



**DECEMBER 6**—WOMEN OF THE ELCA GENERAL MEETING at 7:00 pm  
**DECEMBER 18**—CHRISTMAS CANTATA at 9:30 am  
**DECEMBER 24**—CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm  
**DECEMBER 25**—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 10:30 am only  
**DECEMBER 26**—OFFICE CLOSED  
**JANUARY 2**—OFFICE CLOSED  
**MARCH 1**—ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP at 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm  
**APRIL 13**—MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP at 7:00 pm  
**APRIL 14**—GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP at 7:00 pm  
**APRIL 14**—PRAYER VIGIL BEGINS at 9:00 pm  
**APRIL 16**—EASTER WORSHIP at 6:30 am, 8:15 am, and 10:30 am

<b>Staff</b>		
Church Office		494-5461
Douglas Dill, Pastor		402/235-6969
pastordoug@firstlutheranssc.org		
Kerri Durant, Administrative Assistant		712/574-7946
Betty Barto, Administrative Assistant		494-3026
Chris Knudsen, Custodian		404-0626
Jennifer Durant, Nursery		712/577-1162
Jane Krogh, Organist		494-1630
Claire DeRoin, Keyboardist		712/389-7214
Eleanor Tasker, Director of Music		276-4072
<b>Church Council</b> (* Executive Council)		
*Scott Koeppe, President		494-3584
*John Koskovich, Vice-President		494-3421
*Rita Todd, Secretary		494-2968
*Sue Hunter, Treasurer		494-1758
Kathy Anders, Fellowship		274-4383
Judy Blessing, Social Ministry		255-7775
Josh Curry, Stewardship/Support		712/898-2921
Mike Gill, Youth		494-2332
Randy Grove, Property		712/203-1365
Denise Kleinberg, Christian Education		712/635-4006
Paul Knudsen, Evangelism		494-2770
Brandon Trautwein, Worship & Music		412-2135
<b>Church Coordinators For:</b>		
Altar Care:		
Lectors: Barb McLarty		494-3877
Ushers: Worship & Music Committee		
Women of the ELCA Chair: Bonnie Prosser		494-3384

# First Lutheran Church

December 2016

## ► Stuff Going On... Hopes and Dreams Abound

As I write this, I realize that I have been at First Lutheran for one month. It is hard to believe that one month has passed since you all have welcomed me and my family to First Lutheran and South Sioux City. In many ways, it seems like only last week, but in others, it seems so much longer...in a good way!

My first week we had a question and answer session, and during Advent we will have øSnacks and Chat with the Pastorö. These sessions are limited to 10 per session, with sessions at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for me to get to learn more about each of you, your hopes and dreams for First Lutheran, and your personal hopes and dreams too, if you want to share. This is also an opportunity to learn more about me and to share with others present.

Hopes and Dreams: Hope is what faith is grounded onö the hope in the promises of God in Jesus Christ. As we wait in anticipation of the birth of Christ, we look towards the future in hopes and dreams in Jesus the Christ. You most likely have heard this before from me, but when God comes on the scene, anything can happen. God is here, and now at First Lutheran, God is present and active. What are our hopes and dreams in God for First Lutheran and South Sioux?

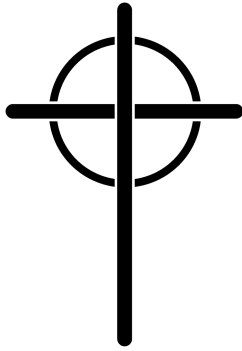
### INSIDE

- December 2016 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
- Women of the ELCA schedule
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Financial Reports

[www.firstlutheranssc.org](http://www.firstlutheranssc.org) [office@firstlutheranssc.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranssc.org)

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I have been receiving some feedback about things here at First Lutheran. As I mentioned in my last article, we always need to be asking, "Why do we do what we do and is it working?" As part of that, there have been some minor adjustments to various things. No major changes, but some adjustments. Let me list a few things that have been adjusted and some ideas that have been tossed around and may be introduced.



Confirmation has been modified to be driven by the confirmands through guided questions from myself, Pastor Chad and the mentors. Pastor Chad, who is that? That is a good question. Pastor Chad is a full-time Middle School teacher in South Sioux, but he is also the pastor at Faith Lutheran in Maskell. He has only one confirmation student and it happens to be his son. Because of that, he asked if he could be part of confirmation here. This benefits his son and the entire confirmation class.

I have given permission for the confirmation students to text me their sermon notes, so be prepared to see a phone out during service. Speaking of phones, I encourage all of you to have your phone out and post pictures and let people know where you are, and invite them to come.

As you might know, the confirmation students are acolytes. With that, you may have noticed a couple of changes to that. First, I have asked them to only carry one candle lighter and the other will carry the cross. I don't want to be serving a congregation where the acolyte or the church catches on fire. Second, you may have noticed at the second service, they no longer wear robes. I do not, so I suggested to them they did not have to either.

If you have not noticed, I like to have the kids in service. As part of that, I encourage all the children and their families to sit in the first three rows of the sanctuary. I want the future of our congregation up front, actively engaged in the worship. Noise of children can be a distraction, but the noise is not noise but LIFE! I have found that children in worship will learn how to interact appropriately in service, if given the opportunity, and if they are not bored but engaged in the service.

This year we had the congregation put ornaments up on the tree, during

*(cont. after flower page)*

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worship service. Since this has not happened yet, I hope it went/goes well. This is part of being engaged in worship, the Holy Spirit and with each other.

Before the children's program on Wednesday, December 21, there will be a dinner. Then following the children's program, we will do a Christmas sing-along. We will have some of the favorites, such as Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and others. After those, we will be encouraged to call out Christmas hymns from our hymnal and they will be played and we can all sing along.

If you have ideas for this congregation and want to lead those ideas, please come see me. If you would like to participate in leading parts of worship, come see me. If there is anything you would like to be part of, come see me.

Here is a little preview of things to come:

**First communion classes.** This will be for parents and children and will run four weeks long. More information to come.

**Adult Catechism classes.** Did you not get an opportunity to be confirmed? Did you miss out on confirmation classes? Did you forget some of what you learned in confirmation? Well, then, this class will be for you. Look for more information to come.

**New Member class.** We have had people indicate that they would like to officially become members of this congregation. We will have a one evening class about that and then install you as a member of this congregation. More information will be coming.

As we walk through Advent, looking for the birth of Jesus Christ, Lord, I ask that you send your Holy Spirit to each and every one of us. Kindle in us a flame that gets things stirring here at First Lutheran. Father, in you all things can be done, so put the inspiration to carry out our hopes and dreams, not only for First Lutheran, but the community and beyond. Give us the desire and the words to tell all that we encounter just what Jesus can be in their life, and invite them to come to First Lutheran to be in a wonderful welcoming community of believers.

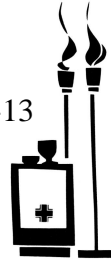
Amen

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## Worship at First Lutheran

### December 4, Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10 Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13  
Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



### December 11, Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 Second Lesson: James 5:7-10  
Psalm: 146:5-10 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

### December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16 Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7  
Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

### December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 52:7-10 Second Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-12  
Psalm: 98 Gospel: John 1:1-14



## December Flower Chart

**December 4 (Altar)** Given by Brandon Trautwein.

**December 11 (Altar)** Given by Amy Groth.

**December 18 (Altar)** Given by George, Ruth and William Weiland in memory of Edwin Toepfer, Beverly's father, whose birthday would have been today.

**December 24 (Altar)** Given by Will and Sandy Larson in honor of their grandchildren: Sophie & Breck Swanson; Addie, Laney, Max & Ella Larson.

**December 25 (Altar)** Given by Kathy and Marv Muirhead in memory of Heine & Darlene Clausen and Red & Eldora Muirhead.

**(Chancel)** Given by Don and Lucy Gagnon in honor of their many blessings and in memory of their beloved son Darrell.



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## Anniversaries This Month

Mike and Ilene Hofmeister  
Jeremiah and Brandi Johnson  
Aaron and Tami Schutt

December 29  
December 19  
December 27

## Congratulations

**Daniel Gonzalez, Laken J.C. Aldrich, Xzavier Adrian Sheridan-Parker, and Zander M. Sheridan-Parker**, children of Ron Frank and Pat Krontz, were baptized November 20. Their sponsors were Sadie Krontz and Destiny Krontz. The congregational sponsor was Donna Krontz.

## Ministry Builders

Do you shop at Family Christian Stores? Every time you shop there, you can help our church. Just ask the cashier for Ministry Builder Stamps. For each 20 stamps we receive, we get \$5 towards merchandise for the church. You will receive one stamp for every \$5 you spend.

## Office Closed

The office will be closed Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

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## Happy Birthday

Jo Ann Addison—December 20	Everett Hofmeister—December 4
Shane Benson—December 25	Kris Hunter—December 15
Stefani Blessing—December 15	Vicky Johnson—December 28
Ned Buser—December 16	Bryan Jones—December 20
Jerry Davis—December 17	Sandy Larson—December 28
Harold Gathje—December 18	Molly Leiting—December 14
Todd Gehner—December 14	Marissa Perez—December 10
Niki Glover—December 13	Donald Porter—December 31
Bart Gotch—December 9	Jeff Prescott—December 24
Melanie Graves—December 14	Lavonne Pressey—December 12
Shirley Hansen—December 28	Betty Stockton—December 21
Gary Hayes—December 24	Mary Wolf—December 14
Jean Hedquist—December 27	Carol Zastrow—December 6

## Youth Birthdays

Adelaide Bass—December 30	Kyler Herron—December 29
Grace Bass—December 18	Nyakuma Loroa—December 7
Addy Chytka—December 21	Trey Meyer—December 10
Nyabuay Diew—December 17	Lincoln Rahn—December 6
Quinn Feenstra—December 8	Bryleigh Robinette—December 10
Emily Fellin—December 18	Sylas Trautwein—December 4

## Confirmation Camp

**CAROL JOY HOLLING**  
**SUMMER CAMP 2017**



**BIBLE STUDY THEME**

Faith is a powerful force that breaks open a NEW HOPE that renews every person it impacts. This summer's Bible study will look at the powerful hope that comes through faith in God. Grace can break through any barrier. Being freed in faith is like discovering you have a super power — helping others see God's work in their lives!

**We are called to re:NEW HOPE in this world.**

**REGISTER ONLINE AT [WWW.CAROLJOYHOLLING.ORG](http://WWW.CAROLJOYHOLLING.ORG)**

*June 11-16, 2017*

*The Springs Session #1724*

*For 6th-8th graders*

*Cost is \$405*

*Each family that has a child attend is responsible for a \$100 deposit. Fundraisers will pay for the balance due. Register by January 31 to receive a \$50 early bird discount (off of the total cost, NOT the deposit). For more information or to register, go to [caroljoyholling.org](http://caroljoyholling.org).*

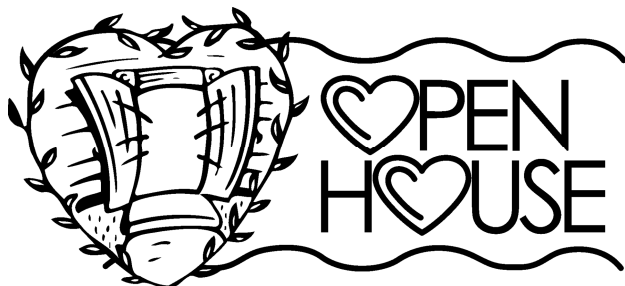
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## Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 1 at 6:00 pm. If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Marla Bianchini at 712-259-4596. Lydia Group will be having a potluck following the decorating.

## Open House

Pastor Doug and Kris will be having an open house at their home, 3620 Dakota Avenue, on Saturday, December 10, beginning at 1:00.



## New Member Class

There will be a new member class on Sunday, January 15 at 11:30. If you (or someone you know) would like to be a member of First Lutheran, please plan to attend!

## Pledge Cards

If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, please do so as soon as possible.

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## Women of the ELCA



### WOMEN OF THE ELCA GENERAL MEETING Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

**Program:** Crafts

**Devotions:** Skit by Lydia Group

**Hostesses:** Sue Hunter and Rita Todd

❁❁❁ CIRCLE MEETINGS ❁❁❁

#### LYDIA GROUP      December 1, 2016      6:00 p.m.

LEADER: Group

HOSTESS: Group

#### CIRCLE I      December 12, 2016      11:30 a.m.

LEADER: Fellowship

HOSTESS: Out to eat

#### CIRCLE II      December 13, 2016      9:15 a.m.

LEADER: Group

HOSTESS: Potluck Brunch



### Bible Study

øWaitingø

Lydia: øResting in Him: I Need to Slow Down But I Can't!ø



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## **With Deepest Sympathy**

*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the following families.*

*Please keep them in your prayers.*

◆

The family of Les Pressey, who passed away Sunday, November 6. Services were held Friday, November 11 here at First Lutheran.

Terry and Angie Sorem and family, on the death of Terry's grandmother, Joyce Beardshear, who passed away Saturday, November 12. Services were held Wednesday, November 16 at Meyer Brothers Morningside Chapel.

## **Service Times**

On Sunday, December 18, we will have ONE service at 9:30.

On Sunday, December 25, we will have ONE traditional service at 10:30.

## **Armed Forces Candy**

Thank you to the following for providing candy, helping pack candy, and monetary donations for mailing to our service personnel: Beth Koster, Jo Ann Addison, Lee Mathiason, Jo Ann Garvey, Barb McLarty, Bryan & Diana Jones, Mary Wolf, Marty Meisner, and Jan Durant. We were able to send candy to 8 service personnel.

Jackie Gierman

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## **Food Bank of Siouxland**

Thursday, November 3, 2,595 pounds of food items and 800# of apples and sweet potatoes provided food to 262 people in 80 households.

Thursday, November 17, 107 households received 2902# of food items. 238 adults and 185 children were members in these households.

Thank you to all that volunteer their time for this worthwhile project at First Lutheran.

## **Acolytes Needed**

We are in need of one acolyte at the 10:30 am service on December 11. We are also in need of acolytes for the Christmas Eve services at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm, the Christmas Day service at 10:30 am, and New Year's Day at 8:15 am and 10:30 am. If your child is available to acolyte, please contact the church office.

## **Christmas Cantata**

Join us for the Christmas Cantata at 9:30 am on Sunday, December 18. Under the direction of Eleanor Tasker, the Senior Choir, Youth Choir, and Burnished Brass will present this exciting and inspirational service. Please plan to attend, and invite your friends!

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## Circle 2 Pecan Project

Circle 2 sincerely thanks all who purchased pecans this year and those who added an extra donation to their purchase. Due to the increased cost of the pecans, the profit was less than some other years. A net profit of \$160.36 was realized.

## Find Us on Facebook

“Like” First Lutheran on Facebook. You can find us at [www.facebook.com/firstlutheranssc](http://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranssc). Check it out!

## Lutheran World Relief

On Monday, November 7, Rose Dudley, Jackie Gierman and Lee Mathiason packed kits for LWR. Backpacks, Personal Care, Baby Care, Fabric, Quilts, and 1 box of soap were packed. Bill and Barb McLarty delivered the boxes to St. John Lutheran Church in Norfolk.

On Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6, Lee had help from Vicky Johnson, Kim Long, and Carol Zastrow with the quilts and kits.

A special thank you to all members and friends of First Lutheran Church that have so generously contributed time and items for LWR.

We shipped 43 school backpack kits, 38 quilts, 19 baby care kits, 14 personal care kits, 2 fabric kits and 1 box of soap with 72 bars.

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## Thank You

**First Lutheran Church Food Pantry**-Thanks to Circle I for their donation of food. Sixty-one boxes were distributed in October.

## Ringers Needed

We are in need of bell ringers who will accept monetary donations for the Cardinal Christmas baskets on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center if you would like to volunteer.

## Social Ministry

The Social Ministry committee collects “Pantry” items each month to be donated to the needs of our community. The Pantry items collected for December will be food items for Cardinal Food Baskets. Please leave your donations in the shopping cart in the entryway.

## Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is in the church entryway. On the tree are names of underprivileged children and names of seniors, as well as names of less fortunate children from our own congregation. Please pick a name from the tree and give a gift to a child or senior this year! Gift suggestions are listed on each tag. Presents need to be returned to the church no later than **Monday, December 5**. Please attach the name tag to your presents. All gifts **must** be in gift bags.

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**...THAT TOGETHER YOU MAY  
WITH ONE VOICE GLORIFY  
THE GOD AND FATHER OF  
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**



**ROMANS 15:6, NRSV**

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## **Snacks and Chat With Pastor Doug**

During Advent, Pastor Doug will have having a time of conversation and snacks with you! The times are 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm on December 1, December 8 and December 15. We will meet in the lounge. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

## **Christmas Eve Worship**

First Lutheran will offer Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm on Saturday, December 24.

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm: 96

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14  
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

## **Pie in the Face**

The youth are having a fundraiser! Donate money so either Pastor Doug, Scott Koeppel (church president) or John Koskovich (church vice-president) will get a pie in the face. The person with the most money donated will be the big winner (though they may think they're the loser)! Donations may be mailed to First Lutheran Church, 3601 Dakota Avenue, South Sioux City NE 68776. Be sure to note who you want to get a pie in the face! All funds collected will go toward youth activities. The recipients of the pie in the face will be revealed at worship on December 18 and will get the pie in their face during the council meeting on December 19.