



"May You Find Blessings on the Road"

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



On Sunday, May 2, we celebrated the Senior Recognition Milestone for our 22 seniors graduating from high school. What a wonderful day it was to celebrate them with a breakfast and wrap them with the quilts that our amazing First Lutheran Quilters created. It is the most beautiful gift.

This year the parents wrapped their children in these quilts and gave them a blessing. It was a wonderful moment to slow down a bit amid all their hectic final days of high school and remind them of God's neverending love for them.

Many of the seniors were able to stop by the church to answer a few questions about their faith and growing up at First Lutheran. Youth Minister Elias Johnson-Youngquist put them all together in a video and we were able to hear their stories at the celebration breakfast. You can watch the video at flcsf.org/youth. Here are a few excerpts:



"Although I can't name one specific meaningful experience at FLC, there have been so many, like campfires in the summer and youth group and all the youth group trips I've been on. It's just an amazing experience to grow as a community and also in my faith." Isaac Reiner

"I think faith will help me stay focused and remind me that someone is always going to be there for me and with me-that God will always be watching me if I'm having a bad day or going through something hard." Madisen Misterek





"I'm going to miss two things most: First of all, living with my parents, my mom cooks really good food and I'm going to miss that! And two, I'm going to miss the church community I have here at First Lutheran." Ellie Williams

"One of the most meaningful experiences that I've had at FLC is the times I've been able to play with Zachary for the services...that has been a really great way for me to connect with the church, and I love having people come up to me afterward and tell me they were moved by my music." Elizabeth Jerstad



things I've had at FLC is traveling to Houston to experience the Youth Gathering; to my surprise it was very exciting. My favorite part was getting into the community and helping out with the kids and the book sale." Sam Van Veldhuizen

"Going to church on Sundays, no matter what, acts as a sanctuary for me. It's an hour out of my day I don't have to think about anything else. It's kind of sacred space—every week that's super meaningful for me, and I've come to rely on that to get me through the week." Sara Croghan







"One of my most meaningful experiences would have to be this year when I came to my first service after COVID, and it really just brought a sense to how much I miss this place and how much it has impacted me throughout my life here. It was just a special moment for me." Morgan Mueller

Milestones begin with baptism. Our children are called and claimed by Jesus that day with the amazing reminder that no matter what, God will never leave them. They receive their first milestone pebble and continue to collect them through the years as they receive a Bible, learn the Lord's Prayer and the Creed, celebrate learning in confirmation, and more.

> "May you find blessings on the road..." "Blessings on the Road" by Larry Olson

©Dakota Road Music

You hear words of wisdom so often in those early days: "The days are long, but the years are fast." "Enjoy every moment; it goes so fast." What a blessing it is to watch these babies grow into beautiful young adults. Some more wise words from Larry Olson's song, "Blessings on the Road"— "May you find blessings on the road, may you find loving hearts to hold, may you find peace and shelter through every storm...all of the blessings, the blessings on the road."

Congratulations Graduates!

Max Andersen, Washington HS, SDSU Zoie Bertsch, Washington HS, Mount Marty University Sara Croghan, Lincoln HS, Columbia University Ashley Elton, Washington HS, University of Sioux Falls Annalisa Graves, Washington HS, USD Community College Charles Howes, Lincoln HS, New York University Shanghai Elizabeth Jerstad, Lincoln HS, Stanford University Andrea Lawrence, Tri-Valley HS, USD Garret Leiseth, Tri-Valley HS, SDSU Alex Liddiard, Lincoln HS, Dakota State Mara McElroy, Harrisburg HS, Colorado State Madisen Misterek, Lincoln HS, Dakota State Adam Monson, Lincoln HS, SDSU Madison Mueller, Roosevelt HS, SDSU Morgan Mueller, Roosevelt HS, Southwest Minnesota State Laura Nolan, Washington HS, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City Isaac Reiner, Lincoln HS, SD School of Mines Miranda Schlekeway, Washington HS, Southeast Tech Jacob Van Buskirk, Lincoln HS, University of California, San Diego

Front: Sara Crogan, Elizabeth Jerstad, Mara MeElroy, Wllie Williams, Laura Nolan, Morgan Mueller, Ashley Elton Back: Max Anderson, Garret Leiseth, Alex Liddiard, Jacob Van Vuskirk, Isaac Reiner, Adam Monson, Sam Van Veldhuizen Samuel Van Veldhuizen, Lincoln HS, undecided Ellie Williams, Harrisburg HS, USD









- 1. Van Buskirks enjoy the breakfast
- 2. Ashley Elton and Adam Monson joined the band for worship
- 3. Mara McElroy wrapped by her parents, Dave and Becky
- 4. Adam Monson with mom, Beth





5. Sam Van Veldjuizen is wrapped by his grandparents, Dave and Judy

6. Elizabeth Jerstad with her parents, Kelly and Mike

First Word • June 2021

AROUND THE **C**HURCH

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The Morning Son

A Daily Call of Remembrance for Easter People When They Rise

As that first wedge of morning light begins to break-in upon your waking moments Coming back to this life from the other more primordial and oft' forgotten world, Where everything, "in the beginning ..." began A small opening is created for the new day

For what you can live wholeheartedly by living each day as though it were your last Will make splashing plans enough by the faith that's tucked deep-down-inside from your baptism Shifting now out of the sheets that will move clouds, or maybe even a mountain

Jesus' parables remind us that to be truly human is to become visible While as earthen vessels, though cracked, can still offer a hand for the other; A treasure that springs from the field of our hearts, tilled by God's promises A treasure that speaks of grace 'n forgiveness that's been unearthed by a cross 'n resurrection

Remember, you are not some troubled guest traveling on this earth alone No. You are not an accident of star dust amidst other accidents For you were brooded over, claimed, and named from another and greater night Than the one from which you've just awakened

And so now, looking through the slanting light of the morning window Toward the infinite expanse of a big blue Dakota sky of everything that can be What greater purpose calls you by the Spirit of the One who first love you? Yes, what shape waits in the seed of you to grow as an everlasting Child of God As you spread your branches against a hope-filled, future sky?

Will these branches be peopled by birds of hunger who are seeking refuge? "Rise now and do this for the remembrance of me," says He The Morning Son.

– John R. Christopherson

Giving Update—Joyfully We Give!

Dementia Support Group

The Stewardship & Giving Board has been working with our excellent financial staff to bring some helpful updates to First Lutheran's giving options. Starting June 1, you will notice a few changes to the "Give" page on our website so you can more easily give financial support, requested donation items, or connect to each month's special asks.

The biggest change is that we are moving fully into a giving platform that is an extension of our membership database. We are excited about this change for a couple reasons:

- First, you, the First Lutheran supporters, will have direct access to your giving history as well as the ability to manage your giving. By logging in through the secure FLC website or using our Church Center app, you will be able to see your pledges and your contribution history at any time.
- Second, this portal will allow you to see the church calendar, sign up for events and small groups, check yourself into classes, and even update your profile picture and contact information.

All change requires some care and work to accomplish, and we know that giving support to your church is important to you. For that reason, we will be contacting all of our donors this summer to help you transition to this new giving



platform. Our staff will be scheduling appointments this summer to answer questions and help you understand how to make use of these new tools. Also, rest assured that we will keep the current system going until we can help everyone through this transition.

Please watch your mail for more information. You may also call or email Ginger Miller, (605) 339-1983 ext. 236, gmiller@flcsf.org; or Jody Bymers, jbymers@flcsf.org, (605) 339-1983 ext. 211, with any questions or concerns.



No Donations Yet Please!

In the May issue of First Word we announced we were planning for a Bazaar in 2021. However, we are **NOT** currently accepting any items for the Bazaar. We first need to discuss how we will handle the Bazaar this year before we can accept any donations. As the plans for this event are made, we will notify you through First Word, the website, and eNews.

If you have items due to a residential move, you may contact Kathy Stelzer, (605) 595-8442, or Sharyl Wolf, (605) 521-1026.

It Takes a Village to Plan a Bazaar

By Jean Hoff, FLCW President

The women are beginning to plan the Bazaar for 2021—what is the theme? What will it look like? What rooms will we use? What items will we sell? Will there be food? How many people can be in the building? These and many more questions will evolve as we work with the staff, the COVID Task Force, and others in the congregation to make a plan.

Our Bazaar Chair for this year is Sharyl Wolf. We are so blessed to have Sharyl leading the charge again for this year's Bazaar. Sharyl is a member of Hannah Circle, the circle that handles Attic Treasures. She has served as chair of Attic Treasures for more than 25 years, and for the last few years, as chair of the entire Bazaar. Sharyl has begun organizing the planning meetings and she would love members of the congregation to provide input to the Bazaar team on a theme as well as share ideas and suggestions you might have for the 2021 Bazaar. As things begin to take shape, the congregation will be updated via First Word, flcsf.org, email, and social media. Please share your thoughts with Sharyl at (605) 521-1026.

It is worth mentioning again how wonderful this congregation has been in contributing to the Bazaar in the past. We appreciate each item you donate whether it is food, a craft, linens, a quilt, or attic treasures. Last year the congregation rose to help us when we couldn't have a Bazaar. Our deep thanks and appreciation for each of you. Your prayers for a fruitful 2021 Bazaar would be so appreciated.

Lutheran World Relief Thanks!

Lutheran World Relief made a plea to congregations during Lent. The warehouses were empty, and LWR needed personal care kits. First Lutheran, you were so generous. We were able to put together over 115 kits and still have plenty of supplies to do more when we collect more towels. The kits were taken to the trucking company and were being driven to Minneapolis that afternoon. Thank you for your generosity! You are awesome!

Wellness Opportunities

By John Hegg, Care and Health Board Member



By Barney Brandenburg, Chair, Care & Health Board

If you were asked, "What

caregivers. It is the mission of the Care and Health board "to promote the health and well-being of body,



disease arises worldwide every three seconds?" what would your answer be? Hint: it is not COVID-19. The answer is dementia.

One out of every three seniors

die of dementia. Currently, over 50 million people worldwide are living with dementia. The United States alone has over 5 million cases, with a new case developing every 66 seconds. In South Dakota, 17,000 people have dementia, with projections of up to 20,000 by 2025.

Because of the overwhelming burden placed upon them, over 50% of family caregivers globally say their health has suffered as a result of their caring responsibilities despite expressing positive sentiments about their role and duties.

Understanding the impact helps us to recognize a potential need at FLC to offer formal support to

mind, and spirit as well as tending to the needs of healing and comfort in these areas."

With this in mind, we are asking members to contact the church office, (605) 336-3734, if you have experience or are interested in leading a support group (training



provided and supported), or becoming a member of a support group. All inquiries and subsequent meetings will be held in a strictly confidential manner.

I leave you with a thought shared by Emerson Pugh, a leading scientific engineer who had a great impact in developing computer memory systems for IBM: "If the brain was so simple that we could understand it, we would be so simple that we could not understand it." It's not too late to register for First Lutheran's three-month summer walking session, "On our Way Rejoicing," beginning June 1. The pandemic is

diminishing, the beautiful summer weather is before us, and it is a healthy alternative to sitting!

First Lutheran's pickleball program is back up and running. On Thursdays, the advanced players take the court

at 8:30 a.m., with beginners and intermediate players starting at 5:30 p.m. Beginning lessons are available if needed. Paddles and balls are provided. Additional sessions may be offered at other times during the year.

Registration is required. For more information please contact John at (605) 339-2582 or johnhegg@sio.midco.net.

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Starting Anew with God's Grace: **Our Heritage and Future**

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator



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Things are moving along as teams are being formed and calls to make visits have started. We are also planning small group meetings of up to 35 congregation members in the Gathering Room beginning June 16 at 6:30 p.m. Other times will be announced as they are scheduled. Our former Sioux

Falls mayor and lont-time member of First Lutheran, Dave Munson, will host some of these meetings. Some other meetings are also planned with members of the congregation taking the lead. If you receive a phone call from a capital campaign team, you may choose a home visit or attendance at a group meeting. We sincerely hope you will make plans to hear about the God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future capital campaign.

This campaign has been quite different from ones in the past. We have never had a campaign on hold for a year due to a pandemic. It isn't quite like starting over, but many phone calls to rebuild the teams had to be made and it took time.

And now the news you look forward to on the HVAC loan—we are below \$300,000 at \$295,857. Thanks be to God! Look for more information on the meetings and the needs that must be addressed to maintain this beautiful campus. If we take care of the church now, future generations will enjoy the beauty for the next 100 years.



Weddings:

April 17 Megan Schaefer & Adam Rothenberger

Deaths: April 15 Virginia Fetzer April 25 William Simpson

Please 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.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Watch services live – youtube.com/flcsf

- Sat. 5PM Traditional Service, Sanctuary
- **Sun. 8**АМ Radio - rebroadcast of last week's service on KELO-FM (101.9)
- Sun. 9AM Traditional Service, Sanctuary
- Sun. 11 AM Contemporary Service, Sanctuary
- Sun. 11 AM Traditional broadcast on KSFY Sioux Falls, KPRY Pierre, and KABY Aberdeen

Find us on social media

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Dorothy Mikkelson: Blackbaud Giving Fund, Phyllis Day, Jim & Sandy Fink, Gerald & Arlene Gackle, Dorothy Grevlos, Dennis & Dee Hale, M. Paul & Barbara Halstenson, Carl & Janet Naessig, Jane Rasmussen, Roger & Donna Schiager

FLC Foundation—Media Ministry in memory of: Dorothy Mikkelson: VJ Whipp

Gifts to First Lutheran:

FLCW Lutheran World Relief—Baby Care Kits in memory of: Ione Pereboom: Bill & Marcia Huffman

FLCW Lutheran World Relief—Dress Kits in memory of:

Howard Paulson: Bill & Marcia Huffman

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Scott & Robert Benson: Donna Benson, Timothy Benson

Phyllis Edman: Phyllis Day

Church Council Update

If there is an item that you as a church member wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Ginger Miller, (605) 339-1983 ext. 236, or gmiller@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. FLC members are welcome to visit meetings.

At the April 22, 2021 meeting, the following items were discussed:

- Ministry plan for 2021-22
- Fall programming schedule
- Youth music director
- Worship service times
- COVID Task Force recommendations
- South Dakota Synod Assembly delegates
- Strong financials continue

Dorothy Mikkelson: Elaine Berg, Jerry & Jan Bork, Jim Carlson, Lillian Carlson, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Don & Judy Erickson, Roger Haugo, Kate Heligas, Arlene Hoek, David & Becky Kruse, Roger & Beverly Lamp, Carol Lerdal, Barb Matson, Marilyn McLeod, Clara Ranschau, Carmen Reinholt, Grant & Maureen Sorenson, Dickie & Deb Sorenson, Hazel Wek

Violet Osthus: William & Marsha Peiser

Gifts and Memorials

Howard Paulson: Richard & Patty Kruse

Shannon Peterson: David & Lori Melemseter

William Simpson: Dave & Debbie Brinkman, Wayne & Sonja Hughes, Emil & Carol Knapp, Robert Jr. & Marilyn Van Demark

Gift to Music Ministry in honor of: Bonnie Lindgren: Stephen Johnson

Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:

Shannon Peterson: Winslow & Janice Burnette

Gifts to the FLC Quilters in memory of:

Dorothy Mikkelson: Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Karen Hohman, Stephen Johnson, Ruth Werner

Financial Update ending 4/30/2021

Total Revenue, vear-to-date

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2021 Budget\$754,293
2021 Actual\$730,461
2020 Actual\$702,339
Total Expenses, year-to-date
2021 Budget\$726,961
2021 Actual \$647,452
2020 Actual\$674,631
YTD Net Profit/Loss \$106,841
Contract For Deed, Ideal \$114,643
HVAC System\$315,885
Worship Attendance1,245

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

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

Media Ministry

Media Sponsors Needed

Media Ministry at First Lutheran relies on the generosity of sponsors. You can donate or learn about sponsoring a broadcast at flcsf.org/media-ministry or call (605) 336-3734.

April Media Sponsors

April 4: The telecast was sponsored in memory of Herman Lerdal by his family. Radio was sponsored in honor of Elaine Johnson, Mary Ellen Lantis, and Rick & Judy Berdahl and their families by Mike and Gloria Simpson. Closed captioning and the YouTube livestream were sponsored in memory of Shirley Messner by Bob Messner and family. Shirley's birthday would have been April 5.

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()@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 FLC editorial staff reserves the right to edit submissions.

First Word submissions are due the first business day of each month. Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to, 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.

- KSFY telecast (\$1350)
- KELO-FM radio broadcast (\$155)
- Closed captioning (\$150)
- YouTube live stream (\$75)
- Television, radio, closed captioning, and June 6: YouTube sponsors are needed June 13: Radio and YouTube sponsors needed June 20: Closed captioning and YouTube needed June 27: Closed captioning and YouTube needed
- July 4: Closed captioning and YouTube needed July 11: Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed
- July 18: Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed
- July 25: Closed captioning and YouTube needed

There are a variety of sponsor opportunities open in the 2021 Media Ministry schedule. Call now to signup for the date closest to your memorial or event.

April 11: The telecast and closed captioning were sponsored in memory of Jerry Bruget by family and friends. Jerry would have been 85 years old on April 15. Radio was sponsored in memory of Orville and Sadie Doescher and James and Evelyn Williams by the Bob Doescher family.

April 18: Radio was sponsored in memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

April 25: Television was sponsored by Jack and Amanda Leaders through a special gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. Radio was sponsored in memory of Frank Hansen by his wife, Joan; his daughters, Christine, Cathleen, and Carolyn; and their families.

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Evangelism and Outreach Ministry

"Taking it to the Streets"

By Jeff Backer, Pastor of Evangelism and Outreach



Over the last several years, there has been growing anxiety that FLC has been challenged to reach younger people, and especially people who live close to the church. For the last several years, we have specifically done a direct mail campaign to our neighboring residents, both downtown and in the neighborhood around us. This has yielded mediocre response except for our big outreach events like the Block Party and Trunk or Treat. Specific conversations have taken place on how to reach out to the residents

of the numerous apartments and lofts being built around us.

In conversations with Youth and Family, the Evangelism and Outreach Board took up the challenge of reaching out in unique ways, being inviting, and engaging all at once.

The reality of this question is that while we are a welcoming congregation, we are not invitational. If we were, this question would not even exist in the conversation. The hard reality is that many in our congregation do not feel it is their role to be invitational or are ashamed to strike up a conversation about faith—even with people they know.

Out of these conversations came a new initiative that brings a Christ-centered day camp experience directly to the neighborhoods rather than expecting families to come through our doors. With the help of generous donors excited about this idea, the Children's

Outreach Trailer came to be.

The Children's Outreach Trailer is a tool we are building to be able to host pop-up day camps or mobile Vacation Bible School opportunities offsite in unique locations. We have purchased a new trailer that can be pulled by an SUV-sized vehicle. Below is a list of non-consumable items needed to stock the trailer for offsite events.

These items include:

- Tables and chairs
- Foam pool noodles
- Canopy tent
- Various balls (rubber kick balls, foam dodge balls, a 6' super-ball)



- Signage
- Traffic cones
- Portable gaga ball pit
- GamesHula hoops
- Parachute

If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please visit our Amazon wish list, found at flcsf.org/now. You may also support with financial donations. Please earmark your donation to Children's Outreach Trailer.

We have been talking to the Sioux Falls Public Schools, Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation, and various property managers to plan for events this summer. Youth and Family has Vacation Bible School events planned for July and August this summer. We will be looking for volunteer support to staff these events. Please keep a look out for volunteer requests, or let us know you would like to participate. If you have questions, please contact Marnie in the Youth and Family office at (605) 339-1983 ext. 204, Valerie Pherson at (605) 339-1983 ext. 238, or Pr. Jeff at (605) 339-1983 ext. 209.

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

By Jenifer Wollman, Evangelism and Outreach Board

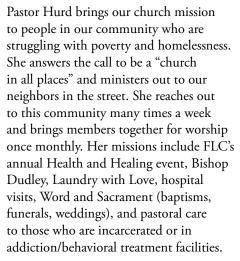
Neighbors in



Solidarity is an initiative of the South Dakota Synod. Under its roof we find several ministries that bring together different communities to

engage in worship and God's work. Two of these important ministries are highlighted this month for our special offering: Church on the Street (COTS) and First Lutheran African Ministries (FLAM). Both ministries are in Sioux Falls.

COTS is served by Pastor Rebel Hurd, founding mission developer and pastor to the congregation. She has been leading members in worship and work since 2016.



COVID negatively impacted many of the people she helps, who may have tested positive, lost their housing, or went without food or basic needs. COTS hears the call and steps up to meet these needs, but financial resources were a challenge.

When asked how she has faced these challenges over the last year, Pastor Hurd responds, "Our congregation faces many challenges and we, in turn, following a model of accompaniment, face them alongside folks." Those are inspirational words, indeed. Pastor Hurd is thankful to First Lutheran for their generous gifts and offers sincere gratitude to members.

First Lutheran African Ministry (FLAM)

is Synod-sponsored and supported by First Lutheran Church. FLAM is led by Abraham Gayetaye, Mission Developer and Synodically Authorized



Minister (SAM). Abraham organizes worship services and Sacrament (weddings, funerals), and leads Bible study groups in his community.

FLAM meets at 608 North Kiwanis Avenue where services include Sunday School, 10:30-11:30 a.m., and worship as a congregation, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Services are a mixture of contemporary and traditional elements that include singing and instrumental music and dance. Their congregation is 50-75 people. Many families, including African immigrant families, can find a place here to celebrate, worship, and do God's work.

FLAM has been met with financial difficulties over the last year due to COVID, as parishioners had to avoid large public gatherings at the height of COVID. While online services were offered, this affected the financial ability of FLAM to take care of monthly bills and other necessary items.

Now that people are able to gather more often, their congregation is able to worship on a more regular basis, but the financial trauma of COVID is still felt.

Please prayerfully consider supporting these unique ministry partners with your Special Offering gift this month. You may use your Special Offering Envelope, add a note on the memo line of your check, or give online at flcsf.org/give.

Thank you for your prayers and support to these important ministries.







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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

McKennan Park band shell with Larry Olson and the band providing worship music.



Invite your friends and neighbors, bring a lawn chair, and join us for worship. In case of rain, worship will be held in the First Lutheran sanctuary. *Visit flcsf.org/now*



Food to You Volunteers

Food to You

Pictured at left, volunteers from First Lutheran, and a few of their friends, distributed 3139 lbs. of food on Thursday, May 13 at Messiah New Hope Lutheran Church. Served that evening were 58 families which included 77 children for a total of 186 people.

June Food-of-the-Month is Tuna and Tuna Helper. Please bring food donations to the designated box in the Atrium near the elevator.