



**JULY 4—OFFICE CLOSED**  
**JULY 9—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30 am**  
**JULY 9—CHURCH PICNIC around 11:30 am**  
**JULY 30-AUGUST 2—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**AUGUST 6—ONE CHURCH SERVICE at 10:00 am**  
**AUGUST 6—CHURCH PICNIC at 11:00 am**  
**AUGUST 11-13—FLEA MARKET**  
**AUGUST 13—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30 am**  
**SEPTEMBER 4—OFFICE CLOSED**  
**SEPTEMBER 10—RALLY DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 24—FELLOWSHIP FISH FRY**  
**OCTOBER 29—CONFIRMATION at 10:30 am**

<b>Staff</b>	494-5461
Church Office	402/235-6969
Douglas Dill, Pastor	712/574-7946
pastordoug@flcsc.org	494-3026
Kerri Durant, Administrative Assistant	404-0626
Betty Barto, Administrative Assistant	712/577-1162
Chris Knudsen, Custodian	494-1630
Jennifer Durant, Nursery	494-1089
Jane Krogh, Organist	
Linda Johansen, Sr. Choir Director	
<b>Church Council</b> (* Executive Council)	
*John Koskovich, President	494-3421
*Lee Novak, Vice-President	712/281-9444
*Denise Kleinberg, Secretary, Christian Ed.	712/6354006
*Sue Hunter, Treasurer	494-1758
Kathy Anders, Fellowship	274-4383
Judy Blessing, Evangelism	255-7775
Josh Curry, Support	712/898-2921
Mike Gill, Stewardship	494-2332
Randy Grove, Property	712/203-1365
Josie Geveshausen, Youth	494-4815
Deb Kenny, Social Ministry	712/490-2097
Brandon Trautwein, Worship & Music	412-2135
<b>Church Coordinators For:</b>	
Altar Care:	
Lectors: Paula Verzani	402/755-2877
Ushers: Worship & Music Committee	
Women of the ELCA Chair: Bonnie Prosser	494-3384

# First Lutheran Church

July 2017

## ► Prayer Practices & God Speaks

Last month I spoke about spiritual gifts. I mentioned that one way to discern your spiritual gifts is through prayer. This month I want to introduce you to a particular prayer practice called Lectio Divina.

In Christianity, **Lectio Divina** (Latin for "Divine Reading") is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. It does not treat Scripture as texts to be studied, but as the Living Word.

There can be variety of ways to go about Lectio Divina. This week, while at confirmation camp, we introduced the confirmands to Lectio Divina. We used a reading from Romans: For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. (Rom 8:20 NIV)

After the reading, the kids were sent out to observe nature in the context of the reading. They picked an object that caught their attention and then returned to their small groups to advise everyone what it was they were looking at. There was no discussion at this point.

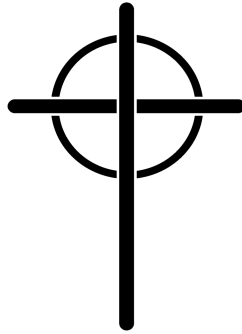
### INSIDE

- July 2017 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
- Women of the ELCA schedule
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Financial Reports

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

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Then they were sent back out to look at and study the object to hear what it was saying to them. Upon returning to their small groups, they advised each other again of the object and what it was saying to them. They were again sent back out to observe and listen to the object and be in conversation.



Upon returning to the group again, they discussed what they believe that God was telling them about the object and why God was speaking to them through this object. After all had shared, they would lift up a prayer pertaining to the experience and what God was speaking to them through the object they had been observing.

I found a flower that caught my attention. The flower was very pretty and was upon a vine. As I began to observe this, I noticed how invasive the vine actually was. It was wrapped in and around a wire mesh that was protecting a tree. The tree was strong. The mesh allowed many things both in and out of the area around the tree.

As I observed the flower, vine and tree, I began to see the Word of God as the tree and the mesh as the four walls of a congregation, a Church building. The openings in the mesh showed how people can come and go into the congregation. The flower and vine showed how sometimes those things that appear good can actually be invasive. However, the Word the tree was strong and could not be choked out. It is also in the moving in of the vine and flower that the Word (tree) is able to work on the flower and incorporate into the congregation. Since the vine works its way in and out, it then reaches out into the community and the Word is attached to it.

God created and continues in creation. The Word (the Son) has always been eternal, and was there in the beginning and will be there always. The Word cannot be defeated. God's creation in the Son is invisible and no amount of weeds, as pretty as they can be, can defeat the Word.

We need not fear opening the doors to the weeds of the community. We need not fear the unknown. We need not fear being involved in the community because we can trust that the Word is strong enough to use us, change the strangers and those weeds, into something that reaches out into the community further, all for the benefit of God's plans.

*(cont. after flower page)*

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As a community of believers, we can best reach the community through invite. Letting in all that come. No matter how strange it may feel, seem, or otherwise. It is in the weeds and invasive vines that we allow the community to interact with the Word and they can be changed into a new creation.

There are two ways of being ðchurchö. We can self care (chaplaincy mode), where we only look out for those here today and look for others that fit a particular mold. This mode does not allow for growth. The ones that are like the current mold are either already there or are aged and will not grow bigger families in the congregation.

The second way of being ðchurchö, is to be missional. We reach out to the community and invite the community, regardless of who or how or any other conditions of who they are. When we intentionally do this, we will be in a constant state of flux. This is because we can truly say, ðAll are welcomeö. In the missional state, there is growth. In the chaplaincy mode, there is not and eventually there is closure.

I invite everyone to begin a discernment process of what this congregation is today and where do we want to be tomorrow. Prayer, listening to God, will be the best way of discernment. There are many ways to pray and Lectio Divina practices can be very useful in discernment.

For more information on Lectio Divina and other prayer practices, see: <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/category/category/lectio-divina> I will also leave some print outs on the welcome center of a few prayer practices that you can try.

Peace and blessing in mission, as Christ has called us to be in.

Pr. Doug

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## Worship at First Lutheran

### July 2, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9    Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23  
Psalm: 89:1-4, 15-18            Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

### July 9, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12    Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a  
Psalm: 145:8-14                  Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 16, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13    Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11  
Psalm: 65                          Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 23, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8        Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25  
Psalm: 86:11-17                  Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 30, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12      Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39  
Psalm: 119:129-136              Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## July Flower Chart



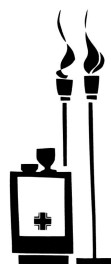
**July 2 (Altar)** Given by Don and Lucy Gagnon in honor of their 59th anniversary and their many blessings.

**July 9 (Altar)** Given by Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Brett and Kyna Gotch's 3rd wedding anniversary.

**July 16 (Altar)** Given by Vicki Lyons in memory of her parents, Clarence and Ella Francisco, and her sister, Maxine Linafelter

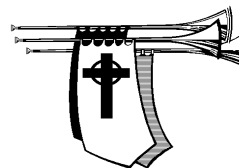
**July 23 (Altar)** Given by Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Jen and Haiden Smith's 3rd wedding anniversary.

**July 30 (Altar)** Given by George, Ruth and William Weiland in memory of Beverly Weiland, who passed away on August 2, 2012.



## Anniversaries This Month

Ned and Jeanne Buser	July 20
Randy and Linda DeRoin	July 9
Dan and Daniele Feenstra	July 27
Preston and Suzie Fischer	July 9
Ron and Peg Foxhoven	July 31
Don and Lucy Gagnon	July 3
Ottie and Jackie Gierman	July 23
Stacey and Leisa Hamilton	July 17
Gary and Sharon King	July 26
Paul and Pam Knudsen	July 17
Leroy and Beth Koster	July 14
Rob and Shauna Meier	July 14
Lee and Carrie Novak	July 25
Bob and Trish Porter	July 12
Marc and Kelli Rahn	July 25
Lance and Linda Swanson	July 24
Darvin and Carol Zastrow	July 2



## Congratulations

**Congratulations to Brittney Foxhoven and Justin Palmer**, who were united in marriage June 24. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their new life together.

## Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

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## Happy Birthday

Charlie Adam—July 29  
Nellie May Anderson—July 22  
Betty Barto—July 20  
Jennifer Bass—July 22  
Jaimee Benson—July 10  
Barb Bring—July 21  
Chad Cain—July 17  
Josh Curry—July 6  
Dan Feenstra—July 1  
Mallory Feenstra—July 5  
Ron Frank—July 14  
Jeremy Grace—July 21  
Austin Groth—July 11  
Jim Hansen—July 11  
Hailey Hinds—July 8

Nathan Hinds—July 8  
Chris Jensen—July 29  
Chris Kleinberg—July 6  
Paul Knudsen—July 23  
John Koskovich—July 17  
Rosemary Larson—July 5  
Kim Long—July 9  
Merle Long—July 19  
Lane Ostendorf—July 8  
Barb Quintard—July 7  
Tanya Rich—July 1  
Rick Robinette—July 2  
Kelly Robinson—July 4  
Lonnie Slaughter—July 24  
Eleanor Tasker—July 27



## Youth Birthdays

Ali Gill—July 6  
Chase Jensen—July 22  
Destiny Krontz—July 29

Jed Litras—July 7  
Xzavier Sheridan-Parker—July 5  
Zander Sheridan-Parker—July 5

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## From the Treasurer (Cont.)

to help make up the difference. If we don't turn this around, this congregation will be forced to make some drastic cuts next year.

- **Storm Damage**

The last item I wanted to touch on is the storm damage the church has suffered this month. There is damage to the roof, steel beams, soffit, ceiling in the office, possible floor damage (water on the floor may have damaged tiles), carpet in Pastor's office, mailbox, garage roof, garage soffit, garage siding and two signs. The coverage we have is through Brotherhood Mutual and carries a \$2,500 deductible for all losses. I have been involved with the insurance and claim since I work for an insurance agency in Sioux City, but we do not represent this insurance company in any way.

When the adjuster arrived from Brotherhood, he met with me and Randy Grove, Council and Property Chairman. I discussed property coverages in the policy and provided the adjuster with pictures of the damages. Randy then discussed the repairs and what has been done as of that meeting. Randy was able to give the adjuster names of the contractors that will be used to make some of the repairs as well as timelines if available.

**Final thing:** A member of the congregation has given us a challenge: \$100 donation toward the deductible issued to anyone else who has the means and would like to contribute.

Sue Hunter, Treasurer

## Volunteers Needed

Summer is here! The Food Bank will need help from our young adults on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each summer month. Help is needed in the morning at 10:00 and in the afternoon around 1:30. If you can help, please sign up at the Welcome Center. Lunch will be provided.

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## From the Treasurer

• **The Council would like to give a big thank you to the Women of the Church.** At the WELCA meeting, it was decided unanimously to donate all the proceeds (\$2,458.00) from the April 2017 Salad Luncheon to the General Budget to help reduce the current deficit. We are thankful for their generosity and their giving hearts. Thank you so very much.

• **Budget/Treasurer's Report: The deficit as of May 2017 is at \$21,035.** This includes the deficit from 2015 which was \$25,500. During the 2016 year, our church family donated \$15,083 toward this amount; leaving a carry-over deficit of \$10,417 as of 1/1/2017. From January to June 11, 2017, there have been donations totaling \$4,311 further reducing the 2015 deficit to 6,106.

$\$25,500 - \$15,083 = \$10,417$

$\$10,417 - \$4,311 = \$6,106$

Based on the above numbers, the deficit for 2017 is \$14,929. We need this number to go down and can only do that if the giving is increased the rest of this year. At the annual meeting when the new budget was presented, it was noted that the increased budget would have to be reconciled with more giving. This additional giving was broken down based on our 120 giving families—if each increased their giving by \$8 more per week or \$36 more per month or \$432 more per year, this additional amount in our budget would be realized. Based on the giving for this year, this is not happening.

The Church not only needs the \$36 more per month per giving family to make the budget and be able to pay our commitments, we now need another \$20 per month in order to wipe out the new 2017 deficit we are now faced with in the first 5 months of this year. The Council is aware that not every family can give the additional amounts but are sure there are some who can give more

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## 2017 VBS REGISTRATION FORM

First Lutheran Church, South Sioux City, NE Ph. 494-5461

VBS Dates: Sunday-Wednesday, July 30 - Aug. 2  
6:00 pm-8:30 pm.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one) Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size:  S  M  L  XL  S  M  L  XL  XXL

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female

School grade **completed**: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$15.00 per child with a maximum cost of \$30 per family.

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

home \_\_\_\_\_ cell \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contacts:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs  
(i.e. allergies/medications, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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## **With Deepest Sympathy**

*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the following families.  
Please keep them in your prayers.*

◆

Jim and Sally Hansen and family, on the death of Jim's mother, Eva Hansen, on Sunday, May 14. Services were held Wednesday, May 17 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Sioux City.

The family of Bonnie Cooper, who passed away Sunday, May 21. Services were held Wednesday, May 24 here at First Lutheran.

## **Men's Work Event**

A men's work event will take place at 8:15 on July 26. 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.

## **Summer Worship**

Summer worship continues with one worship service at 9:00 am. Summer worship time will last through Labor Day. Outdoor worship will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 10:30 am.

One exception: There will be one worship service at 10:00 am on August 6. This will be the VBS program.

## **Giving Statements**

We now have the ability to email giving statements. If we have your email address on file, we will email your giving statement to you. All others will be printed and available at the Welcome Center. Please pick up your giving statement to help us further save on postage costs.

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## **Church Picnics**

Picnics are being planned for July 9 following the 10:30 outdoor worship service and August 6 following the 10:00 VBS service. John Fader will be smoking ribs as the main part of the meal on July 9. The congregation is asked to provide the side dishes. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

## **Social Ministry**

The Social Ministry committee collects "Pantry" items each month to donate to the needs of our community. The Pantry items collected for July are school supplies and nonperishable food items for families in need. Please leave your donations in the shopping cart in the entryway.

## **Reformation Commemoration Service**

Sunday, October 29, 2017  
2:00 pm-5:00 pm

St. John's Parish, Creighton University,  
2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE

Save the date for a Reformation Commemoration Service to be held jointly by the Nebraska and Western Iowa synods at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017 at St. John's Parish on the Creighton University campus in Omaha, Nebraska.

Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod and Bishop Rodger Prois of the Western Iowa Synod will be leading the worship service. The service also will feature choral music to help commemorate the occasion. Representatives of the ELCA's ecumenical partners will be invited to attend and participate.

A reception will follow the service. More information will be made available soon.

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## 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

To commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in a spirit of mutual reconciliation, repentance, and hope, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha and the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are hosting a prayer service in Omaha on September 11th.

The September service will be held at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church (2650 Farnam) on Monday, September 11th, at 7 p.m. Archbishop Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha will preach.

Both bishops will co-preside at each service, and all are welcome and invited to attend. The services will use *Common Prayer\**, a resource developed by a joint commission of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Lutheran World Federation. The *Common Prayer* service is based on the joint ecumenical document, *From Conflict to Communion*, which calls on Roman Catholics and Lutherans worldwide to affirm their common faith.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is a celebration of the fundamental aspects of faith that the two bodies share in common. The two sides are committed to discussing their remaining differences with honesty and humility. By participating in these two prayer services, Roman Catholics and Lutherans give public testimony to the shared virtues of repentance and reconciliation, thanksgiving and hope through the merits of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. *Soli Deo Gloria!* (To God alone the Glory!).

Who would like to carpool to this event?  
Contact the office and let's get a bunch of us to go.  
Pastor Doug will be attending.

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## Thank You

**Marla Bianchini**-Thank you for the many prayers for Alice Gosch. She finally made a BIG turn for better health after four weeks of barely holding on to the edge of life. God blesses those who have compassion for others.

**First Lutheran Church Food Pantry**-Thanks to Circle I and First Presbyterian Church for their donations of food. Sixty-three food boxes were distributed in May.

**Janell Sila**-Thank you for the beautiful prayer shawl.

## 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 Sunday, or call (494-5461) or email ([office@firstlutheranssc.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranssc.org)).

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Now is the time to think about purchasing supplies for school kits. The end of July and first part of August, stores have school items on sale, and we can save much money if we purchase these supplies at this time. Bags and a list of supplies needed for each bag will be on the bulletin board if you wish to fill one. They won't be shipped until the first part of November, but now is a good time to buy and save money. For more information contact Lee Mathiason (494-6125).



## Friends in the Lord

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” It’s important to choose friends who help us be more like Jesus. How many words can you make from the word *friendship*?

F R I E N D S H I P

2-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5-letter words: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Words with 6 or more letters: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Answers include: in, is, hi, he, hip, end, sip, dip, rip, nip, pie, sir, hid, ship, send, ride, dine, find, fine, drip, shed, dish, fish, rind, ripe, hide, tried, pride, siren, fresh, ferns, friend, fisher, diners, rinsed, shrime, finish, shiner, insider, hinders, inspired, refinish, finished

## Food Bank of Siouxland

Ninety families that had 174 adults and 161 children received 3,801 pounds of food items, 2 totes of watermelon and 15 cases of 10# of potatoes on June 1.

On June 15, 171 children and 194 adults living in 89 households received 3,842 pounds of food and 14 cases of oranges.

Thank you to all the volunteers—and now that school is out we appreciate the young people coming—it is a big help getting the truck unloaded in the morning and helping load the boxes of food into vehicles in the afternoon.

## 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!

## Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is now available. If you are interested in giving electronically or would like more information, please contact the church office.

## Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday school will take place on the first and third Sunday of the month, with one exception (July 2; no Sunday school). Sunday school will be held during the church service. Youth will leave church after the children’s sermon. Sunday school will conclude at 10:00 am. Dates for Sunday school are:

July 16

August 6

August 20