izaak) and a one-year-old daughter (Preslie). They enjoy camping, fishing, and having Nerf gun wars with the kids. Mandie is excited to take a new path with First Lutheran.

Heather Smith, Children's Minister

Time flies when you're having fun, they say. I agree. These past four years as Children's Minister have been extremely rewarding and fun! "They" also say that all good things must come to an end. Most people don't know that I was an Occupational Therapy Assistant before I became the Children's Minister at First Lutheran Church, and I am returning to a career in therapy starting in June. On June 19, I will hand the children's ministry tasks to the very capable hands of Youth and Family staff members, Elias, Mark, and Marnie. I am thankful for the honor to have been part of this ministry as a staff member and plan to still be part of this ministry going forward.



Jordan Stone, Care & Health Coordinator

It is with bittersweet excitement that I announce my resignation as your Care and Health Coordinator at First Lutheran Church. I have taken a full-time position at the 211 Helpline Center as a Covid Support Specialist. My last day at the church will be June 19. I can't begin to express my gratitude to FLC for the last two years. I have gained so much experience and wisdom that will be vital to my ministry. I will continue to be a distance learner at Luther Seminary with an expected graduation May 2023.



Thank you, FLC, for a part of your story.



Thank You First Lutheran Volunteers

A special thank you goes to the volunteers from First Lutheran Church who regularly contributed their time and talents to Project CAR in the last year.

You helped provide transportation for people to participate in worship services and church activities, volunteer throughout the city and serve as Senior Companions. You transported individuals with special needs to their work sites and provided more than 2000 rides for health appointments. You enhanced the quality of life for all you served.

In 2019, volunteers traveled about 65,000 miles, provided about 10,000 rides and donated about 6,000 hours.

Please join Project CAR in thanking Mary Becker, Bill Bradfeldt, Marilyn Bradfeldt, John Cerwinske, Randy Coil, Betty DeBerg, Donald Finstad, Steve Haddorff, Donna Jahr, Steve Johnson, Allan Knutson, Dick Kropp, Bev Lamp, Roger Lamp, Morgan Mendelson, Mary Nicolai, Char Peters and Gary Snuggerud for volunteering.



Remembering those who have passed in April:

April 1	Jim Moore
April 7	Rhoda Benjamin
April 8	Lois Boyce
April 18	Don Hoek
April 20	Warner Muns
April 27	Madeline Houghton
April 30	Luke Timmer
April 30	Donna Ross

Please remember to contact the church office, (605) 336-3734, if there is a change in address, phone number, or living situation for you or a family member. The First Lutheran Care Team works to stay in touch with our church family and that is difficult when the information in our database is incorrect or missing.



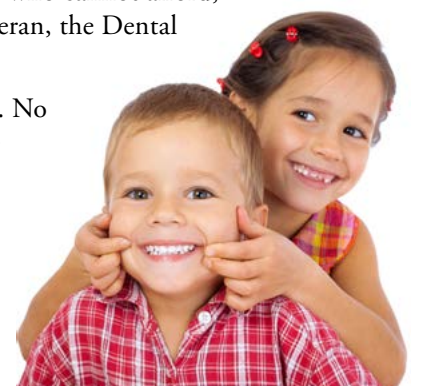
June 15–19 Delta Dental Bus

Delta Dental's mobile dental truck will be at First Lutheran Church June 15–19. The fully equipped mobile dental office provides quality care to children from first tooth through age 21 who cannot afford, or do not have access to a dentist. Last year during the five days at First Lutheran, the Dental Bus staff provided well over \$40,000 of dental services.

Service is provided at no cost to the child or family and is open to the public. No insurance is necessary. Advance registration is required. Please help us get the word out about this upcoming opportunity.

The Delta Dental Bus will be taking careful steps this year to follow social distancing guidelines. To sign up, or for more information, please contact Jordan Stone at 339-1983 ext. 237 or jstone@flcsf.org

If an appointment is made, you will be contacted if it is necessary to cancel the bus due to Covid-19.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



What Have You Learned?

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Director



I have been missing people—missing their faces, the sound of their voices, and for sure hugging them! At church, we have been missing all of you...so much! We often like to share highs and lows when we gather together, but lately we've been asking, "What has been an unexpected high for you during this pandemic? What about an unexpected low?" I like this; it makes us look at these days of quarantine in a deeper way. This is certainly a time to walk a little slower, have longer dinner table conversations, or even just be quiet. Here are some beautiful faces of First Lutheran sharing something they have learned during this time.

Linda Gores

I have learned that no matter how much work I do inside and outside around my house, there is still more to do.

I've had a couple of Zoom lessons during our final two confirmation classes (Linda is a shepherd), and I have learned I really know nothing about *joining*."

I have learned that a trumpeter can play her trumpet on a cold, windy, snowy Easter morning so that a few lucky folks can still hear Pam (Sonnichsen) belt out in rare fashion "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." Such a wonderful memory to add to a very unusual Easter.

I learned more than ever to appreciate the amazing staff at First Lutheran. The pastors and musicians and all those behind the scenes, who pulled together in the busiest time of the church year, with the most unusual circumstances, and produced many wonderful services as if they had a full sanctuary. Blessed are we and thank you to all!

Brenda Leiseth

The COVID-19 crisis has taught my family to appreciate our health and freedoms. We have been forced to spend much more time together, and we have enjoyed it. Playing games, cooking, watching movies, and going on family outings have brought us closer as a family. We, of course, miss our family and friends but love that technology can still connect us. Celebrating Easter virtually with our church was appreciated and a highlight that we won't forget.



Will Hangman
While working in an "essential" position supporting COVID-19 response in South Dakota, I have a unique opportunity to hear and see what leadership does to support its people. Whether it's a conference call with top levels of military leadership or the daily update briefings on supporting local medical and civil support operations, a theme is clear. Each of these typically starts with a prayer, and that prayer revolves around praying for the ability to meet the needs of the people. We pray for guidance for our leadership to make decisions with the welfare of each individual at the forefront of everything we do. In a world full of high-level decision makers, I see them reaching to God to guide them more than I have in my 22 years. That calms me and reassures me that through darkness, God's light is guiding us.



From our family, we are not immune from fear or uncertainty. However, we are blessed to still be working and have the ability to adapt to the situation to meet the needs of our children, all while maintaining our health. Our family is learning so much about perspective that will carry with us long after this pandemic battle eases. The overwhelming effect on our local population is to those working hard to put food on all of our plates or our elders who are vulnerable and in need of additional care already. There are so many that are in a struggle to make ends meet or simply hold those they love.

As our faith has continually taught us about helping those in need, we learn now more than ever how beneficial that is to those people as well as ourselves. We are learning to be better "givers" and not wait for someone to ask, but to see an opportunity to give those things that we have that others don't. It has been a bright spot for us during this time as we work to embrace a renewed attitude of giving. We pray for peace and health to all and ask for all who are able to reach out and give as you have never given before. Proverbs 3:27 "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it."

Michelle and Kate Madsen

We have learned to enjoy the slower pace and never take things like going to the grocery store for granted. I have deepened my belief in the need to show up and be present with others! Kate, age 6, adds "I missed doing fun things on Easter but remembered Jesus is risen!"



Eric Larson

As a physician, I see daily the frailty of our individual lives and the precious nature of each day, week, and year. I help individuals adjust to their new normal after the onset of disease and witness both their difficulties with these changes and see the insight that often comes with the acceptance of their new normal. I am taken aback at what COVID-19 has done on a global scale, what this singular disease does to one person. In wreaking illness and death throughout the globe, COVID-19 forces us to change the way we live and worship and connect to the world. This reality of our new normal is jarring to society much like a difficult diagnosis is jarring for a person. The pandemic will pass, and life will be changed because of it. Our new normal will become simply our normal. But maybe our new normal will include more compassion for others and an awareness of what is most meaningful in our lives. In our new normal, we might more fully understand the words of Paul in Colossians 3:12, "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."



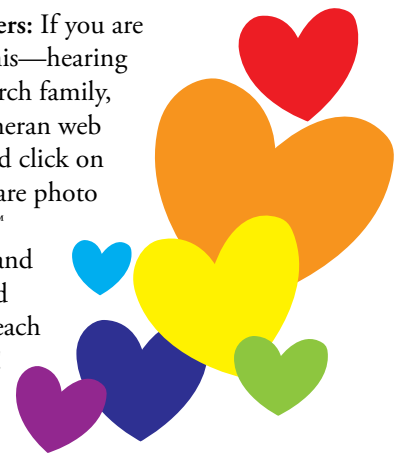
Penny Glau

Until now, I didn't realize exactly how much time we spent outside the house with different activities every night—not used to having spare time. We have so much fun together just staying home and having game nights.



I have learned that, without any sort of intervention from us parents, the kids are totally fine with staying in pajamas all day, the same pajamas, day after day after day... And finally, the health and safety of the people around us is so important and to not take it for granted.

A note to our readers: If you are wanting more of this—hearing and seeing our church family, go to the First Lutheran web page at flcsf.org and click on FLC Today. There are photo galleries, FAITH5™ videos, devotions, and so much more. And don't be afraid to reach out to one another!



it's Summer time

By Elias Johnson-Youngquist, Youth Minister



Summer is upon us, which means it's time for summer activities for high school and middle school. However, plans are in flux this year. Like this spring, programming will be via Zoom. Stay tuned for more info.

High School Virtual Bonfires

Meeting May 27, June 3 and then every other Wednesday in the summer from 8-9:30 p.m. We'll play games and sing songs, but most of the night will be just talking about topics that students have submitted.

High School Watch Parties

Starting June 10 and continuing every other Wednesday night from 8-9:30 p.m., we'll host a movie watch party over Zoom with snarky comments, jokes and an intermission for talking and trivia. Bring your own snacks!

Middle School Afternoons

Starting June 3, every Wednesday we'll get together from 1-3 p.m. to have a time of games, catching up, a devotion, small groups and more. A place for next year's Middle School students to see one another and stay connected over the summer.

Mission

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

Guiding Principles

- We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus. (Matthew 22:34-40)
- We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus. (Matthew 28:16-20)
- We are committed to welcome and minister to all people.
- We are committed to equipping people for ministry.
- We are committed to service in our community and world.
- We are committed to a ministry of relationship building.
- We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church.
- We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry.



Worship Services

Media Ministries Broadcasts

- 8 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (101.9)
- 11 a.m. KSFY (Sioux Falls), KPRY (Pierre) and KABY (Aberdeen)

- [youtube.com/flcsf](https://www.youtube.com/flcsf)
- [facebook.com/flcsf](https://www.facebook.com/flcsf)
- @FirstLutheranSF
- @firstlutheransf

First Word

First Word is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. It is distributed to 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 First Lutheran Church congregation or staff. The editors of First Word reserve the right to edit submissions.

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

First Word is available online to read or download by the first of every month at flcsf.org/firstword.



A note of introduction: Each Tuesday at the FLC staff meeting, a staff member opens our time together with a devotional. Facilities Manager Dave Wilson is a “fan favorite,” as his devotionals are the perfect mix of meaningful, spiritual, and just the right amount of comic relief. He shared this devotional at our meeting a few weeks ago.

A Devotion

By Dave Wilson, Facilities Manager



In the winter of 1987 (wow, 33 years ago—how time flies), after many years of toiling away at my job as a restaurant manager, the owners made me an offer to become a partner at a new location here in Sioux Falls. Sweet. All those years of hard work and patience were finally going to pay off. My dream of becoming a partner was coming to fruition. I quickly assembled the cash I needed to buy into this venture. (My mother refinanced her house for a loan to me—wow, what

parents are willing to do for their kids.)

Construction began in the spring of 1988 and finally, in June of 1988, we opened our restaurant. Business was okay that summer and fall, and we seemed to do alright. Then winter came. Oh, hello, November, December, January, and February. In the span of those four months, we had managed to lose over \$40,000. I remember vividly that third week of February in 1989 (-22 degrees). We were staring right into the prospect of having to declare bankruptcy. Great. A wife, two kids, a mortgage, a car payment, and not to mention a sizeable amount of money I owed my mother. Let's not forget food and other living expenses. Things were bleak. To be perfectly honest, I felt like my back was up against a wall, and I saw no way out. What had I gotten myself into?



In Jeremiah 28:11 we hear: “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord “plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

So, needless to say, I did what I've always done in tough situations. I went to work and worked very hard. I also made it a point to wake up every day with the attitude that things will work out. I truly do believe that with a positive attitude and a belief that there is a plan for me, everything will be okay.

Long story short—things slowly began to turn around. It just took patience. We were able to avoid bankruptcy and best of all, I was able to pay my mother back. That was a heavy burden lifted.

Life, as in business, has its challenges for us all. This current COVID-19 situation is bleak and depressing, but it will pass. Remember, we are all here for a reason. There is a plan for us. We just have to be patient. Joshua 1:9 says “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God is with you wherever you go.”

Let us pray. Lord God, thank you for giving us this time together to be with, uplift, and reassure each other as we all try to navigate these uncertain times. Help us as we try to remember that you are always guiding us though at times we may question the direction. Thank you for your steadfast love and understanding. In the name of your son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Thoughts from Home

By Susan Bell, Communication Coordinator

When I heard FLC staff members were going to be working from home, I thought, AWESOME; I won't have traffic and trains when I'm running late on my commute from Canton. I can cuddle kitties and eat lunch with my husband. I can take a few minutes to toss in a load of clothes, unload the dishwasher, or walk around the block. I loved it - for a few days.

Now, I miss working alongside my fun coworkers and seeing all of the wonderful people who come into the church. Now I just hope and pray for everyone I don't see - hoping all are well and safe. Hoping for our “new normal” to come soon.

Until we meet again, blessings and prayers. Hang in there.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers/Executive Committee

- Martin Oyos President
- Michael Paulson Vice President
- Randy Eide Treasurer
- Suzie Hernes Secretary
- John Christopherson Senior Pastor
- Michael Kedik. Member-at-Large
- Lenae Schwartz Member-at-Large

Council Representatives

- Care & Health Barney Brandenburg
- Education & Discipleship Lindsey Olson
- Evangelism & Outreach Colleen Kokenge
- Finance, Admin. & Property Lyle Eidsness
- FLCW Kathy Stelzer
- Foundation Somer Anderson
- Stewardship & Giving Birgit Peterson
- Welcome & Community Deb Nelson
- Worship & Music James Moore
- Youth & Family Suzy Schramm

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastoral Staff

- (203) Dr. John Christopherson . . . Senior Pastor
- (210) Rev. Lars Olson Executive Pastor
- (209) Rev. Jeff Backer Associate Pastor
- (214) Rev. Katherine Olson* . . . Associate Pastor
- (202) Rev. Bob Chell* Visitation
- (202) Rev. David Houck* Visitation
- (202) Rev. Roger Noer* Visitation
- (202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg* Visitation
- (202) Rev. Dave Johnson Emeritus

Administration

- (236) Mandie Wendt, Director
- (236) Marilyn McNeill . Business Administrator
- (211) Jody Bymers. Finance Administrator
- (202) Donna Jahr Secretary to the Pastors
- (225) Kristy Zuraff* . . Admin/PM Receptionist
- (201) Cleo Sorensen* AM Receptionist/Secretary

Care and Health Ministries

- (237) Jordan Stone Caring Coordinator
- (202) Cheryl Satterlee* . . . Wedding Coordinator

Media Ministry

- (231) Jodi Hoyt. Director
- (213) Susan Bell . Communications Coordinator
- Kathy Hein* Broadcast Director
- Garrett Masters* Broadcast Director
- David Palmer* Broadcast Director
- Hons Oakland* Broadcast Director
- Tanner Wangsness* Broadcast Director

Facilities

- (201) Dave Wilson Facility Manager
- Rick East Custodian
- Jeff Hartnett Custodian

Worship and Music Ministries

- (260) Zachary Brockhoff . . . Director/Organist, FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers Director
- (261) Shirley Barlow* . . Administrative Assistant
- Larry Olson* Contemporary Worship
- Dr. Paul Nesheim* Adult Choir Director, Women's Choir Director
- Bonnie Lindgren* Carol Choir Director
- Donna Hamilton* Accompanist
- Sue Severson* Accompanist
- Mary Ryrholm* Agape Ringers Director
- Pam Sonnichsen* . . . Instrumental Coordinator
- Marcia Kittelson* Organist Emerita

Youth and Family Ministries

- (204) Marnie Dahle Backer Director
- (235) Elias Johnson-Youngquist . Youth Minister
- (228) Mark Nassen* Coordinator
- (238) Heather Smith Children's Minister
- Karina Hackworth* Nursery Attendant
- Nancy Henrichsen* Nursery Attendant
- Irma Rodriguez Leon* Nursery Attendant
- Kris Stark* Nursery Attendant

()=Direct dial phone extensions. If no extension is listed, please call the Director of the ministry area.

* Part-time staff

- Main phone (605) 336-3734
- Direct dial to extensions (605) 339-1983
- Toll-free (800) 425-9899
- Fax (605) 336-8370
- Pastoral emergency (605) 610-9431
- Custodian cell (605) 351-8281
- Project CAR (605) 332-2777

MEDIA MINISTRY



FINANCIAL SERVICES



Become a media Sponsor

Support First Lutheran in providing a weekly worship experience for people who are unable to attend worship in person. Sponsor a radio broadcast, television broadcast, closed captioning or our YouTube livestream, in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a special life event, or to the glory of God. Contact First Lutheran at (605) 336-3734.

Thank You April Sponsors

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY, KPRY, and KABY in South Dakota; southwest Minnesota; northwest Iowa; and northeast Nebraska. The Sunday 8 a.m. worship service is broadcast on KELO-FM, 101.9.

April 5: The KELO radio broadcast was sponsored in loving memory of Orville & Sadie Doescher and James & Evelyn Williams by the Bob Doescher family. Television was sponsored in loving memory of Herman Lerdal by his family.

April 12: Easter radio broadcast sponsored in honor of Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, and Rick & Judy Berdahl, and their families by Mike and Gloria Simpson. The KSFY telecast and closed captioning were given in loving memory of Jerry Bruget by friends and

family. Jerry would have been 84 years old on April 15.

April 19: The KELO radio broadcast was sponsored in memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. The KSFY telecast was sponsored by Lori and David Melemseter.

April 26: The KSFY telecast sponsored by Jack and Amanda Leaders through a special gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

New Sponsorships Available

Sponsor a First Lutheran worship Livestream on YouTube for \$75.

Help us share the good news of Jesus Christ beyond our sanctuary into peoples' homes. Please consider sponsoring a radio broadcast (\$155), television broadcast (\$1300), or closed captioning (\$150). To learn how you can be a Media Ministry sponsor to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a special life event, please call the church at (605) 336-3734. Additional open dates may be available.

June

June 7: *Closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.

June 14: *Radio and live stream sponsors needed.* Closed Captioning and television fully sponsored.

June 21: *Closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television fully sponsored.

June 28: *Closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.

July

July 5: *Closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.

July 12: *Closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio and television are fully sponsored.

July 19: *Radio, television, closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.*

July 26: *Television, closed captioning, and live stream sponsors needed.* Radio fully sponsored.

Gifts and Memorials, February

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Lois Boyce: Roger & Jan Noer
Darlene Colwill: Dorothy Mikkelson

Gifts First Lutheran Church Foundation, Media Ministry, in memory of:

Jim Moore: Betty, Tom, & David Pfeifle

Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage, Capital Campaign, in memory of:

Lois Boyce: Wayne & Sharon Akland, Marilyn Eikanger, Jim & Sandy Fink, Friends & Family, Dorothy Grevlos, Willis & Phyllis Hanson, Jake & Norma Hofer, Sandy Holleman, Johnna & Martha Iken, Donna B. Johnson, Emil & Carol Knapp, Barb Matson, Marilyn McLeod, Elaine Moore, Dr. Carl & Janet Naessig, Sandra Pedersen, Gonzalo & Lois Sanchez, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Paul & Karen Van Bockern, Robert & Marilyn Van Demark Jr.

Gifts to Gods Grace Our Heritage, Paraments, in memory of:

Lois Boyce: Jean Hoff
Darlene Colwill: Jean Hoff

Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:

Marilyn Eikanger's birthday: Howard & Lou Ann Paulson
Dorothy Mikkelson's 90th birthday: Howard & Lou Ann Paulson

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Lois Boyce: David & Bonnie Bogue, Doris Bushard, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Mary Eich, Gene & Betty Erickson, Louise Griffin, Karen Hohman, Elnear Marshman, Milton Mutch, Charlotte M. Peters, Betty Pfeifle, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Lottie Rollag, Donna J. Willadsen
Darlene Colwill: American Legion Auxilliary Unit 15, Charles & Sonja Anderson, Architecture Inc., Scott & Diane Atchison, Sharon Beckstrom, Jan Boettcher, Jerry & Jan Bork, John & Lou Bosch, Richard & Kristi Brandt, Bill & Dee Briehier, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Charlotte Clark, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Pr. Alex & Kelly Clark,

Adam & Linsey Clark, Phyllis Day, Mark & Darlene Dunn, Betty Fideler, Bob & Betty Gednalske, Steve and Marilyn Haddorff, Audrey Halle, Willis & Phyllis Hanson, Monte & Deborah Hanson, Orville Hill, Jake & Norma Hofer, Brent Hohman, Mary Ann Hohman, Sandy Holleman, Larry & Jacqueline Jacobson, Jerry & Ricki Johnson, Donna Johnson, Terry & Diane Johnson, Janice Julson, Sharon Kayser, Harriet Kelley, Dennis & Jane King, Richard & Cynthia Koch, Carol Lerdal, Barb Matson, Thelma McElhaney, Marilyn McLeod, Char Miller, Elaine Moore, Lorna Muchow, Norma Mueller, Dr. Carl & Janet Naessig, Tom & Martha Nelson, Nancy Nervig, Tracie Osthus, Eugene & Ruth Parker, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Sandra Pedersen, Dr. Frank & Iley Peterreit, Jeffrey & Glenda Pray, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Rev. Paul & Susan Rohde, Darlene Ruud, Gregory & Kathy Satter, Don & Denise Schaefer, Hazel Stahl, Jeff & Catherine Stahl, Greg Stahl, Kevin & Deb Stahl-Nelson, James & Colleen Stavig, David & Bonnie Stavig, Kathy Stelzer, Paul & Karen Van Bockern, Dr. Robert Jr. & Marilyn Van Demark, Hugh & Ruthann Venrick, Julaine Walker, Sally Waterson, Hazel Wek, Donna J. Willadsen, Jon & Jacquelyn Williams, James Woster, Ronald & Joyce Ann Wyant

Flip Fjellanger: Jean Hoff

Don Hoek: Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Kathy Borns, Jake & Norma Hofer, Vance & Jerrilyn Matzke, Greg & Julianna Person, Barb Wiczorek

Jim Moore: Rod Bowar, Jim A Carlson, Paul & Mary Ellen Connelly, Gordon Eggebraaten, Patti Erickson, Jim & Sandy Fink, Kennebec Telephone Company, Barb Matson, Elaine Moore, Dr. Howard Peterson Jr., Verlyn & Sherri Schmidt, Woods Fuller Shultz & Smith

George Regan: Mary Ann Hallberg

Philip Somen: Linda Braun

Herb Spilde: Mary Ann Hallberg

Gifts to the Music Ministry in memory of:

Lois Boyce: John Hegg
Jim Moore: John Hegg

Gifts to Project CAR in memory of:

Jan Erkes: Ruth Werner

Council Highlights

If church members wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Marilyn McNeill, Business Administrator, at 339-1983 ext. 236 or mmcneill@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

April 23, 2020

- We continue virtual learning and holding education and youth and family events via Zoom. The technology is working well to connect people. We would like to see some of the concepts continue when we reopen.
- Our congregation is doing well through the pandemic. Outreach is amazing and phone buddies a great outreach.
- Payroll Protection Program application was submitted and approved by the Council. Our loan application was approved for \$237,445 and is to be used for payroll and utilities for the next 8 weeks.
- 100th Anniversary historical marker Eagle Scout is delayed because of the foundry slowdowns due to the virus.

Financial Update as of April 2020

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$753,748
2020 Actual. \$705,721
2019 Actual. \$639,227

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$741,641
2020 Actual. \$674,631
2019 Actual. \$731,227

YTD Net Profit/Loss \$31,090

Contract For Deed Ideal \$182,774

HVAC System. \$743,082

Worship Attendance – No worship services were held at the church in April.

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



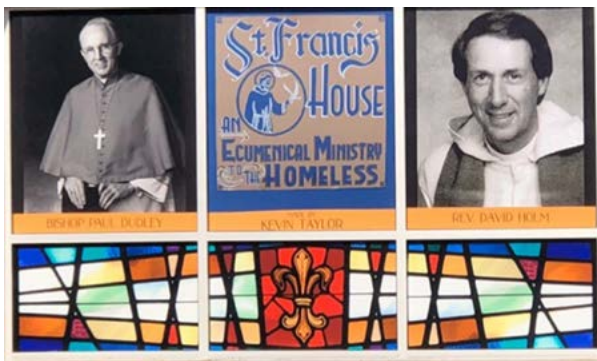
Ministry Partner Update: St. Francis House

By Jeff Backer,
Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach



The St. Francis House (SFH) operates as a transitional home located just east of downtown Sioux Falls, South Dakota. People of all races, genders, and creeds are welcomed at the St. Francis House. The SFH operates with the guiding mission of “Moving People From Homelessness to Hope” by offering a “hand up,” not a “hand out.”

Through the collaborative effort of the late Bishop Paul Dudley and Pastor David Holm, on March 15, 1987, the doors were opened utilizing the former Little Flower Catholic Convent located on the corner of Austin Street and Sherman Avenue. In those early days, First Lutheran Church provided the financial resources for daily operations. The Little Flower Convent building was originally built to house 12 nuns, but recently was used to house up to 72 individuals.



On May 11, 2018, the St. Francis House kicked off the “Homelessness to Hope Capital Campaign” to not only build a new home for guests, but to expand to serve more individuals. On May 4, 2019, a groundbreaking ceremony was held, and work began to build a new home for those seeking a “hand up” rather than a “hand out” in life. Phase I construction would build about two-thirds of the new facility and would include one wing of guest rooms, new offices, the dining room, and a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen with expanded refrigerator and freezer storage capacity.

On Friday, December 20, 2019, guests moved out of the old building, the first meal was served, and guests slept their first night in their new home. The current capacity of the house is serving 46 female and 34 male guests. Phase II of this project is projected to be completed during the summer of 2020 providing additional beds for individuals in our community.



Today the new St. Francis House stands strong. Once Phase II is completed this summer, SFH will serve 120 single individuals, with 60 beds for females and 60 beds for males. In addition, SFH has the ability to serve families with children within two quad apartment-style buildings providing seven family units.

Besides providing housing for those in need, SFH also provides three meals each day as well as case management services to assist guests. Guests are required to obtain and maintain employment. Guests must attend treatment classes and counseling if they have struggled with addiction. There is emphasis in helping to rebuild their relationships with family. Guests are required to deposit all income and make arrangements to pay off their debts, including any fines, restitution, child support, and past due utilities. Guests of the SFH have paid off millions of dollars in restitution, fines and child support in the history of the organization.

The St. Francis House remains a strong ministry partner with First Lutheran Church. Along with many other churches, service organizations, businesses, and committed volunteers, the St. Francis House is a strong and vibrant ministry in our community. In the First Lutheran Church Capital Campaign, the St. Francis House has been designated as a benefactor of support from the Mission Support component. Please keep the work of the St. Francis House in your prayers, and be mindful of this great organization that keeps moving people from Homelessness to Hope.



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FLC Families Out & About



Mark, Heather, Morgan, and Greta Mueller stopped by to have a parking lot picnic. Mark is working on Premiere Bank Building.

Prayers for the safety of all the workers on the building site.

June Special Offering: Church on the Street and First Lutheran African Ministry

By Val Peters, Evangelism & Outreach Board Member

Church on the Street



Church on the Street (COTS) is a partnership ministry of the South Dakota Synod, which began in 2015 and walks alongside those living in poverty and homelessness. The congregation is comprised of great diversity socio-economically and culturally. Some COTS members

may be living on the streets while others are in shelters, abandoned cars, or couch surfing. Over the past several years, many individuals have become housed and return to worship and gather as a church community. People are encouraged to lead, and many have become leaders in the church. Worship and street ministry provide opportunities for leaders to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ while nurturing the faith of the entire congregation.

Rebel Hurd serves as the Mission Developer for COTS. Rebel is a candidate for Word and Sacrament ministry in the South Dakota Synod and has recently completed her coursework for her Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary. She is currently on internship at St. John American Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls until this fall. The COTS office and storage is housed at First Lutheran Church with many FLC members actively participating in the work of the ministry.

Laundry with Love blossomed out of the genuine relationships formed on the street. When the need for clean laundry was identified, it became a ministry of COTS. Harriet Monson, coordinator of Laundry with Love, keeps busy planning laundry days and handling donations. Due to the financial crisis as of late, the need for this ministry has grown by leaps and bounds.

Church on the Street also offers four special events each year. The Holistic Health and Healing event held at First Lutheran Church in February had hundreds in attendance. In July, an Arts in the Park day is held for families to find healthy alternative activities through art. In the fall an Empty Bowl fundraiser is held at Our Savior's Lutheran. The Augustana University's Chapel Team has organized a 5K run/walk to support COTS properly named the Guide Your Feet 5k. For more information or to volunteer to serve with COTS, visit churchonthestreetsf.org.

First Lutheran African Ministry

First Lutheran African Ministry (FLAM) is a South Dakota Synod-sponsored ministry that was started and continues to be supported by First Lutheran Church. Abraham Gayetaye, currently a seminary student with Luther House of Study at Sioux Falls Seminary, leads this ministry and continues to work with staff at the South Dakota Synod office and the pastors at First Lutheran.

FLAM is a worshipping community that gathers and shares Word and Sacrament in a Lutheran context while lifting up cultural and religious practices that come from their home countries in Africa. Worship services are vibrant and full of song and dancing to celebrate God's love.

The impact of the recent coronavirus pandemic has created a significant and stressful financial burden for FLAM. The ability to worship and celebrate together as a congregation was not an option due to social distancing requirements limiting large gatherings. The general offering that is gathered during worship and used to pay the monthly expenses and rent has significantly decreased, making it difficult to meet monthly expenses.

Please consider supporting these unique ministries with your offering and by lifting them up through prayer. Your gift can be included in your special offering envelope that is included with your regular offering envelope, or you may write Special Offerings for COTS and FLAM on your check and mail to First Lutheran. You may also donate online by visiting flscf.org/give. Thank you for your continued partnership in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED