



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

With Gratitude and Fondness

Dear Members and Friends of First Lutheran Church:

With gratitude and fondness for our shared ministry, I announce my resignation as Associate Pastor of Caring Ministry at First Lutheran Church. I resign for reasons of family: As many of you know, my children are enrolled in the Sioux Falls School District Virtual Academy (remaining there until the COVID-19 situation stabilizes further), and it's been tough to balance my duties at church while also guiding them in their schoolwork. Additionally, Pastor Lars and I will soon be formally approved for foster parenting in the state of South Dakota! We are excited for this development but expect that the needs of our family will become even greater as we engage this special calling. I plan to take time off from work until perhaps the fall of 2021, and during this time, I will discern what my next professional role will be.

I have spoken with the Bishop's office, my fellow First Lutheran pastors, and council president about my resignation. We agree that my last Sunday in the pulpit will be on November 8, with the final day of ministry being set for November 14. Some important conversations will occur about the future of the Care and Health Ministry at First Lutheran Church, as well as the pastoral staff, and we trust God to guide that process through.

I do intend to remain part of First Lutheran Church as a member and as the spouse of a pastor. I intend to be a supportive presence in the congregation while allowing space for new leadership to emerge.

I praise God for the many ways our lives have intersected in these past six years of my pastoral call to First Lutheran



Church and remain grateful that this community will continue to be a cherished part of my life.

With love,

Pastor Katherine Olson

Pastor Katherine Olson



Thanksgiving Eve Service

- Wednesday, November 25, 6:30 p.m., in the Sanctuary.
- Live streamed on YouTube.
- Aired Thanksgiving day, 11 a.m. on KSFY.



Thanksgiving to Go!

We're trying something new this year! Thanksgiving to go! Each year we love to celebrate Thanksgiving with a meal at the church followed by the Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:30 p.m. Worship is happening, and it will be broadcast on Thanksgiving Day at 11 a.m. on KSFY. This year we are still offering you a meal on Wednesday, November 25—either pick-up or delivery! How will this work you ask? Here are your options:

- Delivery to your door: between 12 and 2 p.m., someone will drop off your meal(s)
- Pick up at the church: between 12 and 2 p.m., drive through pick up
- Pick up after worship: at 7:30 p.m. when worship is over, come and get your "to-go" box

To sign up for these options, please visit flcsf.org. If you don't have a computer or *love* using a computer, smartphone, or tablet, call the church office at (605) 336-3734, and they will help sign you up!

Come and Worship: Living Our Liturgy in Hope & Thanksgiving

By Pastor John Christopherson

"Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was

burning, yet it was not consumed. ... [And] God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here am I.' Then [God] said, 'Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'" (Exodus 3:1-6; RSV)

Do you see or hear anything in this marvelous passage from the Old Testament that connects us with the beginning of the New Testament? Something that will soon touch our lives anew with a spirit of hope and thanksgiving in the coming months? Something that will find fulsome chorus of a well-loved congregational hymn, "Come and worship, come and worship ... worship Christ the newborn king" (*Angels from the Realms of Glory*)?

I'd like for you to ponder with me God's salvation history here, with its beginnings in the OT books of Genesis and Exodus, that keeps time through the

centuries of Israel's people and prophets, and then reaches a climactic fulfillment (Galatians 4:4) in a second exodus. It's a second exodus that also begins with a proclamation of an angel (Luke 2:9) ... with beholding shepherds and the unfolding of swaddling cloths (Luke 2:12). But rather than a bright heavenly light breaking down through a dark starry night, for Moses it was one that ignited a fiery bush, in broad daylight: of "sparks that flew up" (Job 5:7) ... breaking open the eyes of Moses and us as well.



Family of First Lutheran, do we not also feel like Moses and the shepherds of Bethlehem generations later, those tending our fears under a dark night of the COVID-19 pandemic? The stars are still brightly shining, but do we simply shutter in fear? Or ... do we break-out with confident expressions of thanksgiving, "gathering together" to worship—where we can hear God's Word of reassurance and hope for us and receive God's Sacraments of forgiveness and new life? Hear the Psalmist belting it out with joy: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD [to worship]'" (Psalm 122:1; RSV).

Indeed, the Bible is replete with the assurance that God is everywhere present (I Kings 8:27; II Chronicles 2:6; 6:8; Psalm 15:3; 24:1; 139:7-10; Isaiah 43:2; Job 34:21; Jeremiah 23:22-24; Acts 17:27-28; Matthew 28:20; I Corinthians 3:16). Thus, the whole earth is holy because God makes himself known in it, which means that in and

See COME AND WORSHIP Page 2

In This Issue

- With HOPE, We GIVE Stewardship Update 2
- Yikes! No Bazaar! & FLCW Ministries 3
- Advent 2020 3
- Ten Things I Hope Never Go Back to "Normal" 4
- Holiday Grief Service and Candle Lighting 4
- Farewell, For Now- Eternity in Our Hearts 4
- Thanksgiving 2020 & Youth Ministry 5
- Hello! from Valerie 5
- Meet Our Cantors: Michelle Davis 6
- Lowell Elementary Partnership 8

AROUND THE CHURCH



“With HOPE, We GIVE” Stewardship Update

By Pastor Lars Olsn, Executive Pastor



One important theme of stewardship is “Thanks!” Thanks for the big and the small. Thanks for the easy and the difficult. Giving thanks in all circumstances,

trusting in God’s grace, and living in the peace that results. “Thanks” isn’t always the first thing on our mind, but there are so many reasons to give thanks to the people of First Lutheran. In financial terms, this has been a challenging year. However, in the challenge, we still give thanks for your hope-filled giving to support the ministries we share.

In addition, “Thank You!” to everyone who has returned a pledge for 2021 and to those who will return one soon. Pledges of any amount should be returned no later than Sunday, November 15, which will help us greatly to plan our ministry budget for the coming year. You can easily make a pledge online at flcsf.org/pledge, call the church office, or stop in to fill out a pledge card. These commitments allow us to confidently plan for next year’s ministry budgets. At the same time, they help you remember to support your congregation and that you are a part of each ministry!

Here are some further considerations about stewardship and giving at the end of the year:

“Bunching” or 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. Your gift will be distributed monthly to the church.

Stocks, IRA, Mutual Funds

IRA, stocks, and mutual funds are also giving options. These transactions must be completed by December 11, 2020, to guarantee they are received by year-end.

Year End Giving

All gifts/donations must be received in the church office or postmarked by Thursday, December 31, 2020, in order to be counted for the 2020 tax year.

Capital Campaign

While the fundraising portion of the Capital Campaign is on hold for now, gifts toward the HVAC loan and other projects are still welcome. Capital Campaign giving is always “extra mile” or “beyond regular” giving. Regular offerings fund the annual budget and support ongoing ministries while Capital Campaign funds are designated for one-time projects beyond the church’s budget.

Luther House of Study Challenge

First Lutheran is completing the third year of a five-year commitment to support Luther House of Study with special gifts of \$50,000 per 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.

From now through the end of the year, a matching challenge has been offered. Gifts will be matched to \$10,000 to start the funding for next year’s commitment. Thank you!

Board Nominations

Board and Council members are elected every year at the Annual Congregational Meeting, held on a Sunday at the end of January. The nomination process, however, begins in October and November by exploring which seats will be open, what boards need for the coming year, and gathering names of possible interested members of First Lutheran Church.

Boards typically meet monthly for about one hour. Each board has a different ministry focus and yearly plan, but each board oversees a budget and program, and carries out ministry throughout the year. If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on a board, please speak with Ginger Miller to submit the name for consideration.

Continued from page 1

Come and Worship cont.

of itself the church is no holier than any place else. BUT ... what makes a church who gathers for worship holy in a special way is that God’s Spirit “calls, gathers, and enlightens” us in a way that we are more “here” ... in worship ... than out “there,” in the woolly wiles of the world. As an avid fan of skiing in the snow-capped Rocky Mountains and fly-fishing (which I hope to get back to someday), I must admit there’s a lot to be said for the common refrain: “Oh, I just feel so close to God when I’m outdoors.” However, as amazing as the power and the majesty of God’s creation certainly is, not even the whispering pine or the babbling brook can “tell” you that God cares or is really present *for you*.



By this I mean we come to worship, “Just as I am” more fully and nakedly ourselves, with more of our humanness showing than we are apt to in other places. We come like Moses with sheep-dip on our shoes—footsore and travel-stained with the dust of our lives ... of failures, deceptions, and hypocrisy. As we confess in our liturgy: “We are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.” Like Moses, we come as those who feel exiled from what is truly home. We know it in our hearts that something is missing that we just can’t really name—something we’ve somehow lost or ... must admit, are lost ourselves—coming to worship to find it or better yet, to be found. We come to worship in order to acknowledge that in terms of the very best we can be, we’re lost and helpless to save ourselves. We’re a people who live “east of Eden” (J. Steinbeck), who sense a “paradise lost” (J. Milton), searching for a place, a home, where our names are known, “where we’re always welcomed in.” It’s a sense of “something we somehow haven’t to deserve”: (R. Frost) that’s called grace. Listen again for these saving, healing words for you at the beginning of each worship service: “In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for [you], and for his sake God forgives [you] all [your] sins.”

This is the sadness and the search of what a church is, of who we honestly are as we come to worship—and then suddenly FIRE! The bush bursts into flame, which is us! And a voice says

with a splashing of water that creates a holy smoke: “Bob. Bob! ... Betty. Betty! You. You! You are my beloved child ‘sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.’” Now GO! CLAIM this word and PROCLAIM it. Make Disciples! Yes, go in peace and serve the Lord ... in the needs of the neighbor. “And know that I am with you always, to the close of the age,” promises Jesus (Matthew 28:20).

A few weeks ago, as I was privileged to spend time with Joan Hansen and two of her daughters, as they shared stories of their beloved husband and father, Frank Hansen, the younger daughter, Carolyn, observed: “Growing up our family lived in a house on South Holly, but we always knew our home was on South Dakota Avenue.” My friends, when we’re in worship at 327 South Dakota Avenue, know that we’re on sacred ground. Because we hear God’s voice here. A voice who has known our name from all eternity (Ps. 139:1-18; Isa. 43:1-3).

There are of course many reasons why people come to church, to worship: the news in the *New York Times* is more and more “gloom and doom,” or perhaps come out of habit or tradition, or to be entertained; sometimes beatified, sometimes bored. But the deepest reason for being at worship, I believe, is that people come to hear a word of HOPE. One that comes like a light that breaks the darkness (Luke 2:8-14; John 1:4-5), or brings a fiery awakening on earth (Exodus 3). We come to worship to have our lives wedded, to be baptized, or commended into our Heavenly Father’s “tender bosom gather.” “Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant **Place your name here**. Acknowledge we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him/her into the arms of your mercy, and into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.”

Yes, we come to worship so our hollow lives would somehow be hallowed. That with all the evidence to the contrary in our world of incivility, racism, wars, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the ground we stand on in worship is holy ground. Why? Because Christ still walks here and touches us with his body and blood in a holy communion. As Luther would remind us, we are Christ’s “communion of saints” who gather around his Word and Sacrament, where he promises to be present, really present, right down to the flesh and bone of it all: “This is my body, given for you.” ... Some 18 centuries since Moses experienced God’s voice through the burning bush at Mt. Horeb, the American poet, Elizabeth Barrett Browning writes:

“Earth is crammed with heaven
And every common bush aflame with God’s presence
But only [those] who see take off [their] shoes
The rest sit around and pick blackberries.”

Dear Family & Friends of First Lutheran:
“Come and worship ...” especially without shoes!

j.r. Christopherson
Senior Pastor

Prayer – Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, lift up prayers of gratitude for the blessings and abundant resources we enjoy, and remember the people in our communities and world who suffer food insecurity, hunger and poverty. Ask the Spirit to increase our generosity and engagement with our neighbors in need and to help our communities become more just, generous, compassionate and committed to addressing difficult social issues.

ELCA “Prayer Ventures” for November 2020. <<https://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>> Retrieved 14 October 2020.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



2020 Bazaar CANCELLED

Yikes! No Bazaar!

By Connie Nelson, FLCW Treasurer

The First Lutheran Church Women are disappointed to announce that the 2020 Bazaar has been cancelled. No lefse, kaffe stua, attic treasures, antiques, rosettes, baked goods and candy, books, crafts, woodwork items, Norwegian items, linens, Christmas ornaments, coffee baskets, calligraphy, quilts, and did we say NO LEFSE? Everyone will miss this wonderful tradition, but this decision was made in the interest of keeping our volunteers and attendees safe and healthy. In 2019, the First Lutheran Church Women were able to distribute \$49,620 to local and global missions and charities. We are saddened to think we will not be able to fund these missions to such an extent again this year. However, we would like to support as many ministries and missions as we can during these challenging times.

As you can see from the pictures of our "rummage saleswomen," we are not idle. We have held three rummage sales earning \$7,950.39, plus mission donations of \$1,716.00 which enabled us to deposit \$9,666.36 into the Bazaar account. Our women remain busy with individual and group projects to raise more funds.

The First Lutheran Church community has so strongly supported our efforts over the years. We ask that members, volunteers, and friends consider giving a cash donation in honor of the Bazaar and the decades of work the women of First Lutheran Church have given to support numerous missions around the world. Please prayerfully reflect on the time and items you donate to the Bazaar, as well as the purchases you make, and consider a monetary donation to keep this ministry going strong. These gifts can be given to the FLCW 2020 Bazaar Fund through an online donation at flcsf.org/give or dropped off at the First Lutheran Information Desk. Thank you for your generosity and for helping to continue the mission work of First Lutheran Church Women.

WELCA Coffee, Tea, Cocoa, Olive Oil Sales Return!

Start your day with "Breakfast Blend"; enjoy "French Roast," "French Vanilla," "Café Salvador," "Hazelnut," or a green tea mid-day. Then, how about finishing the evening with "Midnight Sun" or "Love Buzz"? Cold? Warm up with some cocoa or indulge in tasty chocolates!

Find us at the Atrium entrance before the 9 a.m. service and between services on the second Sunday of each month. We have missed your friendly faces!

Hannah Circle's Busy Hands

By Kathy Stelzer, FLCW President

Many First Lutheran Church Women have lent their hands in Christ-centered efforts in spite of the restrictions of COVID-19. With the possibility of garage sales, Hannah Circle members and many other volunteers got busy handling as many of the donated items from FLC women and friends as they could.



Pictured above are Jean Hoff, Sharyl Wolf, and Kathy Stelzer; who took turns hosting these garage sales, and Elizabeth Wood, who was our constant helper along with many other friends and family. To date, these sales have brought in \$7,950.39. All health and safety precautions were followed.

Two recent lefse sales were well received. Hastily organized, the lefse was sold outside under the Atrium canopy and gone in a flash. These sales brought in \$1,816.61. Thank you to all who helped sell and those who bought the tasty lefse!



Right: Elizabeth Wood and Sharyl Wolf prepare for shoppers.

Below left: Marcia Huffman and Brenda Roberts display some of the items for sale.

Below right: Kathy Stelzer with Arlene Bich wait on customers at the rummage sale.



Anniversary • Birthday • Bosses' Day • Confirmation • Get Well • New Baby •

The Card Shop is Open!

By Jane King, WELCA shop manager

A greeting card is still the perfect way to show a loved one or friend you care. During this time when many of us are staying at home and missing interacting with our friends and family, it is a great time to send someone you know a card. It will brighten their day!

The FLC card shop has been updated with new and recycled cards. Cards are added each week. So, if you need a funny card, thank you card, "miss you" card, or "thinking of you" card, stop by and pick up a card for just 25 cents. Seasonal and holiday cards are displayed in the circular rack. This month look for Veteran's Day, Bosses' Day, Confirmation, and Thanksgiving cards. Christmas cards are coming soon.

For new customers, birthday and sympathy cards are on display on the rack in the Gathering Room. Anniversary, Thank You, Get Well, and Thinking of You cards are in baskets on the shelves. Wedding, Anniversary, New Baby cards, and a variety of miscellaneous cards are also available for purchase.

Thank you to all the customers who helped us raise more than \$600 last year. Proceeds go to the FLC Quilters for their expenses. I have heard comments that customers like the Christian message in many of our cards. One customer likes the cards so much she made sure she stocked up before leaving for her winter home. I have also heard that some do not like to send recycled cards. Before making that decision, check out our cards—certainly, the price is right. Thanks also to those who have donated new and re-designed cards for the shop. Please pay for your purchases in the box by the card shop rack. *Remember, cards are just 25 cents.*

Thanksgiving • Veteran's Day • Wedding

ADVENT 2020



The Light Shines in the Darkness

This year's Advent/Christmas theme is: "The Light Shines in the Darkness" (John 1:5). The serendipity of this painting by FLC member, Jim Sturdevant, coming together with the spirit of this year's Advent theme, as well as the light of Christ's birth that gives us hope in the midst of the pandemic's darkness, is truly a gift.

November 29, Advent I "Watch"

Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; I Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 6; Advent II "Prepare"

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; II Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

December 13, Advent III —"Proclaim"

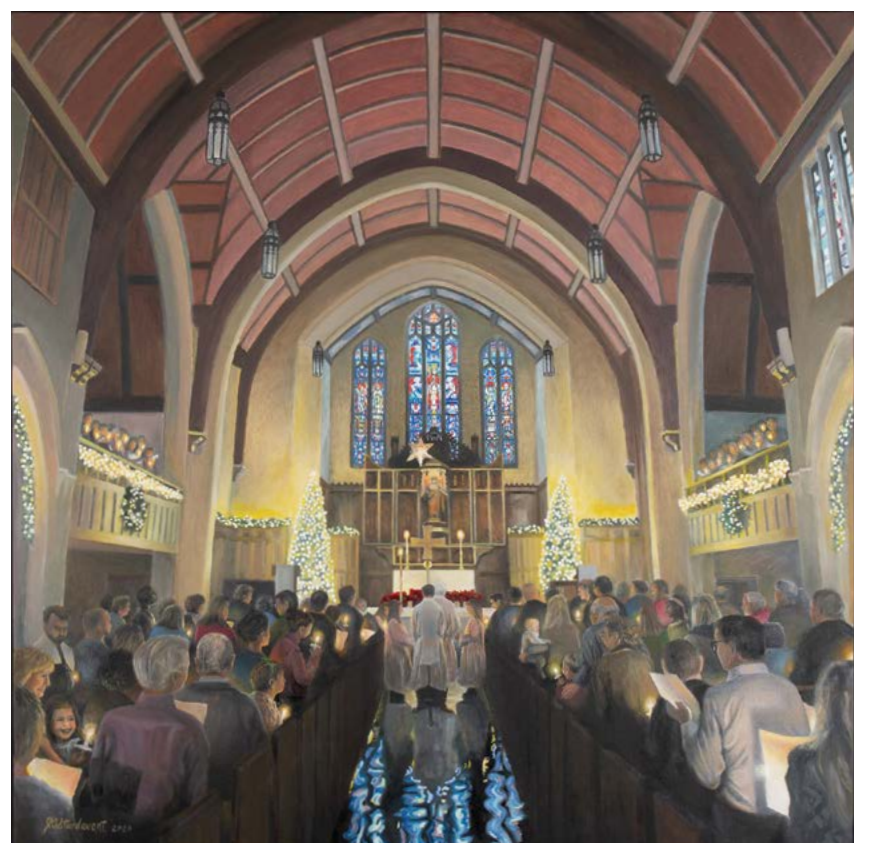
Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:46b-55; I Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20; Advent IV "Behold"

Scriptures: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Due to COVID we will not be holding mid-week Advent services this year.

Many thanks to Jim Sturdevant for his beautiful painting of our 2019 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Watch for the full-color version in the December First Word.





Those grieving the loss of a loved one are especially invited to Care and Health Ministries' annual Holiday Grief Worship Service and Candle-lighting Ceremony, preparing us for the emotional holiday season ahead. From 9:30 to 10 a.m., participants will be greeted in the Welcome Center with a gift and votive candle to light in their loved one's memory. At 10, Pastor David and Margaret Houck will lead us in a prayer service in the sanctuary as we honor our loved ones with a candle-lighting ceremony and encounter comforting words of hope through Scripture and music. Masks are required. In order to plan appropriately, please register at flcsf.org/holidaygrief or call First Lutheran at (605) 336-3734.

Farewell, For Now

By Pastor David Houck, Visitation Pastor



It was over 61 years ago that teacher "Jerry" gave me this precious little porcelain bible with a verse. I was nine years old and Jerry was my Sunday School teacher at First

Lutheran. From that point on, I discovered this scripture to be relevant every step of the way.

There have been many missteps, but this little gift from teacher Jerry has always been with me and is one of my most prized possessions. It is as though the words had been etched on my heart.

Now I wish I could tell you who 'Teacher Jerry' was and his surname, but I only have fond memories of a really kind man who was instrumental in searing both in my mind and heart that I was an eternal being.

I have now had the privilege of being on the visitation pastoral staff for nearly 6 years at First Lutheran. I love this ministry with all my heart! And with this privilege has come the pain of having to say goodbye to several men and women that have become very dear friends of mine as they pass on to eternity. These precious souls have become like family.

If not for the great hope that is before us, things could get a bit depressing being a visitation pastor. Establishing a relationship, befriending someone, enjoying those wonderful stories, looking at God's Word together, praying together and then saying farewell... well you get the picture. And COVID-19 of course hasn't made it any easier.

Well, it's here that we have to consider very seriously another verse that is imprinted on our minds and hearts from a very early age. If there's a verse that all of us pretty much know, it's John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (NRSV)



How complicated is that? Believe in Him! Wow. What hope, what a future, what incredible joy now and forever!

So I have resolved that saying farewell to these dear friends is temporary. What's even more exciting is looking, collectively, towards eternity to relish the presence of a Holy God who has accepted us simply by our believing in His Son. To use an old hippy expression, yes, that blows my mind.

First Lutheran has four visitation pastors that have big hearts. I believe we are all motivated by a scripture that says it all, James 1:27, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows (I believe this includes all elderly, widowers too) in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." (NRSV)

If you would like to have one of these pastors connect with you please contact reception and let us know you would appreciate a pastor giving you a call. Of course with COVID-19, things are certainly different. Hopefully things will open up for us to visit more in person, and in some settings that is already possible. But where that is not possible, we would love giving you a call and praying with you over the phone.

"He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]—yet man cannot find out (comprehend, grasp) what God has done (His overall plan) from the beginning to the end."
Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP)

Ten things I hope never go back to "normal" after the pandemic

By Barney Brandenburg



Experts recommend daily reading to keep one's mind sharp as we age. I think it is a great idea no matter the age. So, several weeks ago I was perusing a site that I think has a lot

of interesting information, and this topic caught my eye. How in the world would anyone want to maintain anything that has come about from the pandemic?

As I read further, I realized there have been many instances in which God has spoken to us and taken what we may at first consider abhorrent and catastrophic, and turned them into His bountiful blessing. Just recall the many instances in the Bible that give us great examples. One example is Genesis 50, in which Joseph tells his brothers how God has turned their attempts to do away with him into the salvation of the Jewish nation during their profound famine.

So I will take the ten items as so eloquently described by Lori Hatcher at crosswalk.com and add some small thoughts of my own.

1) Appreciation for small blessings.

How often do we take small things for granted? When those things are no longer available or present, we truly miss them. Please take time each day to consider what small things you might truly miss if they were not a part of your life.

2) Compassion.

Our world today is all about the "me," and being considerate and understanding of the plight of our neighbor is what I believe God wants us to do.

3) Creativity.

One of the blessings God has given us is a good problem-solving mind. Where would humankind be today without creativity? And creativity occurs most often during a crisis. In WWII, the Allied forces had to come up with quick fixes to help turn the tide when parts were scarce and equipment broke down.

4) Togetherness despite limitations.

Had anybody truly ever heard of the "Zoom" app prior to the pandemic? Together with FaceTime and Skype, this technology allows us to be together despite being apart.

5) Greater appreciation for teachers and home-schooling parents.

Enough said!

6) Renewed interest in reading and writing.

We definitely have more time in our day. We now find we can while away our time channel surfing mindlessly, or delve into a good book that we have been meaning to read for years, either online or in traditional form. And journaling has reached new heights during this time of aloneness. For me, this is my second article for First Word in as many months. I have been a member here for 40+ years. Pre-pandemic articles=0.

7) Increase in cooking at home and family meals.

Family togetherness is something that our society has placed on the back burner for many years because everyone, including the dog, is so busy! Mealtimes are a great time to reconnect as a family for conversation and being together.

8) Spiritual innovation.

Virtual church services have been a true blessing. Consider a week without the Word in your life, and one quickly recognizes the value in participating even remotely in the confession and absolution, hearing the Word preached, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, prayers of the church, the hymns, and the benediction. If this would happen for week after week, the chances for entering a spiritual wilderness would be very real.

9) Return to reading the Bible and prayer.

It is easy to fall into bad habits. But, with more time available, we also have more time to develop a habit of Bible reading and prayer.

10) A right perspective of ourselves (powerlessness of self and reliance on God).

Who are we kidding? God, the creator of the universe, is always in charge. We may deceive ourselves into believing we are important, but the reality is we are mere specks in the cosmos, and God is awesome!

So, in contradistinction to a retired comedian's top ten list, I would submit that this list may have value lasting well beyond the current pandemic. And once again, God has taken something we consider to be very bad and helps us return to Him. What a blessing!

V. R. Brandenburg, MD
Chair, Care and Health Board



Weddings:

Sept. 19 Erick Choske and Lexy Bagley

Baptisms:

Aug. 30 Chad Fincher (adult)

Sept. 5 Abe Fraser, son of Thomas and Angela Fraser

Sept. 13 Ben Erick Batchelder, son of Jarrod and Katherine Batchelder

Sept. 20 Claire Elizabeth Terpstra, daughter of Benjamin and Erin Terpstra

Sept. 27 Andrew Robert Margarit, son of Ted and Elizabeth Atchison Margarit

Deaths:

Sept. 7 Frank Hansen

Sept. 10 Janell James

Please remember to 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.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Thanksgiving in 2020

By Marnie Dahle Backer



There is no sugar coating it, 2020 has been a difficult year for, well, the world. So many things have made watching the news more exhausting than ever! And we don't have to look far to see all the many ways it has impacted everyone. And now ... Thanksgiving? How will we be grateful this year? It might take us a minute to stop and

think. Can you think of ten things that have to be grateful for this year? Here's my list:

1. Having a warm house to live in, quarantine in, and be in with Jeff and Finn
2. Enjoying our backyard—flowers, trees, hammocks
3. Breathing, in and out—not something to ever take for granted

4. Communicating with friends in new ways all over the world
5. Ice cream
6. Puppies
7. Organizing at home and at the church
8. Delivering ministry items to FLC families—seeing your faces!
9. Singing and worshipping in the parking lot
10. Cell phones so we can communicate with our older son, Harrison
11. Pictures

Oh wait... I was supposed to stop at ten. Once you get going, it seems there is much to be grateful for. Give it a try—write them down. Some might be big, and some seem insignificant, but those too are things to be thankful for.

Blessings to you as you prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving in a new and different way this year.



Hello!

My name is Valerie, and I am your new Children's Minister! God has been preparing me for this job for many years with a creative career in graphic design, professional child care experience, working for multiple churches, countless hours of volunteering, and being surrounded by children.

I grew up in a small ELCA church in North Dakota and have seen my faith grow and develop into my adult years. I am a proud aunt, blessed with siblings and cousins who have little kids for me to love and learn from.

The thing I am looking forward to most in this role is getting to know your children and planning fun lessons for them to learn more about God.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time outside when the weather is nice. Pre-COVID-19, you could find me at a Christian concert, in a movie theater, or on a hiking trail.

I look forward to meeting everyone in person or on Zoom and becoming part of the First Lutheran Family!

Milestone Minute

Prayer Pillow Milestone

Prayer Pillows were picked up and celebrated in worship on Sunday, October 4. And, for families who weren't able to come to the church, they received front door deliveries!



Top: Four-year old, Andie Aberson, with her mom, Jaci, and dad, Micah, is loving her new Prayer Pillow.



Left: Lincoln Hoyt, with his brother, Coulson; dad, Nathan; and mom, Jodi; shows his new Prayer Pillow.



We Are the Church Milestone

We Are the Church Milestone was held on Saturday, October 24. Two-year-olds and their parents signed up for half-hour time slots to come to the church and have their photos taken in different parts of the Sanctuary and church. Pictured right is an example of the book we make and give to each of the families.



Coming in November!

Apostles' Creed Milestone

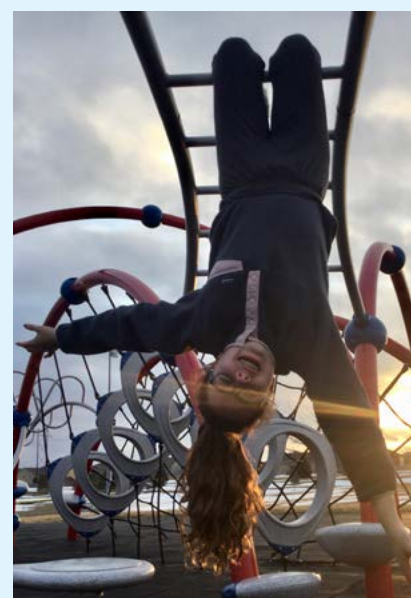
Apostles' Creed Milestone: Sunday, November 1, 10:10-10:40 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, for learning and celebration. The children will be blessed during the 11 a.m. worship service.

Affirmation of Baptism

Affirmation of Baptism will be held Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The following sophomores will be confirmed: Thomas Alpers, Allison Anderson, Chloe Ellingsen, Paige Himmerich, Lexi Hopp, Madison Johnson, Sophia Kramer, Siri Larson, Luke Martin, Mitchell Mueller, Lute Nesheim, Kaitlyn Searles, and Elliot Whitney.



Above left: Thomas Alpers finds God's presence in his cat Loki.



Above right: Paige Himmerich enjoys God's creation outside.

Confirmation Faith Photo Project

See more Faith Photos and Faith Statements in the atrium gallery.



Virtual Scripture First

Virtual Scripture First begins in November - For families who are sticking close to home but would like to continue to learn the lessons, we will offer weekly videos and monthly activity packets (delivered to your home). **Register at flcsf.org/youth or the Church Center app.** Faith in the home!

In-person Family Scripture First continues each week, 10:10-10:40 a.m. in Reformation Hall, to hear the lesson and work on activities together! Masks are required, one family/table, and social distanced.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY



Meet Cantor, Michelle Davis

By Zachary Brockhoff, Director

In the last few months, many in the congregation have asked: "Who was the cantor this weekend?" Our cantors play a crucial role in leading worship, never more so than since we began virtual worship in March 2020. The Music and Worship ministry thought it would be fun for First Word readers to meet our cantors over the next few months.

When did you join First Lutheran Church?

I joined First Lutheran when baptized in 1967.

Provide a brief bio of your family and musical background.

I have two adult children, Gillian (22) and Karsten (19). They both live and work in Sioux Falls. My husband, Steven, is a Major in the Army Reserve currently serving at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. When not serving, he is a Certified Nurse Practitioner. I have been fortunate to work at the REALTOR® Association of the Sioux Empire, Inc. for 18+ years and am the Director of Education & Dispute Resolutions. I grew up in a musical family; my folks met singing in a show together in early 1962. I started singing in Carol Choir under Bonnie Lindgren's direction and haven't stopped singing since!

How long have you served as a cantor at First Lutheran?

Why did you get involved in this ministry? I'm not sure when I began volunteering to cantor; it may have been around 2002 when my son, Karsten, was a baby. I am a true believer in giving back with the talents that God has gifted you with and that is why, even though my vocal pipes are more rusty than when I first started, I still cantor today.

What do you enjoy most about leading worship in this capacity?

I enjoy singing and being able to share the music with the congregation. I pray that I help bring some meaning to their worship experience through God's words in the music.

What hymn or part of the liturgy do you enjoy singing most? Why?

I've come to enjoy singing the Psalm. At first it was not my favorite and I would have chosen the "Kyrie." I enjoy the vocal challenge the Psalms sometimes provide.



How has this time of serving as the primary leader of the church's song impacted/challenged you as a musician and Christian?

When first asked to cantor, I must admit my nerves made it somewhat difficult to hold the hymnal while canting due to my hands shaking so badly. I am glad for that experience and the opportunity to be a part of leading worship through music. My nerves are still with me every time I cantor; however, they're not so bad that I must keep my trembling hands at my side. Being involved in the worship service in this capacity has strengthened my Christian beliefs. I've become more confident in canting, but I still get nervous and remind myself that no one is perfect; mistakes may be made, but the only ones who know are me and Zachary!

Any other stories you'd like to share about your work as a cantor and musician at First Lutheran?

We are so fortunate to have the strong music program we do at FLC. As a lifelong member, it saddens me to see our numbers dwindling in all the choirs. I encourage congregation members young and older, who have a love for singing, to share your talents and consider joining us when we are able to once again come together to practice and sing beautiful music to God. Singing fills a place in your soul unlike any other, for "As long as we live, there is never enough singing," Martin Luther.

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 9 & 11 a.m., Sanctuary
Please visit flcsf.org for the latest information on worship and events.

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

MEDIA MINISTRY



Thank You September Media 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. on KELO-FM, 101.9, is a recorded broadcast of the previous week's traditional service.

September 6: Radio was sponsored by Dana (Johnson) Moore who is grateful to be able to listen to the radio broadcast every Sunday from her home in Oklahoma. Television was given by Jake Hofer in remembrance of his and Norma's 60th wedding anniversary, which would have been September 4.

September 13: Radio was sponsored by a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation by Jake and Norma Hofer in appreciation of their three children—Terry, Roger, and Debra. Television was sponsored in loving memory of Ed Mansfield by his family. Closed captioning was sponsored in loving memory of Ed Mansfield by his wife Eunice and their family.

September 20: Television was given by Kathy Stelzer in loving memory of her beloved husband, Herb.

September 27: Television was sponsored in memory of former First Lutheran choir members Howard Hagen, LaVonne McElroy, Julia Simons, and Wally and Alicemae Steele through the memorial gifts of family and friends.

Media Sponsorships available

Please consider sponsoring a worship service in honor or remembrance of loved one, or to celebrate a life event. To sponsor, call the First Lutheran Church office at (605) 336-3734.

KELO Radio broadcast (\$155), KSFY telecast (\$1350 beg. 1/1/2021), Closed captioning (\$150), YouTube live stream (\$75)

November Sponsors Needed

Nov. 1: Closed captioning and YouTube sponsors needed.
Nov. 8: YouTube sponsor needed
Nov. 15: Closed captioning and YouTube sponsors needed.
Nov. 22: YouTube sponsor needed.
Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving): YouTube sponsor needed.
Nov. 29: Radio, television, closed captioning and YouTube sponsors needed.

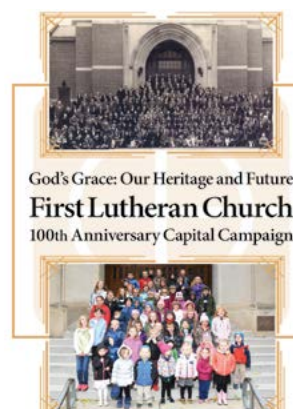
December Sponsors Needed

Dec. 6: Radio, closed caption and YouTube sponsors needed.
Dec. 13: Radio, closed caption and YouTube sponsors needed.
Dec. 20: Closed captioning and YouTube sponsors needed.
Dec. 24: Closed captioning and YouTube sponsors needed.
Dec. 25: YouTube sponsor needed.
Dec. 27: Radio, closed caption and YouTube sponsors needed.

Capital Campaign Update

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

I hope that when you read First Word each month, you are excited to see how the congregation has come together to pay down the HVAC loan. As of September 30, the remaining balance of the original loan amount of \$1,400,000 is now \$648,694. Each month, the interest we are paying on the loan goes down as well. When you realize we have not made or scheduled any Capital Campaign visits since March 13, it is even more AMAZING! God is good, and First Lutheran is very blessed!



God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future
First Lutheran Church
100th Anniversary Capital Campaign

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



September Gifts and Memorials

Gift to the FLC Foundation in honor of:
Dave Wilson's retirement: Kathy Stelzer

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Frank Hansen: Richard & Kay Burkhardt, Phyllis Day, Jim & Sandy Fink, Mary Garner, Joan Hansen, Jim & LaVerne Kruse, Carl & Janet Naessig, Ron & Connie Nelson

Ed Mansfield: Phyllis Day, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Dorothy Grevlos

Ione Pereboom: Stephen Johnson

Gifts to Capital Campaign, paraments, in memory of:

Bob Gednalske: Jean Hoff

Gifts to Care and Health Ministry in memory of:

Velda Goehring: Jeff & Edna Husman

Frank Hansen: Sandy Holleman

Gift to Evangelism & Outreach Ministry in memory of:

Frank Hansen: Roger & Janet Noer

Gifts to FLCW Quilters in memory of:

Norma Hofer: Gerald & Arlene Gackle, John & Kristine Tank

Gift to Lutheran Men in Mission in honor of:

Dave Wilson's retirement: Roger & Bev Lamp

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Nancy Everett Andersen: Barb Matson

Terry Ensz: Gene & Betty Erickson

Barb Entringer: Mike & Gloria Simpson

Bob Gednalske: Sharon Beckstrom, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Brad Coleman, Shon & Heather Dougherty, Mark & Darlene Dunn, Betty Fideler, Orville Hill, Mary Ann Hohman, Janice Julson, Sharon Kayser, Dennis & Jane King, Gary & Geraldine Lee, Norma Mueller, Nancy Nervig, Gregory & Carol Puerkel, Jeffrey & Jill Roach, Michael & Lois Rocklage, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Kathy Stelzer, Warren & Cynthia Tingle

Mary Ann Hallberg: Carl & Janet Naessig

Frank Hansen: Paula Bartels, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Conrad & Helen Dice, Bob Doescher, Marilyn Eikanger,

Paul & Barbara Halstenson, Bob & Karen Hemre, Orville Hill, Jake Hofer, Wendell & Gladys Horsted, Donna Johnson, Marilyn McLeod, David & Linda Munson, Nancy Nervig, Sandra Pedersen, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Cheryl Satterlee, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Kathy Stelzer, Douglas & Carol Uthe, Hazel Wek, Ruth Werner, Donna Willadsen

Norma Hofer: Milt Mutch, Kenneth & Germaine Persing, Cheryl Satterlee

Linton 60th Anniversary: Howard & Lou Ann Paulson

Gene Linton: Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Betty Gednalske, LeRoy & Janet Halstenson, Orville Hill, Jean Hoff, Mary Ann Hohman, Sandy Holleman, Alma Kallesen, Arlene Leffler, Kelly & Victoria Linton, Joyce Nelson, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Lois Jean Peterson, Gregory & Carol Puerkel, E.H. & P.K. Smith, Kathy Stelzer

Ed Mansfield: Robert Amundson, James & Linda Anderson, Kent & Kathy Boadwine, Deborah Brace, Bill & Marilyn Bradfelt, Charles & Barbara Bunk, Phillip Eggum, Marilyn Eikanger, Norman Eitheim, Daniel Goede, Jim & Jill Groth, Steve & Marilyn Haddorff, Karen Halling, Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Kate Heligas, Mary Ann Hohman, Sandy Holleman, Gary & Jan Johnson, Dennis & Jane King, Emil & Carol Knapp, Sally Kocon, Richard & Judy Larsen, Jerry & Karen May, David & Linda Munson, Jane Murray, Gayle & Angie Nelson, Joyce Nelson, John Odney, Ruth Olsen, Kristi Oskar-Groen, Tom & Sandra Peterson, Gregory & Carol Puerkel, Judith Ryan, Cheryl Satterlee, Jean Sneen, Don & Florence Toft

Gary Olson: Joyce Nelson

Ione Pereboom: Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Elaine Berg, Emil & Marilyn Bruscher, B. K. Crawford; Karen, Deborah, Michelle, Mark, & Jim Lidel; Barb Matson, Eugene & Naomi Mogler, Marilyn Moseson, Joyce Nelson, Floyd & Carol Prouty, Irene Rezac, Leroy & Elisabeth Stadem, Rev. Nancy Carol Stahl, Kathleen Stelzer, Clarice Voigt, James & Penny Volin, Donna Willadsen

Arlene Schulenburg: Steve & Marilyn Haddorff

Ellen Tabbert: Dean & Michelle Evans

Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:

Frank Hansen: Dr. Donald & Linda Graham, Joan Hansen, Laura Meadows, Carol Pfeiderer, Judith Regan, Stanley & Norma Schmidt, Eric & Sue Severson, William & Beverly Simpson, Bonnie Stavig

Roger Wolff: Dr. Verdayne & Mary Brandenburg

Gift to Music Ministry, Organ Fund, in memory of:

Ed Mansfield: John Matthius

Gifts to Project Car in memory of:

Frank Hansen: Brian & Denise Aamlid, Orrin & Karen Anderson, Dale Backhaus, Gary & Shirley Barlow, Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Mari Beebe, Yvonne Behrends, Howard & Arlene Bich, Bill & Marilyn Bradfeldt, Julie Briggs, Jim Carlson, Stan & Sandy Christopherson, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Terry & Cynthia Cosand, Lisa Crary, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Don & Judy Erickson, Russell & Carol Greenfield, LeRoy & Janet Halstenson, Willis & Phyllis Hanson, Donald & Joyce Helberg, Kate Heligas, Jeff & Sarah Herbert, Sandy Holleman, Stephen Johnson, Brad & Beverly Koopman, Dick & Gerry Kropp, Deborah Lauer, Richard Lauer, Carol Lerdal, Joel & Jolene Levahn, Eunice Mansfield, Mary Nicolai, John Odney, William & Nancy Olson; Mary J. Osthus, Martha Reeves, & Ruth Garcia; Tracie Osthus, Dottie Paulson, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Lois J. Peterson, Raymond & Kyle Roti, Marilyn Sackariason, Gene & Ann Smith, Vernon & Ronda Stensland, Jeffrey Toft, Don & Florence Toft, Douglas & Carol Uthe, Robert & Marilyn Van Demark, David & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Roger & Virginia Walline, Jenny Zachariason, James & Carolyn Zachariason

Gift to Volunteer Shop in memory of:

Norma Hofer: Gerald & Arlene Gackle

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
 FLC Women 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
 (202) Rev. Bob Chell* Visitation
 (202) Rev. David Houck* Visitation
 (202) Rev. Roger Noer* Visitation
 (202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg* Visitation
 (202) Rev. Dave Johnson Emeritus

Administration

(236) Ginger Miller Director
 (211) Jody Bymers Finance Administrator
 (202) Donna Jahr Secretary to the Pastors
 (201) Kristy Zuraff Receptionist
 (252) Beverly Bentzinger* Admin. Assistant

Care and Health Ministries

(202) 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

(201) 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* Carol 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
 (238) Valerie Pherson Children's Minister
 (228) Mark Nassen* Coordinator
 Karina Hackworth* Nursery Attendant
 Nancy Henrichsen* Nursery Attendant
 Irma Rodriguez Leon* Nursery Attendant
 Kris Stark* Nursery Attendant

()=Direct dial phone extensions. If no extension is listed, please call the Director of the ministry area.

* 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

Council Highlights

If church members wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Ginger Miller, Director of Administration, at (605) 339-1983 ext. 236 or gmiller@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

— September 24, 2020 —

- Financials continue to be strong, and budget is running on track.
- PPP loan forgiveness submitted
- Need to get a specific ask out regarding the need for Luther House of Study (Paulson commitment) We are significantly short of donations.
- Historical Marker was dedicated on September 20, 2020.
- Long-time receptionist Cleo Sorensen will be retiring.
- Confirmation starts on October 7 with both in-person and Zoom.
- Homeless Jesus bench will be going back to St. Francis House.
- Welcome & Community Board is looking at ways to be more welcoming during this time of COVID-19.
- Worship times proposal brought forward: All services will be indoors, starting the weekend of October 3-4. Services will be held Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 9 and 11 a.m. Christian education hour will be offered in between. Holy communion will begin the first weekend in October.

Financial Update September 2020

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$1,565,738
 2020 Actual \$1,531,543
 2019 Actual \$1,468,001

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$1,642,171
 2020 Actual \$1,529,486
 2019 Actual \$1,613,672

YTD Net Profit/Loss \$2,058

Contract For Deed, Ideal . . \$155,074

HVAC System (as of Aug. 31) . . \$648,694

Worship Attendance

2020 - 707 (2019 - 2,951)

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



LOWELL ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP

Volunteer Opportunities

Through our partnership with Lowell Elementary, there are LOTS of opportunities for members and friends of First Lutheran to get involved.



VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERS

Because volunteers are not allowed in the school building this year, we're looking for virtual volunteers! These folks will assist throughout the school year with projects off site that can then be sent to the school. Help with one project, or help with them all—whatever fits best with your schedule and abilities. Contact Pastor Jeff to learn about upcoming projects.



ADOPT-A-CLASSROOM

Lowell has 19 classrooms available for adoption. A suggested donation of \$150-200 per classroom will enable teachers to purchase necessary supplies for the year.

BOOK VENDING MACHINE

One of Lowell's goals for this school year is to improve student literacy. We'd like your help in the purchasing of a book vending machine (approximately \$5,000) for the school. This machine accepts a special coin that students can earn for displaying acts of kindness, helping their teachers, and more. The machine will be filled with books for the students to choose from, each with a sticker inside labeled "From Your Friends at First Lutheran Church."



November Special Offering: Pueblo de Dios and Vecinos Unidos

By Dan Lindquist, Evangelism & Outreach Board Member



This month's special offering supports Pueblo de Dios and Vecinos Unidos—Spanish faith communities in Sioux Falls.

Pueblo de Dios (translated "People, or Community, of God") is a mission ministry developed under the SD Synod of the ELCA. This congregation is the first

Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation in Sioux Falls with members who have recently come from Mexico as well as Central and South America. While you may recognize Pueblo de Dios as the organization that occasionally sells tamales, they are so much more!

Pueblo de Dios was birthed at First Lutheran Church, then moved to share space with Augustana



Lutheran in the Cathedral historic neighborhood. Pastor Maria Cabello Solomon currently serves as the full-time pastor of Pueblo de Dios. The congregation meets weekly to worship together in Spanish and is a positive presence in supporting the Latinx community in Sioux Falls. You are always invited to attend a festive worship at 12:30 p.m. each Sunday at Augustana Lutheran (235 North Prairie Avenue).

Amidst all of the celebrations, activities, and food, the principal mission of Pueblo de Dios is to share the love that Christ shows us and teach people to be disciples of Jesus Christ like we learn from the gospel of Matthew.

Vecinos Unidos (VU), formerly Ayuda, translated as "Neighbors United," is a closely related initiative and is a partnership supported by the ELCA congregations of Sioux Falls. The VU group helps to establish relationships between the people of Pueblo de Dios and the other predominantly Anglo-Lutheran churches in Sioux Falls.

In addition to selling tamales, volunteers are encouraged to help with the Logos program at Pueblo, which is their version of church school (like our Scripture First) on Wednesday nights. They also have a language partners program where an English-speaking person is paired with a Spanish-speaking person, and they learn each other's language. If you have always wanted to learn Spanish, seek to help in this amazing ministry.

VU also looks to provide pathways for people seeking asylum and helps the recently emigrated find pathways to establish a life here in Sioux Falls.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting these important local ministries. Your offering makes a difference in the lives of our Latinx neighbors.

Also, please keep Pastor Maria and all of the members of Pueblo de Dios in your prayers during this especially turbulent climate surrounding immigration issues.

Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have one, please use the yellow envelope in the pew, bring your donation to the Information Desk at church, or visit flcsf.org/give to donate online.

Non Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Permit No. 32
Madison, SD



Israel Trip 2021

July 3-19, 2021 • Cost ab. \$5000

Follow in the Footsteps of Jesus—explore the land, historical context, and cultural settings of the Gospels.

More info: flcsf.org/israel

Garden of Poinsettias

The congregation is invited to help decorate the chancel with poinsettias this Christmas season. Cost \$15. Complete a form at church and attach payment, or visit flcsf.org to purchase online.

Orders with payment received by Sunday, Dec. 6, will be recognized in a bulletin insert on Dec. 24/25.



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

