



# First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

## SCRIPTURE FIRST

It's new. It's fresh. It's exciting. *It's not for everyone?*  
(See \*important side note below)

By Suzy Schramm, Youth and Family Board Chair



Happy fall everyone! We are so excited to welcome people back to in-person, in-the-flesh, face-to-face time together at church! Thanks to our new worship schedule, families are now able to worship together as a family of believers. An added bonus

is that we are blessed with a dedicated fellowship and education hour *for members and guests of all ages* between services. While this hour will offer a variety of options for us to learn and get to know one another, I am writing today with a focus on Scripture First.



Our focus this year is: *Building faithful connections at church and at home.* We know those faithful connections are important for *every* person in *every* stage of life—children and youth, empty nesters, young adults, matriarchs and patriarchs of the congregation—and everyone in between!

Scripture First (slightly) resembles what some churches call “Sunday School,” but it's crucial for everyone to know it's a time of fellowship and education for all ages—not just children and youth. While we will be reading the Bible, hearing the Gospel, and discussing all the great things Jesus does for us, it won't look like your typical Sunday School class. Here's what Scripture First looks like at First Lutheran:

- We'll gather as a congregation in Reformation Hall at 10:10 on Sunday mornings for a time of fellowship and learning before moving into smaller groups. Coffee and treats will of course be provided!

- Children pre-K through 5th grade will then head upstairs for activities with their classmates. Middle and high school students will go downstairs for discussion and games. Adults will stay in the gym for conversation and fellowship.
- We'll all come back together and close in prayer at 10:50—leaving plenty of time to get to the 11 o'clock service, out to brunch, or home to watch the game!
- **Wednesday Scripture First** will run in a similar way. We'll start in the Sanctuary for worship and a message at 6:30 p.m. Children then head upstairs and split into age-specific groups where they will do crafts and activities. Middle school youth will head to confirmation. Pick up for children and youth is at 7:30 p.m.

**\*Important side note:** We don't have to go through this life alone. We are surrounded by a community of believers here at First Lutheran and out in the world. But just sharing physical space with people can't be enough. There's got to be more, right? Wouldn't it be great to do more than smile, shake hands, and say good morning? What if we started to call each other by name? What if we started to talk to each other—really talk to each other? What if we spent time together not only learning about God's love for us but learning how we can help our brothers and sisters in specific ways? There are some REALLY cool, talented, fun, smart people here and I, for one, want to get to know more of them. Hopefully they want to get to know a bit more about me. Let's see...

*My name is Suzy Schramm. I'm the current chair of the Youth & Family Board. My husband, Jason, and I, along with our two boys, Elijah and Ben, have been members of First Lutheran for about six years. I am a paralegal with the Department of Justice. Jason is a teacher and coach at Sioux Falls Christian where our two boys attend school. Jason is a member of FLC's Evangelism and Outreach Board and is actively involved in prison ministry. One unique fact about me, I guess, is that I used to be a teacher for hearing impaired students and can still remember quite a bit of sign language.*

Bear with me those who think this sounds strange, bizarre, unnatural, or even outlandish. All it takes is a few people brave enough and willing to try. Sure, there will be uncomfortable moments of silence. We welcome awkward small talk and chit chat as we stumble our way back to being together again. We'll get there, but it will take time, and it will take many of you joining us at Scripture First for food, fellowship, learning, and relationship building. I know I said it's not for everyone but...it could be for you! It's for kids, adults, teens, families, single folks, married folks, older people, tall people, short people, shy people, extroverts...EVERYONE! Everybody has something to offer. See you this fall!

## Neighborhood Block Party a Hit!

There was much fun to be had at our first major outreach event post-COVID as we hosted the annual FLC Block Party on August 11.

The Block Party is one of the major all-congregation events where we invite our neighbors who live in downtown and in the neighborhood west of the church to come and have a great time. The primary focus of this event is to

build relationships with children and families and enjoy some summer fun with food, music, bouncy houses, and games. The Sioux Falls Police department and Sioux Falls Fire Fighters had fun playing gaga ball and nine square in the air with the neighborhood and FLC kids. The Zoo Mobile and its crawly critters were a big hit.

The dunk tank was definitely a crowd favorite! Pastor Jeff, Sioux Falls Police Chief Jon Thum, Lowell Elementary Principal Diane Kennedy, and Pastor Lars all climbed in for some wet fun!

The Block Party was also a great place to promote the Lowell Vacation Bible School that took place on August 16 (see page 4 for photos).



Many thanks to all of the great volunteers who jumped in to help make this a top-notch event. FLC hosted more than 500 people and had many participants thank us for the great night of fun.

Keep your eyes open for info on the next great opportunity to serve our neighborhood at Trunk or Treat coming in October.

## New Beginnings

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



September...as we cautiously approach the fall in a new world post-2020, we are excited about returning to more children and youth programming, seeing families again, reconnecting, and sharing the Gospel together!

It's been amazing to see families after having so many virtual gatherings. Children have grown! Hairstyles have changed! There seems to be a lot more facial hair going on! My own son grew about 6 inches in 2020! You might find yourself seeing people and trying to recall who they are!

As we begin a new school year, transitions abound. Some are headed off to school (near and far), many babies were born and baptisms are being planned, Scripture First is returning ready to help us all get reacquainted and meet some new church family members, weddings have been celebrated, and funerals have brought us together to grieve. The spectrum of what is happening in your lives is vast—there is much to discover and pray for with each other. We hope we will see you all soon and even better, have time for a conversation.

In the spirit of transition, staff around the church have changed as well. Here are some of the brand new faces you will be seeing:

### Skylar Schwab, Youth Minister



Skylar will be responsible for youth and young adults, ages 11-26. She started at the beginning of August. She and her husband, Christian, are from Fargo, North Dakota, but have lived in Sioux Falls for a couple of years.

### Matt Tylutki, Children & Youth Music Director



Matt is brand new to First Lutheran and will be working with the youth and children's choirs, both vocal and bells. He is recently engaged! He has a background in instrumental music education. He plays the trumpet as well as the organ.

Also new with us in the last year are:

### Bev Bentzinger, Membership Admin Assistant



Focusing on membership, Bev works with the church's database system, helping to make sure all the information is accurate. Bev and her husband, Bill, have been members of FLC since 1997. They were away in Texas for a few years and are now back "home."

### Brian Schipper, Receptionist



Brian is the new face when you walk in the atrium doors. Brian has a beautiful baby boy, Jonah. He has a passion for theater and is able to do that as well, with the Mighty Corson Art Players theater group in Brandon.

### Valerie Pherson, Children's Minister



Val works with children from birth to 5th grade. She's been on staff almost a year now and is excited to have children back in the building. She most recently lived in Seattle, Washington, but is originally a North Dakota girl.

We look forward to their ministry and to all of you and the gifts you have to share. Be on the lookout for many wonderful ways to be involved in God's ministry inside our church walls and also out in the world! As we see each other, don't be afraid to say hello and share your name, whether you're a lifelong member or a guest on your first visit—everyone likes to know who you are!

*Welcome to the Family!*



## It Takes a Village

By Doris Bushard



"It takes a village to raise a child." You may be familiar with this quote often attributed as an African proverb. It means an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment. I would like to apply this quote in a broader sense to our community at First Lutheran.

It takes all members here at First to find opportunities to volunteer in various areas of interest so that our personal church life can be rewarding and can give each of us an opportunity to grow in our faith and stewardship commitment.

Our church community has survived the effects of COVID-19, and we continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing when necessary. As we move forward into fall activities, I would like to share a volunteer opportunity with you that I hope you will give prayerful consideration.

Since the beginning of this church, men and women alike have stepped in to help those in need. One of these areas of need is offering comfort and support to those First Lutheran members who have lost a loved one. Volunteers serve on an as-needed basis at luncheons following funerals and provide cakes or bars for receptions. The WELCA circles have fulfilled this duty for many years, but as circle members age and are no longer able to help, new volunteers are needed to fill these roles. Helping is not restricted to the women of First Lutheran; men can help as well, and the time requirement is flexible.

If you have questions about how you might help, please contact WELCA President, Jean Hoff at (605) 941-7352 or jnhoff3@gmail.com.

## From Heart to Heart: Thank You

By Cathy Christopherson

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace."*

— Numbers 6:24-26

A member of the congregation shared this passage of scripture with me, and I thought it was so appropriate to share with all of you as fellow members of First Lutheran. Your prayers have meant everything to me over the last few, sometimes dark, months. You have given me hope, comfort, and peace, and that has restored my soul. I'm not sure I can innumerate the many ways you all have contributed to my healing journey, and I can't thank you enough for the priceless gift of time you have given to John so we could spend time together these past two months.

I am feeling well at this stage of my ALS. I am slower in most things and sometimes have difficulty with balance when walking, but I give thanks for every step I take. I am well aware that I will lose strength in my limbs, as well as my ability to swallow and breathe.

But I am in this for the long haul because there is hope...if the scientific community is allowed to get the current and coming therapies to those of us who have no time to wait. That is why I will be working toward passage of the ACT H.R.3537 for ALS,



which would make proven therapies available for ALS patients. Because so many people have asked how they can help, I would say this is the area of greatest of need—not just for me, or ALS patients around the country, but for all those with neuromuscular diseases. If you would like to help get the word out, please contact me at 929-8595 or cwcjrc@msn.com, or visit helpmayuri.com to easily contact our senators.

**Read about H.R.3537 - Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3537>

## Sad Isn't Bad Children's Grief Support Group

By John Hegg, Care and Health Board Member



A senior adult, when hearing about our grief support group for children, stopped me in the hall of the church one day and remarked, "I lost one of my parents when I was young, and I had to grieve on my own. Can you imagine how difficult that was? If only there had been a support group like Sad Isn't Bad to share my despair and feelings with other children experiencing the same pain and sorrow."

Sad Isn't Bad is a four-session grief support program for children and adolescents K-12 and their adult caretakers who are experiencing the death of a loved one. All sessions are preceded by a meal when participants come together as a community before forming into children, adolescent, and adult groups facilitated by certified counselors and social workers. Nursery services are available.

All are encouraged to participate in the next four-session program offered at no cost on Tuesdays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 909 West 33rd Street, 57105.

Registration is required via the Sad Isn't Bad website, [sadinbad.com](http://sadinbad.com); click the Schedule tab and scroll to Session Registration Form. Please contact John Hegg for information, [johnhegg@sio.midco.net](mailto:johnhegg@sio.midco.net) or (605) 339-2582.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 7/31/2021

<b>Total Revenue, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,278,306
2021 Actual	\$1,218,164
2020 Actual	\$1,243,000
<b>Total Expenses, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,273,806
2021 Actual	\$1,141,322
2020 Actual	\$1,198,294
<b>YTD Net Profit/Loss</b>	\$76,843
<b>Contract For Deed, Ideal</b>	\$96,737
<b>HVAC System</b>	\$174,518
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	1,304



### Baptisms:

July 1 Ruby Rae Naasz  
July 25 Haisley Grace Bertrand

### Weddings:

July 10 Austin Koehler and Lindsey Herbert

### Deaths

July 1 Viola M Ross  
July 22 John Marius Nelson

## Council Highlights – July 29, 2021

If members wish to add items to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Jodi Hoyt, [jhoyt@flcsf.org](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org). Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. Members are welcome to visit meetings.

- Finances and pledging continue to be strong for the year.
- Fall ministry planning continues to be a focus as we come back in the new school year.
- An offer has been extended to a new Youth Minister, and a candidate is being interviewed for the new Youth and Children's Music Director position. Elias will leave to begin his internship in August. We've lost 12 employees in the last year, so we're working through a number of changes, adjustments.
- Capital Campaign has been slow going, but we are building steam. A number of designated pledges have been received.
- The PPP loan received in 2020 has been forgiven. Council approved allocation of those funds: 45% to reduce HVAC loan (\$107k), 45% to fund Unexpected Property Projects Reserve (\$107k), 10% to mission support (\$23,445).

## JULY MEDIA SPONSORS

**July 4:** Television was sponsored in memory of Gladys Halstenson, given by her family and friends. Radio was sponsored in memory of Beverly and George Colwill; George Colwill, Jr.; and Deborah Horst from the Horst family.

**July 11:** Television was sponsored by earnings of the Griffin Endowment for Media Ministry through the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

**July 18:** The telecast, radio broadcast, closed captioning, and YouTube live stream were sponsored in honor of the 87th birthday of Marianne Hauge Vatne by her husband, Bob, and her daughter, Stacy.

**July 25:** Television was sponsored in memory of Ruby Mutch, who would have celebrated 67 years of marriage to Milton on August 1, by Milt and their children—David, Andrea, Cindy, and Matthew. Radio was sponsored in memory of Leon Doescher and Earl Doescher by the Bob Doescher family. Closed captioning was sponsored in honor of Pat Darger's 90th birthday by her family.

## July Gifts and Memorials

### Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

**Mel Feuerstein:** Kameron & Nancy Carlson, Sonja Estes, David Feuerstein, Elwood & Pat Halverson, A. L. Hauge, Mike, Cindy, & Kylie Heuther, Dennis & Janelle Jarabek, Steve Johnson, Sandra Kangas, Clarence & Arlene Kooistra, Elaine Ortmeier, David & Lynda Pfeifle, Lynn Reding & Michael Stuckenbroker, Thomas & Sheila Reding, Leann Rovang, Mike & Kathy Seymour, James & Penny Volin

**Howard Paulson:** Carl & Janet Naessig

**Dorothy Mikkelson:** Paul & Jean Colon

### Gifts to Caring Ministry/Pastoral in memory of:

**Howard Paulson:** Jay & Elizabeth Wood

**Kristy Zuraff:** Linda Braun, Jeanette Edman, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Sandy Holleman, Carl & Janet Naessig, Tom & Martha Nelson, William Jr. & Nancy Olson

### God's Grace Our Heritage, Paraments, in memory of:

**Gene Carlson:** Bob & Marilyn Van Demark

### God's Grace Our Heritage, Sound System:

Jean Hoff

### Gifts to Outreach Ministry, Lowell Elementary, in memory of:

**Howard Paulson:** Jeff & Sarah Herbert

### Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:

**Karen Anderson 80th Birthday:** Irene Rezac

### Gifts to Media Ministry in Memory of:

**Mel Feuerstein:** Polly Belden, Charles & Joanne Bennis, Stan & Jodi Gebhart, John Gohman, Mike Gohman, Jan Hemmelgarn, Phyllis Knutson, Carol Lee, Lois J. Peterson, Kathy Stelzer,

**Frank Hansen:** Jean Hoff

**Marilyn Maurstad:** Mike & Gloria Simpson

**Dorothy Mikkelson:** Mike & Gloria Simpson

**Jim Moore:** Conrad & Helen Dice, Gordon Eggebraaten, Mary Eich, Terry & Lori Hilmoe, Eric & Meredith Moore

**Howard Paulson:** Orrin & Karen Anderson, Duane Anderson, Elaine Berg, Dave & Barb Blackman, Carol Bormann, Russell & Laura Bortnem, Bernard, Ashley, & Anthony, Roger Braaten, Doug & Deb Brock, Richard & Stacey Brouwer, Dennis & Marlene Brown, Steve & Doris Bushard, Jim Carlson, Lillian Carlson, Leslie & Shirley Carson, Faith Christiansen, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Donna Cook, Roger & Linda Coon, Jim & Vicki Davidson, Phyllis Day, Carol Denotter, James Desaix, Bob Doescher, Duffy Realty, Gary Earl, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Larry & Nancy Elverud, Gene & Betty Erickson, Steve & Char Espeland, First National Bank Sunshine Committee, First National Bank Wealth Management Dept., Michael & Patty Fitzmaurice, Charles & Lorene Fossum, Patrick & Jill Glover, John, Sue, Jennifer, & Sara Graham, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Ronald &

Carol Grimes, Helen Gunderson, LeRoy & Janet Halstenson, Mark & Shelley Hanisch, Dick & Donna Hansen, Joan Hansen, Donna Hanson, William Haugen Jr., Kate Heligas, Orville & Ardis Hill, Derrold Hofer, Jean Hoff, Mary Hohman, Knight Hoover, Sheldon & Diane Hovda, Neal & Kathy Hoyme, Virgil & Ruth Johnson, Steve Johnson, Audrey Jones, Karen Jorgensen, Harriet Kelley, Robert & Mildred Kilborn, Larry & Colleen Kokenge, Gary & Karen Kratochvil, Shirley Larson, Melvin & Mary Lee, Craig & Marsha Leite, Thomas & Dorothy Lemonds, Ruth Lone, Steve & Brenda Lorenz, Eunice Mansfield, Marilyn McLeod, Stephanie, Michele, & Joni Mendyk-Bliss, Dorothy Mikkelson, Richard & Kathleen Miller, Dawn & Rick Misar, Dr. Wayne Mitchell, Charlie & Marit Moberg & family, Elaine Moore, Bernice Mullett, Roger Munce, Joan Muns, David & Linda Munson, Milt Mutch, Ronald & Patrica Nearman, Kristi Nelson, Tom & Martha Nelson, Tammy & Mark Nordmeer, Nordic Hall Assoc., Norse Glee Club Ladies Auxiliary, John Odney, Gary O'Heron, Duane & J Irene Oines, Nancy Okland, Ruth Olsen, William Jr. & Nancy Olson, Rosaaen Olson, Tracie Osthus; Mary J. Osthus, Martha Reeves, & Ruth Garcia; Martin & Mary Oyos, Dan & Jill Paulson, Sandra Pedersen, LeMoyne & Karyn Pederson, David & Lynda Pfeifle, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Ray & Rose Ramstad, Charles & Paula Rogers, Donna Rollag, Lottie Rollag, Richard Rose & Rachel Stutson, J.E. Rosenberg, Stan & Norma Schmidt, Ethel Schut, Garry & Gloria Scott, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Joyce Sisson, SLK Training & Consulting LLC, Steve & Karen Slocum, Nancy Snook, Melvin Spinar, Kathy Stelzer, David & Elizabeth Stene, Veronica Stoneall, Chuck & Val Sutton, A.J. Swanson, Ralph & Deb Swantz, Betty Talbott, Burt & Ronae Tesch, Marlene Tevedahl, Carol Thomsen, Robert & Margaret Tidemann, Pamela Cimpl Tiede, Orrin & Patrica Townswick, Karen Van Bockern, Bob & Marilyn Van Demark Jr., David & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Fred & Sara Vegge, Coletta Venske, James Volin, Judy & Jack Waldman, Gary & Nancy Ward, Shirley Watland, Thomas Wilka, Donna Willadsen, Mark & Suzanne Willadsen, M. Woldt, David & Linda Wosje

**Sadie Tammen:** Dennis & Jane King

**Kristy Zuraff:** Mike & Gloria Simpson, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Terry & Kathleen Hofer, Donna Jahr, Marilyn McLeod, Stanley & Norma Schmidt, Kathy Stelzer, Bob & Marilyn Van Demark Jr., Lavonne Wolf,

### Gifts to Missions, Miscellaneous, in memory of:

**Kristy Zuraff:** Larry & Colleen Kokenge

### Gifts to the Organ Fund in memory of:

**Carrie Sprout:** Mary Eich

**Gene Carlson:** Mary Eich

### Gifts to the FLCW Quilters in memory of:

**Sadie Tammen:** Carl & Janet Naessig

### Gifts to Youth & Family Ministry in memory of:

**Kristy Zuraff:** Tracie Osthus, Sandra Pedersen

## 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](http://flcsf.org/media-ministry) or call (605) 336-3734.

- KSFY telecast (\$1350)
- KELO-FM radio broadcast (\$155)
- Closed captioning (\$150)
- YouTube live stream (\$75)

**Sept. 5:** Radio, television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

**Sept. 12:** Closed captioning and YouTube are needed.

**Sept. 19:** Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

**Sept. 26:** Radio and YouTube sponsors are needed.

Oct. 3: Radio, television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

Oct. 10: Television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

Oct. 17: Closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

Oct. 24: All sponsorships are filled.

Oct. 31: Radio, television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

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



## Children's Outreach and Evangelism: Lowell VBS

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach



On Monday, August 16, a long-time dream came true for First Lutheran. Along with Youth & Family staff and a great group of volunteers, we hosted our first off-site VBS on the Lowell

Elementary playground utilizing the new children's outreach trailer. Thanks to several generous families, this amazing tool has come to reality.

The theme of the day was "We love because God first loved us." The program included time for getting to know the kids, playing community building games, creating fun painted pillow cases, and sharing a Bible lesson. Over the summer, our Youth & Family staff worked to create lessons from the Old Testament including the story of Creation, Noah and the Ark, and the story of Abraham & Sarah. Kids took home activity bags that included a Biblically based activity book, some basic school supplies, and a brand new pillow to put their new pillow case on.

Though the day began with only 7 kids, by the time we ended, we had nearly 45 kids! We had so much fun and made some great relationships with families. Many kids asked if we could "do it again tomorrow."

As we take up a congregation-wide focus on doing outreach and evangelism together, this is one amazing way we were able to share God's love. We will definitely be doing this again!



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## Bazaar 2021: Bringing Your Donations

By Sharyl Wolf, Bazaar Chair

Blessed to be a Blessing is the theme for the 2021 Bazaar. As many of us are "blessed" with so many things these days—collections by avid hobbyists, "cool stuff" we've picked up here and there, or had to help a relative clean out their home to down-size, fall is the perfect time to clean out the closets. Bazaar donations will be collected Monday, September 27 through Friday, October 15. All items should be brought to the collection box at the back of the atrium near the elevator. The following items are especially appreciated:

- Books
- Antiques, vintage items and linens
- Norwegian and Scandinavian items
- Jewelry
- Handcrafted items, stained glass, mosaic and resin items, pet items, needle crafts and crochet
- Attic treasures: good toys, kitchen wares, household items, Christmas decor, nice art/pictures, pottery

**Please note:** We do not accept encyclopedias; TVs, old phones, or other electronics; Easter, Halloween, or other seasonal decor. All donations must be clean and in good condition.

Please direct questions to (605) 335-3416 or (605) 521-1026, and leave a message.

## September Special Offering: Neighbors in Solidarity – 2021

By Valerie Peters, Evangelism and Outreach Board



For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." – Galatians 5:14

**Neighbor** – one living or located near another

**Solidarity** – union or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests

This month we are spotlighting the South Dakota Synod program Neighbors in Solidarity. Neighbors in Solidarity includes seven ministry and outreach programs to our neighbors within our local community and throughout the state. Inclusive of all ages and cultures, these diverse programs provide worship, support, and opportunity to the individuals they touch. With a common message of Pray, Learn, Act!, Neighbors in Solidarity provides us with an opportunity to support our neighbors locally and throughout our state of South Dakota.

**Pueblos de Dios:** Members from Mexico and Central America provide support within the community to build partnerships and support.

**First Lutheran African Ministry:** A ministry of African immigrants who gather and worship to celebrate their faith. The group originally met here at FLC.

**Church on the Street:** A mission that reaches out and takes the gifts of the church to all people, with a focus on individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty.

**St. Dysmas:** Prison ministries in Sioux Falls and Springfield provide an opportunity to worship and also provide a reentry program providing mentoring support for those returning to the community.

**Lutheran Campus Ministries:** Reaching out to students in communities of Vermillion, Aberdeen, Brookings, Rapid City, and Spearfish; Lutheran Campus Ministries provides opportunities for worship, study, fellowship, and service for young adults living away from home.

**Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center:** Located in Pine Ridge, with a focus on individuals and families, the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center provides support to those affected by trauma and poverty.

**Woyatan Lutheran Church:** Located in Rapid City, SD; Woyatan Lutheran is a diverse congregation that focuses on worship and ministry with and by Lakota people, welcoming everyone.

Please consider the opportunity to support your neighbors by supporting Neighbors in Solidarity. You can support this program by following their message:

- Pray for these missions and the people they support.
- Learn more about these missions and how you can help.
- Act by sharing your gifts of time, knowledge, and donations.

You may support this inclusive ministry with your offering, prayers, and time. Your gift can be included in your special offering envelope that is included with your regular offering envelopes, or you may write Special Offerings for Neighbors in Solidarity on your check and mail to First Lutheran Church. Visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to learn how you can donate online through the First Lutheran website, Church Center app, or via text.

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](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org).

First Word is available online to read or download by the first of every month at [flcsf.org/firstword](http://flcsf.org/firstword).

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