

**First Lutheran Church**

**3601 Dakota Ave**

**South Sioux City, NE 68776**

**[www.flcssc.org](http://www.flcssc.org)**

**[www.facebook.com/  
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# First Lutheran Church

**June 2018**



## ***Obeying Christ and Opening Doors to Faith***

Sign up for electronic giving at:

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Text give at:

402-557-0882

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from First Lutheran

Text flcssc to 797979

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### **INSIDE**

- June 2018 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
- Music News
- Women of the ELCA  
schedule
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Financial Reports

The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 21.

# Worship at First Lutheran

## June 3

### Second Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Psalm: 81:1-10

Gospel: Mark 2:23—3:6

## June 10

### Third Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1

Psalm: 130

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

## June 17

### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 2 Peter 2:14-16

Second Lesson: Numbers 22:20-35

## June 24

### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:15-18

Second Lesson: 2 Kings 2:19-23



Church Office 494-5461

Douglas Dill, Pastor 402/235-6969  
pastordoug@flcsc.org

Kerri Durant, Admin. Asst. 712/574-7946  
office@flcsc.org

Chris Knudsen, Custodian 404-0626

Jane Krogh, Organist 494-1630

J.R. Reider, Spirit Connection Leader 712/281-0867  
jreider@flcsc.org

Joey Hartshorn, Music Director 712/389-4492  
jhartshorn@flcsc.org

### Church Council (\* Executive Council)

\*Chad Cain, President 712/635-2974  
ccain@flcsc.org

\*Randy Rahn, Vice-President 928/551-2464  
rrahn@flcsc.org

\*Sue Hunter, Treasurer 494-1758  
shunter@flcsc.org

\*Deb Kenny, Secretary 712/490-2097  
dkenny@flcsc.org

Kathy Anders (kanders@flcsc.org) 274-4383

Judy Blessing (jblessing@flcsc.org) 255-7775

John Fader (jfader@flcsc.org) 712/490-9373

Lucas Fader (lfader@flcsc.org) 712/389-2345

Linda Johansen (ljohansen@flcsc.org) 494-1089

Lee Novak (lnovak@flcsc.org) 712/281-9445

Terry Sorem (tsorem@flcsc.org) 712/490-9271

Brandon Trautwein (btrautwein@flcsc.org) 412-2135

### Church Coordinators For:

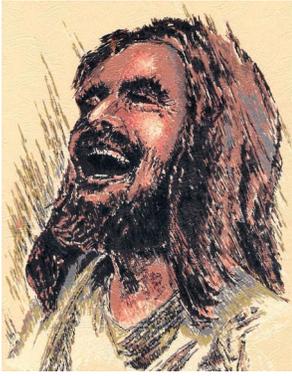
Altar Care: Kathy Anders 274-4383  
Sandy Larson 494-2135

Lectors: Mary Wolf 494-4697

Ushers: Worship & Music Committee

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384



## To Be Church Pastor Doug

What is it to be church, to be gathered as Christian believers, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord? That is a tall question to answer, and the Apostles struggled with this as well. If you recall this season of Easter, there were many readings from Acts, and many recounted struggles of giving up one's self to the other. It did not mean losing one's identity, but taking on another identity as a disciple of Christ. This means not mine, not I, not me but instead WE, US and OUR(s) (not possessive but plural, as the Body of Christ), as our identity.

This congregation is God's and WE belong to it. WE belong to serve others, not to be served. When each of US respond to God in this new identity, WE truly incorporate what God has given to be all of OUR(s), those that reside as "members" and those who are served by US as fellow disciples of Jesus.

This means that the monies that I donate are not mine, but OUR(s). This means the committees of the congregation are part of each of US. The ministries that WE offer are for the benefit of all. Not some, not one, not just you, not just me, but US, WE and OUR(s). The WE includes not just members, but all of God's children. WE are called to love OUR(s) neighbor as WE were first loved by God. We are bound together as the Body of Christ for the service in the Body into the world.

WE have been called together in this congregation to love and support each of US. Not some but all. Not the ones that fit into our mold, our comfort zone, but the ones that do not fit into our mold. The ones that are outside OUR(s) comfort zone.

This new identity was difficult for the early Christian church. Paul's letters continually reminded the early churches of what it meant to be this new identity of not about one's self but about the WE, US, OUR(s) mentality that Christ Himself came to US in.

You have heard me say it, and I truly have meant and continue to mean, that WE are stronger in OUR(s) differences than in what WE have in common. It is OUR(s) differences that provide unbreakable bonds forged by Christ, for OUR(s) sake. It is OUR(s) call to stand up for the WE, US and OUR(s) and call out what is wrong and lead others, both inside and outside of this congregation, into the "Opening Doors to Faith".

Here are some Readings for you to consider, as WE go about living in the WE, US and OUR(s) of congregational life: Ephesians 4:17-35; Romans 7:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16. To see the struggles of being church, look at Romans Chapter 2; all of 1 Corinthians; Galatians (Martin Luther's foundation of his theology); and other books of Paul and the book of Acts.

Peace in blessings as we are transformed into WE, US and OUR(s) (not possessive but plural, as the Body Christ)

Pastor Doug

Called by God into the service of WE, US and OUR(s) together with the disciples of Jesus the Christ, of First Lutheran and the community.

## **Anniversaries**

Tom and Denise Barber—June 7  
Austin and Jennifer Bass—June 6  
Brian and Nancy Beekman—June 6  
Bob and Patty Blessing—June 9  
Dean and Rose Dudley—June 7  
Dick and Jan Durant—June 9  
Mike and Jill Gill—June 18  
Bart and Terri Gotch—June 25  
Gordon and Harriet Hansen—June 23  
Eddie and Lacey Hernandez—June 5  
Chris and Melissa Jensen—June 7  
Roger and Ruth Jensen—June 26  
Jan and Linda Johansen—June 10  
Chris and Michelle Kinnaman—June 7  
Jerry and Carol Krieger—June 18  
Mike and Carla Jo Morgan—June 19  
Nathan and Aftan Phipps—June 16  
JR and Paula Reider—June 18  
Terry and Angie Sorem—June 22

## **Happy Birthday**

Kathy Anders—June 13  
Bob Barto—June 16  
Kris Bergstrom—June 24  
Lynnelle Conley—June 23  
LuAnn Durant—June 21  
Dick Durant—June 25  
Tom Flackoy—June 25  
Norma Geveshausen—June 3  
Alex Groth—June 17  
Cheryl Guy—June 16  
Sally Hansen—June 11  
Linda Hovde—June 13  
Mark Johnson—June 5  
Sami Kenny—June 9

Joann Kleinberg—June 15  
Kelsey Krontz—June 6  
Chris Lake—June 7  
Brian Leiting—June 28  
Carla Jo Morgan—June 30  
Elsie Peters—June 13  
Aftan Phipps—June 13  
Susan Porter—June 1  
Katie Prescott—June 29  
Bonnie Prosser—June 9  
JR Reider—June 25  
Todd Sands—June 29  
Gracie Trautwein—June 16

## **Youth Birthdays**

Axton Davis—June 27  
Adam Durant—June 9  
Hailey Hamilton—June 10  
Tayden Kinnaman—June 19  
Lillie Likes—June 12  
Edie Phipps—June 4  
Brooklyn Sorem—June 21

## **Lutheran World Relief**

In 2017 our support of Lutheran World Relief reached 534,144 people in 16 countries with seven projects. Number of kits given: quilts 346,170; school kits 191,720; blankets 12,180; personal care kits 144,970; fabric kits 17,138; baby care kits 48,900; soap in pounds 46,247.

Now it is time to think about making and giving kits for this year's ingathering at the end of October. Kit items and needs will be posted on the bulletin board soon.

For more information contact Lee Mathiason (494-6125).

🌸🌸🌸 CIRCLE MEETINGS 🌸🌸🌸

**LYDIA GROUP:            JUNE 14, 2018            7:00PM**

LEADER:            Rose Dudley

HOSTESS:            Group

**CIRCLE I:                    JUNE 18, 2018            2:00PM**

LEADER:            Jo Ann Garvey

HOSTESS:            Jackie Gierman  
                          Sandy Larson

**CIRCLE II:                    JUNE 12, 2018            9:15AM**

LEADER:            Kris Bergstrom

HOSTESS:            Kathy Anders



**Bible Study**

“Intergenerational Devotion”

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

**NOTE:**

**No Circle meetings in the months  
of July or August.**

## Fundraisers

There are two upcoming fundraisers for Leadership Lab. The first fundraiser will be June 10 at 11:30 a.m. This will be a smoked pork meal. Please bring desserts! The second fundraiser will be June 17 between services and following the 10:30 service. This will be root beer floats. Free-will offerings will be taken for both fundraisers.

## Volunteers Needed

Summer is coming! The Food Bank needs 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.

## What is Lab?

I hope you continue to read on, because this is very important stuff, especially considering the call I have here by God, in this congregation. In the ministry site profile (MSP) of First Lutheran and thus, as part of my call paper work, I was asked to lead this congregation into four things.

1. To rebuild our congregation
2. To attract more young families
3. To create harmony within the church
4. To keep our youth as active members after the completion of confirmation.

Under Energy in the MSP, it stated: We are very passionate about finding a new shepherd that will provide us long term stability and harmony.

What does this all have to do with Leadership Lab? I want to take this opportunity to clear up some misconceptions about what Leadership Lab

is, who it is for, and how a congregation can benefit from those that attend lab.

Leadership Lab is for those youth entering High School and young adults in College. It is also for adults who are seeking training in becoming an effective youth leader. Regarding the youth and young adults: this is a seven-year learning process of becoming leaders in the church and the community. Learning how to lead worship, Bible studies, self-reflection, reflection of God's call for them in the Christian church and in the world of God's people. That was a mouthful, and that is why it takes seven years. Each day of lab focuses on worship, large group activities and small group activities, all centered around what I just laid out. The experience can be, and is, life-changing. Just ask Lucas Fader, Adam Durant, Sara Diew and Jayden Grove, who all went last year. Leadership Lab is the home of the "Butterfly People" because of the transformation that each youth, young adult and leader goes through while being at Leadership Lab.

For the adults who attend, there is a two-year course of adult lab, specifically aimed at training youth leaders. This course will take a non-trained lay leader and give them the tools to help lead the youth in the church. Even if someone has been doing youth leadership, this will give additional tools and help hone their skills.

Again, what does all of this have to do with the MSP goals? To rebuild the congregation, it needs to be done from the ground up. This takes time and investment. It takes no time to tear something down but takes considerable effort to build back up. The building will come through youth involvement, giving them ownership in dis-

cipleship through First Lutheran. There are other opportunities to serve in the community, and youth will seek those, if not given direction here first. MSP points 1 and 4 are dependent upon youth being trained and given opportunities to lead.

When MSP points 1 and 4 are worked upon, then point 2 becomes a reality as younger families want to be engaged in a place where the youth are valued and their own youth can flourish in an environment that encourages the youth to be leaders.

Ultimately MSP point 3 is filled all along the way when we support the youth and their leaders. Let me speak more to the lay leaders of the youth. If we are truly serious about MSP points 1, 2, and 4, then as a congregation we MUST support the lay leaders who want to work with the youth. Right now, they are paying for the training out of their pocket, but if we are invested in this congregation, if we are invested in the call that God has for this congregation, then the natural outgrowth would be to invest in the leaders of the future leaders.

Please note that Leadership Lab does not replace confirmation camp or any camping opportunities. Leadership Lab is not camping, it is building up the body of Christ, through leadership in the church. Confirmation camp is for the middle school youth who are currently enrolled in confirmation. If you have questions about Leadership Lab, ask Kris Dill or myself; we are the ones that can give you accurate information about what Lab has to offer this congregation and the Christian church.

Should you feel called to support the goals as outlined in the MSP and any of the youth eligible to attend Leadership Lab or its adult leaders, consider donating to their Leadership Lab fund. You can mark this on a check as Leadership Lab or a specific person. You can also do this through our website under donations. <http://www.flcsc.org>

You can also support by coming to the Smoked Pork fundraiser, and on Father's Day during the Root Beer floats. Both will offer free will donations.

Check out more on Leadership Lab at: <http://www.leadershiplab.net> or <https://www.fb.com/leadershiplab>

Here are the eligible people that can be donated to:

Aidan Arneson	Drew Benson
Adam Durant	Jenni Durant
Lucas Fader	Tyler Fader
Nate Feenstra	Josie Geveshausen
Jayden Grove	Joey Hartshorn
Peyton Martinez	Autumn Phommavong
Randy Rahn	Michael Sigsbee
Breck Swanson	Aubree Van Berkum

Peace,

Pastor Doug

## **Social Ministry**

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

## **Soup Kitchen**

On Friday, June 15, there will be an opportunity for First Lutheran members to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen, located at 717 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux City. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway.

## **Outdoor Worship**

There will be an outdoor parking lot worship service on June 3, July 1 and August 5 at 10:30 a.m. The 8:15 a.m. service on those dates will take place indoors as usual.

## **What is Online Giving?**

Online Giving is so much more than just online! Our giving tools provide the ability to donate on our website, through a mobile app or even with a quick text message! After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly from your checking account or by using your debit or credit card.

"The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not out of regret or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make every grace overflow in you, so that in every way, always having everything you need, you may excel in every good work."

-2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (HCSB)

If you would like assistance in setting up an online account, please seek out a council member and they will be happy to assist or find assistance for you.

To create your online account, visit our website [www.flcssc.org](http://www.flcssc.org) and click on our Donation button or go to <http://give.flcssc.org>

The last withdrawal from our old system was May 31.

## Class of 2018

### High School Graduates

**Sydney Brown**, daughter of Brandi Barto.

**Nyamal Diew**, daughter of Gatluak Diew and Nyabiel Bukjiok.

**Quinn Feenstra**, son of Dan and Daniele Feenstra.

**McKenna Gehner**, daughter of Todd and Chris Gehner.

**Jack Graves**, son of Chris and Melanie Graves.

**Jed Litras**, son of Kimon and Ronda Litras.

**Trey Meier**, son of Robert and Shauna Meier.

**Hannah Niemeyer**, daughter of Tim Niemeyer and Stacy Niemeyer.

**Sophie Swanson**, daughter of Lance and Linda Swanson.

### College Graduates

**Haley Koeppe**, Wayne State College, Wayne NE.

## Financial Reports

### Treasurer's Report - April 2018

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 44,954.38

#### Receipts:

Contributions	\$18,713.52
Misc. Income	67.70
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$18,781.22</b>

#### Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,458.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	3,555.14
Auxiliary staff salaries	6,551.76
Payroll Taxes	501.21
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	787.66
Utilities	1,386.68
Building Maint.	362.00
Janitorial Supplies	22.20
Christian Education	99.84
Altar Care	78.87
Office Expenses	138.50
Parish	214.42
Youth	70.00
Parsonage exp.	1,350.00
<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>545.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$19,121.62</b>

Transfer to Capital Improvement: \$ 100.00

Ending General Fund Balance: \$-45,394.78

### April Attendance & General Fund Receipts

April 1	347	\$ 6,237.57
April 8	110	\$ 2,648.00
April 15	N/A	\$ 0.00
April 22	119	\$ 4,676.62
April 29	129	\$ 5,151.33

## Church Killers

Those who are familiar with what is known as the “Seven Last Words”. Even though they are more than seven words, they represent the seven times that Jesus spoke before he died.

Whenever I have been involved throughout the Church (ELCA) in discussions about change to better do the mission God calls us to do, we often refer to the seven last words of a church before it dies: **“WE NEVER DID IT THAT WAY BEFORE.”**

Unwillingness to change the way we do things excludes us from reaching out in different ways to impact others with the Good News of Jesus. The message never changes, but the way it is presented needs to change so that others can hear. The New Testament was written in the Greek Language, yet the church led by the Spirit realized that people needed to share the news in the language of the people so that they could hear the message. How many of you would worship if the language was in Greek?

When change does not happen, a Church Killer emerges.

A second Church Killer is the Rumor Mill. Rumors are the most lethal communication

that takes place within a congregation. Rumors usually start when someone is unhappy. The Congregation can never be perfect because we are sinners and no matter how we try, sin never leaves. So rumors are always going to happen. However, rumors that are left unchecked and unchallenged are killers. Unchecked, unchallenged rumors can drive people away from being in worship and cause them to seek other congregations where they can feel safer. Unchecked, unchallenged rumors can cause despair in a congregation’s staff and leadership. A high percentage of pastors and staff leave, not because they want to, but because they can’t emotionally withstand the attacks from rumors.

So what we do? Here is a four step process to which we should commit ourselves in order to bring more health and vitality to our congregation. If someone shares with you a rumor, you can take action.

STEP 1: Ask the person sharing the rumor how they came about getting that information.

STEP 2: Before you share that story, check out the truth of it with the person about whom the rumor is said.

STEP 3: If the story turns out to be true, ask yourself if sharing that rumor would be helpful to the person about whom the rumor is said.

STEP 4: Before you pass on the story, even if it is true, ask how it is going to make First Lutheran a more loving congregation?

Perhaps the best phrase to remember is, **“SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.”**

Gary Panko, Chairperson, Mutual Ministry Committee

## Thank You

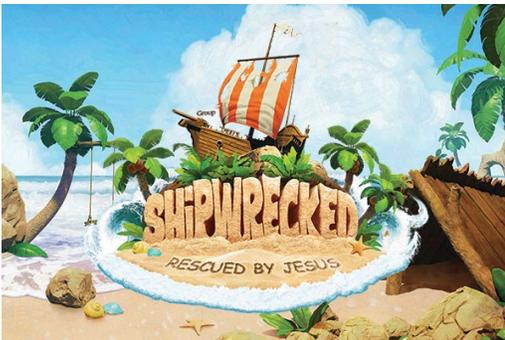
**First Lutheran Church Food Pantry**-Thanks to Circle I for their donation of food. Forty-eight food boxes were distributed in April.

**Don Gagnon**-I wish to thank everyone who sent cards and wished me a Happy Birthday. I am truly blessed to have so many friends. God bless you!

**Jackie Larson**-Your cards and gifts have been greatly appreciated. I'm pretty much on my own and also back to driving. Again thank you for your prayers.

## Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will take place Monday, June 25-Friday, June 29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Supper begins at 5:30 p.m.) Cost is \$15. Join us for a week of "Shipwrecked!" When we are lonely, when we struggle, when we are power-



less and when we do wrong, Jesus gives us hope, love and forgiveness.

## Gaslighting: Know It, Identify It, and Protect Yourself

Gaslighting is a tactic in which a person or entity, in order to gain more power, makes a victim question their reality. It works much better than you may think. Anyone is susceptible to gas-

lighting, and it is a common technique of abusers, dictators, narcissists, and cult leaders. It is done slowly, so the victim doesn't realize how much they've been brainwashed. For example, in the movie *Gaslight* (1944), a man manipulates his wife to the point where she thinks she is losing her mind.

People who gaslight typically use the following techniques:

### 1. They tell blatant lies.

You know it's an outright lie. Yet they are telling you this lie with a straight face. Why are they so blatant? Because they're setting up a precedent. Once they tell you a huge lie, you're not sure if anything they say is true. Keeping you unsteady and off-kilter is the goal.

### 2. They deny they ever said something, even though you have proof.

You know they said they would do something; you know you heard it. But they out and out deny it. It makes you start questioning your reality—maybe they never said that thing. And the more they do this, the more you question your reality and start accepting theirs.

### 3. They use what is near and dear to you as ammunition.

They know how important your kids are to you, and they know how important your identity is to you. So those may be one of the first things they attack. If you have kids, they tell you that you should not have had those children. They will tell you you'd be a worthy person if only you didn't have a long

list of negative traits. They attack the foundation of your being.

#### **4. They wear you down over time.**

This is one of the insidious things about gaslighting—it is done gradually, over time. A lie here, a lie there, a snide comment every so often, and then it starts ramping up. Even the brightest, most self-aware people can be sucked into gaslighting—it is that effective. It's the "frog in the frying pan" analogy: The heat is turned up slowly, so the frog never realizes what's happening to it.

#### **5. Their actions do not match their words.**

When dealing with a person or entity that gaslights, look at what they are doing rather than what they are saying. What they are saying means nothing; it is just talk. What they are doing is the issue.

#### **6. They throw in positive reinforcement to confuse you.**

This person or entity that is cutting you down, telling you that you don't have value, is now praising you for something you did. This adds an additional sense of uneasiness. You think, "Well maybe they aren't so bad." Yes, they are. This is a calculated attempt to keep you off-kilter—and again, to question your reality. Also look at what you were praised for; it is probably something that served the gaslighter.

#### **7. They know confusion weakens people.**

Gaslighters know that people like having a sense of stability and normalcy. Their goal is to uproot this and make you constantly question everything. And humans' natural tendency is to look to the person or entity that will help you feel more stable—and that happens to be the gaslighter.

#### **8. They project.**

They are a drug user or a cheater, yet they are constantly accusing you of that. This is done so often that you start trying to defend yourself, and are distracted from the gaslighter's own behavior.

#### **9. They try to align people against you.**

Gaslighters are masters at manipulating and finding the people they know will stand by them no matter what—and they use these people against you. They will make comments such as, "This person knows that you're not right," or "This person knows you're useless too." Keep in mind it does not mean that these people actually said these things. A gaslighter is a constant liar. When the gaslighter uses this tactic it makes you feel like you don't know who to trust or turn to—and that leads you right back to the gaslighter. And that's exactly what they want: Isolation gives them more control.

#### **10. They tell you or others that you are crazy.**

This is one of the most effective tools of the gaslighter, because it's dismissive. The gaslighter knows if they question your sanity, people will not believe you when you tell them the gaslighter is abusive or out-of-control. It's a master technique.

#### **11. They tell you everyone else is a liar.**

By telling you that everyone else (your family, the media) is a liar, it again makes you question your reality. You've never known someone with the audacity to do this, so they must be telling the truth, right? No. It's a manipulation technique. It makes people turn to the

gaslighter for the “correct” information—which isn’t correct information at all.

The more you are aware of these techniques, the quicker you can identify them and avoid falling into the gaslighter’s trap.

Original Post on Psychology Today: **Gaslighting: Know It and Identify It to Protect Yourself**  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/here-there-and-everywhere/201701/gaslighting-know-it-and-identify-it-protect-yourself>

Follow-up article: **Are Gaslighters Aware of What They Do?**  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/here-there-and-everywhere/201701/are-gaslighters-aware-what-they-do>

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## **THANK YOU-THANK YOU-THANK YOU**

As we end our choir and bell season, I plan on continuing my education and abilities through classes and seminars this summer to help both of our choirs. I also want to express to each of these groups how you never once allowed me to feel like an outsider and that you were warm and accepting of me. My heart is forever grateful.

A big thank you to everyone who committed their time, talents and efforts to one or both of the choirs by volunteering; you are all huge assets to First Lutheran Church. I look forward to working with you again next season.

As we continue our year with the summer season, I am so blessed to be involved in a church that considers everyone, that looks toward the future while still holding steadfast to tradition. I believe that we

are becoming unified and we should try to see that our church is blessed and fortunate.

Joyfully,

Joey Hartshorn

Happy Summer!!

## **Summertime Services—Fun Times Ahead!**

J.R. Reider, Contemporary Music Director

*“Summertime...and the livin’ is easy...”* This Gershwin tune evokes a strong nostalgic reaction in me! My dad was a classic jazz fan—and this song made famous by Ella Fitzgerald was a real favorite. He took me to see her one summer as a kid...what a fabulous voice, and the band she had was amazing! Ah, memories of the summertime ‘60’s...times of drive ins, drive in movie theaters and people cruising their main streets on Friday and Saturday night...

Summer worship is also ‘easy’ this year! Our drive in contemporary service is back—on Sunday, June 3, July 1 and August 5 the 10:30 Contemporary service will shift to the main parking lot (weather permitting). You can pull into the parking lot, sit in your vehicle (or on chairs, if you wish), listen to the service on your FM car radio and participate! (Don’t forget to honk your Amen!)

We’ll have live music at the service, too! Might be most of the band or it might be just a few folks...and the music will be a bit different—more acoustically based.

Coffee will be available, too! It’s a late morning tailgate party with a message! Join us!

What else can you expect during the summer months? Most people look forward to a summer vacation or two, or even weekend getaways...our band members are no exception! During the summer we may have services supported by just a few band members; we may bring in some guest performers, too!

*Have a talent to share? We are looking for people who would like to be part of the music during the summer—and perhaps beyond!*

Want to be part of the fun? Do you play an instrument? Can you sing? Be a 'roadie'? We can use your talent and your help! Call, email, or chat with me at church and let me know what you would like to do...we can put your talent to work and have some fun during services this summer!

Call me—712-281-0867 or email me at [jreider@flcsc.org](mailto:jreider@flcsc.org).

## **Caring for God's Gifts**

What does it mean to care for the gifts of God? First, we need to understand a few things that help us to grasp the magnitude of what God asks us to do. First and foremost, we need to grasp, more than through head knowledge but as part of our being, who created all.

God is the author of human life; when God created Adam and Eve, Genesis 1:26-27, God created the first family and gave them dominion over all that God had created on earth: fish, birds, cattle and wild animals of earth. To have dominion is to rule, and a ruler is supposed to do what is best for those things they have rule over. A ruler oversees all that they rule over.

We know that God created all that we see; we read Genesis 1 and 2 to see that. We can also see who

created, and who the actual owner is, in Psalm 24:1-2 and Psalm 89:11. Humans are given the dominion/rule/oversees the things that God created. These are not gifted to us but given to rule over. In giving, humans rule over what God has created, God attaches a string to rule. Even the gifting from God does not turn over the ownership of ruling nor the ownership of those things to rule over.

As Christians we have a basis of understanding Jesus as the Son of God, through the Old Testament. As Christians we understand that the Son is God, one person of the Trinity and Jesus Christ, as the incarnate of God, the Son. If that is not enough to understand that Jesus is also the owner of all, then Jesus tells us so. From John 16:15: "All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

To understand what God wants us to do with what God owns, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 that we are servants of Christ and that we are entrusted with what God has revealed. We are also told that we are required, because of the trust we have been given, to be faithful with what we have been entrusted with.

To understand what God wants us to do, with what God owns, 1 Peter 4:10, says: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Christians are stewards of God's creation for the benefit of God and God's creation. We own nothing, since all comes from God and we are stewards of what God has created. In other words, we do not own any property, family, money,

etc. that we may believe to be “ours”, because it is not. It is owned by God for God and God’s creation, which includes all of humanity and the world.

We receive warnings to heed about stewardship over what belongs to God. In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 it says, <sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life. There are warnings about what treasures and money can do to us. See Matthew 6:24 and Luke 12:34.

First Lutheran is not ours to own, but entrusted to us as stewards. The things we “own” we are only stewards of. The treasures, money, abilities, all that God has entrusted to us, are to be used for all of God’s people. What mission and ministry can you get behind with your stewardship to support for God’s people? Where can you step out with what has been entrusted to you get move from “I” towards Christ? Let me leave you with what Max Lucado said in his daily devotional.

<https://maxlucado.com/listen/its-all-about-me/>

The self-centered see everything through self. Their motto? “It’s all about me!” To the self-centered—the flight schedule, the traffic, the worship styles—everything is filtered through the mini-me in the eye.

Philippians 2:3-4 says, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than your-

selves.” Looking after your personal interests is proper life management. Doing so to the exclusion of the rest of the world is selfishness. Desire success? Fine. Just don’t hurt others in achieving it. Love isn’t selfish! Love builds up relationships but selfishness corrodes relationships.

What’s the cure for selfishness? A smaller “i” and a greater Christ! Don’t focus on yourself; focus on all that you have in Christ—the encouragement in Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit, the affection and compassion of heaven!

Read more *A Love Worth Giving*, <http://maxlucado.christianbook.com/a-love-worth-giving-repackaged/max-lucado/9780849964428/pd/964428?p=1194791>

Peace and blessings, working towards less “i” and more Christ.

Pr. Doug

## June Flower Chart



**June 3 (Altar)** Given by Kathy Blair in honor of her 48th wedding anniversary.

**June 10 (Altar)** Given by Jenni Durant in honor of Adam’s 18th birthday and the completion of the rose garden.

**(Chancel)** Given by J.C. and Linda Johansen in thankfulness for 56 years of marriage.

**June 17 (Altar)** Given by Lee and Carrie Novak.

**June 24 (Altar)** Given by JR and Paula Reider.

# 2018 VBS REGISTRATION FORM

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

VBS Dates: Monday-Friday, June 25 – June 29th  
5:30 pm-8:30 pm.



JUNE 10 — LEADERSHIP LAB FUNDRAISER at 11:30 a.m.

JUNE 16—FATHER’S DAY COOKOUT at 3:00 p.m.

JUNE 16—CAR WASH to benefit youth at 3:00 p.m.

JUNE 17—LEADERSHIP LAB ROOT BEER FLOAT FUNDRAISER between services and following 10:30 service

JUNE 24-29—RANCH CAMP

JUNE 25-29—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 4—OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 23-28—LEADERSHIP LAB

SEPTEMBER 3—OFFICE CLOSED

OCTOBER 28—CONFIRMATION

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one) Youth \_\_\_\_\_ Adult \_\_\_\_\_  
T-shirt size:  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.) \_\_\_\_\_

# June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
		<table border="1"> <tr><td colspan="7">July 2018</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	July 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							<b>1</b> 8:30am TOPS	<b>2</b> 1:30pm Dakota County Amateur Radio Club
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<b>3</b> 8:15am Worship 10:00am VBS meeting 10:30am Outdoor Worship 12:00pm Walk on Water	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:30am Foster Care Review 5:30pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00am Breakfast with the Pastor(s) 2-4pm Food Bank distribution 6:00pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 6:00pm Spirit Connection practice	<b>8</b> 8:30am TOPS	<b>9</b>																																																	
<b>10 Holy Communion</b> 8:15am Worship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Smoked Pork Fundraiser for Leadership Lab 12:00pm Walk on Water 1:00pm VBS meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:15am Circle II 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:00am Breakfast with the Pastor(s) 6:00pm Spirit Connection practice 7:00pm Lydia Group	<b>15 Soup Kitchen</b> 8:30am TOPS	<b>16</b> 9:00am Saturday Quilting Group 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Parsonage 3:00pm Father's Day Cook-out 3:00pm Youth Car Wash																																																	
<b>17</b> 8:15am Worship 9:15am Root Beer Float Fundraiser for Leadership Lab 10:30am Worship 11:30am Root Beer Float Fundraiser for Leadership Lab 11:30am Church Council 12:00pm Walk on Water	<b>18</b> 2:00pm Circle I	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Human Trafficking Forum 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Support Committee Meeting 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00am Breakfast with the Pastor(s) 2:00pm Food Bank distribution 5:30pm Chamberettes 6:00pm Spirit Connection practice 7:00pm Dakota County Amateur Radio Club  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>22</b> 8:30am TOPS	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Scout Troop 175 Overnight 6:30pm Choir/Bells cook- out																																																	
<b>24 Holy Communion</b> 8:15am Worship 10:30am Worship 1:00pm VBS set-up	<b>25 VBS</b> 5:30-8:30pm VBS	<b>26 VBS</b> 2:30pm Communion @ Regency Square Nursing Home 5:30-8:30pm VBS 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>27 VBS</b> 5:30-8:30pm VBS	<b>28 VBS</b> 8:00am Breakfast with the Pastor(s) 5:30-8:30pm VBS 6:00pm Spirit Connection practice	<b>29 VBS</b> 8:30am TOPS 5:30-8:30pm VBS	<b>30</b>																																																	

# Thanks to our June Volunteers

<u>June 3</u> <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u>	<u>June 10</u> <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u>	<u>June 17</u> <u>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</u>	<u>June 24</u> <u>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</u>
<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am George Weiland 10:30 am Ned Buser	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Ellen Prescott 10:30 am	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Barb Koskovich 10:30 am Linda Kendra	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Bob Barto 10:30 am
<u>Cantor:</u> 8:15 am Linda Johansen	<u>Cantor:</u> 8:15 am Chris Knudsen	<u>Cantor:</u> 8:15 am Tim Niemeyer	<u>Cantor:</u> 8:15 am Joey Hartshorn
<u>AV Operator:</u> 8:15 am Janell Sila 10:30 am	<u>AV Operator:</u> 8:15 am Scott Koeppel 10:30 am Kris Hunter	<u>AV Operator:</u> 8:15 am Kaylana Pedersen 10:30 am Jenni Durant	<u>AV Operator:</u> 8:15 am Janell Sila 10:30 am Kris Hunter
<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Diew Diew Michael Sigsbee 10:30 am Julie Geveshausen Aubree Van Berkum	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Nyaluet Diew Peyton Martinez 10:30 am Aidan Arneson Jake Gill	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Jessica Baker Britton Taylor 10:30 am Branden Lieber Ashlyn Rich	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Drew Benson Tyler Fader 10:30 am Nate Feenstra Breck Swanson
<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am  10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am  10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am  10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am  10:30 am
<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>
<u>Money to safe:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<u>Money to safe:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<u>Money to safe:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<u>Money to safe:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am
	<u>Communion Assistants:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am		<u>Communion Assistants:</u> 8:15 am 10:30 am