



SEPTEMBER 4—OFFICE CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 10—RALLY DAY
SEPTEMBER 10—CHURCH PICNIC at 11:30 am
SEPTEMBER 13—CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS at 6:00 pm
SEPTEMBER 24—FELLOWSHIP FISH FRY
OCTOBER 29—CONFIRMATION at 10:30 am
NOVEMBER 23—OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm
DECEMBER 25—OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 1—OFFICE CLOSED

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Chris Knudsen, Custodian	494-1630
Jennifer Durant, Nursery	712/281-0867
Jane Krogh, Organist	494-1089
J.R. Reid, Spirit Connection Leader	
Linda Johansen, Sr. Choir Director	
Church Council (* Executive Council)	
*John Koskovich, President	494-3421
*Lee Novak, Vice-President	712/281-9444
*Denise Kleinberg, Secretary, Christian Ed.	712/635-4006
*Sue Hunter, Treasurer	494-1758
Kathy Anders, Fellowship	274-4383
Judy Blessing, Evangelism	255-7775
Mike Gill, Stewardship	494-2332
Jayden Grove, Youth	987-1057
Randy Grove, Property	712/203-1365
Deb Kenny, Social Ministry	712/490-2097
Brandon Trautwein, Worship & Music	412-2135
Church Coordinators For:	
Altar Care:	
Lectors: Linda Johansen	494-1089
Ushers: Worship & Music Committee	
Women of the ELCA Chair: Bonnie Prosser	494-3384

First Lutheran Church

September 2017

► Reconnect & Reset

Reconnect and Reset. In the Old Testament of our Bible, there is a special time that is celebrated every 50 years. The year would be considered the year of Jubilee. It is a time of reconnection and reset. The fields are rested, restored, they are reset. So are many other aspects of life. I invite you to read the full text of Leviticus chapter 25. Below are some excerpts of God's commands.

¹¹The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. ¹²For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields. ¹³In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to their own property. ¹⁴If you sell land to any of your own people or buy land from them, do not take advantage of each other. ¹⁵You are to buy from your own people on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. (TNIV Le 25:11-15)

²³The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers. ²⁴Throughout the land that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land. (TNIV Le 25:23-24)

³⁹If any of your own people become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves. ⁴⁰They are to be treated as hired workers or temporary residents among you; they are to work for you until the

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Year of Jubilee. ⁴¹Then they and their children are to be released, and they will go back to their own clans and to the property of their ancestors. (TNIV Le 25:39-41)

Sadly, there is no record in history that the actions called for by God took place. The idea was a reset, putting all on equal footing; putting everyone at the same starting point.

We have an opportunity of sorts for our own Jubilee. No, I am not asking for you to give lands, cars, houses or anything back. I am suggesting a Jubilation, a reset in coming to Church. After a long and hopefully joyful summer, school has already started back up. People that have been away and busy will have the chance to walk into First Lutheran. September 10 is Rally Day for Sunday school. It is also the day we move back to two services and it is the day we debut the new format of the 10:30 service, now known as the Spirit Connection service. Reconnect and Reset.

It is a time of reconnection and reset, of sorts, for all. If you have been gone for most of the summer, come on back. If you have been away for longer than that, maybe months or years, now is the time to come back. I know that this newsletter gets out to a wider group than just active members, so if you are reading this, connect and reset and come on back. Enroll your children in Sunday School. Enroll the children in Confirmation classes. Get involved in worship and the many other activities we have. Even start a new activity for others to be involved in. Try out the new contemporary Spirit Connection service or show up for the Traditional service. Reconnect and Reset.


God is still reaching out to you. God is waiting for you to show up, because the Spirit is already here. Your family at First Lutheran is waiting for you. We and God are calling to you to Reconnect and Reset.

On September 8, J.R. and I will be appearing on Siouxland News around 6:45 am, during the *o*Talk of the Town segment. This is another opportunity for a Reconnect and Reset. Hopefully some people will see us, decide they want to reconnect with God and reset their lives, and show up for Sunday service and join in some of the other activities. It is a time of Reconnect and Reset!

Come to church, Reconnect with God and Reset your lives.

Peace and blessings, from the Lord that invites you to Reconnect and Reset.

Pastor Doug




PUZZLE

APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.

Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.



“ _____
_____;
_____.”

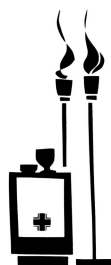
PSALM 17:8, NIV

Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV

Worship at First Lutheran

September 3, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21 Second Lesson: Romans 12:9-21
Psalm: 26:1-8 Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28



September 10, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ezekiel 33:7-11 Second Lesson: Romans 13:8-14
Psalm: 119:33-40 Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

September 17, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21 Second Lesson: Romans 14:1-12
Psalm: 103:1-13 Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jonah 3:10& 4:11 Second Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30
Psalm: 145:1-8 Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



September Flower Chart

September 3 (Altar) Given by Jo Ann Garvey in memory of her husband, Bob, and daughter Barbara; in honor of the living members of her family.

September 10 (Altar) Given by Sharon and Rich Potter in honor of their 42nd wedding anniversary on September 12.

(Chancel) Given by Sharon and Rich Potter in memory of Sharon's parents, John and Elaine Servine, on what would have been their 69th wedding anniversary on September 12.

September 17 (Altar) Given by Elaine Fader in memory of Harold Fader on their 52nd anniversary September 17.

(Chancel) Given by Bonnie Prosser.

September 24 (Altar) Given by Mary Wolf in memory of Bob Wolf, loving husband, father and grandfather.

(Chancel) Given by Todd & Chris Gehner in honor of McKenna's 18th birthday on September 27.



Anniversaries This Month

Mike and Susie Adam	September 22
Mike and Renee Anson	September 2
Todd and Melissa Baker	September 30
Tom and Shelly Hinds	September 18
Mark and Vicky Johnson	September 16
Bryan and Diana Jones	September 13
Greg and Andrea Kleider	September 30
Chris and Becky Knudsen	September 20
Ken and Rosemary Larson	September 18
Jose and Kelli Perez	September 15
Rich and Sharon Potter	September 12
Mike and Bonnie Prosser	September 16
Mike and Tanya Rich	September 21
Randy and Nanci Walsh	September 9

First Lutheran Church Pantry

Did you know that First Lutheran has a food pantry? It is open Tuesday-Friday from 9:00 am-11:30 am. In 2016, 684 boxes of food were given out of the office to people who are in need of food. In 2017 (through July), 419 boxes have been distributed so far.

We have been blessed by several people, businesses and churches doing food drives and/or donating money to our pantry. When monetary donations are received, we are able to buy food from the Food Bank of Siouxland dramatically cheaper than from the grocery store. No money comes out of the general fund for our pantry; everything is done through donations specifically designated for the food pantry.

Happy Birthday

Bob Anderson—September 19
Betty Bass—September 7
Patty Blessing—September 9
Jan Durant—September 20
Jo Ann Garvey—September 1
Ottie Gierman—September 4
Amy Groth—September 17
Emily Groth—September 18
Randy Grove—September 11
Mike Hunter—September 1
Ruth Jensen—September 6
David Kasprzyk—September 4
Danielle Kersting—September 29
Chris Kinnaman—September 22
Michelle Kinnaman—September 14
Abby Kleider—September 20

Jerry Krieger—September 5
Kurtis Krieger—September 22
Pat Krontz—September 25
Alex Lake—September 24
Wilbur Larson—September 13
Rick Lieber—September 1
Joe Prescott—September 20
Joey Robinson—September 23
Brenda Rose—September 18
Ronnie Rosenbaum—September 23
Colleen Schleusener—September 28
Terry Sorem—September 26
Augusta Thrumer—September 12
Lee Trautwein—September 24
Melodee Van Berkum—September 14



Youth Birthdays

Mason Curry—September 13
Alyvia Davis—September 22
McKenna Gehner—September 27
Jack Graves—September 28
TJ Gunderson—September 18
Jae Phommavong—September 20
Sophie Swanson—September 21

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Attn: Knit Wits and Happy Hookers

The prayer shawl ministry is in full swing! Anyone is welcome to join us. We meet at the following times and locations:

3rd Tuesday of the month 6:00 pm at the church

3rd Saturday of the month 10:00 am at the parsonage.

We are expanding our prayer shawl ministry to include crocheted or knitted scarves for the fall and winter months. If you ever wanted to learn, now is the time! Scarves and shawls are a great way to begin. Those that receive these gifts are truly appreciative of them.

We are currently short on yarn. If you wish to participate by donating yarn, we need 3 skeins of yarn for the shawls and 1 skein of yarn for the scarves. Any color (watch dye numbers listed on package) and any type of yarn is appreciated. They can be left in the red box by the doors to the sanctuary.

Thank you so much; your donations and time are greatly appreciated.

Social Ministry

The Social Ministry committee collects “Pantry” items each month to donate to the needs of our community. The Pantry items collected this month are mittens, socks, and hats for South Sioux City schools. Also being collected are nonperishable food items for families in need. Please leave your donations in the shopping cart in the entryway.

Spirit Connection

It's Time to Worship! The Spirit Connection Awaits!



Sunday, September 10th is the date—10:30 is the time! Time for you to come and check out a NEW worship experience! It's time for the **Spirit Connection!** It's a REAL Contemporary service—Contemporary Music played by a seven-member band (sometimes larger!), and a fast-paced contemporary service setting!

The **Spirit Connection** is a complete worship experience in a new way. We're making the music meaningful to the theme of the service AND making it fun, too.

There are many younger families and especially younger people longing for a more contemporary music experience in worship, and for current members of First Lutheran wanting to reconnect with worship in a new and different way.

If you listen to K-Love radio, The Message on Sirius XM or other contemporary Christian stations, you will hear many of the songs we will play during services. There will be LOTS of music in the service—up to ten songs on communion Sundays!

Rehearsals are already underway, with J.R. Reider playing guitar and vocals, Joey Hartshorn on keyboard and vocals, Brandon Trautwein on drums and vocals, Paula Reider playing electric cello and bass, Melanie Burwell on vocals and Tim Niemeyer on vocals and trumpet. Additional musicians and singers will be added for specific songs and seasons as needed.

You have a choice of a traditional service or a new kind of contemporary service. If you're NOT already attending a service, this is YOUR invitation to check out the **Spirit Connection** service! See you on September 10th!

J.R. Reider
Contemporary Worship Music Leader

Women of the ELCA



☼☼☼ CIRCLE MEETINGS ☼☼☼

LYDIA GROUP **September 14, 2017** **7:00 p.m.**

LEADER: Marlene Heithold
HOSTESS: Rose Dudley

CIRCLE I **September 18, 2017** **2:00 p.m.**

LEADER: Jo Ann Garvey
HOSTESS: Jackie Gierman
 Sandy Larson

CIRCLE II **September 12, 2017** **9:15 a.m.**

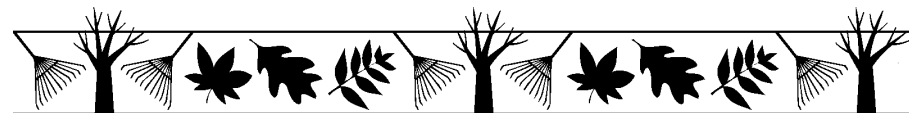
LEADER: Jane Krogh
HOSTESS: Group



Bible Study

øThe ApostlesøCreedø

Lydia: øResting in Him: I Need to Slow Down But I Canø!ø



With Deepest Sympathy

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

◆

Marla Bianchini and family, on the death of Marla's sister-in-law, Linda Gosch, on Thursday, July 20. Services were held Thursday, July 27 at Soldier Lutheran Church in Soldier IA.

The family of Pat Matz, who passed away Saturday, July 22. Services were held Saturday, July 29 here at First Lutheran.

Ned and Jeanne Buser and family, on the death of Jeanne's mother, Virginia Kinney, on Saturday, August 5. Services were held Friday, August 11 at Blessed Sacrament in Sioux City.

The family of Mary Lindquist, who passed away Sunday, August 13. Services were held Wednesday, August 16 here at First Lutheran.

Circle 2's Annual Pecan Project

Circle 2 is once again selling pecans! The price is \$10.00 for a one-pound bag of pecan halves. There is a sign-up sheet in the church entryway or you can order by contacting any member of Circle 2. Orders are due September 17.

Men's Work Event

A men's work event will take place at 8:15 on September 27. 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.

Food Bank of Siouxland

Fresh garden produce from Cooperative Living Gardens along with 3,065 pounds of food and 1,000 pounds of sweet corn was distributed to 149 adults and 109 children living in 101 households on Thursday, August 3.

Thursday, August 17, 173 adults and 148 children living in 83 households received 3,437 pounds of food items and produce from Cooperative Living Gardens.

Thanks to all of the young people that helped us this summer. We are looking forward to the young people from the South Sioux City schools helping us again during the school year. It would be difficult to service the recipients without your help. Also thanks to the faithful volunteers that help each time. It is a wonderful opportunity to show our Christian love to all.

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.

The Future Starts (cont.)

The youth have such great ideas. They are thirsty for God's words and how to apply things to the world they live in. The world is changing, like it or not. Some of us don't want to change with it. We like the old ways, what feels comfortable. I want you to think about something else too: Do you worship the same way as your parents did? I know I don't.

When was the last time you opened the Bible with others and talked about what was in it, whether it be with the youth or your peers? When was the last time you really talked and listened to the youth? Their ideas are young and crazy, but they might just work. I would much rather see us try something new, then never to have tried it at all.

I feel like I have a special "bond" now with our youth at First Lutheran who were able to attend Lab. They will admit they laughed but also cried, but all for the right reasons. I also found it hard to hear the youth ask: "Why don't we have a youth group at our church?"

Would you consider being a part of Youth Group? You don't have to lead it, just be there to help. The Youth can actually run their own group; the adults are only there for supervision, and maybe even a little lesson or two. Are you willing to allow the church to change so it can reach our youth? I know I am and I pray you will too.

Kris Dill

Thank You

Jenni Durant-Thank you for the support of my coffee bar fundraiser. I raised \$334 to help build a prayer garden at the Little Sioux Ranch Camp-Boy Scout Camp in honor of the 4 scouts killed and 48 injured in the 2008 tornado. I am truly grateful for all your support.

Patty & Ed Matz-Thank you for your prayers and condolences on our mom's passing. Thanks to Pastor Panko for all he did for us and to the ladies who served the bars, coffee and nice cold tea.

Janell Sila-Thank you for all of your prayers and positive thoughts. I am on the mend and feeling much better! Special thanks to Linda Johansen and Paula Verzani for their visits and for bringing me communion.

Office Closed

The church office will closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

Lutheran World Relief

Sunday, October 22 is the deadline for bringing LWR projects, kits, etc. to the church. A sample of the items will be on display on Sunday, October 29.

You can find lists of the supplies needed to complete School, Personal, Baby Care, and Fabric Kits on the bulletin board in the entryway. Wrapped bars of soap are also needed.

If you would like to fill a School Kit backpack, there are several backpacks on the Women of the ELCA bulletin board. If you need more information regarding these projects, please call Lee Mathiason (494-6125).



...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

The Future Starts (cont.)

I felt so honored and blessed to be at Leadership Lab. Keep in mind this was another one of those events that I felt was a "safe" vacation for the kids, and even a vacation for Pastor Doug. I would ask the kids or pastor about the experience and all they could say is: "I can't describe it, you just have to be there."

If you ask me about lab, my response is, "I really cannot describe it, you just have to be there!"

I have never felt God's presence in a youth gathering as I felt at lab. I watched First Lutheran's own youth go from not wanting to be there to asking when they are allowed to go again.

I watched as other youth walked in timid and shy, only to leave crying as they said good-bye to new found friends. I saw other youth who returned to lab, hugging and laughing with the old friends they had not seen in a year. I saw adults with nothing but joy and love for the youth in their eyes.

Part of my adult lab was to do and see some of the same things the youth do, and to gain knowledge on trust building, and leading them closer to God.

Are you ready for this? In my interviews with each youth they all said the same thing. I asked, "When do you feel most connected to God?" They all responded, "Through the music."

Do you attend church regularly? These were mixed answers. Yes and No. I asked those who don't go to church regularly why they don't. Here's the sad answer...."they don't get me there.", "they don't understand". I see a problem here, don't you?

We all have been young once, and we forget that our parents didn't want to listen to us either. Today kids connect differently with God than when I did. Although I must also agree with them, too, that I really feel connected through today's music too.

The Future Starts...

I had an opportunity to really look at the youth within the church body. Not just the youth of First Lutheran, but of several other churches from different states: Illinois, Missouri, Nevada and Washington, just to name a few.

I personally never thought much about youth ministry. I looked at youth groups as a place for the kids to go and hang out in a “safe” environment. I didn’t want to assist; I’d rather just drop my own kids off and go home until they were done. I figured they were old enough, they just needed a ride.

I have a friend who is very active in her youth ministry. She is always posting pictures and comments about what her youth group has done; all the games they play and dinners they’ve shared. I’ve even supported some of her fundraising efforts for mission trips, camps and the church program itself.

I remember one time she was talking about Super Bowl Sunday, which is their biggest, best youth event ever. She opens her home to the high schoolers; they come go as they like, however they usually stay the whole time. The game is on in the background, and there is tons of food and drinks for the kids to partake in. Some kids bring yards games and set them up, while others bring a TV and video games to play. Half time is what really moves her. Yes, some do watch the game.

It’s what happens at half time that surprised me. The group doesn’t watch the half time show, they talk about their faith. Kids are encouraged to talk about how they have come to know God, and what God has done in their lives. These kids are so eager to share, that sometimes it goes well beyond half time. When was the last time you spoke to the youth about God? I can’t recall the last time I did prior to Leadership Lab.

Parable of the Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, just before putting him into the box. “There are 5 things you need to know,” he told the pencil, “before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be. **One:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone’s hand. **Two:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you’ll need to it become a better pencil. **Three:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make. **Four:** The most important part of you will always be what’s inside. **Five:** On every surface you are used, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write.”

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now replace the pencil with you; always remember the pencil’s lessons and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

Allow this parable of the pencil to encourage you to know that you are a special person and only you can fulfill the purpose you were born to accomplish. Never allow yourself to get discouraged and think that your life is insignificant and you cannot make a change.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation classes will resume Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00 pm for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. This meeting is for parents, students and guides (mentors) .

Pastor Doug is still in need of class guides (mentors). If you would like to volunteer for this, please contact Pastor Doug or the church office.

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.

Christian Education Update

Rally Sunday will kick off our Sunday School program September 10. We will have games and a picnic to celebrate coming back together for the school year. We are going to change our Sunday School program a bit as well. Due to the busy schedules of high schoolers and confirmation age children, we will not offer Sunday School classes for 6th grade and up. Instead, for that age group, we would like for them to join us as helpers with the younger children if they are interested. Our program this year will continue on with our VBS theme of Bible Heroes up to Christmas, and then explore Parables to Easter. It is important that children come together to hear the Word of God. The lessons that are taught in Sunday School stay with children their entire life. If you have a child between age 3 and 5th grade, we hope that you will make Sunday School a priority this year.

Denise Kleinberg
Christian Ed

Talk of the Town

Pastor Doug and JR will be on Talk of the Town on KMEG 14 Friday, September 8. The segment will air around 6:45 am. They will be talking about the new contemporary service.

Service Times

We will be returning to our regular service times of 8:15 am and 10:30 am on Sunday, September 10, which is also Rally Day for Sunday school. Lots of fun things are planned. Don't miss out!

New Members

On August 13 we welcomed J.R. and Paula Reider into our congregation. Please greet them warmly!
