



JANUARY 1—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
JANUARY 2—OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 15—NEW MEMBER CLASS at 11:45 am
FEBRUARY 12—FIRST COMMUNION
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

Staff		
Church Office		494-5461
Douglas Dill, Pastor		402/235-6969
pastordoug@flssc.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
Church Council (* 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
Church Coordinators For:		
Altar Care:		
Lectors: Barb McLarty		494-3877
Ushers: Worship & Music Committee		
Women of the ELCA Chair: Bonnie Prosser		494-3384

First Lutheran Church

January 2017

► Epiphany:

The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (all non-Jews) as represented by the Magi.

The festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6. A manifestation of a divine or supernatural being. A moment of sudden revelation or insight.

A lot has changed, yet not much has. We are in a new year now. We have passed through Advent in waiting for the coming of Christ, which brings change, and through the Christmas Season, which was the culminating of our wait with the birth of the Son of God who took upon Him, the flesh of a human, Jesus, who walked the earth over 2,000 years ago.

We are now in the time of Epiphany. The wise men are coming and King Herod is feeling threatened by the babe, Jesus, who was born a king. It may be the change that Herod is fearful of. Oh, sure, he sees a king as a direct threat to his rule, which means he is no longer in charge; he may lose everything. What he does not realize is this change will happen, one way or another. Also, it is not about losing everything, but about gaining everything, in Jesus Christ.

The arrival of God on the scene in Jesus of Nazareth, tells us that what the prophets foretold has come true. It is difficult, if not impossible, for some to see. What Jesus does, is not the norm of the day and not the kind of

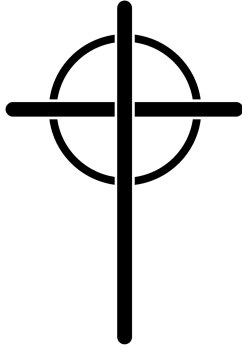
INSIDE

- January 2017 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
- Youth News
- Women of the ELCA schedule
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Financial Reports

www.firstlutheranssc.org office@firstlutheranssc.org

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 19.

Messiah that the Jews are looking for. They fail to see that Jesus' actions, although completely opposite of what they are expecting, are more powerful, more disrupting than any fire and brimstone that could be thrown down.



We have the benefit of hindsight; let us use it then. Our hope is in Jesus. Our lives are in His hands. How we respond to God, to one another, as Christians, is grounded in the Love of God in Jesus Christ. We are grounded by responding to God and one another, as Jesus told us. In Matthew, chapter 22, Jesus tells us the greatest commandments to help us to live our lives by. He says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Mt 22:37-40 NIV)

At council in November, we adopted a covenant on how to deal with conflicts and complaints. Each council member, which includes myself, are expected to sign the covenant to be able to serve. This covenant has been signed by the staff and will be signed by all who are in leadership positions in the church. Copies of this covenant are available in our welcoming area, in the church office and in this newsletter. This is the commitment by all the leadership towards a change in how conflict and disagreements are handled.

The first and most important part of the document are the words of Jesus from Matthew: ¹⁵ "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one." ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. (Mt 18:15-16 NRSV)

If you recall my first day here, October 16, I said that I have an open-door policy. If you have a problem with something I have done or am doing, you need to come speak with me so we can resolve it. It is not acceptable for any of us to go to another and speak about issues we may have with someone else. We must, if we are going to become and stay healthy, follow Jesus' words. We must engage one another in healthy, productive
(cont. after flower page)

ways. Anonymous letters, email complaints, Facebook messages of complaints etc., are not acceptable ways to deal with issues. We must do this face to face. We do not always have to agree about issues, but we do need to work through them and come to an understanding.

When we follow what Jesus says about the greatest commandments, it will be natural to want to speak with our sisters and brothers in Christ instead of speaking about them. When we follow the words of Jesus and work through our conflicts and complaints, then we can use the experience to grow in our relationship with God and each other.

Although the council and myself are not asking the members to sign off on the covenant, I would ask that you read it and take it to heart. There are many opportunities that await us here at First Lutheran. We can do much with the help of God in mission to the community and the world. The devil, however, uses conflict, when not handled properly, to attempt to destroy what God has created. The devil will attempt to use conflict as an opportunity to prevent us from reaching out to the community so that all may experience the love of God in Christ Jesus, for all of World.

Epiphany:

The manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles (all non-Jews) as represented by the Magi.

The festival commemorating the Epiphany on January 6.

A manifestation of a divine or supernatural being.

A moment of sudden revelation or insight.

God, I ask that through your divine being, Your Son, revealed in the flesh, brings on a sudden revelation for us all. That we can commit to change, commit to a healthy relationship with you and with all our sisters and brothers. I ask that through this we see and partake in all the opportunities of ministry that you will bless us with. All of this I ask in your Son's name, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen

Peace and blessings to each of you, now and forever.

Pr. Douglas Dill

Worship at First Lutheran

January 1, Name of Jesus

First Lesson: Numbers 6:22-27 Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7
Psalm: 8 Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

January 8, Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9 Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43
Psalm: 29 Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

January 15, Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Psalm: 40:1-11 Gospel: John 1:29-42

January 22, Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Psalm: 27:1, 4-9 Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

January 29, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8 Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Psalm: 15 Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

January Flower Chart

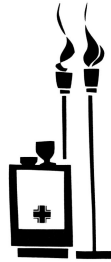
January 1 (Altar) open

January 8 (Altar) open

January 15 (Altar) open

January 22 (Altar) Given by Marv & Kathy Muirhead in honor of Noah Hernandez and Emma Tworek's birthdays.

January 29 (Altar) open



Anniversaries This Month

Bob and Nellie May Anderson	January 14
Tom and Jenni Durant	January 17
Carl and Shirley Hansen	January 8
Milt and Elsie Peters	January 10

Pledge Cards

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so before January 8. Pledge cards can be brought into the office, dropped into the offering plate or mailed to the church office. If you have lost your card, there is one in this month's newsletter.

Community Needs

The South Sioux City Optimist Club is collecting snow pants and boots for use by SSC elementary school children who do not have any. They may be new or used, and sizes to fit primarily Kindergarten and First Grade students. Boot sizes usually start at children's size 5/6 for the younger children. Any donations can be dropped off at F&M Bank, 2024 Dakota Ave, to either Diane Schoepf or Terri Guy.

Annual Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 22 at 11:00 am, following a shortened 10:30 am service. Every adult member of First Lutheran is invited and encouraged to attend.

Happy Birthday

Mike Anson—January 17
 Melissa Baker—January 16
 Bill Bass—January 10
 Kelli Bass—January 30
 Bob Blessing—January 7
 Jeanne Buser—January 16
 Karen Castor—January 28
 Gatluak Diew—January 18
 Travis Dill—January 8
 Jenni Durant—January 11
 Daniele Feenstra—January 26
 Peg Foxhoven—January 28
 Bill Gotch—January 28
 Myrna Gotch—January 27
 Gladys Hedquist—January 5
 Justin Heitman—January 30
 Amy Hinline—January 16
 Sharon King—January 11

Clark Kleinberg—January 11
 Charlene Kollbaum—January 26
 Beth Koster—January 8
 Gordon Krogh—January 1
 Shirley Luehr—January 1
 Carol Marmo—January 6
 Marty Meisner—January 30
 Tim Niemeyer—January 10
 Deana Peck—January 3
 Chris Reyes—January 25
 Milissa Reyes—January 27
 Aaron Schutt—January 25
 Tami Schutt—January 8
 Doug Tondreau—January 12
 Ruth Weekes—January 29
 Ruth Weiland—January 31
 Joyce Williams—January 8

Youth Birthdays

Laken Aldrich—January 6
 Lucas Fader—January 17
 Josie Geveshausen—January 23
 Braylee Hamilton—January 1
 Ashley Hedquist—January 16

Ryan Hedquist—January 25
 Noah Hernandez—January 22
 Gatwech Loroa—January 12
 Breck Swanson—January 14



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
 Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
 Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F
 TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R
 F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R
 W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."
 J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

Christmas Poinsettias



*The Poinsettias on Christmas Eve were
given to the glory of God by:*

The Adam family in honor of Judy Blessing and in memory of Gary Blessing.

Jo Ann Addison and family in memory of Larry Addison.

Judy Blessing in memory of Gary Blessing—beloved husband, father, grandfather and Papa.

Cathie Galvin and family in memory of Clare Galvin.

Jon Jager, Les Rahn and families in memory of David Rahn.

Joann Kleinberg and family in memory of Kerri Hartman.

Joann Kleinberg and family in memory of Terry Kleinberg.

Scott, Cindy, Haley and Tanner Koeppe in memory of Stu Preston, a family friend.

Will and Sandy Larson in honor of their many blessings in 2016.

Bill and Barbara McLarty in memory of Everett and Mildred McLarty, parents of Bill McLarty.

Bill and Barbara McLarty in memory of Frank and Mary Sweem, parents of Barbara McLarty.

Bill and Barbara McLarty in honor of their many blessings.

Marty Meisner in memory of Valeta and Al Meisner.

Marty Meisner in memory of Jerry Meisner.

Brenda Rose in memory of Harold Rose.

Lonnie Slaughter and family in memory of Sherry Slaughter.

George, Ruth and William Weiland in memory of Beverly Weiland.

Women of the ELCA



❁❁❁ CIRCLE MEETINGS ❁❁❁

LYDIA GROUP **January 12, 2017** **7:00 p.m.**

LEADER: Vicky Johnson
HOSTESS: Rose Dudley

CIRCLE I **January 16, 2017** **2:00 p.m.**

LEADER: Barb McLarty
HOSTESS: Donna Krontz
 Lee Mathiason

CIRCLE II **January 10, 2017** **9:15 a.m.**

LEADER: Group
HOSTESS: Jane Krogh



Bible Study

øGalatians: Christian Faith and Christian Freedomö
Lydia: öResting in Him: I Need to Slow Down But I Can't!ö



Siouxland Food Bank

On Thursday, December 1, 90 households received 3,074 pounds of food and 2,303 pounds of fresh produce. Three hundred eight people live in the 90 households.

On Thursday, December 15, 3,308 pounds of food items provided food to 328 people in 88 households.

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

Find Us on Facebook

“Like” First Lutheran on Facebook. You can find us at www.facebook.com/firstlutheranssc. Check it out! Church services and other interesting things are posted frequently.

Fifth Grade Communion Instruction

Fifth Graders and their parents will meet on January 19, January 26, February 2, and February 9 at 6:30 pm for Communion instruction. We will talk about the gift of Holy Communion and the importance of this sacrament. First Communion will be on February 12.

Fruit Plates

Thank you to the following who helped assemble and deliver fruit plates to our shut-ins: Jo Ann Addison, Beth Koster, Donna Krantz, Wilbur and Sandy Larson, Lee Mathiason and Mary Wolf.

-Jackie Gierman

Sub Sale

Sunday, February 5

It's that time of year again when the youth will be selling submarine sandwiches and nachos for Super Bowl Sunday. Sandwiches will be available to pick up right after church.

SUBMARINE SANDWICHES

Quantity _____ Half Size (feeds 2) \$ 8.00

Quantity _____ King Size (feeds 4) \$14.00

NACHOS

Quantity _____ (Incl. cheese & salsa) \$4.00

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Confirmation News

Confirmation class will resume on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 for 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

Also, 6-8 grade students have until January 31 to register for camp at Carol Joy Holling and get an early bird discount. If you are planning on going to camp this summer and haven't registered yet, please do so soon!

Men's Work Event

On the fourth Wednesday of every month, a men's work event will take place at 8:15 am. We'll start off with breakfast and then do some of the miscellaneous "fix-it" jobs around the church. If you can help, please contact the church office or Pastor Doug.

Giving Statement

Year-end Giving Statements will be available at the Welcome Center after January 8. Please pick yours up to help save on postage costs.

New Member Class

There will be a new member class on Sunday, January 15 at 11:45 am. If you (or someone you know) would like to be a member of First Lutheran, please plan to attend! Reception of new members will take place on Sunday, January 22.

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped with or attended the meal, Sunday school Christmas program, and/or the Christmas hymn sing on December 14. A great time was had by all!

Marla Bianchini-A special thanks to Lydia Group for helping decorate the church: Vicky Johnson, Rita Todd, Carol Zastrow, Jennifer Durant and Marlene Heithold. You are a fun team to work with! God Bless you all.

First Lutheran Church Food Pantry-Thanks to Circle I and Bobier Studio for their donations of food. Thanks also to the RESPECT campaign at the South Sioux City High School for their monetary donation. Fifty-seven boxes were distributed in November.

Haven House-Thank you for all of your support in 2016. You make it possible for us to help so many victims in our city! A special thanks to anyone that helped adopt our families for Christmas!

Gladys Hedquist-Many thanks to all who helped install the metal grid ramp at the back door of the church. It is very much appreciated by all who use canes, walkers, or a wheelchair.

Bill and Linda Kendra-Thank you so much for the wonderful Thanksgiving basket. Bill got home the afternoon before Thanksgiving Day. It was so helpful to have the dinner ready to cook. We also want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, and calls while Bill was away. Thanks also for the beautiful fruit basket. It really brightened Bill's day to have someone from church drop by. Thank you again to our First Lutheran family for your love and support.



**THE
LORD
BLESS
YOU
AND
KEEP
YOU.**

NUMBERS 6:24

Fellowship Game Night

The Fellowship Committee is having a game night on January 15 at 4:00 pm. Bring your favorite snacks and games!

Farewell, Eleanor!

Eleanor Tasker started serving the Lord at Whitfield United Methodist Church in Sioux City in 1944 as a senior in high school. She married Allen Tasker in 1951 and moved to Mason City IA to work as an organist and soloist at First Methodist Church. She worked there from 1951 to 1958. Allen and Eleanor transferred to First Methodist in Storm Lake IA and were there from 1958 to 1959. After that, they moved back to Sioux City and Eleanor served at Saint James United Methodist until 1964. Eleanor then began her full service at First Presbyterian Church in Morningside for the next 26 years. She started working at First Lutheran in 1989 as a choir and youth choir director, hired by the Worship and Music Committee. She brought in the bell choir around 1992 and has been here ever since. She founded the Twelfth Night Handbell Festival, playing their 36th year this January. All in all, she believes she's been working for church for 71 years!

Please join us on Sunday, January 15 between services to wish Eleanor well in her retirement. Refreshments will be served.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's Day.

Abide in Christ

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

7th Annual Spiritual Guided Retreat

Hosted by Seek the Spirit Within, The Nebraska Synod Institute for Spiritual Direction

St. Paulø Lutheran Church
1515 S Harrison
Grand Island NE

www.stpaulsgi.com/directions

www.SeekingTheSpiritWithin.org

All Are Welcome

Seeking the Spirit Within invites you to join us in a day of guided retreat for those seeking a day of spiritual enrichment.

Time: 8:30 am—3:30 pm

This retreat is designed to offer opportunities for you:

Join Pastor Doug at this retreat!

For more information and to register:
www.nebraskasynod.org

- to give you a day for spiritual refreshment and renewal
- to experience ways to deepen and strengthen your personal prayer life
- to explore how we can engage with others in prayerful ways

How to Deal with Conflict and Complaints

You are an elected or volunteer leader in your congregation or hold a staff position. As a leader you may be in a position to hear complaints or be aware of conflict. If someone comes to you and says, "You are on the council (board or committee). I need to talk to you about this problem, concern, issue or situation." What do you do? Consider these steps.

1. Follow Matthew 18: 15 "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.
2. Be careful about addressing complaints through email that can be quickly forwarded. Consider responding with a short note that lets the sender know you've received the message and an invitation to meet to talk about it face-to-face.
3. Listen to the whole story. Be a good and careful listener.
4. Say "I'm sorry," about the problem. "I'm sorry you felt hurt." Be empathetic, sympathetic but don't take sides. Remain neutral.
5. Ask questions to gain more understanding. Look for areas of agreement.
6. Wonder and ask about possible solutions to the problem. Try to imagine "win/win" solutions. Keep Jesus in the conversation.
7. Remember that the purpose of the church is to participate in God's mission to redeem the world. Keep Jesus in the center of every conversation. Don't be afraid to say, "I wonder what Jesus would do?"
8. Let them know that this is the council policy. No anonymous complaints will be forward. Anonymous letters are kept on file but not read at council meetings. Only signed letters will be read. The phrases like "a lot of people are saying," or "everybody thinks" are manipulative and not accepted. Individuals can only state their own feelings or opinions.
9. Do not gossip about the matter. Do not form a triangle by talking to others about the problem. Encourage direct face-to-face communication between the conflicted individuals. Instruct folks to deal directly with the board or individual. If that is not possible, instruct the person to talk to the personnel committee. If there isn't a personnel committee then talk to the church council president.

TAKE ONE STEP UP . . . FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving.

STEP UP BEYOND TITHING

My desire is to do more than God's minimum.

STEP UP TO TITHING

I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.

STEP UP TOWARD TITHING

I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.

MY COMMITMENT IS \$ _____

per week

This represents an increase over last year.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my request.
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Twelfth Night Handbell Festival

The 36th annual Twelfth Night Handbell Festival will be held on Sunday, January 8, at 4:30 pm at Eppley Auditorium, 3625 Garretson Avenue, Sioux City. There is no admission fee. The handbell concert, founded by Eleanor Tasker, will have a combination of Bell Choirs from Siouxland performing, including our own Burnished Brass. Plan to attend!

Praise Band

Calling all musicians! In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we will be reforming Praise Lite. There will be a new name, to be picked later. We are in need of those that want to participate in a contemporary worship band with all new music. We need a drummer, guitarist, and other instrumentalists. We also need additional people who would like to sing. If you can play an instrument or sing, please see either Pastor Doug or Claire DeRoin. If you cannot sing or play, but you know of talent that may not have heard about this announcement, please have them contact Pastor Doug (pastordoug@flcssc.org) or Claire (deroin.claire@gmail.com).

Contact Information

Do we have your current email address, mailing address and/or phone number(s)? If your phone number has changed or if you are using only your cell phone, please let the office know! We would like to have your current phone number, mailing address and email address. You can include them on the attendance pad any Sunday, call us (494-5461) or by email us (office@firstlutheranssc.org).