



# First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

## Two Thumbs-up

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



Dear Family Members and Friends of First Lutheran:

The Wise Men and Women of First Lutheran's Call Committee had since mounted their camels and headed home, back East. And now in early January of 2001, in a little university town that lies cradled in the Rocky Mountains of Bozeman, MT ... 'Twas a couple of weeks after Christmas and all through the house' ... there were creatures scurrying. John Andrew and Matt were running back and forth through the kitchen, then to the garage, stoking our van with skies, snow boards, and that all-important collection of gear they fondly referred to as their "stuff." It was a wintry Saturday morning. And in our household, that usually meant a ski day at *Bridger Bowl*. "Hurry up, Sarah!" the boys exclaimed, "Are you like, going, or not?!"

But for once in her life, Sarah was more interested in staying at the breakfast table with Mom and Dad. For she was rather intrigued with why Cathy was redirecting this question to me and why it was that Dad's heart sounded like an old tennis shoe bouncing around in the dryer. "Well, John," said Cathy. "Are you like, going, or not?" Cathy then went on to explain to Sarah how you, the members of First Lutheran, had sent a "Letter of Call"—inviting me and the family to serve as your next Senior Pastor in Sioux Falls.

Despite Montana's being her cradling state, Sarah's face began to shine through some hesitant tears—shining with an eight-year-old's smile that held two wonderfully gapped front teeth—big and white as Chiclets. And then slowly, Sarah leaned across the table, making a liturgical sign of two-thumbs up. And Cathy asked: "What does that mean?" Sarah's response: "Well ... like ... it's all I've got!" I took this to mean that she was giving a "Yes!" with all she had: "Two-thumbs up!" As the prophet, Isaiah foretold: "And a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

And so, it has been my response as well, over these past twenty years—"It's all I've got"—in response to God's calling through you, "two-thumbs up" ... pressing my deep passions for Pastoral Care, Bible Studies-n-Teaching-n-Writing, Music and the Arts, as well as my doctoral studies in Theology from University of Chicago and Harvard days, into the service of Christ's Church among you: an incredibly gracious and gifted "priesthood of ALL believers." Yes, in the name of the One who gave his ALL for us, everything he had (Philippians 2:5-11), with two thumbs-up, pointing heavenward on a cross, "in order that the world might have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10b). Thank you for the privilege of "leading from the middle" of your marvelous diversity of talents as Christ's "communion of saints" ... steeped in a rich legacy of now 100 years in Worship & Music, Pastoral Care, Christian Education, Mission Outreach, special events such as The Bazaar, Hymn Festivals, and Advent/Christmas Music Sundays, and the incredibly gifted pastoral and professional staff ... as well as the amazing capital campaigns that have expanded our footprint for evangelism and outreach, not only downtown but across our city and around God's globe with an amazing heritage of grace that still lives on.

Thank you for the chance to experience the spirited serendipity of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to

be in ministry with my beloved parents, Pastor Jim (Visitation) and Dorothy (Director of Women's Choir and Agape Bells), together with other amazing Directors of Music in Dr. Jerry Hanson, Brian Johnson, Michael Elsbernd, and the young Wunderkind, Zachary Brockhoff and the many, many amazing musicians and ensembles such as Ninepatch Praise Band and Dakota Road—with a vast variety of liturgies and genres—all in "making a joyful sound unto the Lord" (Psalm 98:4; 100). Indeed, "Next to Holy Scripture, music deserves the highest praise," mused Martin Luther. And to my cherished colleague and spouse of 42-plus years, Cathy ... who has been a quiet but



Family's last run at Bridger Bowl, April 2001

steady presence in the background, supporting me and our congregation by her hosting Advent Dinners for the staff each year, teaching Sunday School, playing in the Agape Bells, singing in the Women's Choir, or serving on the recent Parament Committee. And especially in these concluding days, leading up to my last Sunday with you on December 12 ... Thank you, for your many prayers and expressions of love and support, as Cathy and I now continue to walk through the valley of the shadow of an ALS diagnosis ... but mindful that "Thou art with us" (Psalm 23:4).

It was a long time ago that the words "God be with you" disappeared into the word "goodbye." However, every now and again, some trace of them still glimmers through. Such is today. To draw upon the parting words of St. Paul to the church at Philippi in Macedonia, and as I give leave to a consecrated ministry together with Cathy, in furthered chaplaincy work, music and writing ...

*"Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks in all my remembrances of you, always in every prayer of mine for you, all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:2-6; RSV. Cf. Psalm 90:12)*

In Christ,  
"With all I've got ..."

John R. Christopherson, Ph.D.  
Senior Pastor

### Reception for the Christophersons

Sunday, December 12, 10 a.m.

The congregation is invited to a reception for Pastor John and Cathy Christopherson in Reformation Hall following the 9 a.m. worship service. A brief program of gratitude will begin at 10:20.

## Celebrate the Birth of Christ with First Lutheran Church

During the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we worship together around carols of the season, candlelight, and the good news of a Savior promised and born for all the world.

### First Week of Advent

Saturday, Nov. 27 • 5 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 28 • 9 and 11 a.m.

Midweek service, Wednesday, Dec. 1 • 6:30 p.m.

### Second Week of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 4 • 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5 • 9 and 11 a.m.

Midweek service, Wednesday, Dec. 8 • 6:30 p.m.

### Third Week of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 11 • 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12 • 9 and 11 a.m.

Christopherson reception • 10 a.m., Reformation Hall

*Dr. Steve Paulson preaching*

Midweek service, Wednesday, Dec. 15 • 6:30 p.m.

### Fourth Week of Advent

Saturday, Dec. 18 • 5 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19 • 9 and 11 a.m.

Scripture First hymn sing • 10 a.m., Chapel

*No midweek service, December 22*

### Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 19 • 2 p.m., followed by cookies and hot cocoa

### The Nativity of Our Lord • Christmas Eve

Friday, Dec. 24 • 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, and 9:30 p.m.

All services live on YouTube.com/flcsf

Broadcast on KSFY, 11 p.m.

Surrounded by candlelight and carols of the Christmas season accompanied by brass, organ, and violin, come and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

### The Nativity of Our Lord • Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25 • 10 a.m.

Celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior.

Rebroadcast of Christmas Eve service, 11 a.m., KSFY

*No 5 p.m. service*

### First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 26 • 9 a.m. only

### Garden of Poinsettias

Help decorate the chancel with poinsettias this Christmas season. Cost is \$15 per order. Complete a form, attach payment, and bring to church.

Orders with payment received in the FLC office no later than Sunday, December 12, at noon will be recognized in a bulletin insert on December 24 and 25.



# When God Makes a Promise... He Keeps it!

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



Milestone Ministry is definitely a highlight of the fall—so many wonderful opportunities to share the gospel of Jesus with children of all ages and their families! It’s about teaching and giving them tools to help remind them of the promises God has made to them. Because...when God makes a promise, he keeps it! It’s about gathering as a community to see other families who are sharing in these milestones. And above all, it’s about Jesus, knowing that Jesus loves them and you and me and forgives us all every day when we fall short.



## 4th Grade Apostles' Creed

Learning about what we believe and standing in front of the congregation to help lead them in this creed of faith.



## 2-year olds • We are the Church

Inviting these little ones to explore the Sanctuary and become more comfortable in a space that is for all ages!



## Baby's First Christmas

So many amazing changes when a new baby is brought home to the family. This includes changes in how we celebrate holidays together and how we help our children know the true meaning of Christmas.



# Joyfully, We Give

By Pastor Lars Olson



It is with Joy that we wrap up this year’s stewardship campaign, “Joyfully We Give.” The stewardship board set a goal of receiving 650 pledges, and even though we’ve not yet met our goal, we have received 340 pledges. Thank you to everyone who returned a pledge for 2022.

It is such a joy to share in the gospel and ministry partnership together.

You can still easily make a pledge online at [flcsf.org/pledge](http://flcsf.org/pledge), or fill out a pledge card at the church office.

### End of Year Giving

December is a busy month filled to overflowing with holiday preparations and family celebrations. In the midst of it all is making your year-end preparations too. Make a plan to avoid rushing your financial decisions. Financial contributions must be received in the First Lutheran office or postmarked by December 31 to be counted in this year’s contributions.

### “Bunching” or Paying a Double Pledge

The changes in the IRS codes have caused some rethinking of charitable giving. It is possible to give a double gift by “bunching” your pledge offering for two years in order to take advantage of tax deductions, and



your gift will be distributed monthly to the church for use. If this is your intention, please include a note along with your contribution or call the FLC Finance Office to put this plan into effect.

### Donating Stocks, IRA, Mutual Funds

IRA, stocks, and mutual funds are also giving options. These transactions must be completed by **December 10, 2021**, to guarantee they are received by year-end.

### “Extra Mile” Giving Luther House of Study Challenge

First Lutheran is completing the fourth year of the five-year commitment to support Luther House of Study with \$50,000/year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed! Luther House provides great teaching for our seminary students as well as for any who would like to learn more in-depth Lutheran theology. Learn more at [lutherhouseofstudy.org](http://lutherhouseofstudy.org).

### Media Sponsorships

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

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

### December sponsors needed:

- 5 Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube live stream
- 12 Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube
- 19 Closed captioning, and YouTube
- 24 Closed captioning and YouTube
- 26 Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube

### January 2022

- 2 Radio and closed captioning
- 9 Television and YouTube
- 16 Radio, television, closed captioning, and YouTube
- 23 Radio, television, closed captioning, and YouTube
- 30 Television and YouTube

### Capital Campaign

Are you interested in donating or pledging toward the next capital projects—tuck pointing, atrium safety, sanctuary sound, ceiling replacement? Gifts can be given immediately or over a few years. Please visit [flcsf.org/capitalcampaign](http://flcsf.org/capitalcampaign) to give or to find the latest Campaign updates.

# A Gem on November 6

By Sharyl Wolf, Bazaar Chair

The Mini-Bazaar came to life at 9 a.m. Our wonderful parking assistants from Men in Mission were happily greeted by many customers. The men shared that many attendees expressed their gratitude that we brought the bazaar celebration back for all to enjoy.

We may have titled the event a mini-bazaar, but it was big in so many ways. There were crafts, books, linens, quilts, mittens, décor, uniques, cards, jewelry, Christ Corner gifts, Scandinavian heritage items, wood crafted items, baked goods and sweets, rosettes, and plenty of LEFSE available for purchase.



The fellowship of our volunteers and customers brought many smiles and great conversations. The teamwork of everyone shone brightly from set up to clean up. Thank you, everyone, from our hearts!

Most important of all—God’s hand and love guided us as we fulfilled His mission to bring His sheep into His fold with the many projects supported by 2021’s Mini-Bazaar.

Blessings to all!



### October Baptisms

- 2 Sloane Marie MacRandall, daughter of Megan and Jordan MacRandall
- 3 Laine Mabel Mullin, daughter of April and Daniel Mullin
- 3 Caden James Deibert son of Stacy and Michael Deibert
- 3 George William Jensen, son of Nicole and Alex Jensen
- 17 Matthew David Olson, son of Alyssa and Seth Olson
- 17 Dakota June Olson, daughter of Alyssa and Seth Olson

### October Deaths

- 1 Richard A. Behm
- 2 Amy L. Farr
- 17 S. William “Bill” Westerdahl
- 27 Ursula Maiwald

# Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Capital Campaign Coordinator

The church is getting current prices for work that needs to be completed to address safety issues, building integrity, and equipment in need of replacing.

The tuck pointing of the bell tower and north side of the church are immediate needs. The cost for this portion of the tuck pointing is \$121,000. This project will get started late spring. The tuck pointing of the south and east sides of the church will cost \$109,000. The start of this project will be dependent on raising needed funds.

The Atrium is the next project we will tackle, as a great deal of the funding for this project has been pledged and/or received. This would involve moving the reception desk, something the Sioux Falls Police felt was a safety issue. This would also include moving the internal Atrium doors farther into the building, creating storage space, and brightening the area toward Reformation Hall. The cost for this area will be approximately \$150,000.

Next on the list will be replacing the sanctuary sound system. Our current sound system has some major issues. We know updating of this system will increase the sound of both the spoken and sung word each week.

The final safety issue is the sanctuary ceiling. This is the costliest project that we have to fund. We are looking at approximately \$750,000. Originally, we had anticipated a cost of \$650,000, but as you may know, construction costs have increased significantly since COVID-19.

We will not be able to complete the above issues—which are truly necessities and not just wishes—unless additional families make a pledge to the campaign. Would you prayerfully consider a gift/pledge to the campaign if you have not done so already? If you have questions, please contact Jean Hoff, 339-1983 ext. 236.

## Financial Update as of October 31, 2021

<b>Total Revenue, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,826,152
2021 Actual	\$1,645,481
2020 Actual	\$1,716,623
<b>Total Expenses, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,820,651
2021 Actual	\$1,618,137
2020 Actual	\$1,727,463
<b>YTD Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$27,344</b>
<b>Contract For Deed, Ideal</b>	<b>\$78,344</b>
<b>HVAC System</b>	<b>\$120,168</b>
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	<b>2,030</b>

## Council Highlights October 28, 2021 Meeting

If members wish to add items to a Council meeting agenda, please contact Jodi Hoyt, [jhoyt@flcsf.org](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org).

- YTD income is a bit behind budget, but YTD expenses are below budget.
- Staffing updates: Sarah Skajewski has been hired as the Youth and Family Coordinator. We are currently accepting resumes for the newly created Office Manager position. Pr. Jeff has been in conversation for a short-term position to assist with visitation and coordination of visitation pastors.
- Pr. John is working with Jean Hoff to re-commence lead gifts for the capital campaign.
- The executive committee met with the Synod office to discuss interim senior pastor plans and candidates. The plan is for this interim candidate to begin Monday, December 13.
- A mini bazaar is planned for Saturday, Nov. 6.
- Capital campaign update: The Council hopes to bring an updated list of essential projects and projected financial needs to complete those projects to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Board nominations are ongoing to fill open positions beginning in February 2022.

# October Gifts and Memorials

### Gifts to the FLC Foundation in memory of:

Jackie Hanson: Dorothy Grevlos  
Bill Westerdahl: Dorothy Grevlos

### Gifts to the FLCW Bazaar Fund, in memory of:

Bill Westerdahl: Roger & Janet Noer

### Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Karen Braaten: FLCW  
Virginia Fetzer: FLCW  
Jackie Hanson: Lillian Carlson, FLCW, Dennis & Louise Griffin, Dan & Phoebe Krogman, Barb Matson, Dennis Murnyak & Kari Hartwig, Nancy Nervig, Charlotte Peters, Roy & Juanice Robinson, Eric & Sue Severson, Michael & Gloria Simpson, Kathy Stelzer, Ruth Werner  
Karin Hartje: Barb Matson  
Lucile Husman: FLCW  
Marilyn Maurstad: FLCW  
Dorothy Mikkelsen: FLCW  
James "Jim" Moore: Milton Mutch  
Violet Osthus: FLCW  
Jean Pedersen: FLCW  
Sharon Peterson: FLCW  
Gloria Schlecter: FLCW  
Sadie Tammen: FLCW  
Bill Westerdahl: Paul & Jean Colon, Phyllis Day, Jim & Sandy Fink, Paul & Barbara Halstenson, Joan Hansen, Phyllis Jorgenson, Barb Matson  
Marian Winckler: Keith Brown, FLCW  
Kristy Zuraff: FLCW

### Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:

Jackie Hanson: Avis Bergh, Larry & Janna Brendtro, Cathy Califf, John & Nancy Cerwinske, Ray & Alice Christensen, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Ashley Crawley, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Jeffrey & Kathrine Eisele, Don & Judy Erickson, Jim & Sandy Fink, Judy Green, Allyssa Grissom, Joan Hansen, Jodi Hanson & Andrew Vos, Pete & Marilyn Hegg, Robert & Karen Hemre, Nancy Henrichsen & Todd Smith, Mary Hohman, Rev. Ralph & Lavonne Johnshoy, Emil & Carol Knapp, Cassey Kreifels, Jim & Kris Kristenmacher, Merrill & Jane Larson, Bonnie Lindgren, Marilyn McLeod, Lori Melemseter, Elaine Moore, Carl & Janet Naessig, Ron & Connie Nelson, Pr. Roger & Janet Noer, Ruth Olsen, Judy Olson, Tracie Osthus, Sandra Pedersen, LaMoyné & Karyn Pederson, Howard Peterson, Rev. Paul & Susan Wold Rohde, Stan & Norma Schmidt, Don & Harriet Scott, Jean Sneen, Shirley Stenseth, Reed & Stacey Uthe, Karen & Paul Van Bockern, Robert Jr. and Marilyn Van Demark, Barb Wiczorek, Glenn & Cynthia Wika, Stella & Kirby Woehst

### Gifts to Music Ministry, Organ Fund, in memory of:

Jackie Hanson: James & Mindy Moore

### Gifts to Music Ministry, Paraments, in memory of:

Jackie Hanson: Gary & Shirley Barlow

## Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

Support First Lutheran in providing a weekly worship experience for those unable to attend in person. Sponsor a radio broadcast, television broadcast, closed captioning, or YouTube® live stream. Call today, 605-336-3734.

### Thank You, October Sponsors

- Oct. 10: Radio broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of Vi Smith by her family.
- Oct. 17: The broadcast on KELO-FM was sponsored in memory of parents, Leo & Ingrid Knutson and Adolph & Lucile Quail; and brothers, Butch Quail and Leonard Quail; by Allan and Phyllis Knutson. The telecast on KSFY was sponsored in memory of Terry Graves by his family.
- Oct. 24: The telecast and closed captioning on KSFY and live stream on YouTube were given in memory of Howard Paulson by Chris Nelson. Howard's 85th birthday would have been October 20.

## Christmas Cards Available

Are you looking for a beautiful Christmas card to send out this year to family and friends? The Jim Sturdevant Christmas cards entitled *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* are available.

The cards are available in packages of five, and the cost is \$10. They will be sold in the Gathering Room along with some other



items for the capital campaign. Come, take a look. You can also call Jean Hoff at the church to place an order.



## Church on the Street

### Hello, First Lutheran Church!



My name is Pastor Chris Matson, and I am thrilled to accept the call to be the next pastor of Church on the Street and partner with First Lutheran Church! Over the past five years, I've been a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. When I learned Pastor Rebel was leaving Church on the Street, I felt the Spirit's call tugging me here.

Here's a bit of my backstory: I grew up in a church in the suburbs of Columbus, Ohio, that provided meals to folks experiencing hunger and accompanied those living with HIV/AIDS in Hospice Homes. These experiences led me to earn a Bachelor of Social Work from Capital University, where I discerned that God was calling me to publicly announce that God loves all people because every person is created in the image of God. After college, I spent a year in Milwaukee at All People's Church as a member of Lutheran Volunteer Corps, coordinating partnerships between suburban partners with the inner-city ministry that shared God's love with kids and families.

Most recently, I served as Associate Pastor at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer from 2008 to 2016 and at Peace Lutheran Church from 2016 to the present, coordinating worship, servant opportunities, and church partnerships such as Church on the Street. In addition to continuing to maintain and build relationships with congregations in the South Dakota Synod, I am also committed to working with other denominations and other faiths, and I serve on the South Dakota Faith and Public Life board, dedicated to interfaith dialogue seeking peace and justice for the common good.

My first official day is Monday, November 15. As always, the staff and worship leaders at Church on the Street are hard at work sharing God's goodness and love in this time of transition. I welcome the opportunity to meet the community of First Lutheran and share stories of God's work in our world!

It is great to be church together!

Pastor Chris



## December Special Offering: Local Missions

By Cherie Hopper, E & O Board Member

During the month of December, our special offerings will go to support Center of Hope, The Community Outreach, and The Furniture Mission.



The Center of Hope and The Community Outreach recently moved to the former School for the Deaf campus. They are settling into a different neighborhood.

The Center of Hope walks alongside individuals to bring them spiritual and physical health and to ultimately change our community one life at a time. They are a Christian outreach to the working poor.



### CENTER OF HOPE

They provide bikes for work, bus passes, low-priced clothing, computer and phone access, and pastoral care. The Center is a safe haven for people to come as they are. Winter clothing of all sizes is needed, as well as bikes for transportation and monetary funds to help with purchasing photo IDs and bus passes.

The Community Outreach's mission is partnering to share hope and provide tools for daily living. They



are working to help individuals attain self-sufficiency and trying to help prevent homelessness. The number of individuals seeking help has increased this year. During these trying times, the way of life for many has changed. There have been 8,500 requests for assistance with housing and rent. Many families have been unable

to pay their utility bills, choosing to pay for necessities first. They offer a Genesis Mentoring program that strives to teach families about budgeting, life skills, and goals. Currently, they are in need of funds for assisting with utility bills, items for Sharing Christmas, and their birthday store. Volunteers are needed for their Genesis Mentoring program as well.

The Furniture Mission demonstrates the love of Christ, providing individuals in need with gently used furniture and household items. A comfortable home provides dignity, security, and a better environment to raise a family. With the COVID-19 pandemic, they have had many changes in accepting and distributing furniture. The Department of Corrections can no longer send inmates to help with incoming items. Currently, only curbside pickup and delivery are offered, creating hardships for elderly individuals. The Furniture Mission has a great need for all types of furniture and household items trying to replenish stock. Beds are the most needed item at this time.

Please remember these local missions in your prayers, and if you are able to donate your time, bikes, clothing, furniture, or money—you are helping fellow members of our community. The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

"Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."  
Deuteronomy 31:8.

*Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have one, you may use the yellow envelope in the pew, mail your contribution or visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to donate online.*



## 10th Grade Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations Confirmands! Twenty-three sophomores stood together to affirm their baptisms. They have concluded their confirmation teaching, and now they find new ways to be a part of God's church and family.



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