



# First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Mini Bazaar

Saturday, November 6; 9AM-3PM

#### At the Mini:

- Lefse
- Bake Shop
- Sweet Shop
- Crafts
- Dish towels
- Woolen mittens
- Handmade wood gifts
- Christ's Corner
- Used Book Shop
- Antiques
- Scandinavian Shop

#### People needed:

**Rosette Makers**  
Monday, November 1,  
8AM-3PM. On-the-job  
training provided.

#### Volunteers

- ♥ Work in any shop
- ♥ Help set up
- ♥ Help clean up
- ♥ Help in any way

See page 3 for "Things needed" (homemade baked goods, candies and sweets, Scandinavian treats, etc.)



### Holiday Grief Service

Saturday, November 20, 9:30-11AM

Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one are especially invited to Care and Health Ministries' annual Holiday Grief Service preparing us for the emotional holiday season ahead. Senior Pastor John Christopherson will lead a prayer service in the sanctuary as we honor our loved ones and encounter comforting words of hope through Scripture, and music by Larry Olson and Karol Baer.

Masks are strongly encouraged for everyone, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.

Please register by calling First Lutheran, 605-336-3734.



### Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and Worship

Wednesday, November 27, 5-6PM

A tasty Thanksgiving meal of ham, turkey and all the fixings will be served in Reformation Hall.

#### Homemade pumpkin pie donations are needed.

Sign up outside the Youth and Family office or call the church at 605-336-3734.

Thanksgiving Eve worship service, 6:30PM in the sanctuary and live stream on YouTube.

# Waiting Within God's Promise

## Midweek Advent Services

Wednesday Nights • December 1, 8, and 15 • 6:30 p.m.

By John Christopherson, Ph.D.; Senior Pastor



Although waiting is central to the spiritual journey of our Judeo-Christian faith, it is certainly a very counter-cultural attitude in America. Most people even consider waiting a waste of time. Right? I mean, "Get going! Don't

just sit there! Do something!" Waiting is like a wilderness between where we are and where we want to go. And this human experience has been particularly exacerbated in our time when the COVID-19 pandemic's long dark shadow still holds much of the world captive to various expressions of anger and frustration, depression and anxiety, loss of hope and fear... In fact, one of the most pervasive emotions in our time is fear, and fearful people have a hard time waiting. Further, and think about this: the more afraid we are, the harder being attentive or listening becomes.

And so, in this season of Advent, the pastoral staff would like to offer you, family and friends of First Lutheran, an opportunity to grow into a fuller spirit of understanding what waiting means, but also the practice of how we can better wait together with God's Word of promised presence in our midst when there's so much evil and unrest in our world that would seem to point to the contrary. As Luther observed in his treatise of 1520, *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*: "The Gospel teaches us that hope builds entirely on the promise of God and nothing else" (LW 52:243). And so, in the opening verses of Dr. Luke's gospel (which will be our assigned lectionary gospel reading in the new church year), we get right to the heart of this matter of waiting when we hear the angel of the Lord say unto Mary: "Do not be afraid, for I have good news to share with you" (Luke 1:30). Come and join us for a three-part Advent series on Wednesday

evenings, beginning December 1 at 6:30 p.m., as we gather around God's Word for us. Yes, it's a word that gives us the confidence to be a people who wait with hope—even in a time of pandemic fears—because of God's promise, adventing among us still. The rich liturgy and musical foundation will be drawing upon David Cherwien's candlelight vesper service: "Stay With Us, Lord."

#### Mid-Week Advent I

December 1—Psalm 130:5-6

"I wait for the Lord, my soul *waits*, and in his word do I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning."

#### Mid-Week Advent II

December 8—Habakkuk 1:2-4; 2:1-3

"O Lord, how long shall I [wait and] cry out for help, and thou wilt not hear? ... And the Lord answered me: 'Write the vision; make it plain upon tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision *awaits* its time; it hastens to the end – it will not lie. If it seems slow, *wait* for it; it will surely come, it will not delay."

#### Mid-Week Advent III

December 15—Romans 8:24-25

"For in this hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what [we] see? But if we hope for what we do not see, we *wait* for it with patience."

*"Both the Old and the New Testaments describe our existence in relation to God as one of waiting. Waiting means not having and having at the same time ... Waiting anticipates that which is not yet real. And thus, if we wait in hope based on God's promise, the power of that for which we wait is already effective within us."* —Paul Tillich

In Christ's Spirit, still adventing among us...

Pr. John Christopherson

Pr. Lars Olson

Pr. Jeff Backer

# You are a Child of God

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



*"Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead."* –Deuteronomy 6:8

We love talking about blessing one another at church and at home. It is the simplest way to remind our children, our families, and one another that we are children of God every day! Milestone Ministry brings different age groups and their families together to lift up the promises that we all (parents, the congregation, and God) made during baptism. We have time to celebrate, learn, share, and bless one another. The blessing happens by gathering at the font, receiving a milestone pebble, and making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead saying "You are a child of God." Look at all the wonderful ways we were able to celebrate these promises in the last month! Take a moment now to remind yourself "I am a child of God!"



3rd Grade Bibles



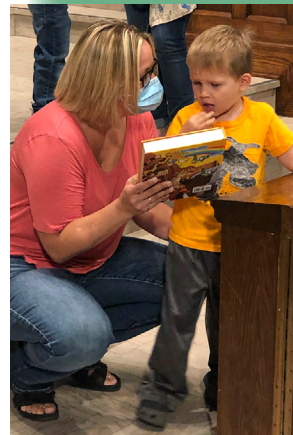
Prayer Pillows - 4 year olds



First Step 3 year olds



Confirmation Retreat



7th Grade Bibles





## September Gifts and Memorials

**Gifts to the FLC Foundation in memory of:**  
Gene Den Herder: Carl & Janet Naessig

**Gifts to, Media Ministry, in honor of:**  
Pastor John Christopherson: Robert Ellsworth

**Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:**  
Gene Buttenhoff: Marilyn Johnson  
Gene Den Herder: Daryl & Mary Wierda  
Athena Drobny: Shirley Drobny  
Frank Hansen: Shirley Stenseth  
Karin Hartje: Lillian Carlson, Dorothy Grevlos, Mary Hohman, Nancy Nervig, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Shirley Thom

**Howard Paulson:** Shirley Stenseth  
**Herb Tammen:** Shirley Drobny  
**Jeff Thorson:** Penny Volin

**Gifts to Project Car in memory of:**  
Herbert Tammen: Ezra Clark & Theresa McCormick, Karen Farus, Kathleen Heligas, R.F. & C.B. Koch. Raymond Lauck & Candy Koehn-Lauck. Mary Nicolai

**Gifts to FLC Quilters in memory of:**  
Karin Hartje: Robert & Carolyn Bauman, Kathryn Borns, Phyllis Day, Ron & Cynthia Moegenburg, Janis Outka, Sandra Pedersen, John & Kristine Tank

## Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

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

### Thank You, September Sponsors

- Sept. 5:** Television, radio, closed captioning, and YouTube were sponsored by the family of Ed Mansfield in his memory.
- Sept. 12:** 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. Radio was sponsored by a gift to the FLC Foundation by Jake and Norma Hofer in appreciation of their three children—Terry, Roger, and Debra. Closed captioning and YouTube were sponsored by Merrill and Jane Larson in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary, which was September 11, and in honor of their son, Jason; his wife, Earlene; and their grandsons, JT and Nick Larson.
- Sept. 19:** Television was sponsored in memory of Lloyd Osthus by his wife, Jean, and family. Radio and closed captioning were sponsored by Arlen and Marcia Knutson in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.
- Sept. 26:** Television was sponsored in memory of Robert and MaryAnn Ellinghausen, whose 80th wedding anniversary would have been September 17, by their family. Radio was sponsored by Stephen Johnson in memory of his wife's birthday, which would have been September 30. The YouTube live stream was sponsored by Kim Campbell in honor of her mother, Janis Campbell's, 75th birthday on September 27.

### Media Sponsors Needed

- 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)
- Nov. 7:** YouTube sponsor needed  
**Nov. 14:** Television, radio, and YouTube sponsors are needed.  
**Nov. 21:** YouTube sponsor needed.  
**Nov. 25:** Thanksgiving telecast and YouTube sponsors needed.  
**Nov. 28:** Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.
- Dec. 5:** Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.  
**Dec. 12:** Radio, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.  
**Dec. 19:** Closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors are needed.

## Capital Campaign Update God's Grace: Our Heritage and Future

*By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator*

The HVAC Loan is down to \$120,168. Bless you, First Lutheran members, and friends for your faithful giving. We will have the loan paid off and have money in the bank at the end of the year.

We will be making some decisions on what project(s) to tackle next. More info coming soon.

## Financial Update as of September 30, 2021

<b>Total Revenue, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,643,537
2021 Actual	\$1,481,582
2020 Actual	\$1,531,381
<b>Total Expenses, year-to-date</b>	
2021 Budget	\$1,644,536
2021 Actual	\$1,456,256
2020 Actual	\$1,529,486
<b>YTD Net Profit/Loss</b>	<b>\$25,326</b>
<b>Contract For Deed, Ideal</b>	<b>\$84,627</b>
<b>HVAC System</b>	<b>\$120,168</b>
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	<b>1,582</b>

## Mobilize your giving Donate through our app or "Text to Give"

Download our Church Center app today (for Apple and Android) and donate one time or setup recurring donations.

**Visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give)**



Continued from page 1

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Mini Bazaar

**Things needed:** (\*especially needed)

- **Homemade** cookies, pies, rolls, pastries, breads, etc.
- **Scandinavian** flatbread, fatigman, kringler, Norwegian almond wedding cakes
- **Home-canned goods:** jelly, jam, dessert sauce, etc.
- **Homemade candies:** \*caramels, divinity, \*fudge (chocolate or peanut butter), toffee, \*peanut brittle
- **Treats:** candy or caramel apples, caramel corn, chocolate covered pretzels, \*popcorn balls

*Please bring these items to the church on Friday, November 6, between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.*



- Baptisms:**
- Sept. 11** Arlo Marvin Foss Hesla, son of Eric Hesla and Berit Foss
  - Sept. 12** Henry Alex Heinert, son of Alex and Kelsey Heinert
  - Sept. 18** Ruxtyl Joy Haight, daughter of Matthew and Rayna Haight
  - Sept. 19** Weston Verland Johnson, son of Seth and Cali Johnson
- Deaths:**
- Sept. 19** Chloe Nicole Moen, daughter of Collin and Katie Moen
  - Sept. 25** Luciano Mateo Uthe, son of Trent Uthe and Karina Donoso
  - Sept. 26** Hudson Feterl, son of Tyler and Claire Doeden
  - Sept. 24** Jackie Hanson

## Council Highlights: September 23, 2021

- If members wish to add items to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Jodi Hoyt, [jhoyt@flcsf.org](mailto:jhoyt@flcsf.org). Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. Church members are welcome to visit meetings.
- Revenue YTD is slightly below budget and slightly below where we were at this point in 2020. YTD we are ahead of budget overall, despite a loss in August. HVAC loan is down to \$159k. Pledge offerings are down for the summer months, which is expected.
  - Pr. Jeff shared that Scripture First is going well so far this year. He discussed that volunteerism is low—both in the congregation and in the community.
  - Pr. John shared that it's been a privilege to be back with the congregation following his leave of absence. He is optimistic that before fall is concluded, we'll be able to begin work on a couple Capital Campaign projects. His final day will be Sunday, December 12.
  - Staffing of the main office was discussed by the Executive Committee following the resignation of some employees.
  - We have close to \$2.7 million in Capital Campaign pledges. About 300 families are still in need of visits. In 2021, \$700k in pledges is expected, with approx. \$400k outstanding.
  - The stewardship campaign goal for this year is to increase the number of pledges to 650 (an increase of 50 over previous years).

# Celebrating 100 years of First Lutheran Women

By Jean Hoff, WELCA President



On September 2, 124 women joined together in Reformation Hall to celebrate 100 years of the women of First Lutheran Church. What a wonderful night! Seven women who were in their 90s attended the festivities. Amazing to think that some of these women have grown up in this church and have been here through all the changes.

It was a night of celebration and a night of remembering. Jane King and Arlene Bich did a presentation of the first 100 years of the women of First Lutheran. The program was enlightening and filled with many facts about fundraising and activities of the women. First Lutheran Church Women are proud their historical contribution of \$30,000 to the building of the church, and it was their commitment which led the men of the congregation to agree to trust in God as well.

The best part of the evening was listening to all of the women in attendance visiting with one another. The room was filled with chatter—a welcome sound after being apart for so many months due to COVID-19.

## Thank You!

Many thanks to Jane and Arlene for their efforts putting the program together; they spent so much time on this. Special thanks also go to:

- ♥ Hazel Wek for her beautiful musical gifts she shared with us
- ♥ Gloria Simpson for leading us in singing
- ♥ Judy Erickson, Gloria Simpson, Marcia Huffman, and Lola Coon for the beautiful centerpieces
- ♥ Circle chairs and co-chairs who helped with setup and cleanup
- ♥ Hannah Circle for being in the kitchen plating the food and cleaning the kitchen.
- ♥ The youth of Pueblo de Dios who served—it was a joy to have them with us and a pleasant surprise for the women to be served.

Finally, thanks to all of you who helped in some way that day and to those who attended. We also thank God for being our Guiding Light and for blessing the women of First Lutheran for their work in His honor and glory.



Clockwise above left: Roseanne Olson visits with Karen Anderson and Karen's friend, Mary; Bishop Constanza Hagmaier and Pastor Rebel Hurd are welcomed by Lola Coon; Betty Pfeifle peruses an old cookbook with Carol Greenfield; Arlene Bich and Jane King present a historical look at FLCW through the years.



Above-Merna Salmonson, Mavis Fjellanger, Lyla Petersen with Janet Lyso (standing), and Audrey Miller Brush. Left-Pueblo De Dios youth ready to serve.

Below far left-Shirley Bly and Janet Naessig; middle-Maurine Hult and Marcia Knutson; below-Dorothy Christopherson and other 90+ year-old members were recognized.

# November Special Offering Pueblo de Dios, Vecinos Unidos

First Word • November 2021

By Leslee Barnes, Evangelism & Outreach Board Chair



*Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.*  
—Hebrews 13:2

## Following God. Breaking down barriers. Standing with people in need.

This is the mission and vision of Pueblo de Dios, a bilingual Latinx congregation located in the heart of Sioux Falls serving the community and gathering as people of God to worship together. Pueblo de Dios and Vecinos Unidos are part of the SD Synod Multicultural Ministries with a primary focus of reaching out to the Latinx community of Sioux Falls (and the surrounding area) with the good news of Jesus Christ

Formed in August of 2008 as a mission ministry of the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA, Pueblo de Dios, which translates as People of God, was the first Spanish-speaking Lutheran congregation located in Sioux Falls. Many members of the congregation are from Mexico as well as Central and South America, and each week they gather at Augustana Lutheran Church to “read, pray, and declare our beliefs together—no matter what language we speak.”

Pueblo de Dios is one of the seven ministry and outreach programs that are part of the South Dakota Synod’s Neighbors in Solidarity, and it serves a vital role in making many people, including those who may



Pr. Maria Cabello

be new to our area, feel welcome and included. One new member says after looking for a church home that will “take care of us, listen, and love us,” he found that Pueblo de Dios “feels like a family.” Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon, lead pastor of Pueblo de Dios, echoes that sentiment in an interview, saying, “Everyone comes from God’s creation ... we are to love the people. This is what the Gospel says.”

Vecinos Unidos, which translates as Neighbors United, is an initiative and partnership supported by the ELCA congregations in Sioux Falls that strives to establish relationships between the members of Pueblo de Dios and members of other ELCA churches in Sioux Falls. These relationships provide opportunities to volunteer with programs at Pueblo de Dios such as the language partners program and the Logos church school program while also striving to provide pathways to people seeking asylum and/or establishing a life here in Sioux Falls.

**Following God. Breaking down barriers. Standing with people in need.** Please consider supporting these important and meaningful ministries. Your gift can be included in your special offering envelope that is included with your regular offering envelopes, or you may write Special Offering for Pueblo de Dios or Vecinos Unidos on your check. Please mail your offering to First Lutheran Church. Visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to learn how you can donate online through the First Lutheran website, Church Center app, or via text.

Visit [sdsynod.org/neighbor](http://sdsynod.org/neighbor) for a video interview with Pastor Maria Cabello-Salomon and a Pueblo de Dios member.)

## Winter Wellness Opportunities

By John Hegg, Care & Health Board



The research is compelling that being active is one of the best things we can do for our physical and mental health. The First Lutheran Church Care and Health Ministry provides opportunities for all members and quests to pursue a physically active lifestyle.

The last three-month walking/running session ended on August 31, with a total of 21,354,304 steps walked or run by 28 participants. The following walked or ran over one million steps in the three months: Terry Cosand, Beth Monson, Ardeen Mulder, Cindy Mulder, Tracie Osthus, Sandra Pedersen, Eric Severson, and Kris Stark.

The next three-month walking/running or biking session starts November 1, 2021. It is an easy process of accountability by reporting steps at the end of each month. Registration is required to begin this journey. Pedometers are available if needed.

Pickleball remains a unique opportunity for physical activity. The advanced group plays Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 10 a.m. Intermediate and beginner groups play Thursday evenings, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Lessons are offered during the Thursday evening sessions. Those playing for the first time or interested in a lesson are encouraged to register. Contact John Hegg for more information, [johnhegg@sio.midco.net](mailto:johnhegg@sio.midco.net) or 605-339-2582.

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