



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

First Lutheran as a "Virtual Church"

By Jodi Hoyt, Communications Director

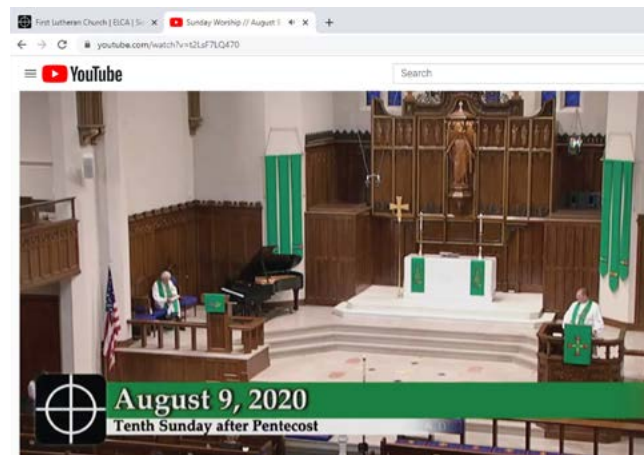


When COVID-19 closed the doors of First Lutheran back in March, we knew the church wasn't "closed." We quickly got to work expanding our digital ministry opportunities. While we have been broadcasting our worship services on radio and television since 1978, things have

changed quite a bit since then—and even more so in the last few months.

By the Numbers

Before COVID, our television broadcast on KSFY was watched by about 2,000 households in the viewing area each week. In the past few months, that number has jumped to 2,800-3,100 per week. On Easter Sunday, over 7,000 households joined our worship service on television. And, another 200 or more viewers watch each week on our YouTube channel; over 700 watched Easter worship on YouTube. Worship is also broadcast on 101.9 KELO-FM at 8 a.m. on Sundays. Each week approximately 1,200 households listen via radio. We've received phone calls from people all over the country thanking us for our media broadcasts.



Changes Behind the Scenes

How our service gets to YouTube has changed in a slight but significant way. Just a few months ago, after our 9:30 a.m. service was recorded for KSFY, it was uploaded to YouTube. This is quite the lengthy process. It takes just about as long to upload a video as the video is. That means a worship service takes an hour or more to upload. Now, we stream that service live on YouTube (these days that happens at 8 a.m.). You can join us right at 8, or view the video anytime after that. Visit youtube.com/user/flcsf and subscribe to our channel to get a notification every time we go live or a new video is posted.

NEW! **WORSHIP IN THE PARK**
SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Join us for worship at 11 a.m. at the McKennan Park band shell (No 7 p.m. parking lot service at FLC)

- Please bring a lawn chair or blanket
- Masks recommended but not required
- Please observe social distancing

In case of rain, service will be canceled. Visit flcsf.org

September Calendar

Ongoing		
Saturdays	5 PM	Worship in the Sanctuary
Sundays	8 AM	Worship in the Sanctuary
	7 PM	Outdoor Worship/Communion
Wednesdays	7:30-8:30 AM	Drive-thru Coffee & Prayer
	10 AM	Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom
	12-2 PM	Drive-thru Communion
	4-6 PM	Drive-thru Communion
Classes and Events		
Thurs., 9/29-10/15	6:30-8 PM	Basics and Beyond, adult Catechism class
Mon., 9/7		Labor Day - Church closed

Welcome!

FLC TODAY

FLC Today was developed to connect the FLC community to the ministry of the church via electronic communication, including a word of comfort, devotion/prayer, and pointing people to useful content from FLC and other sources. The goal is to encourage people in faith in Christ, care for one another with good info and suggestions, and let people know the congregation is still doing ministry. [Read more.](#)



Youth Minister Elias Johnson-Youngquist talks about "preparations" in today's #FLCToday update.

Virtual Ministry Updates

While you're on our YouTube channel, you'll notice many more videos beyond our weekly worship services. One of the first things we started when we closed the doors was our FLC Today update videos. Each day, Monday through Saturday, a brief video is shared from a pastor, staff member, or FLC member with updates of what's happening around the church and beyond our walls. These videos are also available on our website at flcsf.org/today.

The weekly pastor's bible study has also continued, without fail, every Wednesday at 10 a.m. The bible study is now offered on Zoom. Additionally, the study is recorded each week and edited and uploaded to our YouTube channel and website (flcsf.org/podcasts) for later viewing. For now, we're continuing this study via Zoom only. However, when we decide to hold the class again in person, we will continue to offer the Zoom option for anyone who wants to join but can't be in the building.



Above: Parents, Tim and Jennifer wrap their graduate, Garrett Masters, in his quilt.



Left: Annika Kramer with mom, Julia, feeling the warmth of her love wrapped around her.



We also celebrated Senior Recognition Sunday during a parking lot worship with First Lutheran high school seniors receiving their beautiful quilts made by our FLC Quilters. Both 7th and 3rd graders received their new Bibles via home delivery thanks to some great volunteers and the youth and family staff, and they also celebrated these milestones via Zoom over the summer.

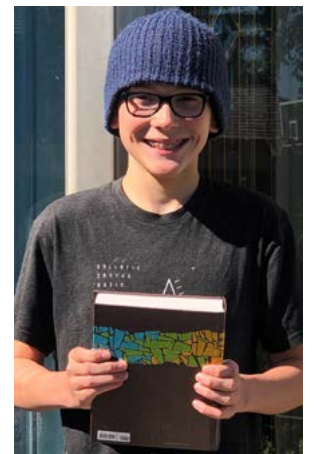
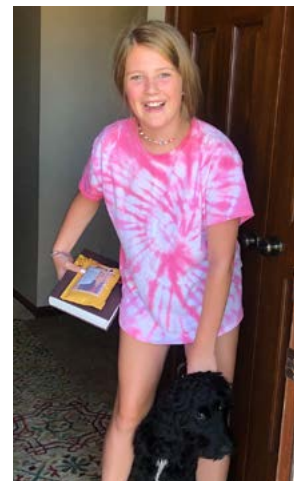


Above: Spencer Hernes receives his first communion with mom, Suzie.

Below: Ingrid Ready, Opland Sonnichsen, Zachariah Lunn and Avery Hangman all ready for their first communion.



A number of milestones have occurred with our youth over the last few months as well. Marnie and Pastor Lars did the Ten Commandments Milestone with kindergartners via Zoom at the end of March. Fifth-grade First Communion classes took place via Zoom, and those now soon-to-be 6th graders were able to actually take their first communion at parking lot worship on August 9.



Clockwise from top left: seventh graders Amelia Olson and Sam Reilly excited to receive their new study Bibles and a few treats. And third graders Tait Ready and Priya Konda (mom, Katie Bossman) are also happy to get their awesome new Bibles.

What's Next

If there's been a silver lining through this unusual time of COVID-19, it's that we've discovered a great number of digital channels and pathways to stay connected with the members of First Lutheran. COVID didn't close the church; it opened new doors to us all. Stay connected with us as we continue to navigate these new waters together!

- Web: flcsf.org
- YouTube: youtube.com/user/flcsf
- Facebook: facebook.com/flcsf
- Instagram: [@flcsf](https://instagram.com/flcsf)
- Wherever you listen to podcasts: First Lutheran Podcast (also available at flcsf.org/podcasts)



“Come, Lord Jesus”

Third (and final) part in a series on Holy Communion

By John Christopherson

“There is no point in the Communion service that so effectively vaults me into the company that awaits me on the other side of death as when the pastor prays, ‘And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.’ It is as if I join them in the feast of victory where the Lord himself ‘shall come and serve them.’ He serves me the Supper here; he serves them there.” (Al Rogness; *The Table of Our Lord*, p.61)

As marvelous as is this witness by the venerable Dr. Al Rogness, we realize here that all of our language, our categories of space and time (i.e. “here” and “there”), reach their limits in the face of Christ’s promise to be truly present in the Lord’s Supper ... “in all times and in all places.” All that we said about the meaning of Christ’s Real Presence, though limited in the August issue of *First Word*, reaches its culmination in the *eschatological character* (Christ’s “second coming”) of the Lord’s Supper.

“And Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God’ (Luke 22:16-17; *RSV*). These words immediately precede Jesus’ instituting the Sacrament according to St. Luke. St. Paul emphasizes Jesus’ concluding of these instituting words: *“For as often as you eat of this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes”* (I Corinthians 11:26). And so, as the Sacrament of Holy Communion looks back to the Last Supper, so it simultaneously looks forward to the Messianic meal in heaven, the wedding-feast of the future, when Christ as bridegroom and the Church as his bride will be united at the “marriage of the Lamb” (cf. Rev. 19:7, 9; 3:20 and the parables of Jesus in Matt. 22:2f; 25:1f; Mark 2:19; and Hosea 2:21). The Lord’s Supper is at the same time a feast of ‘remembrance’ and a feast of hope—hope for the advent of Christ in glory. But where are the signs, something to hold onto, of his promised coming? (II Peter 3:4).

This can be understood in the Church only, in the Church that gathers as family around the Lord’s Table. Just as the Sacrament of Holy Communion bridges over the centuries of the past and makes the death of Christ, that unique historic event, a very present reality, so the Second Advent of Christ is anticipated in the

Sacrament also. One of the oldest liturgical formulas has been preserved, in the Aramaic language of the earliest church, in the “*marana-tha*” of I Cor. 16:22: “Our Lord, come!” There is a twofold meaning here: 1) the Church prays for Christ’s presence in the Sacrament; and 2) the Church prays for the Advent of ushering in his kingdom come. As Jesus came to his disciples at Easter, on the first day of the week and as he came to them again “*after eight days*,” so each Sunday is the “Lord’s Day.” Christ’s final advent (*parousia*) is anticipated in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper because he is present here to his Church. The petition, “*Come, Lord Jesus!*” is already fulfilled in his Real Presence in the sacrament. And this is the reason why the *Sanctus*, the “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8), belongs to the Eucharistic liturgy together with the *Benedictus*: “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*” From the Ancient Church to the Reformation and its Lutheran Confessions to our present time, a “great cloud of witnesses” (Heb. 12:1) testifies to the truth that the Lord’s Supper is “heaven on earth.”



Mark and Pastor John give Zachary Sandlin his first communion as parents, Max & Stephanie stand with him.

Therefore, in Christ, the One who holds all things together (Colossians 1:17), we hear these words of blessed assurance as we come to his holy table: “Here I am, truly present in this bread and in this wine, for you: for the forgiveness of sin, for new life and salvation. Yes, for you, the communion of saints, from your baptism

(I Corinthians 10), and into the eternity made possible by my death and resurrection (Romans 6:3f), joined together with those beloved who’ve gone before you, and who still cheer you on from celestial bleachers.” Yes, “*marana-tha*” ... “*Come, Lord Jesus.*”



Molly Raymond received the bread and wine for her first communion.

And so it is in these days of the COVID-19 pandemic that we earnestly long for the day when we can be back again—shoulder to shoulder—at the Lord’s Table. Remembering ... in the present ... that though invisible now in bread and wine, Christ is here. He is not exiled at the “right hand of the Father” alone. His presence is not restricted to the limited and capricious capacities of our hearts and minds only. He is here at the Table, as he promises: “This IS my body; this IS my blood, for you.” Yes, let us pray: “*Come, Lord Jesus ...*”

In Christ,

Pr. John Christopherson
Senior Pastor

Farewell and Welcome

We will miss you Dave!



“Yes, I’m retiring.” It seems odd to actually say those words out loud. It’s a day that had always seemed in the distant future and now—surprise—it’s here!

Words cannot truly express my absolute thanks and appreciation for all you people and what you have done for me. I’ve been able to come to work every day with a smile on my face and leave everyday with that same smile. I have made friendships here that I will always treasure. I sincerely thank you all for helping me re-discover my faith and making every day enjoyable.

I know you will find my replacement (also a Wilson—though not relation) very capable and a pleasure to work with. I cannot think of someone better to replace me.

Take care and stay safe—I’ve got some grandkids to spoil. God bless and thank you.
Dave

Meet Kent Wilson

Hi, my name is Kent Wilson. I was born in Miller, South Dakota, and lived there until 1998. After graduating, I worked for J and J Auto for many years. In 1981, I took a position working for the county highway department until moving to Sioux Falls. In 1979, I married Julie Zacher. We have two children, Nicole and Brent, and four grandchildren. We are blessed to have all of our children and grandchildren living close by! In 1998, we moved to Sioux Falls where I went to work for Augustana University. I worked for Augie for 21 years, working in grounds and maintenance.

I am a racing fan and was a stockcar racecar driver for 20 years. I also enjoy fishing, hunting, kayaking, and other sports.

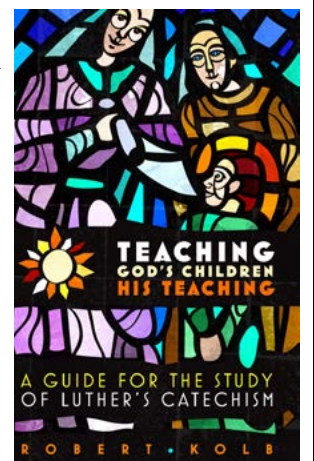
I am excited to join First Lutheran Church as Facilities Manager.



Basics and Beyond

Catechism class reviewing the basics of faith

- Were you raised in another denomination tradition and wondered what Lutherans believe?
- Do you have questions about what it means to worship Jesus Christ through the Lutheran lens?
- Maybe you just want a “tune up” since your catechism days?



Join Pastor Jeff Backer four Thursdays, September 24 through October 15, 6:30-8 p.m., as we discuss Luther’s Small Catechism and the elements of the Lutheran Confession. We will be using the book “Teaching God’s Children His Teaching” by Robert Kolb. This book and a Small Catechism are available for purchase through the church.

Our plan is to offer this class in person at First Lutheran, but please know this may switch to a virtual offering instead if deemed necessary.



FLCW Now

By Kathy Stelzer, FLCW President



While we cannot reinvent the wheel, we can modify it and make it work within the restrictions; at least we will continue to try. In early August, a group of FLCW met for fellowship in McKennan Park. Pastor Jeff Backer led us in comments about what FLCW is and stands for in the light of community needs and global missions. After his prayer, discussion continued about our mission in light of the

pandemic. Many of the following points came from that meeting, and more is to come as we deal with the reopening process at FLC. Here is what we know for now:

- FLCW Board will meet on Thursday, September 3, at 10 a.m., in the Gathering Room.
- Circle chairs are arranging their start up meeting plans and we will publish meeting locations ASAP. For now, all WELCA monthly meetings/programs are postponed.
- JoAnn Gibson, (605) 351-5801, needs quilters in every facet of the work: ironing, sorting, quilting, embroidering, etc. We have the materials you need. This work is a great opportunity for teaching and engaging others in sewing. Requests are coming in for local quilt needs and there are many dish towels available to embroider.
- The stockpile of quilts and other stewardship projects for Lutheran World Relief is low, and a recent shipment of 47,000 items was destroyed in the Beirut explosion. Therefore, Marcia Huffman expresses the following LWR kit needs:
 - **Layettes** - sleepers size 6 months to 2 years, bath-size Ivory soap, jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters
 - **Health care kits** - bath size soap, nail clippers, large combs (no rat-tail) and toothbrushes
 - **Dress kits** - 3 yards of cotton or cotton blend fabric and a spool of matching thread. Bring your donations to the Quilt Center. Cash donations are also welcome. Marcia is an efficient shopper!
- Attic Treasures is making every effort in garage sales to handle what has come in and what we can additionally take. We need helpers in that process.
- The Card Shoppe is open in the Gathering Room area. Please use our card assortment to remember others.
- Coffee! Yes, we have it, along with the other items usually offered! Call Sharyl Wolf, (605) 335-3416, or contact us through the First Lutheran receptionist, (605) 336-3734, and we will follow up with you.
- Bake sales—we would like to reintroduce them in some way ASAP! We are working on a plan.
- Projects that members and volunteers have already completed and prepared will be accommodated in whatever avenue we can find. So, let us know what you have prepared for the annual Fall Bazaar and we will see what we can do to make it available for others to purchase.

As always, keeping our eyes on Jesus, we move forward. We only look back for guidelines for where we can go next.



FLCW fellowship in McKennan Park, August 6, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Bazaar

FLCW 2020 Bazaar Statement

Ours is the great joy of celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the women of First Lutheran Church! The great mission efforts these women have endeavored and led over the 100 years have been largely supported by our annual fall bazaar. However, this year with the pandemic, church leaders are recommending we not have our usual, amazingly festive, celebratory event in November. How are we going to support our mission outreaches? Our women remain busy as quilters as well as working on individual and group projects and bazaar committees. We will continue with every effort possible to work to bring in funds.

Since the First Lutheran Church community has so strongly supported these efforts over the years, we are asking that members, volunteers, and friends consider donating in honor of the efforts of the First Lutheran Church Women. Look at the time and effort you would have donated to the event, and consider a monetary donation to cover that. These gifts can be given to the FLCW 2020 Bazaar Fund. We appreciate your support and thank you for helping us to continue the mission work of FLCW!

Meet FLCW President-elect, Jean Hoff

When I was asked to write this article, I wasn't sure what to write. What would people want to know about me? After considering everything, I thought most people would want to know more about my connection to First Lutheran and a little about my family.

I was baptized, confirmed, and married at First Lutheran. As a teenager, I sang in choir, and it was a huge part of my life. My best friends were from First Lutheran; our choir was a close-knit group. While in high school, I also taught Sunday school. My volunteer efforts came from watching my wonderful parents, Harold and Madeline Ritter. They volunteered at church and at our schools. They certainly showed our family how to serve God and our community. My parents taught us to pray at meal time; before we went to bed; and for guidance, strength, and thanks to God.

After my marriage and the birth of my first child, Jennifer, I moved to Des Moines, Iowa, where I attended college and began a career in the insurance industry. I also served as the director of education at Windsor Heights Lutheran for a time. After the birth of my son, our family moved back to Sioux Falls so our children could be close to their grandparents. We re-joined First Lutheran and I began teaching Sunday school and volunteered at the bazaar. I developed a passion to volunteer at the school for Jennifer and Wayne serving on many PTA boards and as president for a number of years. I was instrumental in starting a carnival at their elementary school and was on the first PTA board started at Roosevelt High School. I have many fond memories of teachers and principals who impacted my life as well as the lives of my children.

The biggest change to my life occurred in 2008 when my son, Wayne, passed away. I'm so grateful to Pastors Barbara and Nate, for they walked the journey of grief with me. This loss certainly shaped my life as my faith grew stronger knowing God was walking with and often times carrying me during this difficult time. I also received a call from a friend of my mom's at First Lutheran, asking me to join her circle. She was concerned and thought coming to circle would help. This was one of the best faith growing steps I could have taken. This group of women prayed for me, we studied the Bible together, and they became like family. God had answered a prayer. You may know us as the Attic Treasures Circle, but our official circle name is Hannah.



I have taken on other roles at First Lutheran serving on the Outreach Board and currently on the Welcome and Community Board. I have been the coordinator of the Meals from the Heart program for over 10 years. I have also served as Co-

President of FLCW, chair of my circle for many years, and currently as Vice-President of FLCW.

I have a huge passion for missions. While on the Outreach Board, I started driving to pick up Hispanic children and take them to Pueblo de Dios. It has been a great joy to watch these kids grow in their faith. To listen to them share stories about their families, to remember how some of them did not speak English, and now they are fluent. I enjoy being invited to their homes for celebrations and to share a meal. I have grown to love this congregation, kids and adults. My daughter and I are godmothers to two of Pastor Maria's children. While on the Outreach Board, I also served on the team that put together, with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the First Lutheran African ministry, their constitution and bylaws. This was quite the learning process.

Many of you might remember I served as Volunteer Director for a period of time, leaving that position in 2017. Now I'm back as the Capital Campaign coordinator since October 1, 2019. Though I'm currently not doing much on the campaign, at some point I'll come back and things will gear up again.

In my life outside of First Lutheran, I worked in the insurance industry for 40 years. I paid a lot of taxes for the company as well as filing hundreds of product filings in the states. I was blessed to have worked for a great company.

*God is good all of the time;
all of the time God is good!*

My life is blessed in every way. I have a great daughter, loving extended family, and a living and loving Lord who loves me and forgives me for mistakes I make in my life journey. I have a wonderful faith family here at First Lutheran, friends who I can count on to pray for me and pastors who share their faith with me. I'll close with a phrase we use at Pueblo de Dios. God is good all of the time; all of the time God is good! Amen!

CARE AND HEALTH MINISTRY



Are You Ready?

By John Hegg, Care and Health Board member



Fall is soon here! The pandemic is still with us, but we remain hopeful for the “new normal” to return to “normal” soon! In the meantime, it is important to maintain or even start an exercise regimen. The research is compelling in advocating exercise as a positive way to navigate through some challenging times.

First Lutheran will start another three-month walking/running session, October 1 to December 31 as we close out 2020! The days will be getting shorter and a bit colder so no better time to be walking or running indoors or outdoors! And what a great time for some personal meditation on the daily journey.

If you have been in one of our three-month sessions before, all you need to do to register is email or call me with your name since I already have you in my database. If you are new, just call or email me with your



name, address, and email address, if you have one, and I will send you more information. If you need a new pedometer or an old one repaired, let me know and we can work out an exchange someplace.

I hope we are all ready to take off on our next journey. Please register by August 29.

Peace,
John Hegg, (605) 339-2582 johnhegg@sio.midco.net



Drive-Thru Communion continues through September

Wednesdays, 12–2 p.m. or 4–6 p.m.

On Wednesdays, members and friends of First Lutheran Church are encouraged to stop by the church from 12 to 2 p.m., or 4 to 6 p.m., for Drive-Thru Communion. In the south parking lot, under the canopy, you'll be greeted by a First Lutheran staff member or volunteer from First Lutheran, and then you'll drive up to one of our designated altars where a pastor will greet you and share the sacrament while you remain in your vehicle. Each Drive-Thru Communion experience will last approximately 5-10 minutes—maybe a bit longer if there is a line.

Holy Communion is also available to those who participate in our Parking Lot Worship Services this summer and is always available to homebound members upon request.

If you have questions about Drive-Thru Communion, or would like to request a visit for a homebound member, please contact the church office at (605) 336-3734 or email Donna Jahr at djahr@flcsf.org.

No Grieving with Grace in September

Our church's grief support group, Grieving with Grace, will not meet in September. Watch for details on our gatherings in October, November, and December.



In the meantime, we offer free books to members of our church experiencing significant grief due to the death of a loved one, written by noted grief expert Dr. Alan Wolfelt. These are the books we use in our group sessions. If you would find one of these resources helpful, please contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.

Visitation Ministry for the Hospitalized

Every weekday, a member of the pastoral staff visits members and friends of First Lutheran who are hospitalized. They listen, pray, read Scripture, and administer communion. During this time of pandemic, pastors are conducting the vast majority of these visits by phone, only meeting in person when circumstances are dire and permission to enter is granted.

No matter what health care system you are part of—Sanford, Avera, or the V.A.—be sure your medical record indicates you are a member of First Lutheran so the staff can release your name to us when we call! Additionally, we encourage you to call the church (336-3734) if you or someone you love is in need of this type of care.

Phone Buddies Ministry continues

Phone Buddies is a ministry of First Lutheran Church connecting caring friends by phone. Phone Buddies meet weekly by phone sharing conversation, concerns, devotion, and prayer. The devotional and prayer content is delivered by email from First Lutheran Church. Emails used to be sent out three times per week, but we have recently begun sending only one email per week.

Since the ministry's inception on March 16, we've recruited over 65 buddies into the program from First Lutheran Church! We also have a mailing list of people who receive our content for personal use.

We are always looking for new buddies to be matched together! To learn more, visit flcsf.org/phonebuddies, or contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

*This shawl was knit with love and care,
each stitch made with a special prayer;
To warm you when you feel a chill,
and hold you when you're very ill.*

*To give you strength and hope and cheer,
to let you know that God is near.
As you wrap it 'round you tight,
Know that God blesses you day and night.*

“The Prayer Shawl,” by Nancy Peterson (adapted 2003)



Prayer shawls are lovingly knitted or crocheted by our church's Prayer Shawl Knitters and given out to those who need an extra measure of comfort or warmth.

Prayer shawls may be given to those struggling with physical illness or going through a difficult time emotionally, as an expression of God's constant loving presence and care, as well as our congregation's prayers—for each shawl is knitted in a spirit of prayer.

If you like to work with yarn and want to get involved in making these shawls, please contact Donna Jahr at the church for the pattern. Reach Donna at djahr@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 202.

If you would like to give a prayer shawl to someone on behalf of the church, please contact Donna Jahr or stop by the Caring Ministries office.



Weddings:

July 25 Brock & Julie Johnson

Baptisms:

July 4 Briggs Wilcoxon, son of Blake and Melissa Wilcoxon

July 17 Atlas Hjellming, son of Cory and Karla Hjellming

July 26 Kisha Turner (Adult)

July 26 Callie VenOsdel, daughter of Joseph and Stephanie VenOsdel

Deaths:

July 18 Berneil Severson

July 21 Robert Gednalske

July 26 Arlene Schulenburg

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. The First Lutheran Care Team works diligently to stay in touch with our church family and that is difficult when contact information is missing or incorrect.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Caring Conversation

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Director



What did you have for lunch today? How many times did the puppy poop (sorry for the somewhat graphic image)? How's it going? What should we have for dinner? These are the repetitive questions I often find myself asking my family members. Not exactly deep or thought provoking and they really don't give me a lot of insight to anyone's day. When we gather for confirmation or parent nights or board meetings, we might start out sharing the Faith 5 together or with some caring conversation—simple questions that give us a bit of interesting insight into who we are. In this continued time of COVID-19 and not being able to see each other or visit with each other in the way we are accustomed, I thought it might be fun to ask a few congregation/staff members to share some of their answers to some simple yet interesting questions and then you can try these out at home:

What historical sporting event would you like to witness?

Lela: Super Bowl but only if the Packers play.

Dave: Daytona 500.

Zachary: Michael Jordan's last shot in game six of the 1998 NBA Finals.

Stephanie: The 1938 match race between Seabiscuit and War Admiral.

What makes you laugh the hardest?

Lela: Little children doing or saying funny things.

Dave: Babies laughing or giggling.

Zachary: Sarcasm.

Stephanie: When my son, Zachary, and I get the giggles at the same time about the same silly thing and then he goes into a belly laugh, I start laughing until I'm crying.

How many times do you typically hit the snooze button?

Lela: No times—that would be a disaster.

Dave: Once.

Zachary: As many as possible.

Stephanie: I typically hit the snooze button two times (Max says I hit it 2-6 times!).

What are three words to describe yourself?

Lela: Teacher, writer, extrovert.

Dave: Positive, happy, thoughtful.

Zachary: Introvert, conscientious, strange.

Stephanie: Curious, inclusive, authentic.

What's your favorite dessert?

Adam: "Guthmiller" apple pie. It's an old recipe that came from a McPherson County cookbook our family makes every fall together.

Cathy: Waldorf red cake. My sister was born on Valentine's Day, and we always had this at least once a year. I now have my mom's recipe complete with her boiled milk frosting (Ermine icing).

Ian: Ice cream.

Lexi: I really like cookies and cream ice cream.

If you could do something dangerous just once with no risk, what would you do?

Adam: I would love to travel out of the country again. My wife, Allison, speaks Spanish and has friends in Spain, so that would be my first choice.

Cathy: Go visit my mom and sister in Arizona. My sister is an angel who takes care of our mom 24/7. I was lucky to have traveled to AZ right before COVID hit, but now I could not responsibly visit them in person. I believe it would be dangerous or risky for my mom and sister if I were to travel—by air or by car—to see them. I would not want to put them at risk, so I have made the decision to wait to see them for their sake. But if I could be assured they would not catch COVID, I would go!

Ian: Skydive.

Lexi: I would want to go cliff jumping sometime.

Would you rather live by the beach or in the mountains?

Adam: Mountains, hopefully with a lake nearby.

Cathy: Definitely in the mountains.

Ian: Beach.

Lexi: Definitely by the beach—I love the sun and swimming.

What's the story behind your first name?

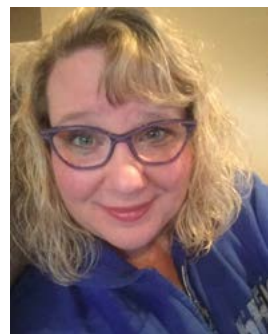
Adam: Adam was my great-grandfather's name.

My middle name is Wyatt—named after Wyatt Earp (no relation there though).

Cathy: Catherine is my mom's middle name.

Ian: My parents found it in a book of baby names and both liked it.

Lexi: My dad really liked the name Alexis, and my mom liked Emma, so they agreed on Alexis for my first name and Emma for my middle.



Lela Himmerich, (Shane and daughter Paige) teacher at Colman-Egan High School.



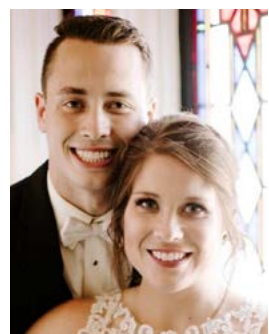
Dave Wilson (FLC's now retired Facilities Manager), excited to spend more time with his grandsons!



Zachary Brockhoff (with Jordan and baby, Henry), FLC organist and avid football fan!



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (with Max and son, Zachary), President of Augustana University.



Adam Guthmiller, (with wife, Allie), seminary student at Luther House of Study.



Cathy Christopherson, as of August, a full-time empty nester but still a mama bear.



Ian Smith (parents Les & Laurie), new freshmen at Lincoln.



Lexi Hopp, (parents Jamie & Eric Johannesen), sophomore at Lincoln.

Loaves and Fishes – John 6:1-14

Dear Third Graders, Parents and Family of First Lutheran Church:

When I was just about your age, in third grade, one of my favorite Bible stories was the story of *"Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand."* (Please take a couple of minutes now and read from John 6:1-14 in your Bibles. And remember, the Bible is God's love story *for you*, and to share it.)

Picture those hundreds of people who'd been following Jesus for many miles, perhaps days. Why? The Bible says that they'd heard Jesus' stories/parables of God's great love for them and seen how he could heal sick people by simply saying a word. (Read John 5:2-9). Wow! So, you can imagine how excited they were to witness all these miracles of Jesus, so much so, they even forgot to eat. But then, they began to realize how hungry they were. ("Grumble, grumble. Gurgle, gurgle.") Has this ever happened to you – where you get so excited about something you forget to eat? When I was your age that always happened on Christmas Eve!

And so, Jesus asks one of his disciples, Philip: *"How are we going to feed all these people? There are hundreds of folks who've been following us on the way, without having anything to eat."* Well, there weren't *HyVee* grocery stores back in Jesus' time, and the disciples were feeling pretty hopeless about the situation. Another disciple, Andrew then said: *"There's a young lad here who has 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish; but that's not going to be enough!"* (Read v.9 again.).

The disciples must have been thinking to themselves: *"Five loaves and two fish? To feed more than five thousand people?! Impossible. Kid can't count. Won't work. Send him home!"* But ...



anything, Jesus had all the people – some 5,000 in number – sit down on a grassy hill on the northern shoreline of Lake Galilee (Read v.10 again). Now, listen carefully here to what Jesus is saying to the young lad: *"Son, can I have your simple gifts of 5 loaves and 2 fish? I know they don't look like a big deal in the world's eyes. But, if you place these simple gifts in my hands I will take them, and bless them, and break them, and give them, and thousands will be fed."* (Do these words sound familiar? Think about "The Words of Institution" that we hear, just before we celebrate communion in worship.) The young lad placed them in Jesus' hands. He blessed them. And thousands of people were fed. And there were even 12 big baskets of food left over! Once again, the people were amazed at the way Jesus' words could work such miracles: turning an impossible situation into the possibility of a great blessing of God.

So, I'd like to have you think about some of the simple gifts YOU have. (Just take a moment to do so.) Gifts like being a good listener, fixing things, helping an elderly neighbor mow his lawn. For Jesus is saying, *"If you place your simple gifts in my hands, for the sake of the needs of others (read Matthew 25:40), I will take these gifts, and bless them, and break them, and give them, and thousands will be fed."* But the most precious, simple gift of all, is to share with people who are hurting is a very, very special word: one that will go and fill those deep empty or hungry places we so often feel in our lives. And that word is "Jesus," who is the Word of God, who still speaks through YOU. Tell people: *"You are God's precious child and upon you God's forgiving/ claiming/ and loving word will last forever. It will not run out. Twelve baskets full."*

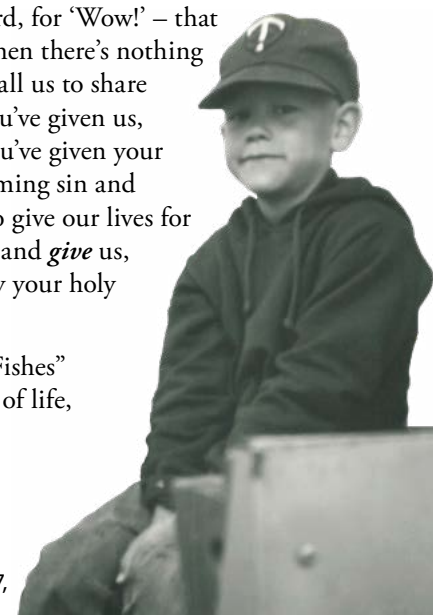
Whatever those simple gifts might be that you share with others, share them together with Jesus' claiming and enfolding Word, that they are precious in God's sight, and beloved by God for always. And in that one simple word, in Jesus, he will use your gifts and ... *take* and *bless* and *break* and *give* them, and thousands will be fed. Wow!

Let us pray: "We thank you Lord, for 'Wow!' – that boisterous exclamation mark when there's nothing left to say. Except ... that you call us to share even the most simple of gifts you've given us, and a word to proclaim: that you've given your life for us on the cross – overcoming sin and death – that we might be free to give our lives for others. Yes, *choose* us, *bless* us, and *give* us, so that thousands may be fed by your holy word." AMEN

In the name of our "Loaves & Fishes" Lord and Savior, the true bread of life, Jesus Christ.

John Christopherson
Senior Pastor

A young "Pastor John" at age 7,
Bloomington, MN (1963)



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



2020 Stewardship Campaign Kickoff



Birgit Peterson,
Stewardship &
Giving Chair

As unusual as it has been, I hope everyone has found elements of joy this summer—getting outdoors (when not too hot and muggy), tending a garden, traveling (when and where possible), or finding ways to enjoy a "staycation" closer to home. With all the uncertainty surrounding us, partaking in the old summer standbys that are available to us—cold ice cream on a hot day, a crisp slice of watermelon, stargazing (anyone else catch Comet NEOWISE?),

watching fireflies dance in the twilight, or fresh corn on the cob—have served to remind me that through everything, the foundation and source of basic joys of life are still there.

While the routines of church life have certainly changed over the past few months, it is still very much present. And some of those basic, fundamental joys are starting to weave their way back in. Sharing communion at the first Sunday outdoor service after months of absence was fulfilling in a way I've never appreciated before. Worshipping in person among fellow church members again after lengthy weeks of private worship at home is also greatly appreciated. I continue to admire all that the staff and volunteers at First Lutheran, who have worked diligently to find new and creative ways to build a virtual sense of community and further church missions, have accomplished. Through it all, I have appreciated the comfort and hope that being part of this greater community has brought.

As we move into late summer and yet another time when old traditions may need to be adjusted (What will the first day of school look like?), we will again be asking members to reflect on how to support First Lutheran and its many missions in 2021. Even the way we support First Lutheran with our time and treasure may have to adjust as we adjust to the new normals of church life. Given the continued uncertainties and turmoil, the Stewardship and Giving board has proposed "With hope, we give." as this year's theme. We believe this reflects the important role of the church as a source of continued hope and comfort and also underscores the importance of the collective community (i.e., the focus on "we" versus "I," as in previous campaigns). Together we can both weather and accomplish so much more.

On behalf of the S&G Board,
Birgit Peterson

With Hope, We Give

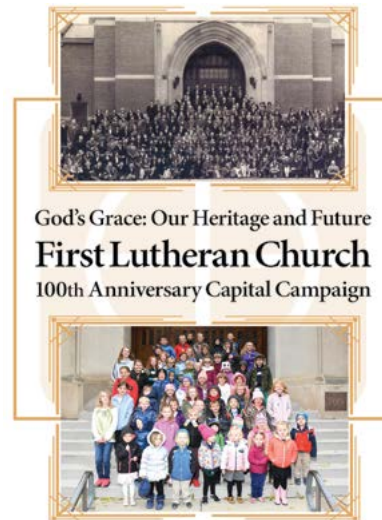
Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

When I spoke with Marilyn McNeill about the amount that was paid towards the HVAC loan in the month of July, I shouted out loud when I hung up the phone, "PRAISE GOD! PRAISE GOD from WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!" In July the church was able to pay \$33,065 on the HVAC loan, bringing the amount still needed to be paid to \$672,224.

In the ten months since the campaign started, the church has paid almost \$800,000 on the loan. This is awesome! Of those ten months, the campaign has been on hiatus for five months. No phone calls were made to arrange visits.

I'm so grateful for the amount we have paid, which in turn reduces the interest payments the church needs to make on the loan. I'm grateful for the prayers the congregation has offered for this campaign, and I'm grateful to all of you leading the way to pay on this debt. PRAISE GOD!



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.

July 23, 2020

- Financials have stayed strong. Expenses are down due to boards watching their spending.
- Drive through communion has started and it is well perceived.
- Outreach has been hit hard with the limited ability to meet and have events.
- Thank you to the COVID taskforce for all their effort and planning for re-opening.

Re-opening Task Force has been getting feedback from medical people to ensure the best options to begin worship in the Sanctuary.

- Masks are required as well as social distancing.
- Congregational singing not allowed at this time and very limited speaking.

Volunteers, Meetings:

- People can come back in as long as they are masked and limited to the size of the room with social distancing.
- Quilters and shop volunteers will be responsible for cleaning their areas.
- No food to be served in the meeting. Individuals can bring their own snack.
- Board meetings can also be meeting at the church if they choose.
- A purification filter system will be installed in the Atrium and Sanctuary air handlers that will greatly reduce viruses.
- The Director of Administration Interviews have started again and the Youth & Family posted again.

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

Saturdays at 5 p.m., Sanctuary
Sundays at 8 a.m., Sanctuary
Sundays at 7 p.m., FLC Parking Lot
Please visit flcsf.org for the latest info on worship service times.

Media Ministries Broadcasts

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

Visit us on social media:

[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 First Lutheran editorial staff reserves the right to edit submissions.

Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of each 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.

FINANCIAL SERVICES



July Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in honor of:

Marilyn McNeill's retirement: Kathy Stelzer

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Gary Olson: Paul & Jean Colon, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Russell & Carol Greenfield

Pastor LeRoy Nevin: Kathy Stelzer
Roger Wolff: Stephen Johnson, Kathy Stelzer

Gifts to the Capital Campaign in honor of:

Marilyn McNeill retirement: Paul & Jean Colon

Gifts to the Capital Campaign in memory of:

Lois Boyce: Paul & Jean Colon

Gifts to Capital Campaign, Paraments, in honor of:

Marilyn McNeill retirement: Doris Bushard

Gifts to Capital Campaign, Paraments, in memory of:

Jan Boettcher: Jean Hoff
Jane Nelson: Jean Hoff
Pastor LeRoy Nevin: Jean Hoff
M. Bennett Stenberg: Jean Hoff

Gift to Care and Health Ministry in memory of:

Bob Gednalske: Elizabeth Wood

Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:

Jim Christopherson's 90th birthday: Howard & Arlene Bich
Frank Hansen's 91st birthday: Howard & Arlene Bich
Their 50th anniversary: Don & Florence Toft

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Jan Boettcher: Howard & Arlene Bich, Steve & Marilyn Haddorff
Lois Boyce: Howard & Arlene Bich
Kathrine Clark: Howard & Arlene Bich
Darlene Colwill: Howard & Arlene Bich, Paul & Jean Colon, Martin & Mary Oyos
Eleanor Emmel: Howard & Arlene Bich, Conrad & Helen Dice, Sharon List
Barb Entringer: Joe & Janet Barron, Emil & Carol Knapp, Roger & Bev Lamp, Karen Lidel, Marilyn Moseson, Ione Pereboom, Lois Jean Peterson, Pastor Franklin Pudas, Joyce Sievert, Hazel Wek

Bob Gednalske: Robert & Karen Hemre, Pastor Franklin Pudas

Jill Greenfield: Howard & Arlene Bich

Gladys Halstenson: Sharon A Moon

Ruth Johnson: Howard & Arlene Bich

Jim Moore: Dr. Mark & Jean Bubak, Martin & Mary Oyos

Diedrich (Dan) Nelson: Howard & Arlene Bich

Pastor LeRoy Nevin: Howard & Arlene Bich, Bob & Margaret Doescher, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Marilyn Eikanger, Carol Lerdal, Dorothy Mikkelson,

Elaine Nevin, Don & Florence Toft

Gary Olson: Carol Bormann, Jim Carlson, Pastor Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Eugene & Betty Erickson, Roger & Bev Lamp, Janet Lyso, Barb, Marilyn Moseson, David & Linda Munson, Martin & Mary Oyos, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Ione Pereboom, Pastor Franklin Pudas, Paul & Karen Van Bockern, Donna Willadsen

Lorna Sanders: Howard & Arlene Bich

M. Bennett Stenberg: Richard & Kristi Brandt, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Dennis & Jolene Erickson, Steve & Marilyn Haddorff, Tracie Osthus, Kathy Stelzer, Julaine Walker, Ruth Werner

Roger Wolff: Steve & Marilyn Haddorff, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Ruth Werner

Gifts to Music Ministry in honor of:

John & Jeanne Buren's 70th anniversary: Barb Matson

Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:

Pastor LeRoy Nevin: John Hegg
Roger Wolff: Robert & Marilyn Van Demark

Gifts to the Organ Fund in memory of:

Esther Hanson: Dorothy Grevlos, Carol Lerdal, Pastor Franklin Pudas

Gifts to Project Car in memory of:

Pastor LeRoy Nevin: John & Kathy Evans, Barb Matson, Steven Ostrem, South Dakota Synod-ELCA

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
Rev. Bob Chell*.....Visitation
Rev. David Houck*.....Visitation
Rev. Roger Noer*.....Visitation
Rev. Dennis Tranberg*.....Visitation
Rev. Dave Johnson.....Emeritus

Administration

(236) Marilyn McNeill.....Business Administrator
(211) Jody Byrners.....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

Cheryl Satterlee*.....Wedding Coordinator

Media Ministry

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

Facilities

Kent 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*.....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
Karina Hackworth*.....Nursery Attendant
Nancy Henrichsen*.....Nursery Attendant
Irma Rodriguez Leon*.....Nursery Attendant
Kris Stark*.....Nursery Attendant

(000) Direct dial phone extensions. If no extension is listed, please call the Director of the ministry area or main church number, (605) 336-3734.

*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



Thank You July 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.

July 5: Radio broadcast was sponsored in memory of Gladys Halstenson, whose birthday would have been June 30, given by her family. The telecast was sponsored in recognition of Joyce M. Ashley's parents through earnings from her memorial gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

July 12: Radio broadcast was given in loving memory of Anna Lokken, by her granddaughter Kristi Oskar Groen. The telecast was sponsored by Harriet and Don Scott, honoring the FLC staff for all the extra effort doing ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Closed captioning was sponsored in loving memory of Warren Day, whose 95th birthday would have been July 12, given by Phyllis Day.

July 19: Radio and YouTube were sponsored in honor of LeRoy and Elaine Nevin's 65th wedding anniversary, which would have been July 16, by Joel Nevin and family. Television was sponsored by Lori and David Melemseter in celebration of Sally Rae Larsen's birthday, which will be July 21. Closed captioning was sponsored by Orville Hill in loving memory of Ardis Hill, who would have been 95 on July 22.

July 26: Radio was sponsored in loving memory of Leon Doescher and Earl Doescher by the Bob Doescher family. The telecast was sponsored in loving 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.

**Financial Update
July 2020**

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget.....\$1,233,246
2020 Actual.....\$1,243,062
2019 Actual.....\$1,147,884

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget.....\$1,275,492
2020 Actual.....\$1,198,229
2019 Actual.....\$1,232,468

YTD Net Profit/Loss.....\$44,833

Contract For Deed, Ideal..\$166,235

HVAC System.....\$672,224

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

Media Sponsorships available

Please consider sponsoring a radio broadcast (\$155), television broadcast (\$1300), closed captioning (\$150), or YouTube live stream (\$75). To sponsor in honor or remembrance of loved one, or to celebrate a life event, call us at (605) 336-3734.

September 6: Closed captioning and YouTube stream sponsors needed.

September 13: Television, closed caption, and YouTube sponsors needed.

September 20: Sponsors needed for radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube.

September 27: Sponsors needed for radio, closed captioning and YouTube stream.

October 4: Sponsors are needed for radio, television, closed captioning and the YouTube stream.

October 11: Television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors needed.

October 18: Closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.

October 25: Television, closed captioning, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.

November 1: Sponsors needed for radio, closed captioning and YouTube.

November 8: Television, and YouTube sponsors needed

November 15: Sponsors needed for, closed captioning and the YouTube.

November 22: YouTube sponsor needed.

November 26 (Thanksgiving): YouTube

November 29: Sponsors needed for radio, television, closed captioning and the YouTube stream.



September Special Offering: Neighbors in Solidarity

By Jenifer M. Wollman, Evangelism and Outreach Board



“Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”
– Hebrews 13:1-2

This month, we are joining hands with Neighbors in Solidarity—a program of the South Dakota Synod whose message is Pray, Learn, Act! This ministry provides our members with the opportunity to support evangelical ministries and outreach programs throughout South Dakota in a number of ways.

Neighbors in Solidarity reaches our neighbors in many areas of South Dakota with ten ministries that span from East River to West River, North to South. With these multi-generational and multi-cultural endeavors, we can be good neighbors and have a positive impact on not only our neighbors across the street or at our church but also across our entire state.

In Sioux Falls and the surrounding areas, we reach out to our brothers and sisters with **Church on the Street** and pray for those who struggle with poverty and homelessness. **WestSide Lutheran** continues community efforts in northwest Sioux Falls to provide hope and encouragement in daily life and to empower its members to serve their neighbors.

Further west and across the Missouri River, Neighbors in Solidarity is supporting new missions like **Spirit of Faith** in Woonsocket, South Dakota, bringing together our Lutheran and Methodist brothers and sisters to worship Christ's name. On the vast prairie in West River, **God's Kingdom**, a ministry of First Lutheran Church in Newell, SD, is a weekly after-school program that cares for our young minds and strengthens their faith. At **Pine Ridge Retreat Center** in Pine Ridge,

our neighbors are helping those affected by poverty while building trust and respect.

Around the state, **Lutheran Campus Ministries** touches lives by inspiring and supporting students in our college communities of Vermillion, Aberdeen, Brookings, Rapid City, and Spearfish.

Branching out to support our multi-cultural brothers and sisters, Neighbors in Solidarity supports **First Lutheran African Ministry** and **Pueblo de Dios** in Sioux Falls and **Woyatan Lutheran** in Rapid City to expand our reach to these culturally diverse communities.

The common bond with these ministries, other than Westside Lutheran, is that they will continue to be congregations in mission status—meaning they likely will not be self-sustaining financially.

Please prayerfully consider your opportunity to support our evangelical ministries and reflect on the message of Neighbors in Solidarity:

- **Pray** for the people who are served by these programs.
- **Learn** about these endeavors and how you might play an important role to help build strong relationships.
- **Act** by following our call to serve each other with your time, experiences, and donations.

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2

*Please consider supporting this unique ministry 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 Neighbors in Solidarity** on your check and mail to First Lutheran. You may also donate online by visiting flcsf.org/give. Thank you for your continued partnership in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Keeping Our Commitments

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach



“This is what the LORD has commanded. When a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word...” Numbers 30:1-2

When coronavirus hit back in March, decisions were made to proceed cautiously with our budgeted programming and commitments until we had a clearer picture of what things would look like through the following weeks and months.

God was faithful, and so were you!

Unlike what we have heard from many of our nonprofit ministry relationships, you have kept the ministries and mission of First Lutheran Church moving along. Another exceptional benefit to our congregation was qualifying for the PPP loan. These opportunities have allowed First Lutheran to remain steady financially. While we remain cautious, we have looked at the ways we can conservatively keep our commitments to our ministry partners.

I am offering this accounting as a transparent communication to you so you would know that important ministry work continues, and that so far, we have kept our commitments. These disbursements are discussed and approved by the Evangelism & Outreach board. Many of these support gifts combine monies available from budgeted and designated funds. Designated funds are usually acquired by individual gifts from parishioners, memorials, special offerings, etc.

The E&O board works hard to be sure the ministry partners we support are reflective of the desires of the congregation and are reflective of the abundant gifts First Lutheran is given. We have prioritized your gifts being put to work especially in our local community.

Please carefully consider these gifts we have recently disbursed, and I ask you to pray for these ministry partners that continue to show God's grace in a time of even more demand. Thank you for your faithfulness to this work.

- \$2,820.34 to The Banquet
- \$2,130.64 to Church on the Street
- \$2,749.41 to Feeding SD
- \$2,000 to The Luther House of Study
- \$2,045 to Pine Ridge Retreat Center
- \$1,500 to Pueblo de Dios
- \$2,427.50 to First Lutheran African Ministry
- \$2,569.53 to St. Dymas Prison Ministry
- \$545 to Family Connections
- \$750 to Sioux Falls Thrive
- \$750 to Bread Break
- \$5,000 to Lutherans Outdoors
- \$1,000 to Metigoshe Ministries
- \$2,500 to Charis Ministries Partners (Food-To-You Mobile Food Pantry, Necessities for Neighbors, Healthy Rides)
- \$1,320.34 to Bishop Dudley House
- \$1,520.34 to Union Gospel Mission
- \$683 to Companion Synod Support to Nicaragua c/o South Dakota Synod
- \$683 to Companion Synod Support to Cameroon c/o South Dakota Synod
- \$200 to Ida Bergeland Fund for Bread for the World annual gift

Non Profit
Organization
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PAID
Permit No. 32
Madison, SD

Join us for Dave Wilson's Drive-thru Retirement Celebration

Thursday, September 3

5 - 6 p.m.

FLC south parking lot

Cruisin' into
retirement!



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED