

**First Lutheran Church**

**3601 Dakota Ave**

**South Sioux City, NE 68776**

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

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# **First Lutheran Church**

**May 2019**



## **INSIDE**

- May 2019 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
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***Loving others in Christ for outreach to all,  
while providing for God's diversity.***

Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app  
from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



Sign up for Text Notifications  
from First Lutheran

Text flcssc to 797979

or use

<http://text.flcssc.org>



**Arise, shine, for  
your light has come...**

**Isaiah 60:1**

The deadline for the June Newsletter is May 16.

# Worship at First Lutheran

## May 5

### Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Second Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

Psalm: 30

Gospel: John 21:1-19

## May 12

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm: 23

Gospel: John 10:22-30

## May 19

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Psalm: 148

Gospel: John 13:31-35

## May 26

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 16:9-15

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

Psalm: 67

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Church Office 494-5461

Douglas Dill, Pastor 402/235-6969

pastordoug@flcsc.org

Kerri Durant, Admin. Asst. 712/574-7946

office@flcsc.org

Jane Krogh, Organist 494-1630

Joey Hartshorn, Music Director 712/389-4492

jhartshorn@flcsc.org

### Church Council (\* Executive Council)

\*Chad Cain, President 712/635-2974

ccain@flcsc.org

\*Deb Kenny, Vice President 712/490-2097

dkenny@flcsc.org

\*Sue Hunter, Treasurer 494-1758

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

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

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

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

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

### Church Coordinators For:

Altar Care: Kathy Anders 274-4383

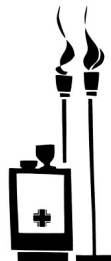
Sandy Larson 494-2135

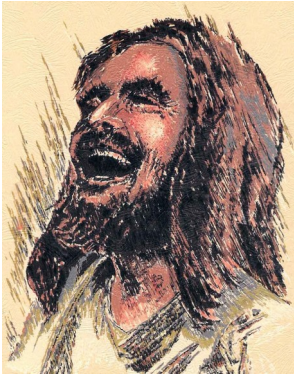
Lectors: Rita Todd 494-2968

Ushers: Worship & Music Committee

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384





## It's All About the Love Pastor Doug

Jesus says, <sup>34</sup> I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Loving is all the time, not when love suits us best. Loving is leading with love first, not our agenda first. Loving is shedding our old self, for a new self. Loving is to die to the old self and be resurrected new, in love.

To die to the old self, we must also repent of our old ways. We cannot love without repentance. Being repentant prepares our hearts and minds to be open to the Holy Spirit for change. Being repentant is the start of what Paul tells us to be like.

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

Therefore, my sisters and brothers, we must change and be resurrected so that we can carry out the mission of First Lutheran, "Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God's diversity."

There are three key words in this mission statement. **Love**, following the commandment that Christ Jesus gave us. **All**, which does not mean some, or the many, or those that conform, or any other stipulation. It means ALL. **Diversity**, which is another way of saying ALL. All of God's

people come in a variety of unique characteristics that do not conform with each other. We were created unique. Our uniqueness means we are diverse. In our diverseness, we all hear God in our own ways, at our times, and worship differently than each other. It means we do not dress alike or look alike.

Now we go back to Love, which is what it is all about. It is also what God is, "for God is love." Jesus and the Apostle John tell us to love one another.

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

Note the harsh reality in 1 John 4:8a, <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God... Love one another, if not because we are all children of God, then do so because you feel compelled by your own self-conviction to respond to the Love of God, revealed to you in Jesus Christ our Lord. Love one another, so that we might live in the reality of God's love for us. Be resurrected in love.

Called and Resurrected to love  
Pastor Doug

## Anniversaries

Doug and Kris Dill—May 27  
Todd and Chris Gehner—May 30  
Chris and Melanie Graves—May 20  
Gary and Marian Hayes—May 12  
Terry and Deb Kenny—May 23  
Scott and Cindy Koeppe—May 7  
Brian and Chris Lake—May 16  
Del and Sharie Lieber—May 22  
Jeff and Rita Todd—May 12

## Happy Birthday

Austin Bass—May 1  
Judy Blessing—May 7  
Suzette Curry—May 26  
Dale Durant—May 13  
Elaine Fader—May 18  
Don Gagnon—May 9  
Jill Gill—May 1  
Robin Hansen—May 3  
Joey Hartshorn—May 20  
Chris Hedquist—May 1  
Lance Hedquist—May 9  
Sheila Heitman—May 19  
Deb Kenny—May 27  
Cindy Koeppel—May 20  
Lukas Litras—May 22  
Lorene Moyse—May 11  
Lee Novak—May 18  
Gary Panko—May 22  
Milt Peters—May 19  
Carolyn Slaughter—May 15  
Janet Tondreau—May 7  
Brian Van Berkum—May 24

## Youth Birthdays

Ashlynn Cooper—May 25  
Tyler Fader—May 24  
Kieran Lasley—May 19  
Ashlyn Rich—May 18

## Leadership Lab

Is your child in 8th grade? If so, they are encouraged to attend Leadership Lab. You can sign your child up online or find more information at [leadershiplab.net](http://leadershiplab.net). Dates for Leadership Lab are July 22-July 27. Cost is \$395 if registered by May 15; after May 15 the cost is \$410.

If any adults are interested in attending, contact Pastor Doug. There is an adult lab that will teach you how to be a youth leader.



### 🌸🌸🌸 CIRCLE MEETINGS 🌸🌸🌸

#### **LYDIA GROUP: May 9, 2019 7:00PM**

LEADER: Marlene Heithold  
HOSTESS: Group

#### **CIRCLE I: May 20, 2019 2:00PM**

LEADER: Lee Mathiason  
HOSTESS: Donna Krantz  
Lee Mathiason

#### **CIRCLE II: May 14, 2019 9:15AM**

LEADER: Group  
HOSTESS: Judy Blessing



### Bible Study

Lydia: "Living Above Worry and Stress"

## With Deepest Sympathy

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

The family of Rosemary Larson, who passed away Monday, April 22. Graveside services were held Thursday, April 25.

## New Members

On March 31 we welcomed Beverly Bates, Trevor Brass and Millie Clark into our congregation. Please greet them warmly!

# Financial Reports

## Treasurer's Report - March 2019

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 73,652.76

### Receipts:

Contributions	\$16,878.95
Misc. Income	560.70
<u>Interest</u>	<u>58.22</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$17,497.87</b>

### Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,708.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	4,226.16
Auxiliary staff salaries	4,599.08
Payroll Taxes	351.84
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	869.91
Parsonage Imp.	524.41
Organ & Piano exp.	683.00
Utilities	1,960.00
Grounds Maint.	134.79
Building Maint.	56.53
Janitorial Supp.	153.91
Office Expenses	232.42
Insurance	(127.25)
Synod Conv.	(350.00)
Parish	198.96
Christian Ed.	87.49
Food Bank	400.00
<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>995.00</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$18,704.59</b>

Transfer to Capital Improvement: \$ 100.00

Ending General Fund Balance: \$ -74,959.48

## March Attendance & General Fund Receipts

March 3	88	\$ 2,807.00
March 6	103	\$ 580.00
March 10	136	\$ 2,716.00
March 13	65	\$ 408.00
March 17	137	\$ 2,598.00
March 20	69	\$ 239.00
March 24	110	\$ 2,859.60
March 27	58	\$ 233.00
March 31	138	\$ 2,077.35
Online/Electronic Giving		\$ 2,360.00

## Thank You

**First Lutheran Church Food Pantry**-Thank you to Circle I for their donation of food. Sixty-five boxes were distributed in February.

**Jackie Gierman**-Thank you to Linda Fischer, Ottie Gierman, Will and Sandy Larson and Mary Wolf for delivering Easter plants. Your help is appreciated.

**Bill and Linda Kendra**-Thank you for the delicious Easter basket. Ham is Bill's favorite. Everyone's thoughts, prayers and support through Bill's health issues have meant so much to us. Also thank you to the ladies who come to visit Bill. We are enjoying the pansy plant you brought.

**Social Ministry**-Thank you to everyone whose generous donations made it possible for the team to put together Easter baskets for the children and Easter food baskets for our congregation members. We put together 53 children baskets: 25 for the Gospel Mission, 20 for CSADV and 8 for Haven House. Seven Easter food baskets were put together for church members. A special thanks to the Sunday school children for decorating the baskets.



## Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Reflections

By Gary Panko

This year is a special year for me. I will be celebrating my 45<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry. It has been quite a ride—ups and downs, joys and sorrows, conflict and peace. And in the end, all I can do is thank God for the call to serve, the learning that has been given me, and the love that I have shared in God's name.

In the three years I have been a member of First Lutheran, it has been a learning experience of how to serve in ways other than be a pastoral leader. I have found many joys and challenges. The greatest learning curve has been to speak as a member of the body of Christ and not as the leader.

I hope you all know how much I care about our community of faith. God has gifted us in so many ways. God has called us to an ambitious mission of sharing God's love in our community and to the ends of the earth.

One way I hope I can be helpful is to share some of the wisdom from my experience. Here is one thing I would like to share to enhance our Sunday morning experience.

For a pastor, Sunday morning is a stressful time, not necessarily in a bad way, but in a time-sensitive way. There are always last minute details to attend to. There are always things that are not working as planned. There are even last minute changes to be made. There is a great need to pray for the power of the Spirit to be moving like the wind through worship. So one of the things we can do is to not interrupt the pastor with things that can be handled at a different time.

Leading worship is not like any other activity—it is holistic—body, mind and spirit. Greeting people after worship is not just a friendly thing—it is a time of personally sharing a spiritual bond as we do in the sharing of peace. If you have a need to speak to the pastor about something simply mention you would like to speak to him after he has greeted all people. Pastors respect privacy and so would rather visit individually, rather than in front of others. It is part of giving our best to God.

## Volunteers Needed

The Food Bank of Siouxland needs 100+ volunteers to help with the annual Letter Carriers' "Stamp Out Hunger" food drive on May 11. Sorting donated food will take place from 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. that day. Dinner will be provided. If you can help for an hour or two, please contact the Food Bank (712-255-9741).

## Confirmation Camp

Dates for Ranch Camp are June 9-June 14. Cost is \$430. If your child is in confirmation and would like to attend, please register and pay the \$100 deposit at [caroljoyholling.org/register](http://caroljoyholling.org/register). This deposit is non-refundable. Fundraisers will be held to raise the remaining cost.

## Outdoor Worship

Our drive-in worship services start again on June 9 at 10:30 and continue through September. This year, the outdoor worship services will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, weather permitting. Holy Communion will be served, and the services will be live streamed, as well.

## Social Ministry

Social Ministry collects "Pantry" items each month to donate to the needs of our community. The Pantry items collected for May will be food items for families in need. Also being collected

are toiletries and household cleaning supplies for the Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence. Please leave your donations in the cart in the entryway.

## **Resurrecting, Welcoming**

On Saturday, April 20, a whole host of disciples descended upon the sanctuary to provide for changes to make the sanctuary a more welcoming place to all. Keeping with our mission statement of, "Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God's diversity", multiple changes were made. A special thanks to our Boy Scouts who showed up and helped out.

Most churches today that are being built or renovated look for a way to provide an atmosphere that is mindful of Scripture, Reverence towards God Tradition, to reach the unchurched or underchurched (ones who have left organized religion). The changes done, the council believes, will bring about the changes needed for resurrection at First Lutheran, carrying us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century of worship.

In response to those who could not reach the communion rail to take communion due to the nature of the location, a new rail was installed. An offset color carpeting was installed in place of the old rail, to be symbolic of the traditional rail that had been in place. A new communion rail was installed. This rail is flexible and can be put in place and be removed as necessary, for such things as musical performances, VBS plays and Christmas plays.

If we have communion at the rail, the ushers will dismiss from the pews in the same manner as we did with flow through of two lines. Each side of the sanctuary will go to the rail and divide from the center of the rail, towards the side they were dismissed from. After receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, they can then exit in their own timing, towards the outside of the sanctuary and go back to the pews.

The old railing was removed, and it is stored in the basement. By the removal of the rail, this opened up space for an altar table. As you may have seen, the altar built into the wall remains in place and is used. The Eucharist is first placed there and moved to the table in preparation for the words of institution and distribution.

The altar table now allows for the leader to lead by facing the congregation. A Roman Catholic tradition is to face away from the congregation, making this a vertical prayer when leading prayers and when speaking the words of institution. With the introduction of the altar table, there is flexibility on how to lead. This also does not put a focus point on the leader/pastor as the one to carry and lift prayers to God. We the body of Christ are the ministers (priesthood of all believers), keeping with Lutheran tradition and all can participate in the worship service.

The priesthood of all believers has no qualification on race, age or sex. Making a holy space to be welcomed into and participate in the worship, the "Pray Ground" was created. The Pray Ground is not a new concept but has been brought into many ELCA congregations and other denominations as well. The first three pews along the pulpit/lectern side were removed to make this sacred space. The families with children are welcomed into a space that allows them to worship, not excluded from the congregation, but within the rest of the congregation as a community of believers in the body of Christ. Children are given a space they can call their own. They have a place where they can see and hear what is going on in worship. They tend to be quieter when they can see and hear what is going on in worship. They learn from other children the appropriate behaviors during worship. They learn to be in worship by being in and part of worship.

The lectern was removed and now what was the pulpit will serve in both capacities, in many cases. A lectern, according to the Oxford dictionary is, "A tall stand with a sloping top to hold a book or

notes, from which someone, typically a preacher or lecturer, can read while standing up.” Its origin is from the medieval Latin lectrum, from *legere* ‘to read’. (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/lectern>) A pulpit, according to the Oxford dictionary is, “A raised enclosed platform in a church or chapel from which the preacher delivers a sermon.” Its origin is from Latin *pulpitum* ‘scaffold, platform’, in medieval Latin ‘pulpit’. (<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/pulpit>) The pulpit will now serve as a lectern and the lectern will serve as a pulpit, since the structure can serve both needs and is designed as such to fit both needs. Some of the space used by the lectern removal was used to provide space for the communion rail and the band.

With the removal of the lectern, the band was given an additional two feet of space. The space was important for a couple of reasons. The lectern structure no longer blocks the band from leading the congregation in the service. There is a little more space for them to be able to comfortably move and lead. There will be a reconfiguration of where instruments and band members are placed to assist in leading more effectively. The band area also had a small covering wall placed in front to help hide some of the microphone cords, music cords and monitors used by the band in leading worship.

First Lutheran’s sanctuary has been resurrected into the 21<sup>st</sup> century of worship of our risen Lord. Through this we welcome not only those that are worshiping today but those who want to worship tomorrow. God gives us all a mission to reach the least, last and the lost. This newly resurrected welcoming space can provide for some of that. Now it is up to us, the disciples of Jesus the Christ, to welcome guests, friends and members alike, into this space. Get the word out. Go invite. Tell them the good news of Jesus Christ and where they can hear the Gospel, First Lutheran at 8:15 am, 10:30 am both in person and online!

Welcome to the resurrecting First Lutheran

Peace in the name of Christ who welcomes us all.

Pastor Doug



## 100 Years in 2020

We are still looking for people that would like to be a part of organizing the 100-year anniversary of First Lutheran. Yes, in 2020, this congregation will be celebrating 100 years of ministry. We have put out this request previously, but no one has so far volunteered to help out. If there is no one willing to work on this, then there will be no special recognitions throughout the year in 2020.



There will be no book put out, as was done for the 75-year anniversary.

A congregation to be around for 100 years is a significant milestone. The synod will recognize our congregation at the synod assembly in May of 2020. We will want to be able to share with the assembly what the congregation is doing as part of the celebration. It would be a shame that we do not have a special team setup to work on a 100-year ministry celebration.

Please contact the office if you want to be part of the 100-year team.

## **Listening to Veterans**

Learn how to be involved, bring understanding and connect with others in our community through listening and sharing on Thursday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 2003 A Street, South Sioux.

## **National Day of Prayer**

The National Day of Prayer Community event is Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 p.m. at The Church of Latter-Day Saints, 1201 W Clifton, Sioux City. For more information contact Janell Norton at 712-574-1492.

## **Sunday School**

The last day of Sunday school is Sunday, May 12. Classes resume in the fall.

## **Graduation Recognition**

At the 8:15 a.m. worship service on May 19, we will recognize our members who are graduating this year. If you (or a family member) are graduating from high school or college, please call the church office with the information so that they may be included in the recognition. We would also like to display pictures of our graduating seniors on the bulletin board in the entryway. Please submit your pictures to the church office.

## **Changes**

Greeting to all and God bless. I want to take this time to say what wonderful Easter services we had. I would like to thank everyone that helped on Saturday, April 20 with putting in the pray ground and resurrecting the altar. I especially love the new kneeling rail. Obviously with the changes there are other changes as well, such as the way we do communion now. I know over time we all will get the hang of it. I hope everyone had a good Easter with their families.

Changes happen whether it's with our daily lives or within our own homes. Our church is still changing the way God intends it to. I am seeing new faces around. Our online viewing is up in the twenties at times. We really are doing great. We got a new soundboard. The band got a new platform to stand on. We are going to be fixing the speakers under the choir loft. These are all good things.

Another change that has occurred is with our Sprit Connection Band. Jim Reider is no longer with our church. Jim decided to resign on 4/14/2019. We wish him and Paula nothing but the best and we keep them in our prayers. Going forward, the Council decided to have Joey take on a new role as Director of Music Ministry. Joey gladly accepted this new position as leader of all music ministry in our church. The council is looking forward to Joey continuing her wonderful contributions to the church.

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful summer coming up. I hope that everyone will enjoy our outdoor services we are doing this year. I continue to hope to see the great changes that are going on in our church. It's a wonderful time to be at First Lutheran.

Thank you and God bless

Chad Cain  
President

## May Flower Chart

**May 5 (Altar)** Given by Don and Lucy Gagnon in honor of Don's 81st birthday and in memory of their son, Darrell.

**(Chancel)** Given by Haley, Tanner and Madison Koepe in honor of Scott and Cindy's 25th wedding anniversary on May 7.

**May 12 (Altar)** Given by Rita and Jeff Todd in celebration of their 40th anniversary.

**(Chancel)** Given by Tom, Jenni, Brett, Bailey, Adam and Gabbi Durant in honor of Celeste's graduation from Northeast Community College.

**May 19 (Altar)** Given by Tom, Jenni, Celeste, Brett, Bailey and Gabbi Durant in honor of Adam's graduation from SSC High School.

**(Chancel)** Given by Elaine, John and Tyler Fader and Julie and Scott Brown and family in honor of Lucas Fader's graduation and Elaine Fader's 75th birthday.

**May 26 (Altar)** Given by Doug and Kris Dill in honor of their 30th anniversary.

**(Chancel)** Given by Doug and Kris Dill in honor of their 30th anniversary.



**MAY 12—MOTHER'S DAY TEA & COOKIES  
FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES**

**MAY 12—LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**MAY 27—OFFICE CLOSED**

**JUNE 9—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**

**JUNE 16—FATHER'S DAY ROOT BEER FLOATS  
FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES**

**JUNE 23—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**

**JUNE 24-JUNE 28—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 4—OFFICE CLOSED**

**JULY 14—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**

**JULY 28—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**

**AUGUST 9-AUGUST 11—FLEA MARKET**

**AUGUST 11—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**

**AUGUST 25—OUTDOOR WORSHIP at 10:30**



# Thanks to our May Volunteers

<u>May 5</u>	<u>May 12</u>	<u>May 19</u>	<u>May 26</u>
<u>Third Sunday of Easter</u>	<u>Fourth Sunday of Easter</u>	<u>Fifth Sunday of Easter</u>	<u>Sixth Sunday of Easter</u>
<b><u>Lectors:</u></b> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<b><u>Lectors:</u></b> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<b><u>Lectors:</u></b> 8:15 am 10:30 am	<b><u>Lectors:</u></b> 8:15 am 10:30 am
<b><u>Cantor:</u></b> 8:15 am Linda Johansen	<b><u>Cantor:</u></b> 8:15 am Chris Knudsen	<b><u>Cantor:</u></b> 8:15 am Joey Hartshorn	<b><u>Cantor:</u></b> 8:15 am Tim Niemeyer
<b><u>AV Operators:</u></b> 8:15 am Janell Sila 10:30 am Trevor Brass	<b><u>AV Operators:</u></b> 8:15 am Trevor Brass 10:30 am Jenni Durant	<b><u>AV Operators:</u></b> 8:15 am Scott Koeppe 10:30 am Janell Sila	<b><u>AV Operators:</u></b> 8:15 am Kaylana Pedersen 10:30 am Trevor Brass
<b><u>Acolytes:</u></b> 8:15 am Tyrese Gill  10:30 am Julie Geveshausen	<b><u>Acolytes:</u></b> 8:15 am Katelyn Lieber  10:30 am Brooklyn Sorem	<b><u>Acolytes:</u></b> 8:15 am Jessica Baker  10:30 am Jacob Gill	<b><u>Acolytes:</u></b> 8:15 am Branden Lieber  10:30 am Ashlyn Rich
<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> 8:15 am Melissa & Jessica Baker Marla Bianchini Chris Knudsen 10:30 am Jennifer Durant Rita Legg Lonnie & Carol Slaughter	<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> 8:15 am Marla Bianchini Judy Blessing Deb Kenny Chris Knudsen 10:30 am Kelly Robinson Brandon Trautwein Carol Zastrow	<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> 8:15 am Kathy Anders Marla Bianchini Terry & Angie Sorem 10:30 am Kathy Blair Carol Zastrow	<b><u>Ushers:</u></b> 8:15 am Beverly Bates Marla Bianchini Judy Blessing Chris Knudsen 10:30 am Chad Cain Brienne, Justin & Carli Lake
<b><u>Altar Care:</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Care:</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Care:</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Care:</u></b>