



# First Word

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



*Pr. Jason Burggraff,  
Senior Pastor*

Life in this old world is funny—it seems so often that when one worry is resolved, another is not far around the corner. This is

true whether you are scanning the news or thinking about your own daily life. Erin accurately observes that my free-time is often spent finding things around the house or in our life to improve—I reply to her defensively that this was my training as an engineer—always looking to make things better and more efficient! And while finding ways to make the world better is certainly a part of all of our vocations, in one way or another, we never finish....we never find our peace in these endeavors, but only more projects. Martin Luther found that this “never done-ness” was true not only in workings of the world but that it held a deeper theological truth. In his Heidelberg Disputation, Luther writes: “The law says ‘do this,’ and it is never done.”

So it is, whether we are reading the world news, or our own to-do lists—they are never done. This is true in the workings

of the congregation as well—there’s always more to do and improvements to make. Certainly as staff and volunteers we know this to be true, for we often feel the pressure to do things bigger and better than the year before. Yet the Church knows something the old world does not—it is that Christ fulfilled the law and its demands, once and for all, on the cross. Now I know that sounds like something you’ve maybe heard many times before, but I want you to hear it as not just a true idea, but actually true for you—Jesus Christ is the end of the law, for you! That means that you truly do have peace, apart from what you have done and left undone, apart from your sin. Luther also observed this in his Heidelberg Disputation: “Grace says: ‘Believe in this, and everything is already done.’”

The Church is actually defined as the place where this “done-ness” in Christ is regularly proclaimed in Word and Sacrament, so you and I can receive the peace of Christ every week, if not multiple times a week. Yes, in the congregation and out of it, we will still be vexed by whatever worry may be around the next corner, and we must be about this work, for now, for the sake of the Gospel. Yet Christ is the

end of it all, thanks be to God.

Knowing Christ alone is our freedom, I want share with you our stewardship theme: Grounded in Faith, Giving with Freedom. As we dream and plan for ministry together in the coming year, we give thanks for the many gifts, devoted volunteers, and talented staff that God has called together to make sure the Gospel is heard at and through First Lutheran Church. We give thanks for new youth and family staff members: Brenda Leiseth and Mollie Brown. We give thanks for the process, well underway, of calling a couple more pastors to share this Word. Most of all we give thanks for God sending Jesus, the Word made flesh to save us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, let us continue to be gathered around this Word in worship, prayer, and Bible study—where the peace of Christ will find you, no matter what your worries, news, or to-do list are saying!

PS: If you are looking for more ways to hear God’s Word, know that we are expanding our fall adult Bible study opportunities with Bible studies on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. (men’s) and at noon, and Sundays between worship services. See you there!

## Attention Members:

We are aware these scam emails are happening AGAIN! This unfortunately happens with churches all over, not just ours. Please note that all emails from FLC staff will have an @flcsf.org email address, and we will NEVER ask the congregation to do anything like this. Always look at the email address, and please call the church if you have questions or concerns.

*Jason's email would be jburggraff@flcsf.org*  
Thank you!



## Committee Updates

### October Special Offering: Lowell Elementary



Rosie Tylutki,  
Evangelism and  
Outreach Board

First Lutheran has a partnership with Lowell Elementary, a neighborhood school. Lowell is rich in its diversity of student and family populations. There are 24 different home languages spoken within the Lowell community, and a high percentage of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. Diane Kennedy, the principal at Lowell, shares why this is a valuable partnership.

#### What are some of the biggest needs of the Lowell School Community?

Some of Lowell school community's biggest needs for students are sweatpants, underwear for our K-1st grade students for occasional bathroom issues, lice kits, pillows, coats, waterproof gloves, snow pants, snow boots, funds for classroom holiday parties, and gently used books for our book bingo family event coming up. Staff who serve these children are also in need of gift cards for occasional perks, a meal so they don't have to pack a lunch, and a special treat every once in a while.

#### What are some ways that you could see First Lutheran being of service to the

#### Lowell school community, including current volunteer opportunities?

Mentors, mentors, mentors. We need people who are willing to commit to 45 minutes each week to come sit with a designated student during lunch time. These relationships are so important for those high-risk kiddos, and it will truly make a difference for both the mentor and mentee. We would also appreciate



LOWELL ELEMENTARY  
BULLDOGS

volunteers who are willing to come help kindergarten students learn how to write their name, letters, sounds, and numbers as well as how to tie their shoes. This commitment would be about twice each week.

The Sioux Falls Neighborhood Soccer League, comprised of six Sioux Falls elementary schools including Lowell is a

growing program that also needs support. Every Saturday the teams play for about two hours before joining in a community-sponsored lunch. Volunteers are needed for any or all Saturdays April 22 through May 20 (5 weeks) to serve food and help with registration, hospitality, and other soccer activities.

#### What are some of the biggest highlights you can think of from the Lowell-FLC partnership?

Our all-time favorite gift from your church was the book vending machine. Once a week the students honor each other by nominating another student who was responsible, safe, or respectful. The students light up when they get to pick out a book. Families have also enjoyed the movie nights we have had in the past. This brings everyone together for a free family event. Our staff also appreciates being remembered throughout the year with gifts from the congregation.

At FLC, we have the opportunity to be an important part in Lowell's success. Contact Sarah, [herbertj@sio.midco.net](mailto:herbertj@sio.midco.net) for opportunities to volunteer at Lowell, and visit [flcsf.org/now](http://flcsf.org/now) for more opportunities such as Fall Soccer League. Please consider supporting our ministry with Lowell by volunteering your time, donating, and praying for the Lowell community.

### Blessed to be a Blessing—Bazaar 2023

Let's move our Bazaar plans into actions. Put the finishing touches on your crafts for the Variety, Seasonal, Kitchen, and Wood shops.

Donations will be accepted October 2-7 and must be placed in the labeled box near the atrium elevator. We welcome items of NICE jewelry, antiques/ uniques, vintage/good linens, used books, unfinished crafts, yarn, and Scandinavian items (clean and salable items *only*). NO TVs or electronics.

October 30 is rosette day! Join us in Fellowship Hall for a morning, afternoon, or all-day shift. Bring your fryer and irons if you choose. Helpers can also sugar and package the rosettes or help with setup and cleanup. Contact Jean Colon, 605-261-8114, to volunteer or if you have rosette questions.

Put on your apron and stir and bake some goodies for the bake sale and Sweet Shoppe. Make your favorite cookies, bars, candies, breads, cakes, muffins, jams,

jellies, salsa, soups, pickles, and more.... and LEFSE! Bring your baked goods to the Gathering Room on November 3.

Volunteers are welcome in all shops and in the Kaffe Stua (ala carte smorgasbord), as greeters, and as parking lot attendants.

Prayerfully support this First Lutheran Church mission tradition with your time, talent, and prayers.

Direct Bazaar questions to Coordinator Sharyl Wolf, 605-521-1026.

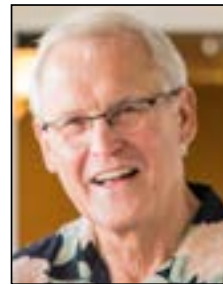
### Care and Health



Jason VanRuler,  
Care and Health  
Board

This October the Care and Health Board is looking at healing from our past and the process of moving beyond trauma into growth and connection. As a therapist, this is a process I've been privileged to have walked through with many clients across the world and have also done myself. It is often needed when we find ourselves frequently feeling like we aren't living the life we are called to, experiencing significant hurt or trauma,

### FLC Legacy Society



Larry Toll  
Foundation  
President

The First Lutheran Church Foundation was formed in the 1960s to start an endowment that would provide a permanent source of income for First Lutheran. The fund has grown dramatically and has been carefully managed since that time.

The Legacy Society of the Foundation was created in 2019 as a way for church members to indicate they have made arrangements to include the First Lutheran Foundation in their estate plans. The Foundation, as you probably know, is a fund that donates annually to support

or in a place of suffering. The unfortunate reality is that many of us have difficult things from our past that can hold us back if we don't address and process them in healthy ways that honor God.

Personally, I still remember all too well feeling lonely, isolated, and stuck, and it wasn't until I was able to ask for help and to trust God in that process that I started to feel hope for the first time. As I've grown and healed, it's become important to me to share with others how to navigate this process in a way that invites them to address past pain and hurt and embrace love and connection. Through personal stories, biblical wisdom, and my clinical experience, I have written a book

the church and is overseen and managed by members of the congregation. Financial professionals that are also members of the congregation help guide investment decisions. That team ensures the safety as well as growth of the funds.

In addition to the annual support, the Foundation also has made two one-time gifts to the church: \$250,000 on the 50th anniversary of the Foundation and \$500,000 for the church's 100th anniversary. Over the past ten years, the Foundation has provided more than \$5

called *Get Past Your Past* that meets you where you are no matter how much or how little you feel to walk with you to the place of healing and wholeness. Along the way, the book has lots of practical tips and tools to help start the process and move towards the life you are called to.

The book and audiobook release on October 10 through Zondervan Books and will be available at all major book retailers including Amazon and Barnes and Noble. I am grateful to FLC for their kindness and support during writing process, and I'm thrilled to share the book with you all.

million in direct support of our church.

Joining the Legacy Society is easy! You can designate the Foundation as a beneficiary in a will, life insurance policy, IRA/401K,

bank accounts, real estate or brokerage account. There is no need to specify an amount to be left to the Foundation. Any and all amounts will provide ongoing support for our church and continued growth of the Foundation.

If you have any questions or would like to be included in the Legacy Society, please call Larry Toll at 605-521-7161



#### WE DID IT AGAIN! 92 Kits and counting!

After months of shopping, cutting, sewing, and sorting, the women of First Lutheran packed Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The kits included blankets, sleepers, t-shirts, jackets, caps, socks, soap, towels, diapers, and pins.

## Capital Campaign Update



Jean Hoff,  
Capital Campaign  
Coordinator

How about an update on the sound system? Some of you may have heard that the sound designer, Dave Hosbach, had a heart

attack, and that has set the sound system back. The sound designer has recovered and is working full-time again. We thank God for His healing of Dave.

The good news is that Dave Palmer is making sure everything we want is on the new design, and Zachary Brockhoff is in contact with the sound designer. Pastor Jason and James Moore will be in on the final design and acceptance of the design. It is still our hope and prayer that this project will be completed before Christmas.

The design cost has gone up a bit, and we are now in need of another \$15,000 to complete the payment of the sound system in December 2023 or January 2024. We have \$325,000 designated for the sound system, and the cost is now going to be \$340,000.

The other project we are working on is the Bell Tower and Steeple. Currently, a company in Sioux City, Iowa, is looking at some additional drone pictures as they contemplate making a trip to Sioux Falls and submitting a bid. As this project develops, the church will keep you updated. I think everyone agrees this is a much-needed project to see to completion.

Viking Glass will be updating the windows on the south side of the education building in the spring. We are also looking at the stained glass windows with Conrad Schmidt Company, and Viking Glass is looking at other windows of concern around campus.

## Member Call to Action

Each morning, Monday through Friday, First Lutheran contacts Sanford, Avera McKennan, and Avera Heart Hospitals to learn if any of FLC's parishioners have been admitted into the hospitals. If a patient has shared with the hospital that First Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls is his/her church home, the hospital will pass along that patient's name and hospital room number to FLC. However, if the patient does not identify First Lutheran as his/her church home, FLC will not be informed.

First Lutheran has a hospital visitation team consisting of visitation ministers and Pr. Jason Burggraff, who are assigned specific visitation days each week. The intent is to have someone visit the hospitals each day, Monday through Friday. These ministers go to hospitals based on the hospital information given to First Lutheran. Again, only if the hospitals have been informed by the patient of the patient's church home, do the hospitals share patient names and room numbers.

The FLC visitation ministry team requests that if parishioners become patients at Sanford, Avera McKennan, or Avera Heart hospitals, please inform the hospitals that First Lutheran is the patient's church home. That will give the First Lutheran visitation team the opportunity to make timely hospital visits.

## Youth and Family

### Staff Updates and Fall Plans



Valerie Pherson,  
Youth and Family  
Ministry Team Lead

We are excited to announce two additions to our Youth & Family staff. With the reorganizing of

the department, I, Pastor Jason, and the Youth & Family board have been working hard at how we can be good ministers to our families and work with a reduced staff.

We are happy to welcome Brenda Leiseth as our new Children's & Youth Minister and Mollie Brown as our Youth & Family Office Coordinator! We are excited about the many programs and activities happening this fall and are already planning the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Brenda Leiseth has been a member of our congregation for 23 years, raising her four children here. They have been active in music ministry, education, and summer camps. Brenda has volunteered her time

and talents in countless ways over the years serving not only the children but the church as a whole. Her heart for teaching children and youth about God's Word is inspiring.

Mollie Brown has been a member of our congregation her whole life. She is a third generation member, giving her deep roots in the goings on at FLC. Mollie was our summer intern where she got a behind-the-scenes look at how all of the programs and events are planned and organized from elementary through young adults. She is currently attending Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls and working toward her degree in Business and Entrepreneurship.

If you are interested in the programs and events for children and youth, pick up a booklet in the Welcome Center or visit [flcsf.org/youth](http://flcsf.org/youth).

Thank you all for the support this past year and many prayers as we rebuilt our team to be able to share the good news of the Gospel with our families.

First Lutheran Church

2023-24

Youth & Family  
Ministry Programs



## Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

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

### 2024 Sponsorships Available Now

To learn about sponsoring, please visit [flcsf.org/media-ministry](http://flcsf.org/media-ministry) or call the church at (605) 336-3734. Sponsor opportunities include weekly worship:

- KSFY telecast
- Closed captioning
- KELO-FM radio
- YouTube live stream

Additional opportunities include church holiday worship and special events. General Media Ministry donations are always welcome.



Leiseth family: Brenda, Garret, Olivia, Andrew, Ella, Soren



Brown family: Elleh, Mollie, Rob, Wright, Laura, Ava

# Volunteers needed!

Looking for ways to get involved in the church? See below for opportunities of all ages!

Broadcast team: camera operator, soundboard, audio operator, and technical director. Some positions are paid, all will have training.

Worship services leaders: ushers, lectors, communion servers, nursery attendants

Wednesday night meals: preparing, serving, and cleaning up

*Please contact the church if you're interested in learning more about these roles!*

## Wednesday Night Meals Menu Fall 2023

5-6 p.m. • recommended \$5/person

October 4—pork loin, potato wedges, tossed salad

October 11—ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans

October 18—meatloaf, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables

October 25—tater tot casserole, cheesy hash browns, glazed baby carrots

**November 1—No meal served**

November 8—ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans

November 15—broasted chicken, potato wedges, tossed salad

November 22—turkey, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole

November 29—lasagna, mixed vegetables, tossed salad

December 6—chicken strips, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad

December 13—beef stroganoff, wild rice, green beans

December 20—pork loin, baked potato, California blend with cheese sauce

**No meals served until January 10, 2024**

## August Gifts and Memorials

### FLC Foundation

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Chuck and Kathi Vraney, Donald and Joyce Helberg, Judy Borgwardt, Ronald and Kathleen Christensen

#### In memory of Lee Halstenson

Lyle and Jean Eidsness

### Media Ministry

#### In honor of Donna Williadson's 90th birthday

David and Renee Tomell, Karen Lidel, Robin and Matthew Anderson

#### In memory of Lee Halstenson

Bruce and Mary Boyd, Dr. Carl and Janet Naessig, Cheryl Satterlee, Conrad and Hellen Rice, Daniel and Karina Baker, David and Linda Munson, Donald and Joyce Helberg, James and Ann Peterson, Michael and Gloria Simpson, Neil and Mary Munson, Orrin and Karen Anderson, Pamela Hoiland, Paul and Barb Halstenson, Corey Halstenson, Cristin Fanning and children, Paul and Jean Colon, Peter and Marilyn Hegg, Richard and Barbara Friess, Richard and Ruth Harms, Robert and Marilyn Van Demark, Tracie Osthus, William and Nancy Olson, William Haugen

#### In honor of Marilyn Moseson's 95th birthday

Karen Lidel

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Alfred Borgen, Brett Vraney, Brian and Vaness Vraney, Cash: Cheryl Satterlee, Dennis and Jane Kueter, Eric and Sue Severson, Gene and Dorothy Kramer, Jeffrey Probstfield, Jim and DeAnn Clark, Kathleen Stelzer, Kurt and Joanne Krish, Lance and Wendy Ellsworth, Mark and Nancy Hallenbeck, Richard and Virginia Vraney, Tracie Osthus, WSHS Class of 1963

#### In memory of Mary Osthus

FLCW

#### In memory of Jean Phillippe

FLCW

#### In memory of Lavonne Goos

Arlene Hoek

#### In honor of Dr. Carl and Janet Naessig's 65th wedding anniversary

Karen Lidel, L. Marilyn Moseson

### Music Ministry

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Dennis and Lorna Bolen, Dr. Howard Peterson Jr., Roger and Jennifer Braaten

#### In memory of Cathy Christopherson

Julie Horihan

#### In memory of Steve Bushard

Rosaaen Olson

### Music Library

#### In memory of Steve Bushard

Jean Edman

### Youth Ministry

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Jack and Lona Miller, Nancy and David Glenn

### Project CAR

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Betty Fideler

### Bell Tower/Steeple

#### In memory of Lee Halstenson

Jean Hoff, Marlene Linton

#### In memory of Stephen Johnson

Jean Hoff

#### In memory of Steve Bushard

Jean Hoff

## Thank You, August Media Sponsors!

### August 6, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their friends and family.
- The closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their daughters—Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah.

### August 13, 2023

- The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Jerry Bloch by Kathy Bloch.
- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Arlen, Bea, and Chuck Osthus by their family.

### August 27, 2023

- The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in honor of Donna Willadsen's 90th birthday on August 27.

# Life Transitions

## Marriages

**August 26**

Melinda Brosh &  
Drew Valsvig

## Baptisms

**August 6**

Crosby James Van Essen,  
son of Mason & Andrea  
Van Essen

**August 12**

Shepherd Bryt Strenge, son  
of Adam & Sanna Strenge

**August 27**

Wyatt James Koehler, son of  
Austin & Lindsey Koehler

## Deaths

**August 7**

Stephen James Johnson

**August 11**

Jean Rose Phillippe

**August 24**

Jeanne Francis Roers

**August 30**

Lavonne Sedaal Dafoe

First Lutheran Church  
327 S Dakota Ave  
Sioux Falls SD 57104

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## October Events

October 3 – New Member Class, 7pm, Friendship Room

October 3, 10, 17, 24 – Young Adult Bible Study and tacos, 7:30pm,  
Gathering Room

October 6 – First Fridays Book Club, 5pm, R Wine Bar and Kitchen

October 7 – Grieving with Grace, 9:30am, Friendship Room

October 8 – New Member Dinner, 5pm, Gathering Room

October 8-9 – High School Lock-In, 6pm

October 14-15 – New Member Installation, all services

October 15 – 10th Grade Confirmation Retreat, 12pm, Manos de Cristo

October 17 – Necessities for Neighbors, 6pm, Atrium

October 20 – Middle School Corn Maze, 6pm

October 21 – Dementia/Alzheimer's Support Group, 9am, Friendship Room

October 24 – Senior Luncheon, 11:30am, Gathering Room

October 28 – Fall Property Cleanup, 8am

October 29 – Affirmation of Baptism, 2pm, Sanctuary

## Happy 90+ Birthday!

*Below are members of  
our congregation who  
turn 90+ this month.  
If you see them around  
church, wish them a  
great day!*

October 1—Alta Roti

October 3—Russell  
Greenfield

October 6—Vic Hanson

October 11—Roger Haugo

October 24—Mae Ranschau

October 27—Jaraine Hansen