



First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

Come Worship With Us!

Christ's church is gathering to hear God's Word and receive the joy of the gospel each week, while using our best safe practices like wearing masks and keeping social distance.

Starting the first weekend of October our worship times will be consistently at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, 9 and 11 a.m. on Sundays. All worship services will be held in the sanctuary. This schedule allows for an education time between Sunday services, 10:10-10:40 a.m., as well as time for our ushers and staff to sanitize the sanctuary between services.

We are also making careful moves toward the congregation speaking parts of the liturgy together such as the Confession of Sin and the Lord's Prayer. At this time, cantors and band will continue to sing for the congregation. We are keeping a hopeful eye on studies about how to safely sing together.

New Worship and Education Times

All worship services will be in the sanctuary.

Saturdays: 5-6 p.m. Traditional worship

Sundays: 9-10 a.m. Traditional worship
10:10-10:40 a.m. Scripture First

11 a.m.-12 p.m. Contemporary worship

Broadcast Schedule

If you are uncomfortable attending worship in person, or if you are ill, please worship through our broadcasts. Our television broadcast on KSFY will continue at 11 a.m. and we will be live streaming both the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on YouTube. The 8 a.m. radio broadcast will continue, but for the foreseeable future it will be a re-broadcast of the previous week's service. We lament this change yet believe it is the best we can offer at this time.



Are We There Yet?

A Primer for Reformation Sunday

By John Christopherson, Senior Pastor



Almost all of us at some point in our lives, whether we've been sitting in the front or back seat of the car while traveling on a long trip, have asked this time-tested question: "Are we there yet?" Can you hear the sense of weariness, perhaps a sigh in these words? I think all

of us, to some degree, are feeling the weight of this question right now as "we're about halfway through this COVID crisis" (Tamara Keith on the *PBS News Hour*; Sunday, 7 September 2020). I'm especially mindful of those among our family of First Lutheran Church who've lost their jobs, their loved ones (with hospital, hospice, and funeral restrictions), or their overall ability to really be with others ("social distancing")—as the pandemic has turned our world upside down. Even with our return to in-person, indoor worship—with the necessity of finely tuned protocols—we've become a "company of strangers" (Parker Palmer). Like something right out of a TV show from my childhood days: "Who was that masked man?" In the midst of the chaos that has been like a dark cloud, hovering over all of our lives these past eight months, I'd like to have you join me in looking at some of the silver linings that God has "shined upon us."

Where we've been. In her marvelous front-page article for *First Word* last month (I love nautical metaphors), our Communications Director, Jodi Hoyt, astutely observed: "COVID didn't close the church; it opened new doors to **us** all. Stay connected with us as we continue to navigate these new waters **together**" (September 2020, Vol. 74, No. 9, Emphasis added). If you missed Jodi's article, read it at flcsf.org/first-word-archive. I haven't had the chance to ask Jodi directly, but intentionally or not, she got at the heart of our Christian faith and calling, with two simple words. Take note of the spacing in that little pronoun, "u s" ... in the first sentence ... that speaks to our sense of sin and brokenness (Law), especially to the disconnectedness of our time. But also, take note of the concluding word, in the very next sentence, with an all-hands-on-deck calling, that we're in this boat called the "church" ... What's that last word? **Together!** (Gospel) It's a word that speaks to our solidarity in Christ, who's always at the helm. And so, a special word of thanks to the many, many hours that President Oyos and our Church Council, together with advisory members from our COVID Task Force (including physicians and nurses), who've been carefully and prayerfully setting protocols for the best practices in safety for our members as well as guests. Please read the September issue of *First Word* for the many ways in which our Professional and Pastoral Staff have been incredibly creative in meeting the challenges of this unprecedented time in our history.

See ARE WE THERE YET?, page 2

With HOPE, We GIVE

By Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



There have been plenty of odd twists and turns this year. Who could have imagined last January that worship services would come to a halt, singing would be considered as dangerous as coughing on someone, and that the ministry and mission of Jesus' church would be carried out over internet video chats?

Even a church like First Lutheran, where broadcasting worship and making wide use of technology have been important for decades, has had to shift into an entirely different mode of ministry. But we haven't stopped because we know people need to hear God's Word that brings hope into our lives even in the strangest times.

Even more surprising, however, has been the reaction of our congregation. In March, when everything began to close down, there were plenty of questions about how best to manage our church resources, especially our finances. It looked like giving was going to be cut severely. After all, how do people give if we don't meet for worship? Yet in a wonderful twist, you—the people of God called together to be the congregation of First Lutheran—continued to give generously. The ministry in which we share has continued through the odd twists and challenges of bringing the hope of Christ to so many in our community in this odd year.

This year's stewardship campaign reminds First Lutheran that "With HOPE, We GIVE." First by saying an enormous thank you for your continued support, and second by asking you to make a commitment to next year's ministry. As we look beyond these strange times and hold to the hope we have in Jesus Christ, give as you are able through the hope that has been placed in you.

"Everything that is done in the world is done by hope." —Martin Luther

Hope gets you out of bed each morning to face a new day. Hope lets you put your head on the pillow and fall

asleep to the cares and burdens of the day now past. It is hope that won't allow despair or discouragement to take over our lives. Hope, however, is not merely the power of positive thinking. It is trusting that the trials of our current situation will not finally hold us down. Hope is the glimmer of a future that springs from faith in the promise of Christ. This year has been filled with trials. Fears over the COVID virus led to social distancing, which then deepened to near isolation at times. This in turn means struggles for businesses and our community well-being. Our struggles this year have intensified our examination of so many societal issues, so that at times it feels like a sucking, swirling, drain of despair that won't stop dragging us down. It's enough to make you give up. But faith keeps hope springing up, giving us new life, putting us to bed and waking us in the morning, reminding us daily that God's promise does not let us go.

"May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears." —Nelson Mandela

One of the main challenges to stewardship is trusting that your contribution matters.

Maybe you've convinced yourself that it's too small. Perhaps you've thought, "Sure I can give an extra \$10/month, but what could that possibly do?" or "What does it matter if I return a pledge card anyway?" We can create all kinds of reasons for down playing our part, but the truth of the matter is that being a part of a congregation makes you part of something larger than yourself. When we all remember that God has brought us together, that each of us is part of everything that happens in Jesus' name at First Lutheran, then you can get a wider view than just your contribution.

Our hope in Christ gives us confidence that together our gifts, talents, and financial contributions are all important to God's mission in the world. This odd time filled with twists and challenges is a great opportunity to let our faith and hope shine forth for all to see.

Participate in this year's Stewardship Campaign

- **Watch your mail.** You will soon receive a letter asking for you to pledge a financial gift for 2021. This will include a stamped envelope to return your pledge, or you can fill out a pledge online at flcsf.org/pledge.
- **Pray about your financial commitment for 2021.** Please consider making a small increase in your giving. Every gift, no matter the size, is valuable and important in our ministry together.
- **Worship Celebration.** We know everyone's comfort level with "in-person" worship is in a different place, but join us for in-person or through our broadcasts to celebrate "With Hope, We Give" the weekend of October 17-18.

RENEW OUR FAITH
INCREASE OUR HOPE
DEEPEN OUR LOVE
HOPE WE PROFESS

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD Strengthen faith
CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK Put your hope in God
Justified by faith
EYES ON THE LORD
Everything through Christ

OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH
Ever-present help
HOPE
In his word I put my hope.
HOPE NOT FEAR
It is well with my soul

AROUND THE CHURCH



Continued from page 1

Are We There Yet?

Where we are. As of August 1, we're now back with offering "in-person" worship in our main sanctuary on Saturday nights at 5 p.m. and again on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. (now live-streamed, archived on YouTube, as well as our usual broadcasts and telecasts). Small groups are also gathering back on campus (e.g. Quilters, Volunteers, Pr. Dave's Bible Study, etc.), and we've had an excellent response to



The continued building of First Lutheran campus, canopied entrance and annex addition. Photo courtesy of Ed Mansfield, Oct. 31, 2004.

our new Phone Buddies ministry and Drive-thru Communion offerings on Wednesday (Thanks, Pr. Katherine, Visitation Pastors and Volunteers!), as well as our Sunday evening outdoor services at 7 p.m. on the south campus (Thanks, Pr. Jeff and Larry Olson!). The protocols for "best practices"—regarding ways of conducting Weddings, Funerals, and Worship Ushering—have been a solid Team effort from our entire staff. And YES, it's been crucial for ALL of us to be patient and respectful with each other (as a whole congregation), as we've ALL needed to lean into God's grace as WE chart a course through these tempestuous times TOGETHER. Staffing wise: as they move into retirement, maestros McNeill and Wilson are mentoring gifted protégés in Ginger Miller and Kent Wilson. Pr. Lars has been welcomed back from his summer Sabbatical. And we're excited to have Valerie Pherson joining our staff in the area of Children's Ministry. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" ... for all of the creative energy, the provisions of abounding gifts-n-talents, and inspired leadership "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). And what great joy as we celebrated our 100th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 20, with the Sioux Falls Historical Marker, presented by Eagle Scout, Adam Munson.

Where we're going. As we look to the coming days of autumn, we have a seaworthy craft as well as crew, looking to Christ our captain, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2), whose cross gives us a humble yet hope-filled heading. Although we will not have choral ensembles this coming fall, we will have some amazing online tutorials: for better understanding the use of our singing voice and hymnody, led by Dr. Paul Nesheim and our Director of Music, Zachary Brockhoff. (Thanks for the stellar series these past months on "The Hymnody of the Church," Zachary!) Mary Ryrholm is preparing for "A Year of the Bells." Preparations for Confirmation are in place for mid-October. (Thanks, Marnie Backer and Youth & Family Staff!) And some fruitful conversations are taking place, as I write this article, regarding revisioning what our Scripture First and Worship formatting might look like as we seek to encourage ... but also do so with great care ... the return to a more participative experience in worship for the congregation (including spoken parts of the liturgy and communion.

This will be my challenge for an article in the November issue of **First Word**: "How can we continue to remain faithful

and grow into the future of God's coming kingdom, as the COVID pandemic resolves? How do we overcome the temptations of lapsing from being at worship, *really* and not simply *virtually*? What's the difference? What does the expression 'in-person' mean when it comes to Christian worship and community? That is, in an American culture that is increasingly blurred by individualism and virtual realities (with all of our screens and memes), how is Christ calling his church to be a counter-cultural witness to the importance of relational, incarnational, in-person ministry and mission? (See MIT professor, Dr. Sherry Turkle's recent work, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More From Technology And Less From Each Other*). As Martin Luther would encourage us, in these days of celebrating the Reformation (Sunday, Oct. 25) that is ongoing: "How do we, yes U-S move TOGETHER, from being just any ol' generic form of 'community' (*Gemeinde*) to one that is 'attentively present and active' in the world (*Gemeinschaft*) with Christ at our center—and his Word & Sacraments as our chart-n-compass?"

"Therefore, when I suffer, I do not suffer alone, but Christ and all Christians suffer with me. ... Thus others help bear my burdens, and their strength is my strength. The faith of the church comes to the aid of my fearfulness ... The prayer of another pleads for me. ... Who could then despair in his sins? Who would not rejoice in his sorrows? He no longer bears his sin and punishment—and if he does bear them—he does not bear them alone—but is supported by so many holy children of God, yes, by Christ himself. So great a thing is the communion of saints in the church of Christ."

(Martin Luther; *LW* 42:161-62).

Semper reformanda! ("The reformation continues" i.e. We're never quite 'there' yet)

In Christ,

John R. Christopherson
Senior Pastor

P.S. Dr. Steve Paulson will be our guest preacher for Reformation Sunday, October 25.



Please Welcome Ginger Miller, Director of Administration

Hello First Lutheran Church Family!

My name is Ginger Miller; I'm so excited to be the new Director of Administration at First Lutheran. This opportunity is truly a blessing because ministry work has been on my heart for some time. God is so good!

I grew up on a farm in Groton, South Dakota, but most recently have lived in Texas and Oklahoma. My husband, Joe, and I moved home to South Dakota in June. He is originally from Watertown, SD. Between us, we have four children and four grandchildren. My daughter, Madeline, and her husband, Jacob, live in Sioux Falls. My son, Mark, and his wife, Megan, live in Pipestone, MN, and they have our grandson, Everett who is two years old. Joe's son, Ethan, and his wife, Rachel, live in Collinsville, OK, and they have our grandson, Leo, who is six years old. Joe's daughter, Kelsi and her husband, Bryce, live in Talala, OK, and they have our two granddaughters, Westlynn and Oaklynn.

I've spent most of my accounting career in education, both public and private. I've worked at South Dakota State University; Mount Marty College; Arlington Classics Academy in Arlington, TX; and Rogers State University in Claremore, OK.

I'm a life long learner and love working with people. I enjoy reading and watching historical movies. Most importantly, I love spending time with my family.

I'm looking forward to meeting everyone someday soon.



Board Member Nominations

Serving as a board member allows members of the congregation to learn, share, and help lead our congregation. Each of our boards oversees and carries out ministry in their designated area, as well as collaborates with other boards to help First Lutheran improve our ministries. Over the next three months, the Nominating Committee will be seeking members to fill open board positions. First Lutheran is blessed with many good, collaborative, and talented

leaders. Please help us find the right people to fill positions on these boards: Board openings:

- Care and Health Ministry (1)
- Evangelism and Outreach (2)
- Worship and Music (1)
- Youth and Family (2)

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about serving on a board, please contact Ginger Miller, gmliller@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 236.

Drive-Thru Communion continues in October

On Wednesdays, members and friends of First Lutheran Church are encouraged to stop by the church from 12 to 2 p.m., or 4 to 6 p.m., for Drive-Thru Communion: a safe option for receiving the sacrament in the midst of this pandemic. In the south parking lot, under the canopy, you'll be greeted by a First Lutheran staff member or volunteer, and then you'll drive up to one of our designated altars where a pastor will greet you and share the sacrament while you remain in your vehicle. Each Drive-Thru Communion experience will last approximately 5-10 minutes—maybe a bit longer if there is a line.

Holy Communion will soon be available in our worship services again and is always available to home-bound members upon request. Parishioners should note that our Drive-Thru Communion ministry is expected to close in the colder months ahead, so if you've been meaning to come, now's the time!

If you have questions about Drive-Thru Communion or would like to request a visit for a home-bound member, please contact the church at (605) 336-3734 or email Donna Jahr at djahr@flcsf.org.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN



FLCW Work Continues

After six months of down time, the resumed FLCW Board had a great meeting on September 3. This summer, Hannah Circle and its helpers have been working and accumulated garage sales totaling \$4,890.84! So, there is seed money for the 2020 Mission Projects usually supported by the annual FLCW Bazaar.

Because of the severe loss resulting from the Beirut Explosion and local needs, JoAnn Gibson, Marcia Huffman, Jean Hoff, and many others are working to replace the need. A related article by Marcia Huffman in this issue outlines how each of us can help to meet local and global needs, as well as future Bazaar offerings. Practicing social distancing, we are happy to have the quilters back. They distributed 57 quilts to St. Francis House and 20 to Glory House this summer!



Above Marcia Huffman hosts FLCW garage sale

With 2019 Bazaar funds available, Connie Nelson and Arlene Bich have led email voting so that FLCW Mission Goals could be reached. Funds were distributed as follows:

- Hispanic Ministries – \$500
- African Ministries – \$500
- Meals from the Heart – \$750
- Project Car – \$1,000
- Food to You – \$2,000
- Church on the Street – \$1,400
- Second African Ministries – \$500

Ongoing FLCW/WELCA responsibilities were also voted on and approved via email under their guidance this summer. We are grateful for Connie's and Arlene's leadership in email voting!

WELCA Monthly Board meetings will continue. The FLCW October 1 Board meeting will be held in the Friendship Room at 10 a.m. However, no WELCA Monthly General meetings are being held at this time. Circle meetings are planned on an individual basis, but September saw reluctance to meet at FLC.

With no date set for an upcoming bazaar, there will be no book, attic treasures, or other donations accepted by the church at this time. If possible, please store them for future possibilities.

Also, Pastor Lars will continue to lead the "Gather" Bible Study for leaders the second Thursday of the month in the Gathering Room. It will be recorded and then made available on the FLC website.

Please note the 2020 FLCW Bazaar Statement in the September First Word. We will continue to search out ways to further the mission projects of FLCW with bakery, coffee, card sales, and quilt/hand craft projects. We are grateful for all of you who have helped us in our mission efforts. Thanks for your support and encouragement. Please continue to join us in all that we can do in Christian Service. We need more women of First Lutheran Church to join us.

Explosion in Beirut Sparks Need at FLC

By Marcia Hoffman

Most of you have read about the explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, on August 4, but perhaps you are unaware that many items donated to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) were among the items destroyed. Three of LWR's 40-foot shipping containers had been in the port for five days waiting to be cleared through customs and were destroyed by the blast. The cargo contained 22,000 quilts, 100 cartons of School Kits, 300 cartons of Personal Care Kits, and 125 cartons of Baby Care Kits. These items were being prepared for distribution to an estimated 24,550 needy men, women, and children—the value of which was estimated at \$623,000. The value of the time and love put into the projects by all of the quilters and kit-makers can not be measured.



So, how does this impact members of First Lutheran in Sioux Falls, far away from Beirut? Many donations, shoppers, quilters, and volunteers are needed to help replenish this loss and pay for shipment to a collection site in Minneapolis. You may say you are only one person and wonder what you can do. Remember the saying "many hands make light work"? If we as faithful Christians are willing to do our part, we can all work together to replace the items lost. Following are lists of things that can be donated to help equip Lutheran World Relief as they minister to those much less fortunate than we are.

Personal Care Kits: Dark-colored bath-size towels; regular size bars of bath soap; sturdy, large combs; metal nail clippers

Fabric Kits: Pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or polyester) and 250-300 yard spools of matching or neutral color thread; 2¼ yards are needed if your fabric is 58-62" wide, 3 yards for 42-45" fabric, 4 yards. of 34-37" wide fabric

Baby Care Kits—items should be sizes 6-24 months: Gowns or sleepers, jackets, sweaters or sweatshirts (can be hooded), receiving blankets 36-52" in size, bath-size bars of gentle soap such as Ivory

All items for the kits or cash donations may be left at the Information desk. Later this fall, helping hands will bundle and package the kits for transport to Minneapolis. Giving this worthwhile project your prayerful attention will be greatly appreciated. God has already done his part because after the debris had been cleared, volunteers found some quilts and kits that survived. The rest is up to us. Thanks be to God!

Historical Pandemics and Christianity

Information submitted by Kathy Stelzer

"Did you know that historically, the most miserable times in the world also saw the greatest miracles?"

- The plague of the 2nd century, which killed one quarter of the Roman Empire, led to the spread of Christianity as followers cared for the sick.
- During the 3rd century, the Plague of Cyprian, an Ebola-like illness, triggered explosive growth of Christianity.
- In the 4th century during a horrible plague, historian Pontianus recounts how Christians ensured that good was done to all men, not merely to the household of faith, after which scores of people came to faith.
- In 1527, Martin Luther, who had developed a great following, refused to flee Wittenberg, Germany, as the bubonic plague took men, women, and children from nearly every family. Rather, he stayed and ministered to the sick, losing his daughter in the process. Following this frightening time of great loss, the Protestant Reformation grew like never before despite hardships and struggles.
- The 1889-1890 Asiatic (or Russian) flu pandemic killed approximately 1 million people worldwide. On the heels of sadness and grieving, there was another unstoppable outbreak: a global revival. From East to West Asia, to Europe, Africa, the Americas, so many came to faith that bars went bankrupt and judges had nothing to judge. God's revival covered the globe."

Let's pray God uses the current pandemic to draw many people to faith in Him and comforts so many who have lost loved ones and friends.

Source: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-lessons-church-history/>

Shared by CRU friend, Conda De Vries

MEDIA MINISTRY



Meet the Broadcast Crew

By Jodi Hoyt, Communications Director



In the September First Word, I shared some background info on media ministry at First Lutheran. What many may not know is that a media crew works during worship each Sunday to make our media ministry on radio, television, and YouTube possible.

Let's meet a few of these people!

Dave Sonnichsen



How long have you been serving on media ministry? I began working with media at First Lutheran in the late 1970s. At that time, the broadcasting involved only transmission of a radio service. I was a radio announcer and also operated the sound control mixing board. I

also served on the FLC media board from 2014 to 2017. During that time, I served as secretary and president of the board.

What role(s) do you fill on the team? Currently, I enjoy serving as a camera operator.

Why do you serve in media ministry? What do you like about it? I feel it is important that our church service be offered via radio and television to the public sector of the tri-state area.

Morgan Mendelson



How long have you been serving on media ministry? I have been serving on the media ministry team for about four years. Previously, I served on the media board for four years.

What role(s) do you fill on the team? I operate the control room audio board upstairs.

Why do you serve in media ministry? What do you like about it? I enjoy giving back for all the things FLC has given me and my family.

Jon Martin

How long have you been serving on media ministry?



I have been involved in media ministry for about three years.

What role(s) do you fill on the team? I run sound (upstairs) for the broadcast and camera.

Why do you serve in media ministry? What do you like about it? I like being involved with media ministry because it is an easy way

for us to take the message outside the walls to people who are not able to join in person.

Interested in learning more?

New crew members are always welcome! Contrary to popular belief, you do not need to be a "techy" person to assist with media ministry. Full training is provided. I like to say, "If you can use a cell phone or computer, you can serve on the media team!" I would especially encourage more women to get involved behind the scenes. We currently have just one female on our team, Kathy Hein, who serves as a technical director.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact Jodi at jhoyt@flcsf.org or 339-1983 ext. 231.



“Blocking and Tackling” the Spread of the Coronavirus at FLC

By Pastor Katherine Olson

A few weeks ago, I recorded a video for First Lutheran’s social media channels and donned the first sports jersey of my life! Yes, I may not know much about “sports ball,” but I wanted to share the principles of “Blocking and Tackling” as they relate to mitigating the spread of the coronavirus in our community of First Lutheran Church.

I first learned about the concept of Blocking and Tackling from Dr. Wendell Hoffman, an infectious disease specialist at Sanford. Dr. Hoffman has been advising First Lutheran’s COVID task force, along with a number of faith communities in our area as we look to best practices for gathering together during this challenging time.

When we gather together in the building at First Lutheran, especially in times of worship, we will utilize the principles of Blocking and Tackling to keep everyone safe. When we talk about Blocking, that means we are utilizing the principles of social distancing and mask wearing to block any potential spread of the virus. We are blocking the virus from entering the play, so to speak. Tackling means that we engage in hand hygiene and environmental cleaning so our surfaces and the surface of our hands remain clean and clear. We are taking any virus that might be present out of play through these methods of Tackling.

I know wearing a mask throughout the duration of worship and also maintaining 6 feet of separation between worshippers might seem like overkill to some. But Dr. Hoffman has advised our task force that Blocking is the most important of these two strategies because the primary mechanism of transmission exists in the droplets we transmit while breathing and talking. You also know that for now, corporate singing in our worship services has been put on hold, and speaking in unison is kept to a minimum. These are two extra measures we’ve taken in our building, for now—to make sure we are blocking this virus and keeping all of our worshippers safe.

Blocking and Tackling are not perfect strategies for preventing the spread of the coronavirus, but they are proven strategies that prevent the virus from “moving down the field,” so to speak.

I hope knowing that First Lutheran is committed to the principles of Blocking and Tackling will give you peace of mind as you consider attending one of our indoor worship services or fellowship opportunities. It is good for us to find a safe way to gather together in a time such as this. And we know that some of you will continue to worship by broadcast for the time being until the field becomes even safer. Either way, we understand. Stay safe, and “Play Ball!”

Grieving with Grace: Fall Social Gathering

Saturday, October 3, 10-11 a.m.

Our grief group will once again meet at the Laurel Oak Park picnic shelter on Saturday, October 3, for informal conversation and prayer with Pastor Katherine and others grieving the loss of a loved one. Newcomers are always welcome! We’ll provide some special donuts (pumpkin spice, anyone?)—please supply your own beverage! Dress for the weather, as it may be chilly outside. Masks may be worn but are not required at this outdoor gathering. Laurel Oak Park is located at 3301 East 49th Street, near John Harris Elementary School. The picnic shelter is located directly next to the parking lot near the playground structures.

Questions? Contact Pastor Katherine Olson at kolson@flcsf.org or (605) 339-1983 ext. 214. We would also LOVE to send you a free copy of our grief book, whether or not you attend a meeting or social event - just contact Pastor Katherine.

Save the Date

Holiday Grief Event—Saturday, November 14
10-11 a.m., First Lutheran Sanctuary
Candle Lighting and Remembrance with David and Margaret Houck. More details in November.

Walking/Running Journey to the Cure

By John Hegg

It is not too late to register for the next three-month walking/running session running October 1 through December 31. There is some optimism that a COVID vaccine might be in place by the first of the New Year. Every day that we walk or run starting October 1, we can live with the hope and daily prayer that we are one step closer to a cure. We will identify this 12th session as the Walking/Running Journey to the Cure. Please consider joining First Lutheran members on this journey.

A bicycle option will also be added to this particular journey. Riding a bicycle outside in some of the winter months can be a challenge, but an exercycle is also acceptable. One just needs to send in the total miles at the end of each month.

Pedometers are available if needed. Registration for this session is required by email or phone with name, email address, and phone number to: johnhegg@sio.midco.net or 339-2582.

Coping Through the Pandemic: Care and Health Board Members Share Their Advice

We asked members of First Lutheran’s Care and Health Board: “What are some of your best coping strategies for staying physically, mentally, and spiritually healthy in the midst of 2020’s challenges?” Here are some of their responses. May God bless us all with strength and hope as we live through this challenging time in our world.

Dr. Verdayne “Barney” Brandenburg



“How are you going to navigate the COVID pandemic?” That question permeates the minds and conversation of many these days.

Some responses include “I’ll either be a hunk, a chunk, or a drunk.” I believe that means one may either cope through exercise, snacking on comfort food, or using alcohol to excess. There are obviously good and bad ways to compensate for the isolation and anxiety we are all feeling. There may be some additional good options to consider. Make sure to stimulate your brain every day (don’t be a “flunky”). Unilever reports there has been a drastic decrease in purchase of deodorant and soaps during the pandemic. Remember that personal hygiene is important daily even if you don’t see another person (don’t be a “skunk”). And maybe that will encourage a social encounter (appropriately distant of course), which helps everyone’s spirit. And always remember, we are never truly alone as we have God’s promise and the faith and hope in Jesus Christ.”

Marilyn Van Demark



“One of the ways I am maintaining my physical, mental, and spiritual health is I am spending more time outside. I have found myself at

home throughout the COVID pandemic because of my uncertainty of venturing into public places. We have eaten more meals outside on the deck than any other summer. Just being there, I have appreciated God’s hand in nature in so many ways. My flowers, the wrens singing, the trees, and the fresh air all bring me back to being thankful for the simple things in life. Also, Bob and I have started taking walks together, which has been a great time to visit and exercise. I would encourage spending more time outside to appreciate God’s blessings.”

Cheryl Satterlee



“COVID has made the last few months quite challenging. To help me during these quiet days, I have started new hobbies, gardening, and spending time

on the phone catching up with friends near and far. The best medicine for me, however, is exercise. I am not

attending classes at the gym yet, so I am outside everyday either biking or walking. Daily devotions have been more helpful now than ever. Despite what is happening in the world, the Lord is always present.”

Pastor Katherine Olson



“I have chosen to mostly abstain from alcohol. At the beginning of the pandemic, I took to drinking a glass of wine (or two) every night

to help deal with the stress of all that was happening. After several weeks of this repetitive behavior, I noticed that my new ‘coping mechanism’ was doing more harm than good and leading to other poor choices at night, which contributed to a decline in healthy habits. In May I decided to cut the nightly glass of wine and have felt better as a result.”

Cindy Forsburg



“For whatever reason, I have found myself dealing with repeated bouts of insomnia. When I finally decided I was

tired of this (ha ha), I developed better “sleep hygiene.” My bedtime routine includes prayer, lavender oil, sleep sounds, and light reading in books that I save only for bedtime. Or I listen to the Pray as You Go app, podcasts such as Joyce Meyers or Get Sleepy, or LibriVox recordings. Sleep meditation or hypnosis audios seem to help as well. Maybe some journaling and SleepyTime tea if I wake up. I remind myself sleep is healthy, but not to worry about it.”

Jean Eidness



“During this prolonged pandemic, many of us have had time on our hands that we didn’t have before. Some took on

chores around the home—cleaning cupboards, closets, the garage—doing puzzles, reading books. I was bad at all of these! But, I did find a wonderful way of using the new gift of time. I made calls all around the country to friends and acquaintances from years gone by. We had wonderful, long conversations reconnecting. Knee replacements in March and July slowed down my usual walking regimen, but soon getting out for those daily walks in the sunshine and breezes were a wonderful pick-me-up. Now daily exercise classes are back on the calendar with the energy they impart. No time to be bored there! A great blessing of this time has been the Phone Buddy program, which connected me with a wonderful lady who was caring for a critically ill husband while coping with the stresses of the virus. Our 2-3 time weekly calls were a time of sharing and appreciated by both of us.”

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Survey Says...

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Director



"We asked 100 people. The top 4 answers are on the board—What is the best way for my children to learn about Jesus?" Any Family Feud fans out there? Always a fun game to play. Sometimes the answers make perfect sense, and sometimes you're left wondering.

A survey can be fun, and it can also be helpful, especially when trying to plan during a pandemic. Last month we reached out to our young families and asked them a few questions about their comfort level with school, worship, and Scripture First. It was interesting and fun to get the responses back. It's extremely difficult to imagine what everyone is thinking these days. When it comes to deciding if we want to be in person or online, it seems most of us are caught in the middle somewhere. And...

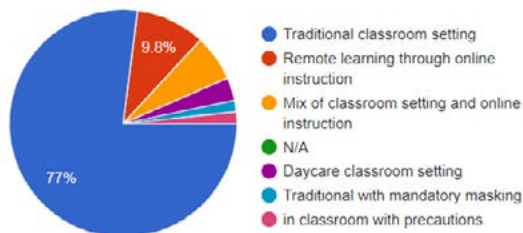
what if the pandemic gets worse (praying that doesn't happen). So many questions!

Well, we move forward with a lot of preparation and prayer. We're so excited to try something new—a separate education hour—wow! A time for families to learn together and worship together. AWESOME! It will be different, exciting, and a little bit uncertain, but these are words we're using a lot these days.

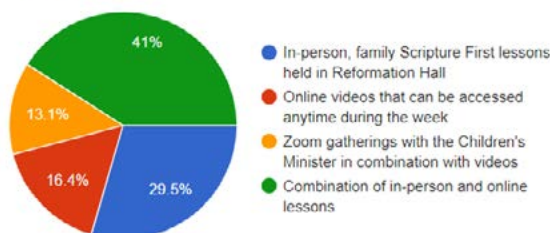
But if your comfort zone isn't quite ready for all that, we're working on options for at-home learning too.

Take a look at some of the interesting results. Oh...and the best way for our children to learn about Jesus? Martin Luther says, "Father and Mother are apostles, bishops and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel." And of course, worship, Christian education, and Christian community are here to help!

What is your child's planned method of learning for their upcoming school year?
61 responses



Which option for Scripture First would best fit your family's comfort level and needs this fall?
61 responses



"Father and Mother are apostles, bishops and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the gospel."

— Martin Luther

Scripture First and Children's Minister Meet and Greet, October 4

- Join us on Sunday, October 4, 10:10-10:40 a.m., to welcome and meet our new Children's Minister, Valerie Pherson!
- Questions about Family Scripture First? Come ask them at the Meet and Greet.
- Please RSVP — text 97000



Confirmation begins October 7 Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

In person or on Zoom

- Register for Confirmation at flcsf.org/youth or through the Church Center app.
- Bring your confirmation notebook and Bible.
- Masks required.



Family Scripture First Begins October 11! Sunday mornings, 10:10- 10:40, in Reformation Hall

- Families with children in K-5th grade (plus older or younger children) are invited to register for Family Scripture First. Each family will sit at their own table; masks are required (children age 5 and under are encouraged to wear a mask). Teaching, crafts, and activities will be based on scripture for that day.
- Registration: Visit flcsf.org/youth and register so we can plan for social distancing and activities. You may also register through the Church Center app. There is plenty of room! If Reformation Hall fills up, we will have an additional offering in Fellowship Hall.
- Bring your Bibles!
- Attend worship as a family at 9 a.m. or 11 a.m.

Please Note:

- The Nursery is still closed; babies are encouraged to be a part of Family Scripture First.
- There is no traditional/classroom Scripture First this year and no Wednesday nights for now.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP MINISTRY



Meet Pete and Jenn Hoelsing

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?

About two years ago.

Tell us about your family and musical background.

Jenn and I met on campus at Luther College. We played in Luther's jazz band together and toured with several ensembles. We were both studying music there and went on to graduate programs at the Florida State University College of Music. Our family life now is as full of music as it ever was for our parents and



grandparents. Jenn's family is especially musical. Her father is a tremendous pianist; her grandfather sang, played saxophone, and even tap-danced; and her great grandmother was a fine pianist. Our boys both take piano lessons now, and we love making music together at home.

How long have you served as a cantor at First Lutheran Church? Why did you get involved in this ministry?

We just started this summer! We missed being in church and singing with the congregation, but we knew we could find other ways to participate.

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

I enjoy the challenge of reading new

service music and finding new hymns, different settings, or things I haven't sung in a long time. We've both been serving in music ministries our whole lives, so it's good to call up those skills in a little bit different time and context.

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

Jenn's favorite hymn tune is Forest Green, regardless of text (though she's got her seasonal favorites there, too). Mine is probably Caithness or Schmucke dich, but a good Wachtet auf or Lobe den Herren works any day. We both really like liturgical synchronicities. When a ministry team really thinks carefully through how the hymn texts and service music connect with the rest of the liturgy, that's so special. When those alignments just happen organically, that's no less special. It's often tough to tell the difference!

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

There's obviously a balance we have to strike between grace and complacency, and that's nowhere more true than when

you really foul something up that posed little or no trouble in rehearsal. When it's really just you—no congregation—that feeling gets sort of concentrated. The challenge and the reward are the same: it's all about bearing in the front of our consciousness that everything we're doing, we do for the glory of God and in thanksgiving for all God's blessings. That helps keep ego and perfectionism in check.

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

This is a new chapter for us, and it's a strange one because we both love First Lutheran's commitment to congregational singing. We really like being part of that from the pews, and we sure miss the communal nature of it. Being able to serve as proxies for that experience, and enjoying the privilege of doing that together—well, it's not the same, but it is rewarding. We like the thought that it helps people at home or in the pews connect. We love that the church still prints the notes in the bulletin, and we hope those at home are finding those PDFs and singing along, too!

MEDIA MINISTRY



Thank You August 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. worship service is broadcast on KELO-FM, 101.9.

August 2: Closed captioning on KSFY was sponsored by David Dahle in loving memory of his mother, Mitzi Dahle. The YouTube stream was sponsored by Stan and Norma Schmidt in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

August 9: Radio and television broadcasts were sponsored in remembrance of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their daughters—Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah.

August 16: Radio was sponsored in loving memory of Arlen, Bea, and Chuck Osthus by their family. Closed captioning was sponsored in memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation. The telecast was partially sponsored in loving memory of Robert and Ione

Quigley by their children—Dianne, Sharon, Thomas, Patricia, Laura, and Terri. YouTube was sponsored in loving memory of Gerry, and in honor of Gerry and Karen Schneider's wedding anniversary, which would have been today. Gerry and Karen were married in First Lutheran on August 16, 1980.

August 23: Radio was sponsored by Steve Johnson in loving memory of his wife, Julie Johnson, and his mother, Ruth Johnson.

Television was sponsored by earnings of the Griffin Endowment for Media Ministry, through the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

August 30: Television was sponsored by James and Carol Faulstich in memory of their parents, Elmer and Christine Faulstich and Leonard and Lucille Storm.

Media Sponsorships available

Please consider sponsoring a radio broadcast (\$155), TV telecast (\$1300), closed captioning (\$150), or YouTube stream (\$75). To sponsor in honor or remembrance of loved one, or to celebrate a life event, call us at (605) 336-3734.

October 4: Sponsors are needed for radio, television, closed captioning and the YouTube stream.

October 11: Television, closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors needed.

October 18: Closed captioning, and YouTube sponsors needed.

October 25: Radio closed caption, and YouTube stream sponsors needed.

November 1: Sponsors needed for closed captioning and YouTube.

November 8: Television, and YouTube sponsors needed

November 15: Sponsors needed for closed captioning and YouTube.

November 22: YouTube sponsor needed.

November 26 (Thanksgiving): YouTube sponsor needed.

November 29: Sponsors needed for radio, television, closed captioning and the YouTube stream.

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

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

There is good news to share about the capital campaign. As First Word goes to print, the HVAC loan has a remaining balance of \$664,824. Knowing that money continues

to come in for repayment of the HVAC loan each month is a blessing indeed from God. I am reminded of the following Bible verse when I think of these continuing gifts: "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above. Coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." —James 1:17 NSRV



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



Weddings:

Aug. 15 Michael Gray and Lindsey Olson

Baptisms:

Aug. 9 Oliver VanRuler, son of Jason and Jodi VanRuler

Aug. 9 Isla VanRuler, daughter of Jason and Jodi VanRuler

Aug. 9 Finn VanRuler, daughter of Jason and Jodi VanRuler

Aug. 29 Crosby Steffke-Linn, son of Shannon Steffke and Jason Linn

Aug. 29 Aiden Hatheway, son of Ann and Tyler Hatheway

Aug. 29 Aspen Hatheway, daughter of Ann and Tyler Hatheway

Deaths:

Aug. 3 Gene Linton

Aug. 4 Norma Hofer

Aug. 5 Ed Mansfield

Aug. 22 Harry Overholtzer Jr.

Aug. 28 Tommye Kay Mueller

Aug. 29 Ione Pereboom

Please 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.

Council Highlights

If church members wish to add to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Marilyn McNeill, Business Administrator, at 339-1983 ext. 236 or mmcneill@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. First Lutheran Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

August 27, 2020

- Financials are strong given the COVID situation
- Work being done on policies regarding funerals and weddings, etc.
- Pastor Lars thanked First Lutheran Church for his sabbatical. It was a wonderful gift of time.
- Lifted up the staff on how wonderful they have handled the variety and changing situation. They are amazing and have handled things exceptionally well. We are very thankful for the staff.
- Re-opening task force:
 - Discussion around plans if there is a big outbreak. We will be following CDC guidelines.
 - Questions asked and discussed about what the response has been on FLC's return to in-person activities.
 - Outreach partners have started reaching out as they are wanting to start back up (e.g. Necessities for Neighbors, Night Watch).
- HVAC system for air cleaning has been installed in sanctuary and atrium
- Youth and Family - Valerie has accepted the position and will be starting September 15.
- Ginger Miller has accepted the position of Director of Administration starting September 1, 2020.
- Kent Wilson has started as Facilities Manager replacing Dave Wilson

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](https://twitter.com/FirstLutheranSF)
 [@firstlutheransf](https://www.instagram.com/firstlutheransf)

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



August Gifts and Memorials

Gift to Caring Ministry in memory of:
Gene Linton: Elizabeth Wood

Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage Capital Campaign in memory of:
Lois Boyce: Murray & Helen Rowe
Ed Mansfield: Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Paul & Kyle Mansfield

Gifts to God's Grace Our Heritage, Paraments, in memory of:
Norma Hofer: Family & Friends, Jean Hoff, Robert & Sandra Honken

Jane Nelson: Lavonne Wolf
Roger Wolff: Jean Hoff

Gifts to Music Ministry, Hand Bells in memory of:
Norma Hofer: Mary Osthus

Gifts to Music Ministry, Lankford Art Series, in memory of:
Gary Olson: Doris Bushard

Gifts to Luther House of Study in memory of:
Gary Olson: Janet Lyso

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:
Dorothy Austad: FLC Women
Rhonda Benjamin: FLC Women

Jan Boettcher: FLC Women
Lois Boyce: FLC Women
Pr. Oliver Carlson: Howard & Arlene Bich, Mary Eich

Darlene Colwill: FLC Women
Eleanor Emmel: FLC Women

Barb Entringer: Joe & Janet Barron, Phyllis Day, FLC Women

Bob Gednalske: Mary Eich, Jim & Sandra Fink, Roger & Bev Lamp

Gladys Halstenson: FLC Women, Lottie Rollag

Esther Hanson: FLC Women

Norma Hofer: Linda Anderson, Lyle and Nancy Benson, Charles & Judy Berdahl, Elaine Berg, Howard & Arlene Bich, Lori and Brian Blackwell, George & Faye Boom, Will & Sue Bowne, Grant & Mary Bubbrud, Lisa Burnick, Pr. Jim & Dorothy Christopherson, Jim & DeAnn Clark, Thomas Coughlin, Arden and Marilyn Dewald, Eloise Elmen, Family & Friends, Herman & Jeanette Fink, Jim & Sandy Fink, Margaret Fink, Becky and Jesse Freeberg, Betty Gednalske, Leonard Gebhart, Gary Goldade, Russell & Carol Greenfield, Tom & Jean Hajek, James Hall, Frank & Joan Hansen, Lester & Anna Hanson, Dave & Judy Hauck, Jon and Kim Heck, Peter & Marilyn Hegg, Orville Hill, Cody and Jen Hoefert, Arlene Hoek, Allen and Ella Mae Hofer, Mary Ann Hohman, Sandy Holleman, Johanna Iken, Warren & Marilyn Jackson, Charles & Coral Joffer, Don Johnson, Mark & Leslie Johnson, Stephen Johnson, Kevin & Carmen Kasne, Russell & Deloris Knudson, Wayne & Kathy Kurtenbach, Roger & Bev Lamp, David & Sharon Lapka, Larry & Carol Leonard, Cheryl and Kim Lewis, Karen Lidel, Mitch & Sharon Magnus, Barb Matson, Marilyn McLeod, Anita Mehaffey, Joe Minert, Bruce & Kelly Moothart, David & Linda Munson, Pat Nelson, Rick & Michele Nester, Tracy & Terri Nolder, Myron Nohava, Mike Olsen, Terry Olson, John and Phyllis Palmquist, Ione Pereboom, Ray and Jeanine

Peterson, Ray & Rose Ramstad, Dr. Eugene & Carol Regier, Roger & Donna Schiager, Reed Scott, Roger Scott, Garry & Gloria Scott, William & Alda Severson, William & Beverly Simpson, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Bill and Bev Simpson, Carl & Marietta Soukup, Kathy Stelzer, Gillas & Granet Stern, Curt & Mary Strande, Kyle Strande, Arlyn & Jeanine Thomas, Pat and Pam Tiefenthaler, Denny & Maxine Tunell, Doug & Carol Uthe, Paul & Karen Van Bockern, Jim and Kathy Wahle, Robert & Teresa Walker, Bruce & Kristi Wallin, Hazel Wek, Ruth Werner, Rita Wiese, Steve & Tara Wilber, Bill and Bonnie Zink

Madeline Houghton: FLC Women

Leona Broese Johnson: FLC Women

Gene Linton: Jim & Sandy Fink, Frank & Joan Hansen, Robert & Karen Hemre, Leland & Marilyn Hult, Roger & Bev Lamp, Karen Lidel, Barb Matson, Tracie Osthus, Ione Pereboom, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Stanley & Norma Schmidt, Doug & Carol Uthe, Roger & Virginia Walline, Darrel & Karen Westerman

Ed Mansfield: Elaine Berg, Howard & Arlene Bich, James & Sandra Brewer, Lillian Carlson, Sandi & Susan Chocholousek, Stanley Chocholousek, Jim & DeAnn Clark, James Connor, Kathryn Day, Gretchen Day-Bryant, Jean Edman, Family of Wendell and Joanne Elliott, Jim & Sandy Fink, Rev. D.E. & Alta Gaarder, Jay & Tammi Gunderson, Frank & Joan Hansen, Willis & Phyllis Hanson, Jeff & Sarah Herbert, Orville Hill, Leland & Marilyn Hult, Roger & Bev Lamp, Carol Lerdal, Barb Matson, Marilyn Maurstad, David & Lori Melemseter, Dawn Meyer, Elaine Moore, Milton Mutch, Bill & Nancy Olson, Tracie Osthus, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Lois Jean Peterson, Dorothy Peterson, Pr. Franklin Pudas, Mike & Gloria Simpson, Doug & Carol Uthe, Bob & Marilyn Van Demark Jr., Dave & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Arden & Linda Waag, Julaine Walker, Hazel Wek, Ruth Werner, Donna Willadsen

Gary Olson: Avis Bergh, Phyllis Day, Don & Judy Erickson, James & Sandy Fink, Guy & Kristi Gullickson, Orville Hill, Mary Ann Hohman, Karen Lidel, Dorothy Mikkelsen, Carl & Janet Naessig, Martin & Mary Oyos, Irene Rezac, Michael & Lois Rocklage, Barbara Sampson, Kathy Stelzer, Steve & Shannon Van Buskirk, Bob & Marilyn Van Demark Jr.

Alice Luella Pedersen: LeRoy & Janet Halstenson

Donna Ross: FLC Women

Arlene Schulenburg: FLC Women

Julie Simko: FLC Women

M. Bennett Stenberg: Bill & Dee Brierher, Mary Ann Hohman

Ellen Tabbert: Leroy & Janet Halstenson

Gifts to Necessities for Neighbors in memory of:
Dean Hopper: Lottie Rollag

Gifts to Music Ministry in memory of:

Pr. Oliver Carlson: Bob & Marilyn Van Demark Jr.

Norma Hofer: Stanley & Norma Schmidt

Gifts to the Music Ministry, Organ Fund, in memory of:
Esther Hansen: Phyllis Day, Sandy Fahlberg

Gifts to FLC Quilters in memory of:
Norma Hofer: Orrin & Karen Anderson, Linda Anderson, Bob & Carolyn Bauman, Lyle & Nancy Benson, Brian & Lori Blackwell, Will and Sue Bowne, Ernie & Cynthia Brawner, Grant and Mary Bubbrud, Lisa Burnick, Lillian Carlson, Thomas Coughlin, Phyllis Day, Arden & Marilyn Dewald, Lyle & Jean Eidsness, Orin Fink, Margaret Fink, Jesse & Becky Freeberg, Leonard Gebhart, Gary Goldade, Grant & Mary Gubbrud, Joanne Hagen, Tom and Jean Hajek, Linda Hall, Dave and Judy Hauck, Jon & Kim Heck, Jeff & Sarah Herbert, Allen & Ella Mae Hofer, Cody & Jen Hoefert, Don Johnson, Kevin and Carmen Kasner, Dennis & Jane King, Russell and Deloris Knudson, Wayne and Kathy Kurtenbach, Dave and Sharon Lapka, Larry and Carol Leonard, Kim & Cheryl Lewis, Mitch and Sharon Magnus, Dorothy Mikkelsen, Scott & Mary Clare Miller, Joe Minert, Kelly and Bruce Moothart, Carl & Janet Naessig, Patricia Nelson, Rick and Michele Nester, Mary Nicolai, Myron Nohava, Terri and Tracy Nolder, Mike Olsen, Terry Olson, Bill & Nancy Olson, Tracie Osthus, John & Phyllis Palmquist, Howard & Lou Ann Paulson, Ray & Jeanine Peterson, Dieter & Betty Proehl, Dr. Franklin Pudas, Gregory & Carol Puerkel, Ray and Rose Ramstad, Dr. Eugene & Carol Regier, Amy Rider, Fred & Ardyne Rittershaus, Bill & Bev Simpson, Reed Scott, Gillas & Granet Stern, Curt and Mary Strande, Kyle Strande, Ronald & Verla Thompson, Pat & Pam Tiefenthaler, Dave & Judy Van Veldhuizen, Jim & Kathy Wahle, Rita Wiese, Steve and Tara Wilber, Sharyl Wolf, Elizabeth Wood, Judith Woodbridge, Amy Yuen, Bill & Bonnie Zink

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Michael Paulson Vice President
Randy Eide Treasurer
Suzie Hernes Secretary
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Michael Kedik Member-at-Large
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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

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(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
(236) Marilyn McNeill Business Administrator
(211) Jody Byers Finance Administrator
(202) Donna Jahr Secretary to the Pastors
(225) Kristy Zuraff* Admin/PM Receptionist
(201) Cleo Sorensen* AM Receptionist/Secretary

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,
FLYGHY 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* Handbell 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

Financial Update August 2020

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$1,390,471
2020 Actual \$1,395,120
2019 Actual \$1,286,824

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2020 Budget \$1,456,381
2020 Actual \$1,356,029
2019 Actual \$1,396,880

YTD Net Profit/Loss \$39,091

Contract For Deed, Ideal . . \$160,673

HVAC System (as of Aug. 31) . . \$672,224

Worship Attendance

2019 - 2,265

2020 - 762

EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRY



Let us hope in Christ!

By Jeff Backer, Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Outreach



A common question that I have heard, especially in these last few weeks is, "Where does our hope lie?"

Whether we are talking about things like the divisiveness in our country, when we will finally be passed the pandemic, when a safe vaccine will be realistically in our future,

the continued health challenges that seem to just keep coming, the stress of financial strain after the economic downturn, the continued political wrangling for a stimulus deal that will help those most vulnerable, loss of jobs as the national unemployment rate stands at 8.4%.

We cannot hardly turn on the television anymore without having hopelessness reinforced. As I am writing this, we have just surpassed the 100th night of protests and riots in Portland with seemingly no end in sight. The political rhetoric is spreading like wildfire as the election draws near. California is enduring the biggest wildfire in recorded history, and more than 70 wildfires are burning across western states. Schools are scrambling as infection rates are accelerating not so much in students, but teachers and administrative staff. Isolation, loneliness, depression, loss...it is all just...overwhelming; and ultimately things seem hopeless.

And yet, a light shines through...a story.

I shared about a situation in one of my sermons in August. Through these past seven months, I have been witness to a wide perspective in our congregation. Many of our families and individuals were able to absorb the social distancing time fairly easily. Many parents began to work from home, taking on the role of educator, co-teaching with online teaching options. These families had resources to still do some trips to creatively social distance, or they took on remodeling projects to update some things they had put off until they had time. The vast majority of our congregation falls into this category.

Another part of our congregation falls into the category of vulnerable. Loss of jobs, reduced income, not being able to stay home if there was work to be had. Relying on neighbors to help watch children. Struggling to have time or energy to help with their children's education.

And then there were those who lost jobs entirely and woke each day to meeting the struggle of keeping food on the table or a roof over their heads. These people

depended on relief from organizations like CoronaHelp Sioux Falls, Food-to-You Mobile Food Pantry, Necessities for Neighbors, and various other ways to get by. I had met regularly with one woman who had lost her job when Covid came, and each month was scraping by. She reached out to me the first week of August with such relief because she had been notified that she would have a job again starting at the end of August. For the first time in months, I heard a sense of hope in her voice.

But here is where I was taken aback. A few days after I gave that sermon, a member of our congregation that surely falls into the first category reached out to me and said that they could not get the plight of this woman I had spoken about out of their mind, and because they did have the means, they wanted to provide a hand "up" for this woman. They knew that while she had barely scraped by, this meant that she was needing to ignore some things to focus on the necessary things for the time being. And so they sent a check to help her. The tears that flowed from her eyes, the hope she could know, was amazing.

Now, the point I am trying to make in all of this is this, in Romans chapter 13, verses 9 and 10, St. Paul tells us that the fulfillment of God's law is summed up in this, "Love your neighbor as yourself." When we put our hope in Christ, and in the way that Christ tells us to live our lives, that is in service to each other, this is where our hope is found. Because if we put our hope in things like government, banks, and 401Ks and the like, as we have seen in these last several months, they can be stripped away very quickly. But through relationships and community, the work of the Holy Spirit does what it needs to do. This is the benefit of belonging to a congregation, that in times of struggle, or in times of prosperity, we can walk through life together. I feel that this understanding is slipping away in so many ways; and I pray for the Holy Spirit to well up this sense of community again amongst us.

A favorite hymn that I am reminded of comes from the ELW, #597, "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less."

The opening stanza reads, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness." May your hope always be found in Christ Jesus and in the promises found in Him.

Thanks be to God!



October Special Offering: Lowell Elementary School

By Colleen Kokenge, Evangelism and Outreach Board Chair



October Special Offering First Lutheran Church partners with Lowell Elementary School through a ministry team under the Evangelism and Outreach Board. Sarah Herbert leads this ministry team and meets regularly with Diane Kennedy, the principal at Lowell

Elementary. Through this relationship, First Lutheran provides many types of support such as reading buddies, mentoring, first Thursday Movies (which start in the fall), and others types of serving as needed. In addition, First Lutheran provides financial support to Lowell Elementary through a budgeted amount in the Evangelism and Outreach Board and a special offering envelope for the month of October.

Many schools learn of families struggling with not having money to buy a prescription or having a car break down with no money to cover repair costs. These are just a couple of needs identified for families who make just enough to cover their basic needs such as housing, groceries, and utilities but have nothing left over.

Sarah Herbert and Diane Kennedy met to discuss a new ministry opportunity for the budgeted funds and money received through special offering envelopes. For the school year of 2019-20 and again for the school year of 2020-21, the Family Crisis Fund was established at Lowell Elementary to assist those families in need on an emergent basis. The decision on how to apply these funds is up to the discretion of the principal. This type of program is in force at another elementary school in Sioux Falls and is beneficial to those families in need of emergency funds. In addition, this program continued when the school closed in March due to the virus when other programs could not. Thank you for your continued support for ministries under the Evangelism and Outreach Board, and please let us know if you are interested in serving as needs arise.

Please consider supporting this unique ministry with your offering and by lifting them up through prayer. Your gift can be included in your special offering envelope that is included with your regular offering envelope, or you may write Special Offering for Lowell Elementary on your check and mail to First Lutheran. You may also donate online by visiting flcsf.org/give. Thank you for your continued partnership in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lowell Elementary says "Thank you First Lutheran"

In August, the Care and Health Board of First Lutheran Church gave a special gift of \$2,500 to help Lowell Elementary purchase masks, warm clothing, and hygiene kits for students in need. This money had been originally set aside for the Delta Dental Bus, but the program slated to be held at First Lutheran in June 2020 was canceled. Therefore, the board looked for another way to generously steward these funds that had been budgeted by the church to benefit the health and wellbeing of children in our community. This gift was received with thanks from Diane Kennedy, the principal of Lowell Elementary. We pray for continued health and safety of students in all our area schools.

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