



First Word

The newsletter of First Lutheran Church • Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Happy Birthday Jesus!—WELCA EVENT



Jean Hoff
President, FLCW

On December 3, FLCW/WELCA celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, born as a child in a manger. It was a wonderful

day beginning with a brunch. Our own talented Zachary Brockhoff and Matt

Tylutki shared their musical abilities with us on piano and trumpet. It was such a joy to see these two men playing duets on the piano and to hear the wonderful sounds of the trumpet. Our heartfelt thanks to Zachary and Matt for sharing time with us. We also celebrated the wonderful news of the distribution of the bazaar proceeds with those in attendance. FLCW/WELCA hopes that all of you will have a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of the Son of God, Emmanuel.



Welcome Pr. Jason!



Martin Oyos,
Executive Committee

In January, an exciting new chapter for First Lutheran begins with Pastor Jason Burggraff as its next senior pastor. Ever

since the congregation unanimously and enthusiastically voted to call Pastor Jason as this congregation's new senior pastor, Pastor Jason began the process of preparing to assume this role. This has included conversations with Zachary Brockhoff to plan for Lent and conversations with Pastor Dave about current operations at First Lutheran. In his first weeks here, Pastor Jason will spend time becoming reacquainted with First Lutheran. After he has the opportunity to assess the congregation, staff, and ministries of First Lutheran, a priority will be initiating the process to call one or more associate pastors. The congregation will officially welcome Pastor Jason at his installation during services the weekend of January 21-22, 2023.

Pastor Dave will work with Pastor Jason during January to help him become acclimated to his new role, and Pastor Dave will conclude his time at First Lutheran as of January 31. We give great thanks for Pastor Dave serving as First Lutheran's interim senior pastor.

A year of promise and possibilities lies ahead for First Lutheran in 2023. Please keep Pastor Jason, his family, and the congregation of First Lutheran Church in your prayers.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

January Special Offering: Seminary Students



Val Peters
Evangelism &
Outreach Board

We are blessed that we have individuals who have been called to religious education in various ways. First Lutheran has a history of supporting those

who have been chosen to enter pastoral or diaconal ministry. We want to take this opportunity to introduce and update you on our current seminary student, Valerie Pherson.

Hello! I am Valerie Pherson, the Children's Minister at First Lutheran Church. I have the privilege of teaching preschool to 5th grade students about Jesus. I am

accompanied by high school and adult volunteers for programs like Sunday/Wednesday School, Vacation Bible School, the Christmas Program, and Shrove Tuesday. I also give children's sermons during worship on Sunday mornings. I enjoy this job most when I am creating lessons and deciding on crafts, games, and activities to aid in the Gospel lesson.

I am currently in my second year of seminary with Luther House of Study, pursuing my Masters in Divinity. Juggling class and work is not always easy, but it is great to apply everything I am learning about Lutheran theology in class directly to this role. It is so important to me to make it fun for kids

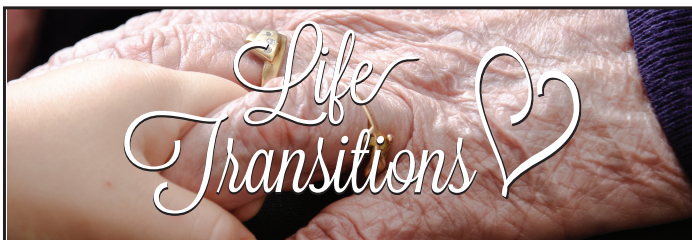
to learn about God while also laying the foundation of Biblical Truth.



Thank you for your prayers and support as I continue my classes! It is wonderful to be a part of a congregation that is so loving and encouraging!

Please keep Valerie in your prayers and prayerfully consider financially supporting our seminary student by designating a gift to "FLC seminary students." Special offering

envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have one, bring your donation to the information desk at church, or visit flcsf.org/give to donate online.



Baptisms:

November 20: Seth Farr-Big Crow, son of Ashley Farr and Kyle Big-Crow

Deaths:

November 18: Stan Hoffman
November 20: Mary Ann Hohman
November 25: Gloria Norgaard
November 28: Marcia Alexander

Dementia Caregiving Support Group



Barney Brandenburg
Care & Health Board

The dementia caregivers support group will be starting again on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 9 a.m. using a new book as our guide. The group is for two sets of people. First, if you are a current caregiver (which means anyone helping to assist in the care in any way of another who has dementia of any type), this group is for you! Second, if you have been a caregiver in the past, your input and historical perspective is helpful for those in a current caregiver situation.

The group meets for 60-90 minutes once a month. We provide faith-based support using current caregiver guidance. We currently have a limited number of books that are provided by the Care and Health Board free of charge. More can be made available if the numbers support that, however, and we deeply appreciate knowing our numbers in advance. All group information is kept strictly confidential. If you fit into one of the two above circumstances and are interested in joining this meaningful experience, please contact Barney Brandenburg, brandenvfp@gmail.com. Thanks, and we look forward to new members joining the group!



Download the Church Center App today to keep up-to-date with what's happening around the church!

Pew Registers Are Back!



*Deb Nelson
Welcome and
Community
Board*

We can think back and blame COVID for many things, and taking the pew registers out of the pews is one of those.

They were taken

away as part of the COVID protocols, and we started using the iPads for check-ins as a part of ensuring we knew who was in church should we need to contact members. (Pew registers are also being referenced as fellowship registers.)

We have received requests from you to bring them back, and so you will find them in the pews again. While I

personally have gotten to know a lot of you and now know names I didn't know before COVID, we left you without a way to learn the names of people sitting around you. We have simplified the pew pads as we bring them back and have a section now for members and a section for guests.

As a member, please take the initiative to start moving the register in your pew. When it comes to you, sign and look at who else is in your row. I encourage you to learn some names and to greet each other.

If there is a guest in your row, welcome them and thank them for coming! If it is their first visit, encourage them to go to the Atrium; the Welcome & Community Board would love to meet them, and we have a small gift for them. We have prepared a brief history of FLC focusing on our Scandinavian heritage, and the gift

is left. We would love to meet them.

The question that some of you have asked is whether you need to sign the registers and sign in either with the Church Center app or the iPad. We are going to record attendance from the registers so you don't have to sign in electronically. Both have a different purpose. However, if you *do* sign in electronically, we don't have to enter your information afterward, so it saves us time in entering names manually.

I've also had some ask me, "Why do we monitor attendance?" The constitution directs us to know that voting members have attended, donated, and taken communion. We also care about you and should there be another pandemic-like outbreak, we would want to easily be able to contact you.

Thank you all for helping us re-start the process of Fellowship Registers. We appreciate your support.

Spiritual Exercise For Your 2023 Goals



*Barney
Brandenburg
Care & Health Board*

As the calendar turns to 2023, it is traditional to make a commitment to a New Year's resolution. And predictably, new

gym memberships are at an annual high following the turn of the calendar. It is indeed important to make a commitment to a regular physical exercise program. Medical personnel have recommended this for decades to improve one's physical health, and there is ample evidence that it does just that.

But have you considered the importance of doing something similar for your spiritual health? The pandemic not only made it difficult to worship, it

also impacted our habits for "Spiritual Exercise" to some degree. Setting a New Year's resolution to address your spiritual health is as important to your overall health as setting a resolution for your physical health through exercise.

How do we perform "spiritual exercise"? There are as many and varied ways to accomplish this as there are to attempt the various forms of physical exercise. And just as not all types of physical exercise are desirable or even able to be accomplished by each of us, there are many variations of spiritual exercise that can also be useful. Some examples are: 5 minutes of daily prayer, reading of devotionals daily, reading your Bible, attending a Bible study, listening to a podcast (Luther House of Study has excellent podcasts), attending a circle, attending Sunday/Wednesday School, attending adult Christian education, and attending

church services. There are others, and this list is not meant to be exclusive, but is meant to give just a few examples.

Lastly, I will share a technique we have been using in the dementia caregiver support group. That is taking a "Mindfulness Moment." To perform this exercise, one is seated in a comfortable chair with arms on your lap and feet on the floor. Eyes are closed, and you begin to relax your muscles starting from the top of your head to the tip of your feet. Then, slowly inhale as you silently count to 5. Then exhale as you silently count to 5. Repeat this last process 10 times before you open your eyes.

Hopefully, this reminder of the need for both physical and spiritual exercise will help make your new year a great one! That is our wish for all from the Care and Health Board. Happy exercising!

2022 Children's Christmas Program

Emmanuel—God is with us!

The Children's Christmas Program was held on Sunday, December 11, at 2p.m. in the Sanctuary. Over 30 children participated! This year the story came out of the *Jesus Storybook Bible*, which we are using for Sunday/Wednesday School. The children used songs, narration, and acting to tell the story of Jesus' birth. The theme was Emmanuel—God is with us!

The Christmas Program is a long-standing tradition in many churches and certainly at First Lutheran! It is a wonderful time for the children to learn the importance of why Jesus came to earth to be with us. Also, let's face it—they are adorable in the costumes! And

children remember the programs, what part they played—a shepherd, an angel, or Mary & Joseph.

The nostalgia factor is also a big part of things. Parents are remembering they wore the cow, sheep, donkey, or angel costumes when they were little. The camels were back by popular demand and a huge hit. They have been around FLC for many years. Christmas certainly holds a lot of tradition—especially at church!

A highlight song this year was "Go Tell it on the Mountain!" The children clearly loved this one, hearing their voices sing loud and proud with the great actions.

Of course, we couldn't do it without so many amazing volunteers and staff! Cindy Nassen helped bring the camels back to life, sewing new blankets and giving them an update. The set was also new! Valerie built it with the assistance of Bob Bauman, and then she and Mindee Mullen painted both sides. The high school shepherds went above and beyond to help the children know where to be so all the parents could enjoy watching their children. Our amazing Youth & Family Board helped serve dozens and dozens of cookies and hot chocolate after the program! It's January now, but the Christmas spirit lives on!





The 1st grade class leading "Go Tell it on the Mountain!" dressed as shepherds and sheep.



Mary was played by Ella Mullen and Joseph by Devin Kruger.



A shot of the group singing along to "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."



The show ended with everyone singing Silent Night in the candle light.



The kings and camels making their way from the back of the church to the front to see Jesus.

November Gifts and Memorials

Media Ministry

In memory of Darlene Colwill
Jim & Deann Clark

In memory of John Odney

Barbara Peterson, Beverly Simpson, Bob Doescher, Celest Uthe-Burow, Chad & Carolyn Hoyme, Cheryl Satterlee, Craig Uthe, Dan Uthe, David & Linda Munson, Don & Florence Toft, Don & Judith Erickson, Doug & Carol Uthe, Eugene & Betty Erickson, Gordon Eggebraaten, Howard & Arlene Bich, Janice Julson, Jeanette Edman, Jerry & Jan Bork, Joan Hansen, Lamoyne & Karyn Pederson, Michael & Gloria Simpson, Milton Mutch, Orrin & Patricia Townswick, Tracie Osthus, Trudy Gilberson

In memory of Larry Anderson

Bill & Marilyn Bradfeldt, Brent & Mary Hohman, Craig & Gail Shea,

David & Bonnie Bogue, Eric & Sue Severson, Jim & Sandy Fink, Karen Van Bockern, Leann Carlson, Mary Nicolai, Tom & Martha Nelson, Tracie Osthus, William & Nancy Olson

In memory Mary Osthus

Lou Ann Paulson & Family

In memory of Orville Hill

Doug & Carol Uthe

Music Ministry

In memory of John Odney

Yvonne Behrends

FLC Foundation

In memory of John Odney

Donald & Joyce Helberg, Jeffrey Toft, Vance & Sherry Goldammer

FLC Shop

In memory of John Odney

Carlyle & Janet Naessig

In memory of Larry Anderson

Carlyle & Janet Naessig, Donna Jahr, Dorothy Grevlos, Emil & Carol Knapp, Marilyn McNeill, O.L. Anderson, Phyllis Day, Phyllis Joregenson, Sandra Pedersen, William & Deeann Stevens

In memory of Lee Peterson

Jeff Proehl

Project CAR

In memory of Mariann Hohman

Ruth Werner

Capital Campaign

In memory of Gene Jones

Jean Hoff

In memory of Larry Anderson

Jean Hoff

In memory Orville Hill

Jean Hoff

In memory of Terry Roisum

Jean Hoff

Senior Luncheons are Returning!

THE CARE & HEALTH AND EDUCATION & DISCIPLESHIP BOARDS ARE TEAMING UP TO BRING SENIOR LUNCHEONS BACK TO FIRST LUTHERAN AFTER AN EXTENDED COVID BREAK. SENIORS 55 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER ARE INVITED TO THE GATHERING ROOM ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 11:30 A.M. FOR A LIGHT LUNCH FOLLOWED BY A PROGRAM.

THE FIRST LUNCHEON WILL BE TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, AND THE PROGRAM WILL BE PASTOR KATHERINE OLSON AND ABRAHAM GAYETAYE SPEAKING ABOUT ABRAHAM'S CPE—CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION—PROJECT IN LIBERIA. PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION FOR THE LUNCHEON BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, BY CALLING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 605-336-3734. THEN, MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND COME FOR FELLOWSHIP, A BITE TO EAT, AND AN INTERESTING PROGRAM.

 **First Lutheran Church**
327 S. Dakota Ave. • Sioux Falls, SD • flcsf.org

'Blessed to be a Blessing' 2022 Bazaar Distributions



Jean Hoff
President, FLCW

It is with great joy that I am able to share, on behalf of First Lutheran Church Women/WELCA, the distribution of the 2022 Bazaar

proceeds. The bazaar is the culmination of women, men and youth coming together to work for God's people, knowing that the money from the bazaar goes toward

many missions. These missions are in our church, our city, our state, and in the world. It takes all of us working together to bring success to the bazaar. It is also a great day of fellowship with other members of the congregation as well as people in and around the community. Some people even travel from other states to attend our bazaar and even to work the bazaar!

Just a little background for the congregation: There is an application that must be completed to receive proceeds from the bazaar. The applications are

available at the reception desk. After the bazaar, a committee determines the recipients from the applications received. FLCW/WELCA is required to hold back a percentage of the money to be used in the following year. FLCW/WELCA will have some money to spend in 2023 for missions.

Thank you, to all of you, for you were a blessing to the bazaar, and now we are able to be a blessing to many of God's people. We are thankful, grateful, and blessed to share \$39,400 with the below ministries.

Bread Break	\$500	Midwest Honor Flight	\$1000
Center of Hope	\$1500	Necessities for Neighbors	\$1000
COTS Laundry of Love	\$1000	Nightwatch	\$1500
COTS Health & Healing Fair	\$1000	Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center	\$1000
Destiny Healthcare International	\$1000	Project Car	\$1000
Emmaus Road Foundation-Scholarships	\$2500	Pueblo de Dios	\$2500
Empire Mental Health	\$2000	Sad Isn't Bad	\$1000
Food to You	\$1000	St. Dymas-Pierre Prison	\$1000
Helping Hands for Haiti	\$1000	St. Dymas-Reentry Program	\$1000
Homefront Warriors Foundation	\$750	Washed Clean	\$2000
Hope Haven International Ministry	\$2000	University Lutheran Center-SDSU	\$1000
Lutheran World Relief-Humanitarian Relief	\$3500	Union Gospel Mission-Art Therapy Program	\$1500
LSS Southern Hills Childcare & Education	\$500	Valerie Pherson-Seminary Studies	\$500
McCrossan Boys Ranch-Christmas Gits	\$250	Union Gospel Mission-General Fund	\$1200
Meals from the Heart	\$1000	First Lutheran Telecasts KSFY	\$2700

Thank You, November Media Sponsors

November 6, 2022

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Trudy Peckham, who would have been 88 on November 1, by her family -John, Anne, Mary, and Tom Peckham.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Chuck Osthus, who would have celebrated his birthday November 5, by his wife, Tracie; and family-Scott & Tezra, David and Lynne.

November 13, 2022

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by Ardeen and Cindy Mulder in

honor of all veterans and active-duty military.

- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Drs Arthur Huseboe and Doris Eggers Huseboe and their parents, Delbert & Ema Eggers and Carl & Lillian

November 20, 2022

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Mark Doescher by his father, Bob Doescher, and sisters-Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah.
- The closed captioning on KSFY and broadcast on KELO-FM were sponsored in memory of Mark

Doescher by his sisters-Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah-and their families.

November 24, 2022

- The Thanksgiving telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Bonnie Merrill, Carl Wilkins, Maudie Wilkins, Bessie Thompson, Dorothy Peterson, Mabel Jasper, and Agnes Welch, it was given by nieces and nephews.

November 27, 2022

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored by earnings of a gift to the FLC Foundation in memory of Hilmer and Susan Lillebo.

Council Highlights: November 2022

- Construction on the atrium and info desk remodel has begun. Estimated completion is March 2023.
- The bazaar made \$44,822 this year.
- Two adjustments are being discussed to update FLC's bylaws: 1) senior pastor description will be changed/restored to what it was prior to having an executive pastor; and 2) updated verbiage needs to be applied due to changes made at Churchwide Assembly.
- Budget congress was held to plan for the 2023 budget. The approved budget will be in the Annual Report.
- We are approximately \$72k ahead of budget for 2022.
- Pr. Jason is expected to begin work with FLC in January 2023; an exact date is not yet set.

Hy-Vee Gift Cards available now! Support FLC youth in raising money for summer camps and mission trips! Gift cards can be purchased at church, and 5% of money given will go into general fundraising—*at no additional cost to you.* Stop at the info desk next time you're in and a staff member can help you. Or contact Skylar at 605-339-1983 ext. 235

First Lutheran Church
327 S Dakota Ave
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January Events

January 2—offices CLOSED in observance of the holiday, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 6— First Fridays Book Club 5pm at R Wine Bar

January 7—Grieving with Grace in the Gathering Room at 9:30am

January 8— Anniversary of Baptism Event, 10am in Fellowship Hall

January 14— Dementia Support Group, 9am in Gathering Room

January 21-22— Pastor Jason Bruggraff's Installation at all services. Join us Sunday at 10am for a brunch in Reformation Hall.

January 24—Senior Luncheon, 11:30am in Gathering Room

January 29—Pastor David B. Zellmer's last Sunday at FLC. Join us for brunch at 10am in Reformation Hall.