

First Lutheran Church
3601 Dakota Ave
South Sioux City, NE 68776

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First Lutheran Church

January 2020



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***Loving others in Christ for outreach to all,
while providing for God's diversity.***

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<http://text.flcssc.org>



Here am I

Send me

Isaiah 6:8



The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 16.

Worship at First Lutheran

January 5

Second Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalm: 147:12-20

Gospel: John 1:[1-9]10-18

January 12

Baptism of Our Lord

Matthew 9:9-13

Luke 6:1-11

Matthew 23:1-7, 23-25, 11-15

Mark 10:13-16

January 19

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 4:16-21

Matthew 28:16-20

Hebrews 11:1-8

Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-17

January 26

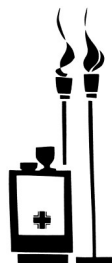
Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Psalm: 27:1, 4-9

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23



Church Office 494-5461

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Church Council (* Executive Council)

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

Church Coordinators For:

Altar Care: Kathy Anders 274-4383

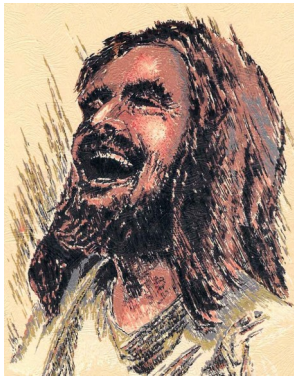
Sandy Larson 494-2135

Lectors:

Ushers:

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384



New Year, New Strides Pastor Doug

With the new year upon us, as we celebrate 100 years in ministry, we must also look to make new strides in our ministry as First Lutheran Church. Unfortunately, that means doing something that many people do not like, which is change.

Here is the good news, change is already happening, because so many of you have embraced the Spirit's calling. Here is what I have seen, just in case you missed it.

- People are embracing guests as they come to events and worship.
- Large turnout of people at the Christmas Concert and many as guests, 126 in total.
- Many, and I mean many, families signing up to participate in pictures for the directory, so many we had to add a third day.
- Attendance at fellowship events are picking up and giving at these events keeps getting better. So good that fellowship has been able to use monies for the congregation. If you don't know what for, ask and they will tell.
- Since October multiple baptisms and new members!
- All 30 books of "The Purpose of Christmas" were bought! That is way more than any other book since I have been here!
- Increased regular viewers of the Live Stream.
- A general positive outlook for the future of First Lutheran.

· Etc., Etc., Etc.

Change can be difficult, especially when things in the outside world don't conform to what God calls us all to be part of. But the one constant is change. The "church" always seems to be 20 years behind. It is time to catch up and be the change doers, not the ones who are always playing catch up.

On January 12th and 19th, Pastor Jose from St. Paul United Methodist Church will be leading and preaching at First Lutheran. I will be headed to St. Paul to do the same. Pastor Jose will be leading a sermon series called Just Say Yes!

On January 26th, following the second worship service, we have a critical congregational meeting. This is our annual meeting, which you should have received a copy of the agenda by now. We have some choices. We could stay status quo, go backwards or move forward. The last option will require more of that thing many of us don't like, change.

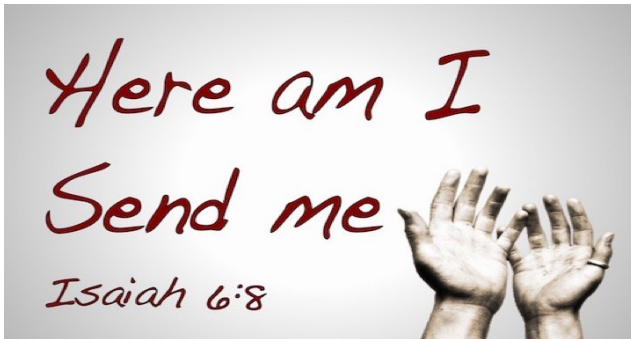
Here is what is sure, we cannot really keep on like we have done in the past. We cannot go back to the past. History is great, it tells our story of who we are, how we got there, but it does not tell us the future. Only God sees that future, and we can only get to the future that God sees for us by listening to God and keeping God centered in our lives.

That means God, who is the active force in creation, and who keeps on creating, is making changes and we need to, also. When we concentrate our efforts in what "I" want, that "I" comes smack dab in the middle of SIN. **Self-Important Now.** It has always been and will continue to be what God wants of us, not what we want.

We are both Christmas and Easter people. It is the Christmas season, and so it is still a good time to remember what Christmas is about. God knew we needed a change, so God came down as God's Son. The reason to celebrate at Christmas is that a Savior, in Christ Jesus, was born for all people, the angel said. Not some people, but

all. God knows that we need change, but we cannot do it alone. Our salvation is a cooperative effort between the Risen Christ and us. Our cooperation is simply to change our attitudes from I, towards God. God wants us changed inwardly and outwardly. This means that God chooses to reconcile us to God's self through Jesus Christ and we respond to others to reconcile our ways that have brought us towards sin.

If you have not noticed it, Change is the theme. In the spirit of our 2020 Theme Verse, let us embrace the change and say; "Here am I, Send me" Isaiah 6:8



Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug

Anniversaries

Bob and Nellie May Anderson—January 14
Tom and Jenni Durant—January 17
Carl and Shirley Hansen—January 8
Milt and Elsie Peters—January 10

Happy Birthday

Melissa Baker—January 16
Bill Bass—January 10
Beverly Bates—January 24
Bob Blessing—January 7
Jenni Durant—January 11
Lucas Fader—January 17
Daniele Feenstra—January 26
Josie Geveshausen—January 23
Emily Gotch—January 21
Gladys Hedquist—January 5
Justin Heitman—January 30
Amy Hinehline—January 16
Wayne Kersting—January 8

Sharon King—January 11
Charlene Kollbaum—January 26
Gordon Krogh—January 1
Shirley Luehr—January 1
Carol Marmo—January 6
Marty Meisner—January 30
Mike Morgan—January 9
Tim Niemeyer—January 10
Bev Rautenberg-Panko—January 29
Chris Reyes—January 25
Milissa Reyes—January 27
Alexis Tobin—January 3
Doug Tondreau—January 12
Ruth Weekes—January 29
Ruth Weiland—January 31
Joyce Williams—January 8

Youth Birthdays

Laken Aldrich—January 6
Cora Barr—January 27
Liam Gill—January 2
Ashley Hedquist—January 16
Ryan Hedquist—January 25
Daxton Kleinberg—January 20
Taylor Martinez—January 8
Jase Mohning—January 14
Lincoln Schleusener—January 12
Ryker Stolze—January 21
Breck Swanson—January 14
Lena Trautwein—January 10

With Deepest Sympathy

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

The family of Wilbur Larson, who passed away Wednesday, December 4. Services were held Monday, December 9 here at First Lutheran.

Tim Niemeyer and family, on the death of Tim's father, Lorenz Niemeyer, who passed away Thursday, December 19. Services were held Friday, December 27 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Soap Creek, Nebraska.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, January 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Program: Friendship Tea

Devotions: Lydia Group

Hostesses: Lydia Group

⊗⊗⊗ **CIRCLE MEETINGS** ⊗⊗⊗

LYDIA GROUP January 9, 2020 7:00 p.m.

LEADER: Rita Todd

HOSTESS: Kris Dill

CIRCLE I January 20, 2020 2:00 p.m.

LEADER: Group

HOSTESS: Betty Bass

CIRCLE II January 14, 2020 9:15 a.m.

LEADER: Lucy Gagnon

HOSTESS: Jan Durant



Bible Study

“We are Called!”

Lydia: “Living Above Worry and Stress”

Church Council Minutes

**First Lutheran Church Council
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 17th, 2019**

Attendance/Roll Call – Deb Kenny called the meeting to order at 11:51 am.

Present: Deb Kenny, Sue Hunter, Trevor Brass, Kathy Anders, Judy Blessing, Linda Johansen, Terry Sorem, Brandon Trautwein, and Pastor Doug.

Not present: Chad Cain (excused)

Acceptance of Agenda – Brandon motion to accept, Judy seconded. Ayes have it unanimously.

Opening Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father,
you know that we are set
in the midst of so many and great dangers,
that by reason of the frailty of our nature
we cannot always stand upright:
Grant us such strength and protection,
to support us in all danger,
and carry us through all temptations;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Martin Luther

Devotion – Martin Luther for November 17
- Based on Romans, read by Pastor Doug.

Reading of Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement – Building upon the properties that God provides. To reach out in mission to the community.

Mission Statement - Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God’s diversity.

Guests:

· Rita Todd shared a comment she had heard from a family member who was at last week’s baptism who liked the children’s area up front and felt reassured there was a safe space for the children during worship.

· Michael Sigsbee indicated that he would like to join the church council in the upcoming election.

Minutes from October Council meeting (10.20) & November Executive Meeting

(11.10).

Sue moved that the minutes from both meetings be approved as modified, Trevor Seconded. The ayes have it unanimously.

Reports -

October Team Reports – Deb made a motion to approve the reports as written, Brandon seconded. The ayes have it unanimously.

Pastor Report from October – Deb read the pastoral report for October 2019 aloud. Terry made a motion to approve as written, Brandon seconded. The ayes have it unanimously.

Old Business

Tree removal – Still there.

Parsonage Work and Sewer Smell

Wax ring replaced. Smell still there – source unknown. May be embedded in walls and floor.

Sacristy Ceiling Damaged

Terry Sorem to fix in fall. Start date to be scheduled for a weekend in December.

Food Pantry cabinets to be finished update

Rick Lieber contacted pastor and is looking to finish up work that was left undone by Randy Rahn. May use the boys of Scout Troop 149 to assist in this endeavor.

South Garage-Update

Terry Sorem to fix door, Start date?

Property Repair/Update/Replace

Repair of caulking on floor to ceiling stained glass windows –

Replacement of lights in sanctuary that light up Altar – **Quote Obtained from Kevin O’Dell and presented at October council. On hold.**

Replacement of incandescent to LED lights outside of choir loft –

Repair/replace tower lights – **Quote Obtained from Kevin O’Dell, waiting on work to start.** Sue Hunter said she contacted a “Zeb.”

Repair/replace Trinity sign on tower – Need bucket and someone to install

Repair light on South side of metal FLC sign – **Quote Obtained from Kevin O’Dell**

Waiting on work to start

Repair/update lighted sign on Dakota Ave to LED – **Quote to be obtained from ACE Sign.**

Project to make double wide drive on South to Exit only with left and right turn lanes is **complete**. Drive North of the double wide has been made into entrance only. Signage now indicates the same for these locations. **Paint on the drive done. Entrance and Exit Signs moved. Mike Hunter is looking for Traffic Signs to finalize changes with the city of South Sioux City.**

Sue made a motion to do the *inside* electrical work as bid by Kevin O’Dell Electric. Brandon seconded the motion. The ayes carried the motion unanimously.

Nursing Home status

Drive is open as of today.

Bill is \$1,000 higher than what was quoted. Chad Cain will discuss this with the contractor.

Security Cameras –

One camera to be installed on garage. Need electric to unit for it to function. Quote obtained in part for light box to be added. Extra items were quoted and looking for adjusted quote.

Picnic/Food/Band Shelter –

Need to see plan and estimated costs. Boy Scouts may be able to have this as an Eagle project. Terri Sorem to assist, if/when Boy Scout needs a project.

Sound cabinet has been modified for new sound board

Terry Sorem to complete below. Start date – sometime in December 2019.

Need back of cabinet to be made removeable.

Pine needs to be stained to match oak wood.

Hinges to be put on back of cabinet.

New Business

Bob Barto resignation from Foundation on Friday, November 1st, 2019.

Bylaw changes for Foundation: Gary Panko addressed the council and discussed out-of-date material that he suggests being changed:

- Board members to serve 2-year terms instead of 5-year terms.
- Fiscal year to end Dec. 31st instead of January 1st.
- Added a "Purpose" section to the FLC Foundation bylaws.
- Church Council is responsible for electing members to the foundation board, who take office immediately following the annual meeting.
- Updated some language for clarity.
- Simplified the job description of the president.
- Removed language referencing a "seal" - no evidence of any stamping by a seal could be found in previous documents.
- Updated reference to the *current* Internal Revenue Code instead of the 1954 version.
- Updated language from "stockholders" to "members of the corporation."

Pastor Doug made a motion for the changes to the bylaws to be put before the corporation (voting members of FLC) at the next annual meeting in January 2020. Linda seconded the motion. The ayes carried it unanimously.

Bylaw changes for Congregation

Gary Panko discussed his proposed changes to the FLC bylaws:

- Simplified some language.
- Eliminated the word committees and replaced it with either "teams" (long term) or "task

forces" (short term).

· Suggested FLC maintain a list of baptized AND confirmed members.

· Syntax and grammatical changes throughout.

· Recommended that for treasurer position (at B5.04) that income and expenditure responsibilities be bifurcated as a matter of financial best practice to prevent an embezzlement.

· A new position of financial secretary to be created.

Sue made a motion to share the proposed changes at the FLC annual meeting in January 2020 and present them for adoption and Terry seconded.

Sue tabled her motion and Terry "unseconded" after discussion of the need to further amend the treasurer position in the bylaws. This will come before the council again in December 2019 after Gary Panko makes further changes as discussed by the council.

Constitution Changes - Gary Panko discussed his proposed changes to the FLC Constitution with the church council:

· Number of Council Members "up to 12 and as determined by the congregation council."

· Stylistic changes: (ex: "the" to "this"), (addition of plural "s").

· Changes to the constitution that are mandated by the ELCA churchwide assembly (these must be implemented for FLC to remain a church that is part of the ELCA).

· Addition of the term "Deacon" as part of the "rostered leaders of the church" instead of just "rostered clergy of the church."

· Correspondence by "most convenient means" instead of simply "by post."

Judy made a motion to present the proposed constitutional changes to the congregation members at the January 2020 meeting. Trevor seconded. The ayes passed the motion unanimously.

Deb made a motion to amend the number of council members to a total of 8 in 2020. Judy seconded. The ayes carry it unanimously.

The church council discussed the terms of current members – and how many will be needed next year: 2 or 3, depending on whether Trevor will continue on in 2020 or not.

Correspondences received: empty.

Synod conflict update:

Synod suggestions for outside consultants:

Synod for low cost healthy congregations.

Healthy Congregations company – 3rd party option that doesn't involve the Synod. Pastor Doug recommended this option for their neutrality.

Train FLC people in healthy congregations.

Healthy communication rules for leaders document – Synod advanced this as a possibility for FLC to adopt.

Sue made a motion to contact the Healthy Congregations company for an initial consultation with FLC. Kathy seconded the motion. Sue amended the motion that this initial cost does not exceed \$1,000. Pastor Doug to contact Healthy Congregations this week.

Discuss attendance trends – October 2019: 435 total Sunday worshippers. Average Sunday attendance: 108.

Mission Support Financial Reports and Status

– Giving was not enough to cover expenditures for October 2019. But custodial expenses (labor and supplies) have been lower than budgeted for 2019. Budget adjustments will be necessary next year.

Motion to accept the Mission Financial Support by Deb and Linda seconded. The ayes carried the motion unanimously.

Sermon Series in January by Pastor Jose –

For the 1st 3 Sundays in January 2020 Pastor Jose will preach in Pastor Doug's place on

“Unleashing People for Ministry.”

Open for other new business – Deb asked if there was any other business to be brought before the council. Being none, Pastor Doug made a motion to close and Deb seconded.

Close in Prayer - Pastor Doug led in the closing prayer.

Next meeting is: Sunday, December 15th, 2010–third Sunday in December.

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report - November 2019

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 23,468.88

Receipts:

Contributions	\$12,428.84
Misc. Income	(14.36)
TOTAL:	\$12,414.48

Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,583.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	4,233.52
Auxiliary staff salaries	4,085.27
Payroll Taxes	312.53
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	745.48
Parsonage	1,048.80
Utilities	823.50
Grounds Maint.	869.40
Building Maint.	142.81
Janitorial Supplies	187.77
Office Expenses	1,198.68
Christian Ed.	237.33
Food Bank	400.00
Worship & Music	4.68
Parish	173.39
Postage	12.14
Social Ministry	42.76

Snow Removal	4,000.00
Youth	80.57
<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>980.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$23,161.97

Transfer to Capital Improvement: \$ 100.00
 Ending General Fund Balance: \$ -34,316.37

November Attendance & General Fund Receipts

November 3	150	\$ 4,677.84
November 10	163	\$ 1,592.00
November 17	103	\$ 1,666.00
November 24	124	\$ 2,498.00
Online/Electronic Giving		\$ 1,995.00

Mission Support (Budget)

There will be a mission support (budget) meeting on Sunday, January 5 following the 2nd service.

Annual Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 26 following the 2nd service. Every adult member of First Lutheran is invited and encouraged to attend.

Thank You

Hedda Dekker-Thank you so much for the two bags you gave me and all the goodies inside, e.g. the slipper socks and chocolates (bad for me I can't lie!), but of course I ate them, so good! I pretend the scale is wrong.

Jo Ann Garvey-Thank you to Jackie Gierman and her committee for the fruit plate and devotions book that was delivered on a very cold day! Thank you for thinking of me, it was a ray of sunshine.

Jackie Gierman-Thank you to Linda Fischer, Ottie Gierman, Kerri Rahn and Mary Wolf for helping with and delivering the fruit plates this Christmas season.

Bill and Linda Kendra-Thank you to our First Lutheran family for thinking of us at Thanksgiving with the wonderful Thanksgiving basket. We also appreciate the support shown to us by the pastor and congregation throughout the year with visits, prayers, cards and encouragement. There was a pretty dish towel in the basket with words on it that sums up our feelings, "Thankful, Grateful, Blessed"!

Charlene Kollbaum-I have lots of thank yous.

First, to First Lutheran Church for the delicious and beautiful fruit basket that Mary Wolf brought to me. I loved visiting with her again.

Thanks also for the large Christmas bag filled with goodies from Circle 2. Thank you to each and everyone who filled the bag and to Mary Wolf for delivering it.

Thank you to Lee Mathiason for bringing the Christmas bag filled with gifts. It was fun to open.

Thank you to all of you, and God Bless.

Dorothy Lux-Thank you so much for the fruit plate from the church. It was very nice. Thanks to Linda for delivering it, and to Jackie, the instigator. I wish you all God's love and blessings.

Carol Slaughter-Thank you to the Women of First Lutheran Church for the fruit basket and to Mary Wolf for delivering it and visiting.

Giving Tree Thank You

Cardinal Elementary-Thank you so much for the gifts! The students get so excited! Your thoughtfulness is very appreciated!

K.S.-Thank you! I love my gift and am so excited to take it home. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

E.W.-Thank you for the gift. I love The Avengers! I really like my snow pants!!! Thank you for the coloring book! Merry Christmas! Have a nice day!

E.M.-Thank you for the stuff. I like them a lot. I am excited to play the game and wear the necklace and earrings. I like the shirt. It's very pretty.

B.Z.-Thank you for the present. It's awesome!

J.Z.-Thank you for the present. I love it! It was so nice of you. I like books, toys, Iron Man and thank you for the snow pants.

E.W.-Thank you for the gifts. I was surprised. I loved it all.

New Members

On December 8 we welcomed Yader, Shantell, Peyton and Jayla Martinez into our congregation. Please greet them warmly!

Family Game Day

Family Game Day will take place Wednesday, January 1 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please bring a game to play, a snack to share, and your own beverage. If you want to play bingo, please bring a white elephant gift.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry is collecting food for families in need. Donations can be left in the cart.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed Wednesday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

Giving Statements

Year-end Giving Statements will be available at the Welcome Center after January 6. Please pick yours up to help save on postage costs. If we have your email address on file, your statement will be emailed to you.

Christmas Poinsettias

The Poinsettias on Christmas Eve were given to the glory of God by:

Clint Barrs in memory of Clinton A. Barrs.

Clint Barrs in memory of Darlene G. Barrs.

Beverly Bates in memory of her companion, Duane Hamm.

Mrs. Floanne Frey in memory of Fred Frey.

William and Linda Kendra in memory of William's parents.

William and Linda Kendra in memory of Linda's parents.

The Bill McLarty family in honor of their many blessings, the greatest being love.

The Bill McLarty family in honor of Jill Brown.

The Bill McLarty family in honor of Denise Kleinberg.

The Bill McLarty family in memory of Grandma Bobbie.

The Bill McLarty family in memory of Mark McLarty.

Marty Meisner in memory of Valeta and Al Meisner.

Marty Meisner in memory of Jerry Meisner.

Ray and Colleen Schleusener in memory of Leonard & Loretta Skow and Art & Alyce Schleusener.

Ray and Colleen Schleusener in memory of Kenzie Kolleck.

Church Building and Property

If you see something that needs to be picked up, please pick it up.

If you see something that needs to be wiped up, please wipe it up.

If you see something that needs to be put away, please put it away.

If you see something that needs to be refilled, please refill it.

If you see something that needs to be dusted off, please dust it off.

If you see something that needs to be mowed, please mow it.

In other words, we need everyone pulling together to keep our Church clean and presentable-we are all responsible. If you see something that you

cannot take care of yourself, be sure to let the office know so that LeAnn is made aware. The church is a home away from home. A clean church eliminates distraction, keeping the focus on beautiful surroundings, worship and prayer.

Called to Love One Another

Seeking the Spirit Within would like to invite you to participate in the annual guided spiritual retreat. This year's retreat, Called to Love One Another, will include opportunities to become grounded and centered in God's loving presence, cultivate compassion for ourselves and for others, and discern a compassionate action we personally feel called to do following the retreat. Appointments with certified spiritual directors will be available during the afternoon. At the close of the day, we will celebrate the Eucharist together.

The retreat will be held February 15 at St. Paul's in Grand Island. Cost is \$40. For more information and to register, visit nebraskasynod.org.

Broken Doesn't Mean the End

Life is never easy. We all face different problems, sadness and hardship. We have heard countless times how we respond to those situations can determine our next steps.

There is a mythological bird called the Phoenix. It is said the bird can live for several hundred years. The phoenix will then die in a fiery death. However, out the ashes rises a new bird, just as beautiful, if not more so, to live life again.

In Japan, potters have a method of repairing broken ceramics with a special lacquer made with gold, silver or platinum. The idea behind this is to repair the object, yet still allow for the repaired object to keep its original purpose, with history.

Recently a friend of mine was in the hospital. While there he died, not once but three times. CPR and a medical team brought him back. He's home now and recovering, still with us.

Jesus was born on Christmas, and thirty years later, died. He was badly beaten, whipped, carried

his own cross for miles, nails were driven into his hands and feet, and hung to die. Yet, three days after his death, he rose again. He rose again for all of us, believers and doubters.

Good can happen out of the broken. It's a matter of perspective. Do we sit and wallow in our own pity, or can we make something beautiful out of it? We all have the ability inside us to rise out of the ashes, fill our cracks or bury the old us, to make way for the new. What is broken within you that can be mended into something new? I encourage you to reflect on who you are and ask God to help guide you in whatever transformation needs to take place. This doesn't mean it will be easy, nor does it mean it won't be painful. However, God is there helping you through it all and will never leave you.

Matthew 7:8

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

—Kris Dill

First Lutheran Needs You

Matthew 19:26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

I am so excited to hear that the congregation of First Lutheran has been standing for almost 100 years now. My childhood congregation in Illinois hasn't even been around that long. What an honor to be a part of such a long-standing congregation. What's even more exciting, is that it couldn't have made it this long without all of you.

First Lutheran has seen many people come and go through its doors. You all have gone through good and tough times together. Yet, here you still are, together again. When you have this many people gathered, there will be disagreements, and/or even disappointments. Did you know that's okay, too? Did you know even the apostles didn't agree with Jesus or each other all the time?

However, when you come together, God is there and gets you through it.

2020 is here at our door. We are all given an opportunity to “start over”. I’m going to ask you to help First Lutheran start over. I’m putting you to the challenge, if you are ready to accept it.

First Lutheran surely has another 100 years ahead of them. This means we, as a congregation, need to work together to keep it strong. So, here’s the challenge; What group can you join? What things would you like to see and do as a congregation? With all the people we have, we should have fresh ideas and fresh people willing to help. It costs you nothing to be the church, but you will be rewarded generously when you come together to work as the church.

In 2020 are you going to go to church or be the church? It’s up to you.

—Kris Dill

Tis the Season!

I wanted to share with the Congregation one of the ministries of First Lutheran Church during the Christmas season.

I know that you have seen the Kid’s Giving Jar at the front of the church on Sundays where the kids place their offering. I thought you might want to know what those dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies go for at this time of the year. The funds are used to purchase gifts for the less fortunate students at our six local public elementary schools. Members of the Youth Team also donate funds to offset the costs to make the Jar go even farther. Some members also apply for Thrivent Cards to supplement the amount in the jar. Profiles are provided by the school counselors, who provide the church with the student’s sex, age, size, color preferences, suggested needs and wants for Christmas. This year we had 36 kids to buy gifts for. When possible, the Youth Team takes the older First Lutheran Church kids shopping to fill the wishes and needs of these kids. The gifts are bagged and tagged in the Fellowship Hall and

then taken to the front of the church to be blessed before distributing to the school counselors.

I will tell you how heart warming it is when these gifts are delivered, not to mention the school staff who are brought to tears knowing how these gifts of love are received by their kids in need. We have so much to be thankful for and to be able to share with others is what Jesus not only asks of us but also expects. All that we have is by the grace of God and God is good all of the time.

If you have any questions, please be sure to direct them to Sue Hunter or Rita Todd directly.

Sue Hunter,

Youth Team Member; Disciple of FLC, Grandmother, Mother and Wife

You’re Invited

You are invited to Jenni Durant’s 50th birthday party on Saturday, January 11 from 6-9 p.m. at Cottonwood Conference Center, 4402 Dakota Avenue. Come for a delicious meal as they have a great evening of celebration. A cash bar will be available.

Altar Care

Help is needed ASAP.

Altar Care has asked for help for over two years, and now a change is about to happen. Effective February 1, Kathy Anders will no longer serve as the team lead nor be able to serve on Altar Care.

What does that mean? It means that as a congregation of our size, there are others that can be the team lead and others to serve on the team. If no one steps up to serve, then there will have to be significant changes to our worship: baptisms, funerals and weddings.

Altar Care is responsible for setting up paraments for each church season. They are also responsible for setup and take down of communion. They also prepare for baptisms, funerals and weddings.

Without an altar guild, none of these will happen. As a disciple of Christ Jesus, we are all called

to serve. Kathy has served faithfully for years but now it is time for someone else to lead and others to serve on the team.

Contact the office ASAP to be the team lead and/or be part of the Altar Care team.

See also the signup sheet in welcome center.

Sub Sales

It's that time of year again when the youth will be selling submarine sandwiches and nachos for Super Bowl Sunday, February 2. Order forms are available in the entryway. Sandwiches and nachos will be available to pick up right after church.

Church Council Bios

Chad Cain

I am vying for a term on the church council. I am wanting to do this because I feel that the work we have been doing inside and outside the church isn't done. I want to continue the improvements we have been making. We are continuing to update the building and the grounds. We are continuing to provide a wonderful worship service experience. We continue to have members of the congregation do wonderful things in the community. I want to be able to continue to provide ideas and help lead our congregation with more involvement in the community and better the church every day.

I have been on the council for 2 years now and I have enjoyed my time working with everyone and listening to everyone's ideas. During that 2 year period I have had the pleasure of being the President of our congregation. I have helped with the budget the last 2 years. I have continued to assist and help when needed in the Sunday School classroom. I help lead services when asked. I love this church and I love the people in it. I think we can all continue to work together to make our church the best there is. We continue to make improvements and continue to provide the services we have and improve on new ones. I know we can do that.

I work at Great West Casualty as a truck underwriter. I am a coach in the Sergeant Bluff Rec. league. I watch sports and play golf. I play fantasy football. I am very church and family oriented. I am asking to be voted back on to the church council by you, all my friends. And I thank every one of you that I have had the honor of listening and conversing with.

Jarrold Knudsen

I have been a member of this church all my life. I was baptized and confirmed here.

I earned rank of Eagle Scout from Troop 149 under direction of Ryan Hoag in 1998.

I graduated from South Sioux City High School in 1999 and Wayne State College in 2004.

My current activities are membership in Triangle Lodge #643, currently serving as Master,

Abu Bekr Shrine, where I participate in several different groups, help with Boy Scouts and helped my dad with his gun business until his passing in 2019.

My vision for this church is for healing and growth through faith, love and forgiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Lieber

I was born in Kellogg ID and raised in South Sioux. I am 38 years old. I have lived through some hard times in my life and have overcome them. I have not been a perfect person by far. I had my first child, Angel, at the age of 16. I had to become a grown up real fast. I knew I would be raising him by myself. I have always had a strong faith in God, and I truly believe that is why I was able to overcome the hardship I had to face, so I prayed for the strength to be a good mother and provider for him. And so it was! He is now 21 years old, serving our great country in the Navy. I couldn't be more proud.

I married the love of my life, Richard Lieber, in 2005. He has always been a member of this church, and he is the one who brought me here. I

was baptized and became a member of First Lutheran in 2005, and my faith has just grown since then. We have three beautiful children: Branden, Katelyn and Hailey, who are actively involved in First Lutheran.

I am on the Fellowship team, and I try to help out anywhere I can. I love serving people. I have always enjoyed serving. When I was younger I served as a candy striper at St. Luke's Hospital. As time went on, I realized I really like giving back.

I served as a Boy Scout leader as well as a Girl Scout leader. During both of those times, I tried to teach the children how important it was to help people. We made blankets and gave them to those in need, we bought Christmas gifts for an entire family with money that we raised, we cleaned parks, and the list goes on....

I have been working at Sharie's Gallery for the last nine years helping people deal with the loss of their loved ones by creating something special out of the flowers they get from funerals. I care deeply about people and I want to help wherever I can. Whether it's giving them something special to look at or providing food for those who cannot afford it, I am always willing to help someone. What I am trying to say is that I have a passion to help people and I believe I can do some good at First Lutheran. I am asking for your vote for council member.

January Flower Chart



January 5 (Altar) open

January 12 (Altar) Given by Tom, Celeste, Brett, Bailey, Gabbi and Adam Durant in honor of Jenni's 50th birthday on January 11.

January 19 (Altar) open

January 26 (Altar) Given by George, Ruth and William Weiland in memory of Beverly Weiland, who would have been 63 today.



JANUARY 1—OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 1—FELLOWSHIP GAME DAY from 2:00-4:00

JANUARY 5—MISSION SUPPORT (BUDGET) MEETING @ 11:30

JANUARY 7—WOMEN OF THE ELCA GENERAL MEETING @ 7:00

JANUARY 26—ANNUAL MEETING @ 11:30

JANUARY 26—CONFIRMATION CLASS @ 11:30

FEBRUARY 4—LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY from 1-8

FEBRUARY 5—LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY from 1-8

FEBRUARY 6—LIFETOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY from 3-8

FEBRUARY 23—CONFIRMATION CLASS @ 11:30

FEBRUARY 26—ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP @ 12:00 & 7:00

MARCH 22—CONFIRMATION CLASS @ 11:30

APRIL 9—MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP @ 7:00

APRIL 10—GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP @ 7:00

APRIL 12—EASTER WORSHIP @ 6:30, 8:15 & 10:30

APRIL 13—OFFICE CLOSED

APRIL 26—CONFIRMATION CLASS @ 11:30

J a n u a r y 2 0 2 0

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
			1 New Year's Day 2-4pm Fellowship Game Day 5:00pm Worship & Music Meeting Office Closed	2 8:00am Breakfast w/the Pastors 2:00pm Food Bank Distribution 6:30pm Fellowship Meeting	3 8:30am TOPS	4 1:30pm Dakota County Amateur Radio Club Testing																																																	
5 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Prayer Gathering 10:30am Worship 11:30am Mission Support Plan (Budget) Forum	6 6:30pm Boy Scouts	7 7:00pm Women of the ELCA General Meeting	8 5:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 8:00pm Spirit Connection Practice	9 8:00am Breakfast w/the Pastors 8:00pm Spirit Connection Practice 7:00pm Lydia Group	10 8:30am TOPS	11 9:00am Saturday Quilting Group																																																	
12 Holy Communion 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Prayer Gathering 10:30am Worship	13 6:30pm Boy Scouts	14 9:15am Circle II	15 8:00pm Spirit Connection Practice	16 8:00am Breakfast w/the Pastors 2:00pm Food Bank Distribution 7:00pm Dakota County Amateur Radio Club	17 8:30am TOPS	18 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry @ Parsonage																																																	
19 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Prayer Gathering 10:30am Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting	20 2:00pm Circle I 6:30pm Boy Scouts	21	22 8:00pm Spirit Connection Practice	23 8:00am Breakfast w/the Pastors	24 8:30am TOPS	25																																																	
26 Holy Communion 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Prayer Gathering 10:30am Worship 11:30am Confirmation 11:30am Annual Meeting	27 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Women of the ELCA Executive Meeting	28	29 8:00pm Spirit Connection Practice	30 8:00am Breakfast w/the Pastors	31 8:30am TOPS	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2020</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	February 2020							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
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Thanks to our January Volunteers

<u>January 5</u> <u>Second Sunday of Christmas</u>	<u>January 12</u> <u>Baptism of Our Lord</u>	<u>January 19</u> <u>Second Sunday after Epiphany</u>	<u>January 26</u> <u>Third Sunday after Epiphany</u>
<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Chad Cain 10:30 am Mike Hunter	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Vicki Lyons 10:30 am Mike Hunter	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Suzette Curry 10:30 am Pam Knudsen	<u>Lectors:</u> 8:15 am Bev Rautenberg-Panko 10:30 am Sue Hunter
<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 Brandon Trautwein
<u>AV Operators:</u> 8:15 am Scott Koeppe 10:30 am Mike Hunter	<u>AV Operators:</u> 8:15 am Janell Sila 10:30 am Trevor Brass	<u>AV Operators:</u> 8:15 am Janell Sila 10:30 am Jenni Durant	<u>AV Operators:</u> 8:15 am Mike Hunter 10:30 am Trevor Brass
<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Julie Geveshausen Justin Lake 10:30 am Jacob Gill Jayla Martinez	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Tyrese Gill Tayden Kinnaman 10:30 am Carli Lake Katelyn Lieber	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Brooklyn Sorem 10:30 am Julie Geveshausen Peyton Martinez	<u>Acolytes:</u> 8:15 am Jacob Gill Justin Lake 10:30 am Tyrese Gill Jayla Martinez
<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am Kathy Anders Beverly Bates Kris Bergstrom Lyle Todd 10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am Beverly Bates Kris Bergstrom Lyle Todd 10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am Kathy Anders Beverly Bates Vicki Lyons 10:30 am	<u>Ushers:</u> 8:15 am Beverly Bates Vicki Lyons 10:30 am
<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>	<u>Altar Care:</u>