



First Word

75 Years of News for the First Lutheran Church Community

Strong Supports

By Pastor Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



You don't need to be a structural engineer or architect to know that proper support keeps everything from falling down. Strong, stable, level support keeps homes, buildings, and bridges in

safe, working order, in much the same way that proper support of ministries keep them serving people's spiritual, relational, and physical needs. Sometimes the supporting members are decorated to be beautiful, and other times they are hidden away, but their purpose is always the same—to supply the strength and fortitude to be useful.

The challenges COVID presented us this past year and a half have been substantial, yet through all of it, there has been an unmistakable strength and support from the people of First Lutheran that has kept so much going. Much of the support has been unseen through prayer. Some have been more direct as people have shared kind words of encouragement with pastors, staff, and board members. The strength and support also came through this summer as many people responded to the need for new teams of ushers, communion servers, greeting and hospitality, as well as Scripture First, confirmation, media broadcasts, and choirs. The sight of people getting involved, giving of their time, energy, and prayer is truly a strength of First Lutheran.



Additionally, beyond time and talents, your financial support has kept all our ministries moving forward. I don't think we can overstate the importance of the steady, generous supportive dollars that you have given through this time. For example, when Lent and Easter take-home kits for families were needed because we weren't able to celebrate and learn in person, the resources were right at hand to purchase the items to send out.

It's been a crazy time of ministry, yet in this strange, fluid, flexible season where things seem to change daily, it is a joy to be able to count on the strong support of the entire congregation!

All of that is looking backward, however. As we come into October, the First Lutheran leadership begins

looking forward to next year's ministry. This year we are focusing on the joy given to us in knowing Jesus Christ as Lord, so we've titled this year's stewardship campaign "Joyfully, We Give." Please watch your mail, email, and social media for ways you can support the stewardship campaign and for more details about the opportunities below.

First, find the tree in the atrium, and add a leaf or two! Write the name of a ministry you are thankful for, one that brings you joy, and add it to the wall. Watch how the tree grows as we all add our own special leaf and come to understand the connections between our financial support and the ministries that bring you joy.

Second, return a pledge card. These can be returned by written card, or online at flcsf.org/pledge. A pledge helps you think about your giving for the upcoming year and helps the church plan for next year responsibly. The Stewardship & Giving Board has set a goal of 650 pledges for this drive, which is an increase of 10%. Remember, any amount is appreciated as the point is giving you a chance to be intentional about joyfully supporting First Lutheran.

As Jesus says in Matthew 7:18, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit." Support and giving that comes from being supported, loved, and forgiven in Jesus Christ bears the fruit of the gospel to the world. Thank you for all your support—past, present, and future—as we continue to support one another, share the good news of Jesus Christ, and trust in God to carry out the ministry of the Church.

The Road to the Reformation

An Educational Experience for All Ages

Main Atrium; Reformation Sunday, October 31

By John Christopherson, Ph.D.; Senior Pastor



In the fall of 1517, the sale of indulgences by the Dominican priest, Johann Tetzel, began to creep up against the borders of Saxony (luring Martin Luther's

fellow town-folk of Wittenberg, Germany, to cross the state lines in order to buy some "fireworks" from hell). And this is what became the "final straw" for Luther, one that broke the very back of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the sale of these fireworks (a.k.a. indulgences)—with its jingle that "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings/The soul from purgatory springs"—was sign and symbol of a heavy-handed, bureaucratic religious system that had finally gone off-the-tracks. It touched the one doctrine about which Luther was hyper-sensitive; that is, that we are "justified by God's grace" apart from any works of the law for the forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:4-9). At the heart of the matter were people being duped into believing that a purchase of indulgences meant they could "buy/pay off God" for their sins.

And for Luther this not only led to a spirit of complacency and false certainty, but even worse, made Christ's death on the cross superfluous or unnecessary (Galatians 3:1-5).

Although Luther's response to this heresy in the form of his 95 Theses (which set the Reformation into full locomotion) was not necessarily extreme...as these theological propositions/questions were intended for scholarly debate...the recent invention of the Gutenberg printing press (c. 1440) made possible their swift circulation, far and wide. And so the battle for reform—"in head and members"—began. Come Reformation Sunday, October 31, take a tour on our "Luther's Road to the Reformation" that will be on display with poster-board art and free commentary booklets (designed by Dale Jahr; text by Pr. John Christopherson)—beginning at the south end of the Main Atrium and leading into Reformation Hall. It's a Scripture First, educational experience for all ages.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



Based on the current and projected increase of COVID numbers in our community, on September 14, the Bazaar leadership team made the decision to postpone the 2021 bazaar. We hope to schedule fundraising

events, including lefse sales, prior to the holidays. We do not have dates or details at this time. No donations of books, linens, attic treasures, antiques, or crafts will be accepted at First Lutheran. Thank you for your support. We ask for prayers and ideas as we support our Bazaar mission of helping others in the world around us.

Respectfully,
Sharyl Wolf, Bazaar Chairman

Being a Welcoming Home

By Deb Nelson, Welcome and Community Board Chair



My friend Samantha has been looking for a church home in Brookings. She has visited multiple churches and multiple faiths. (In my role as Chair of the Welcome

and Community Board, I always want to talk to people about what they are looking for in a "church home.") So even though she isn't going to be a First Lutheran member, we talked about what she was looking for.

Samantha said, "Every church has their own vibe. It's not as much about the pastor as about the people sitting next to me." She had gone to one church 2-3 times, and no one greeted her other than the greeter whose job it was. In another

church, Samantha really liked the pastor, but the people sitting around her didn't talk to her or invite her to come to coffee. Yet another church where she already knew the pastor had someone sit with her and help her with all different books they had to use during the service, and she met people the first Sunday.

My challenge to you is to learn some new names and meet someone new each Sunday. Just one.

I commonly hear, "I'm afraid to introduce myself to someone new because they may have been a member for many years," I'll point us back to the opening paragraph... what if they are new and you do nothing? Please take a chance. And for those of you who might get asked if you are new to the church, please don't take offense. Someone is trying to get to know you, and that makes us a welcoming home. You could make a difference in someone's day.

Kicking it Off

By Marnie Dahle Backer, Youth and Family Director



Hooray! We're having kickoff after kickoff around this place! It is so exciting! I'm a big tennis fan, and in September they had the U.S. Open in New York City with fans—it was thrilling to hear them all cheering! It is that kind of thrilling around this place too! It is so wonderful to have people back together (albeit cautiously) at First Lutheran, sharing in the ministry together. Check out all the pictures of things that have happened so far with more to come. Join me in saying a prayer of great thanksgiving for this gift of community and prayers for safety and health for all. Let's check out these photos!



First Fridays Book Club

5–6 p.m. at R Wine Bar
Join us the First Friday each month.
We discuss a new book each month.
Visit flcsf.org/events

One step in a lifelong adventure of faith

6th Grade
Confirmation
Orientation



Stitches: Elizabeth's Touch

By Kathy Stelzer, WELCA Past President

Daily we are made aware of the many needs of people locally and around the globe. The First Lutheran congregation continues to find various ways to meet these needs. One of the more recent additions is Elizabeth Wood's little girl's sundresses.

Elizabeth says it all started when at the WELCA Spring Salad Supper, she was introduced to Phyllis Knudson, and Phyllis explained about making the pillowcase sundresses. Elizabeth shared, "If it were not for Phyllis' dedication to this project, I wouldn't have known about it at all. Her dedication has inspired me to sew the cutest sundresses possible. Each little dress can have a positive impact on the life of a little girl." The FLC



quilters have been instrumental in helping Elizabeth sew 274 sundresses thus far. The dresses are so CUTE drawing "Oohs and Ahs" from her fellow quilters over the colors, fabric combinations, and embellishments on the sundresses. The quilters have supplied sewing fabric and other notions for Elizabeth's sundresses.

Under the guidance of her mother and grandmother, Elizabeth has been sewing since she was age six, beginning on a tiny Singer sewing machine. For years, she has been sewing aprons, pet items, pillows, and many other delightful and colorful creations for the FLCW Bazaar. She is among many dedicated women who turn their skills and hobbies into something for others to enjoy and that WELCA Mission Projects can benefit from. Appropriate for all of us, one of Elizabeth's favorite Bible verses is Psalm 37:4: "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give



you the desires of your heart." Elizabeth said, "Sewing is a delight of my heart. Through this work, I am so blessed, but the blessing is passed onto others."

Recently, arrangements were made with a local mission group for Haiti, and 97 of her dresses cleared customs. After hearing the good news that the dresses made it through, there is hope that each of the dresses makes a little girl smile. Elizabeth hopes to eventually see photos of little girls in her dresses. "Once I see the dresses being worn, all of the work is worth it," Elizabeth said.

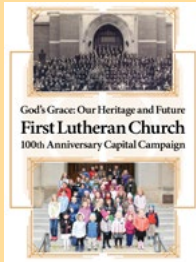
Retiring after 32 years of teaching at Patrick Henry Middle School, Elizabeth encourages others to share their gifts for Christ. She says, "Everyone has a gift to help others; sharing the JOY of Jesus by first thinking of Jesus, second thinking of others, and, finally, thinking of yourself. Through sewing sundresses, God lets me serve Him doing something that I enjoy! It doesn't get any better than that!"

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

By Jean Hoff, Campaign Coordinator

When we started this campaign, the HVAC loan was at \$1.4 million; the balance of the loan is now \$159,018. Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow!

Meetings are scheduled throughout October, so if you would prefer to attend a meeting in the Gathering Room rather than have a home visit, below are the dates you can attend. Teams are making phone calls to set up visits as well—it is your choice to choose a home visit or a group meeting at the church.



- Monday, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 10, 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m.

August Gifts and Memorials

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in memory of:

Susan's Father: Kathy Stelzer

Gifts to the First Lutheran Church Caring Ministry/ Pastoral in memory of:

Carrie Sprout: John Christopherson

Gifts to Media Ministry in honor of:

Chuck Olson: Willis & Phyllis Hanson

Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of:

Gene Butenhoff: Joan Butenhoff

Athena Drobny: Rick & Renee Aaker

John Drobny: Jean Hoff

Mary Malik: Janet Lyso

Viola Ross: Russell & Betty Kielman, Mary Nicolai

Carrie Sprout: Gary Earl

Marian Winckler: Steve & Jane DeRoo, Patricia Duncan, Michael & Suzanne Ferrell, Barb Matson, Donna Willadsen

Gifts to Missions, Miscellaneous in memory of:

Kristy Zuraff: Greg & Maria Neely

Gifts to the Music Ministry in memory of:

Mary Malik: Shirley Bly

Youth & Family Camperships in memory of:

Kristy Zuraff: Stephen Johnson

Financial Update as of August 31, 2021

Total Revenue, year-to-date

2021 Budget	\$1,460,921
2021 Actual	\$1,344,554
2020 Actual	\$1,394,958

Total Expenses, year-to-date

2021 Budget	\$1,449,921
2021 Actual	\$1,297,658
2020 Actual	\$1,356,029

YTD Net Profit/Loss..... \$46,897

Contract For Deed, Ideal \$90,703

HVAC System \$159,018

Worship Attendance 1,787



Baptisms

August 8	Raymond F. Phocole
August 21	Jameson William Hoffman
August 28	Gracelyn Faye Goldstine
August 29	Hudson Ray Bertsch

Deaths

August 5	Marian May Winckler
August 7	Gene A. Butenhoff
August 30	Herbert Tammen

Become a Media Ministry Sponsor

Support First Lutheran in providing a weekly worship experience for those unable 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 at (605) 336-3734.

Many sponsors are still needed through 2021.

Thank You, August Sponsors

August 1: Television was sponsored in remembrance of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their family and friends. Radio was sponsored in remembrance of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their daughters—Robin, LeAnne, and Sarah. Closed Captioning was sponsored by David Dahle in memory of his mother, Mitzi Dahle.

August 8: Television was sponsored in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Don and Karen Tiede. Radio was sponsored in memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

August 15: Television was partially sponsored in memory of Robert and Ione Quigley by their children—Dianne, Sharon, Thomas, Patricia, Laura, and Terri. Radio was sponsored in memory of Arlen, Bea, and Chuck Osthus by their family.

August 22: Television was sponsored by earnings of the Griffin Endowment for Media Ministry through the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Council Highlights: August 26, 2021

If members wish to add items to an upcoming Council meeting agenda, please contact Jodi Hoyt, jhoyt@flcsf.org. Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month. Church members are welcome to visit meetings.

- Current pledge offerings are close to budget; non-pledge offerings continue to be considerably behind budget. Personnel spending is considerably below budget. Bottom line YTD is positive for the year.
- Pr. John thanked everyone for the gift of time with family the past two months.
- Pr. Lars gave staffing updates: Brett Miller (Y&F Coordinator) resigned unexpectedly and abruptly, so we're searching for a new candidate. Skylar Schwab started earlier this month as the new Youth Minister. Matt Tylutki also started this month and will serve as the new Children's and Youth Music Director.
- The HVAC loan is now \$159,018. Teams are again out making Capital Campaign visits.
- Pr. Jeff shared that the block party was a success, with approximately 500 people in attendance. We hosted our first-ever offsite VBS at Lowell in August. The day started a bit slowly with just seven kids, but by 11 a.m., we had about 45 kids. Worship in the Park was a great success. The ribbon cutting at St. Francis House was a great success, and Pr. Jeff thanked the church for that piece of our history.
- Recommendations from the COVID task force were approved: Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn inside the church campus at all times, particularly for those of all ages who are unvaccinated.

LOWELL ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP



Volunteer Opportunities

Through our partnership with Lowell Elementary, there are many opportunities for the First Lutheran congregation to get involved.

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for volunteers to help at Lowell! These folks will assist throughout the school year with a variety of projects. Help with one project, or help with them all—whatever fits your schedule and abilities. Call our volunteer contact, Sarah Herbert, at (605) 310-3054 to learn more.



SPONSOR-A-CLASSROOM

Lowell has 23 classrooms available for sponsorship. A suggested donation of \$150-200 per classroom will enable teachers to purchase necessary supplies for the year.

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October Special Offering: Augusta Victoria Hospital, Jerusalem

By Dan Lindquist, Evangelism & Outreach Board



Our special offering envelope is in support of Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in Jerusalem. Augusta Victoria Hospital is a program of the Lutheran World Federated Department for World Service (LWF).

The LWF-run Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem is a center of medical excellence, serving five million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. AVH, accredited by the Joint Commission International for its outstanding quality. It offers specialized care that is not available in other hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza, including radiation therapy for cancer patients and pediatric hemodialysis. As you can imagine, the continued COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the Palestinian population that Augusta Victoria Hospital serves. There was also a halt in coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel following the threat of Israeli annexation that decreased the hospital's ability to meet financial targets over the last fiscal year. Augusta Victoria Hospital is able to continue operating because of the support of LWF member churches and long-standing partnerships with the United States and European Union.

In mid-December 2020, Augusta Victoria Hospital was recognized by the Swiss-based International Hospital Federation (IHF) "Beyond the Call of Duty" program for the hospital's outstanding services, efforts, and

preparedness in responding to and fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, which went beyond healthcare by fulfilling the needs of its community!

Specialty departments that account for the majority of work at the hospital are: the Cancer Care Center; the Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation Care Center; the Artificial Kidney Unit (dialysis); the Surgical Care and Ear, Nose, Throat Center; the Diabetes Care Center; the Specialized Center for Child Care; and the Skilled Nursing and Long-Term (Sub-Acute) Care Facility. These care centers provide specialized treatments that are not available in the majority of hospitals in Palestine.



The hospital is also focusing much of its strategic efforts on establishing a palliative care facility as well as a care center for the elderly. This is in line with the hospital's overall strategy to establish health services

otherwise unavailable to the Palestinian community and complements the existing services at the hospital.

Prayerfully consider supporting Augusta Victoria Hospital and the vital services they provide—especially at this time when hospitals in the region are at or near capacity—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 envelopes, or you may write Special Offering for Augusta Victoria Hospital on your check and mail to First Lutheran. Visit flcsf.org/give to learn how you can donate online or download the Church Center app.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

During this Pastor Appreciation Month, we honor and give special thanks to our pastors and their families for their hard work and sacrificial dedication. We thank all of our pastors for serving and for comforting in good times and sad. Thank you and God bless you!

*Part-time staff



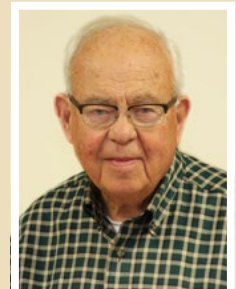
Rev. Dr. John Christopherson
Senior Pastor
Pastor for 38 years



Rev. Jeff Backer
Associate Pastor
Pastor for 4 years



Rev. Lars Olson
Executive Pastor
Pastor for 15 years



Rev. Dave Johnson
Senior Pastor Emeritus
Pastor for 61 years



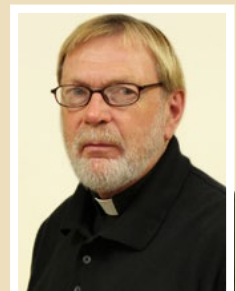
Rev. Bob Chell
Visitation Pastor*
Pastor for 42 years



Rev. David Houck
Visitation Pastor*
Pastor for 36 years



Rev. Roger Noer
Visitation Pastor*
Pastor for 51 years



Rev. Dennis Tranberg
Visitation Pastor*
Pastor for 47 years

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us." (II Corinthians 5:20) As the family of First Lutheran Church, we give God thanks and praise for our pastoral staff, who collectively, have now faithfully served as shepherds of Christ's flock for over 29 years. The Lord bless you and keep you.

Blood Drive at FLC

Sunday, October 24; 8 AM–12 PM
Sign-up today. All donations stay local.
Call Jean Eidsness, (605) 212-5167