



DECEMBER 9—OPEN HOUSE at PARSONAGE 1-9 pm
DECEMBER 17—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE at 9:30 am
(SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM/CANTATA)
DECEMBER 24—ONE MORNING SERVICE at 9:30
DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP at 5:00 pm
and 11:00 pm
DECEMBER 25—OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 1—OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 9—WOMEN OF THE ELCA GENERAL
MEETING at 7:00 pm
FEBRUARY 14—ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP at 12:00 pm
and 7:00 pm

Staff	494-5461
Church Office	402/235-6969
Douglas Dill, Pastor	712/574-7946
pastordoug@flcsc.org	404-0626
Kerri Durant, Administrative Assistant	712/577-1162
Chris Knudsen, Custodian	494-1630
Jennifer Durant, Nursery	712/281-0867
Jane Krogh, Organist	712/389-4492
J.R. Reider, Spirit Connection Leader	
Joey Hartshorn, Music 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
Terri Gotch, Support	494-4430
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:	494-4697
Lectors: Mary Wolf	
Ushers: Worship & Music Committee	
Women of the ELCA Chair: Bonnie Prosser	494-3384

First Lutheran Church

December 2017

► Dream

Being a disciple of Christ, a follower of Jesus, is a free-willed loving and gracious response to a loving and gracious God!



We have come to a crucial time here at First Lutheran. It is a time to get excited about the possibilities for the future. It is a time to ask ourselves, how can we participate with God in mission both individually and as a congregation. Just what will God bring and how can we be prepared to respond? I ask the confirmands in their sermon summaries the same question, in a different way. I ask them, “what will you take from today’s service and use this week?” Then at confirmation, we ask them, “how has the Holy Spirit been active in your life this week?”

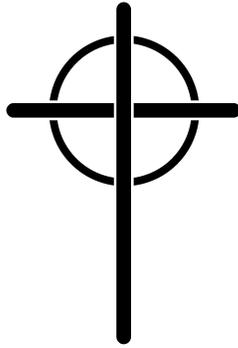
God continues to speak and call to us. What is God calling us to do? The ELCA uses, “God’s work. Our hands.” You may recall a sermon not too long ago, where I spoke about encountering Jesus. When we use our hands in responding to God, God’s work, we encounter Jesus. Often, those who go out to minister to others in the name of Jesus Christ actually find that they encounter Jesus and are, in turn, ministered to.

INSIDE

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

www.flcsc.org office@firstlutheranssc.org

»²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (TNIV Eph. 3:20–21) “I am the LORD, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?” (NLT Jeremiah 32:27)



These verses tell us that God can do anything, nothing is impossible. God has been speaking these words to us from before the incarnation of the Son. God speaks through the Apostle Paul. We hear that God can get it done. Dream and God can accomplish it.

Will God do this with us? God said, “Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.” (NIV Psalm 2:8) We are told by Jesus that it will be done, but we just need to ask, tell our dreams to God and God will do. Luke 11:9, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 21:22 and John 14:13.

But all we need to do is ask and then with God’s work and our hands, it can be done. That is working with God and God working in and through us. It is a transformation that we need here at First Lutheran, but it starts with the dream. It starts with daring to dream big, so God can work in big ways.

Ask yourselves these questions: Are you ready to roll up your sleeves and to start dreaming big? Are you ready for the awesome power of God? If the answer is yes, then let’s get our hands dirty in the work of God. We dream, God does the impossible and we work alongside of God! Get dreaming!!

Dreaming big, that this congregation gets so large that we need more pastors, deacons and an addition or additional buildings to handle all the ministry.

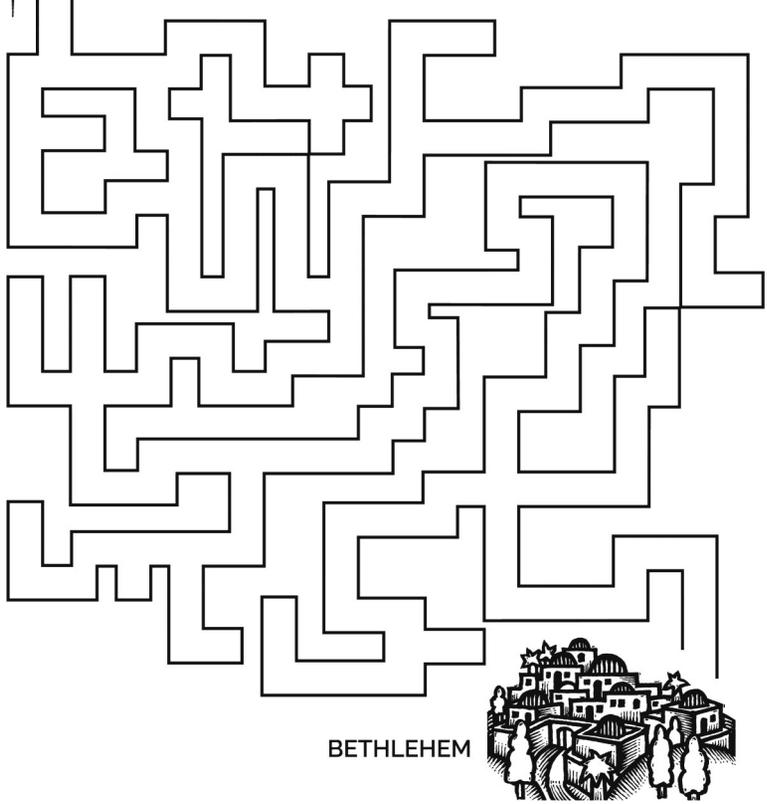
God bless us in our dreams.
Pastor Doug



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

START *Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.*



BETHLEHEM

► Worship at First Lutheran

December 3, First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9 Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 1:3-9
Psalm: 80:1-7, 17-19 Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11 Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Psalm: 85:1-2, 8-13 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Second Lesson: 1 Thess. 5:16-24
Psalm: 126 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16 Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:46b-55 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

December 31, First Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10—62:3 Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7
Psalm: 148 Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



► December Flower Chart



December 3 (Altar) Given by Brandon Trautwein.

(Chancel) Given by Les Rahn, Randy Rahn, and Jo Ann Addison in memory of David Rahn.

December 10 (Altar) Given by Joann Kleinberg and family in memory of Kerri Hartman and Terry Kleinberg

(Chancel) Given by Joann Kleinberg and family in honor of their many blessings.

December 17 (Altar) Given by Randy Rahn in honor of Jo Ann Addison's birthday.

December 24 (Altar) Given by Marv and Kathy Muirhead in memory of Bill & Darlene Clausen and Red & Eldora Muirhead.

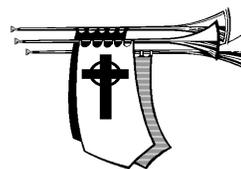
(Chancel) Given by Dale and Joey Hartshorn in memory of Blaine and Arlene Barker's 62nd wedding anniversary.

December 31 (Altar) Given by Don and Lucy Gagnon in memory of their son, Darrell, and in honor of their many blessings.



Anniversaries This Month ◀

Mel and Patty Hansen	December 19
Mike and Ilene Hofmeister	December 29
Jeremiah and Brandi Johnson	December 19
Alex and Sarah Lake	December 31
Rick and Jennifer Lieber	December 3
Aaron and Tami Schutt	December 27



Congratulations ◀

Liam Thurce Gill, son of Tyler Gill and Jessica Gill, was baptized November 26. Liam's sponsors were Landon and Britni Tondreau. The congregational sponsors were Lee and Carrie Novak.

Armed Forces Candy ◀

Thank you to the following for helping with packing candy, providing candy and/or donating to defray postage costs: Jo Ann Addison, Jan Durant, Jo Ann Garvey, Beth Koster, Donna Krontz, Sandy Larson, Lee Mathiason, Milt and Elsie Peters, Lonnie and Carol Slaughter, George Weiland, Mary Wolf, Carol Zastrow and Thrivent. We were able to send ten packages to service personnel.

Jackie Gierman

Office Closed ◀

The office will be closed Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas and Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

► Happy Birthday

Susie Adam—December 28
Jo Ann Addison—December 20
Shane Benson—December 25
Stefani Blessing—December 15
Ned Buser—December 16
Jerry Davis—December 17
Suzie Fischer—December 16
Todd Gehner—December 14
Niki Glover—December 13
Bart Gotch—December 9
Melanie Graves—December 14
Patty Hansen—December 15
Shirley Hansen—December 28

Gary Hayes—December 24
Jean Hedquist—December 27
Everett Hofmeister—December 4
Vicky Johnson—December 28
Bryan Jones—December 20
Sandy Larson—December 28
Molly Leiting—December 14
Nyakuma Loroa—December 7
Lee Mathiason—December 16
Donald Porter—December 31
Jeff Prescott—December 24
Lavonne Pressey—December 12
Mary Wolf—December 14
Carol Zastrow—December 6



► Youth Birthdays

Adelaide Bass—December 30
Addy Chytka—December 21
Nyabuay Diew—December 17
Quinn Feenstra—December 8
Blaine Fischer—December 21
Liam Fischer—December 22

Danielle Krontz—December 10
Hunter Lake—December 22
Hailey Lieber—December 15
Trey Meier—December 10
Sylas Trautwein—December 4

What's Missing?



When shopping for gifts became too difficult, an elderly man decided to just send checks to relatives. In his Christmas cards, mailed early, he wrote, “Buy your own present!”

After the holiday, the man noticed he'd received few cards in return. Puzzled, he went into his study, intending to write to a few relatives and ask what had happened. As he cleared his cluttered desk, the horrified man found the answer. Under a stack of papers were the checks he'd forgotten to enclose with his cards!

The lesson? Don't be in such a hurry to give gifts that you inadvertently leave out what's most important. Without the message of Jesus and his birth, the earthly trappings of Christmas are empty indeed.

► Yes, I Believe: A Christmas Letter

Advent and Christmas are all about hope, renewal and giving.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to bring a new hope to the world and peace on earth, we renew old acquaintances—and perhaps old arguments—with loved ones and giving...yeah, expectations are high to find lots of good things under the Christmas tree, good food on the table and good discussions with family and friends.

But there's lots of other giving going on—giving of our time as volunteers, our donations to organizations that help those in need, and hopefully to First Lutheran for all the work that is done in ministry throughout the area and the world.

Speaking of giving, I need to thank each of the Spirit Connection band members and those that have been 'guest artists' since we started last July. It takes many hours each week to prepare a service and during this season it's even tougher to find time to rehearse with so many events pulling people so many ways. But our members make it happen—and we're proud of the music we're doing.

And a huge thank you to the congregation of First Lutheran for your giving, too—letting us bring contemporary worship to the church in new ways every week!

As we let the Advent and Christmas season take hold, let me leave you with a verse and chorus from a favorite modern Christmas song, penned by Justin Hayward of the Moody Blues:

"The spirit of Christmas is the spirit of love; Still there when the innocence has gone. But we have each other, we laugh and we cry, the cares of the world still carry on..."

Yes, I believe in a better world, And like the rest of us, I pray. For peace on this earth and a better life, with every beautiful day."

May this Christmas season bring you all hope, renewal and the spirit of giving—and a better life, with every beautiful day.

J.R. Reider
Contemporary Music Leader



❀❀❀ CIRCLE MEETINGS ❀❀❀

LYDIA GROUP **December 7, 2017** **7:00 p.m.**

LEADER: Decorating

HOSTESS: Group

CIRCLE I **December 11, 2017** **11:30 a.m.**

LEADER: Fellowship

HOSTESS: Out to eat

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

LEADER: Group

HOSTESS: Potluck Brunch



Bible Study

“Advent Devotional”

Lydia: “Resting in Him: I Need to Slow Down But I Can’t!”



► With Deepest Sympathy

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

◆

The family of Pat Swartz, who passed away Saturday, November 11. Services were held Friday, November 17 at Wade Family Funeral Home, Arlington TX.

► Christmas Open House

Pastor Doug and family will once again be opening up the parsonage for all to come and enjoy some holiday-time treats and fellowship on Saturday, December 9 from 1 pm - 9 pm. There will be some snacks and beverages provided. Please come and join them, so all can celebrate this season together in a little more relaxed setting.

► Lutheran World Relief

On Monday, November 6, Bill McLarty delivered the kits for LWR to St. John Lutheran Church in Norfolk.

Thanks to everyone that helped me display the quilts, take them back down, and pack all the 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 42 school backpack kits, 38 quilts, 20 baby care kits, 14 personal care kits, 7 fabric kits and 1 box of soap with 124 bars. We also delivered 22 quilts donated by Salem Lutheran Church of Dakota City.

Lee Mathiason

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.

Electronic Giving ◀

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

Pastor Doug's Office Hours ◀

Monday	12 pm-4 pm
Tuesday	8 am-4 pm (limited availability until 2 pm)
Weds/Thurs	8 am-4 pm
Friday	off

Other hours by appointment.

Pastor Doug can be reached by phone (402-235-6969) or by email (pastordoug@flcsc.org).

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 email us (office@flcsc.org).

► **Siouxland Food Bank**

Thursday, November 2, 179 adults and 154 children living in 85 households received 3,549 pounds of food and 580 pounds of produce.

Thursday, November 16, 2,768 pounds of food was distributed to 89 households (57 from Nebraska, 29 from Iowa, 2 from South Dakota and 1 from Wisconsin). There were 190 adults and 130 children in those households.

There is a lot of activity in the Fellowship Hall on Food Bank days. Volunteers, with the help of school children, sort food items and sack items in the morning starting at 10 am. At 2 pm volunteers start giving out the food. The school children have returned and help the people load their vehicles with the food boxes they received. Twenty plus members and friends of First Lutheran participate in this busy time. Stop in and see what a busy place it is on the first and third Thursday of the month. You might want to stay and help!

► **Newsletter Information**

In order to cut costs and reduce the deficit, starting with the January newsletter we will no longer be mailing out the newsletter. There will be printed copies available at the welcome center.

As we have done in the past, the newsletter will continue to be available online at our website, www.flcssc.org. Please visit the website and subscribe to the newsletter. When it is available online, you will get an email notification. Those in the nursing home and homebound will receive the newsletter, either hand delivered or through the U.S. Postal system.

Thank You ◀

Thanks so much to everyone who helped with the Rummage/Bake Sale! A total of \$979.27 was raised. Extra volunteers had the Fellowship Hall emptied and set up for the Reformation Sunday meal within 90 minutes! Remaining items were donated to Mission of the Messiah, Gospel Mission, South Sioux City Police Department, and The Flower Cart.

Kathy Anders-A huge thank you to everyone who helped with and came to our Fellowship Italian meal. It couldn't have happened without all of you!

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

Gary Panko-Thanks to my Sisters and Brothers in Christ: thank you for your cards, caring and prayers. My recovery is at the 3/4 mark.

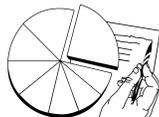
Christmas Decorating ◀

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00 pm. A potluck dinner will follow. All are welcome!

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 **Friday, December 8**. Please attach the name tag to your presents. All gifts **must** be in gift bags.

► Financial Reports



Treasurer's Report - October 2017

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 31,680.34

Receipts:

Contributions	\$16,385.72
Misc. Income	20.45

TOTAL: **\$16,406.17**

Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,458.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	3,487.74
Auxiliary staff salaries	9,170.78
Payroll Taxes	685.85
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	774.41
Worship & Music	262.60
Utilities	719.97
Postage & Supplies	37.51
Grounds Maint.	241.61
Building Maint.	842.70
Janitorial Supplies	5.30
Christian Ed.	204.70
Youth	35.00
Parish & Other exp.	140.71
Office Expenses	156.15
Benevolence	948.75

TOTAL: **\$21,172.09**

Transfer to Capital Improvement:	\$ 100.00
Ending General Fund Balance:	\$ - 36,546.26

October Attendance & General Fund Receipts

October 1	69/60	\$ 4,171.98
October 8	72/57	\$ 2,918.81
October 15	68/76	\$ 2,996.06
October 22	59/81	\$ 2,799.87
October 29	114	\$ 3,499.00

December Service Times ◀

On December 17 and December 24, we will have ONE morning service at 9:30 am. The service on December 17 will be a combined Sunday School Christmas Program and Cantata.

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. Also being collected are new packages of socks and underwear of all sizes for The Gospel Mission and CSADV. Please leave your donations in the shopping cart in the entryway.

Acolytes Needed ◀

We are in need of acolytes on the following Sundays: one acolyte at the 10:30 service on December 3; one acolyte at the 8:15 service on December 10; and one acolyte at the 10:30 service on December 31. We are also in need of acolytes for the 11:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. If your child is available any of these days, please contact the church office.

Christmas Eve Worship ◀

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

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

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