

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

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First Lutheran Church

June 2020



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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

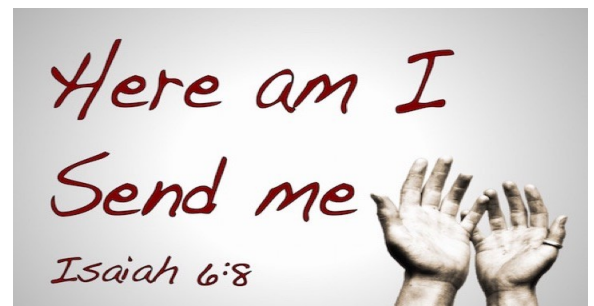


Sign up for Text Notifications
from First Lutheran

Text flcssc to 797979

or use

<http://text.flcssc.org>



The deadline for the July Newsletter is June 18.

Worship at First Lutheran

June 7

The Holy Trinity

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Psalm: 8

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

Second Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8a

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

Psalm: 100

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

June 21

Third Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

Psalm: 69:7-18

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

Psalm: 89:1-4, 15-18

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Church Office 494-5461

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pastordoug@flcsc.org

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

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LeAnn Kilstrom, Custodian

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Church Council (* Executive Council)

*Deb Kenny, President 712/490-2097

dkenny@flcsc.org

*Jarrod Knudsen, Vice President 712/898-1170

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*Mike Hunter, Treasurer 712/490-2998

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*Judy Blessing, Secretary 255-7775

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

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Michael Sigsbee (msigsbee@flcsc.org) 494-2418

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

Church Coordinators For:

Altar Care: Billy Denker 402/404-4212

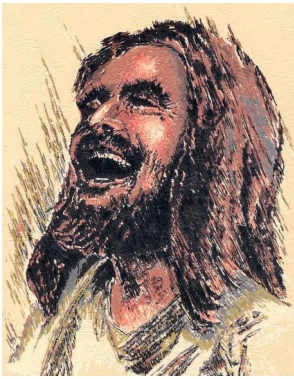
Lectors:

Ushers:

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384





What is Going On? Pastor Doug

First, we all know the situation that we have been facing, individually, as families, employers, and employees. As a congregation, we are made up of God's people, who also identify as the aforementioned people. We come from South Sioux City, Sioux City and beyond. We are part of Siouxland, and we are also the people of God.

At the last council meeting, the council chose to keep worshiping in our parking lot, rather than bringing people inside. This decision was not taken lightly. Keeping in mind the seriousness of responsibility towards all of God's people, but most specifically those mentioned in the previous paragraph, weighed into the decision. The need and want to worship together inside, with the ability to ethically provide a safe environment that would not negatively impact others, is what ultimately drove the decision. Today, May 26th, the news reported that three police officers of South Sioux City tested positive for COVID-19. We need to stay safe, and the council recognized that.

What does that mean for the congregation members and guests? The council will re-evaluate the situation at its meeting in June. It also means that we continue to provide a meaningful worship experience in our parking lot. We will also continue with our expanded online presence. First Lutheran has been able to carry out our mission even amid the pandemic. We continue to be; "Loving others in Christ for outreach to all; while providing for God's diversity."

How have we increased our mission? We use a product called Vimeo to assist in our streaming

of worship and sermons. This has allowed us to provide a place for people to be involved in worship, through five locations. Three on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo and YouTube. Prior to Vimeo, during the pandemic, we reached about 800 streams a month. This means that 800 times in a month, someone would click play on the stream. Since the implementation of Vimeo, we now have been reaching over 5,000 streams a month. From May 11-17, we had 1,374 plays of our videos (Worship and Sermons).

At least 65% of people would prefer to watch a sermon in person. Another way to look at that is that 35% of people would prefer to watch a sermon as a video. So, we stream our worship for those that want to watch this way. We also stream because, even if you prefer to watch in person, sometimes you cannot. Did anyone say "pandemic"? What about those that work Sundays? What about people that are sick and confined to a home or nursing home? This is part of God's diversity that we are reaching.

Regular attendees of First Lutheran have noticed many new guests coming to worship. Some have advised they found us streaming and wanted to come in person! Now, before you ask, the answer is I do not know. How many gave? How many want to become a member? Membership really only counts to vote and hold council positions. It is unfortunate that congregations often look at membership to determine success. As for giving, some people give cash and others will give. Look at the offering prayer we have been using during our outdoor worship.

(cont. on page 10)

Anniversaries

Tom and Denise Barber—June 7
Austin and Jennifer Bass—June 6
Brian and Nancy Beekman—June 6
Larry and Kathy Blair—June 6
Bob and Patty Blessing—June 9
Steve and Roxane Clausen—June 14
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
JR and Paula Reider—June 18
Aaron and Sami Scheffler—June 8
Terry and Angie Sorem—June 22

Happy Birthday

Kathy Anders—June 13
Bob Barto—June 16
Kris Bergstrom—June 24
Trevor Brass—June 21
Lynnelle Conley—June 23
Adam Durant—June 9
Tom Flackoy—June 25
Norma Geveshausen—June 3
Sally Hansen—June 11
Linda Hovde—June 13
Mark Johnson—June 5
Scott Kayl—June 9
Joann Kleinberg—June 15
Kelsey Krantz—June 6
Katie Kvidera—June 29
Chris Lake—June 7
Brian Leiting—June 28
Jader Martinez—June 11
Carla Jo Morgan—June 30
Elsie Peters—June 13
Bonnie Prosser—June 9
JR Reider—June 25
Todd Sands—June 29
Sami Scheffler—June 9
Bonnie Schneider—June 1
Gracie Trautwein—June 16

Youth Birthdays

Axton Davis—June 27
Pursuis Grant—June 14

Tayden Kinnaman—June 19
Brooklyn Sorem—June 21

With Deepest Sympathy

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

The family of Marty Meisner, who passed away Friday, April 24.

Marla Bianchini and family, on the death of Marla's brother, Leonard Gosch, on Saturday, April 25. Services will be held at a later date.

Agnes Deal and Dale Kai, on the death of their brother, Herbert Henjes, on Monday, May 4. Services were held Thursday, May 7 at Waterbury Funeral Service of Sioux City.

Scott and Cindy Koeppe and family, on the death of Scott's brother-in-law, Ronn Purviance, on Thursday, May 7.

Vicki Lyons and family, on the death of Vicki's brother-in-law, Don Linafelter, on Tuesday, May 19.

Church Council Minutes

First Lutheran Church – Council Meeting

Sunday, April 19, 2020

(Conducted online via Microsoft Teams)

Attendance/Roll Call – Present/online: Pastor Doug, Jarrod Knudsen, Mike Hunter, Deb Kenny, Jennifer Lieber, Judy Blessing, and Kathy Anders.

Not present, but excused: Michael Sigsbee

Deb Kenny started the Meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Deb welcomed Kris from the consultants, Effective Church Group ("ECG")

Acceptance of Agenda – Jarrod made a motion to accept the agenda as written, Mike Hunter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Opening Prayer

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure.

I let go of my desire for survival and security.

I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself.

I open to the love and presence of God and God's action within.

Amen

Father Thomas Keating

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 – Kris from the Effective Church Group ("ECG," the consultant) joined the meeting online. She introduced herself to the council and stated she was excited to work with the council and FLC. She said she attended today's (4.19.2020) contemporary worship via the YouTube broadcast. No questions prior to the meeting were made but Kris was asked questions on the spot by council members. Kris then outlined the ECG process and her initial ideas.

ECG will send out an initial survey and then deliver a multi-part observations and recommendations report to Pastor Doug, the Council, and ultimately the congregation as a whole.

(Kris will have an FLCSSC.org email account and access to FLC's digital resources, much like the members of the FLC council.)

Minutes from March council meetings - Deb made a motion to accept the corrected minutes with a title

change from February to March, Jarrod seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Names of Jennifer Lieber changed from "Durant" - Kathy's motion to correct, Mike seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

April 15th Special Council Meeting Minutes – Pastor Doug motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Jennifer. Motion passes unanimously.

Reports:

(No team reports due to Covid-19.)

Pastor Report from March – Jarrod made a motion to accept this report as written. Judy seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

Correspondences received:

Three pieces were received.

Lighting/Electrical Work

Changeable Sign

Parts on order from China. Delayed due to COVID-19.

Stewardship

Need to start a campaign to get awareness of what good stewardship is. Mike H. is on this committee.

Discuss attendance trends – Online viewing of services on Facebook and Vimeo platforms has been decent during the COVID-19 lockdown. Numbers were way down in March for in-person attendance. Pastor Doug predicts that April numbers will be higher as online viewership has been strong.

Mission Support Financial Reports and Status –

Mike stated that as the new FLC treasurer he hasn't had sufficient time to review and prepare FLC's latest financial reports. FLC is still hurting on the amount of money coming in through donations.

Deb made a motion to approve the financial reports and Jarrod seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Payroll Protection Plan (PPP)

Paperwork submitted. We were approved for the loan.

Old Business

Lighting/Electrical Work

Bring to Code Band Lights

Lights on order. Terry Sorem to build stand to hold lights.

Security Team for FLC on Sundays

Status of finding interested members – Jarrod Knudsen has 4-5 people who are interested but meeting in person is on hiatus.

Tree removal

Next door neighbor of parsonage may want to cut some trees for free because he would like the wood.

Parsonage Work and Sewer Smell

Smell highly concentrated below sink (holding due to financial situation).

Sacristy Ceiling Damaged

Terry Sorem to fix in fall. Waiting on work to start when Terry is available

Food Pantry cabinets to be finished update

Waiting on word from Rick Lieber (Delayed due to COVID-19)

Property Repair/Update/Replace

Repair of caulking on floor to ceiling stained glass windows –

Repair/replace trinity sign on tower – Need bucket and someone to install to be done by Terry Sorem.

Proposal to make double wide drive on South to Exit only with left and right turn lanes. Drive North of the double wide to be made into entrance only. Signage to indicate same for these locations. **Mike Hunter is looking for Traffic Signs to finalize changes.**

Picnic/Food/Band Shelter –

Anonymous donor paid for shelter. Construction underway as of this weekend (April 18, 19 2020).

Open for other new business –

Judy Blessing made a motion to close the meeting, and Jarrod seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Deb Kenny adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

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

Financial Reports

Treasurer's Report - April 2020

Beginning General Fund Balance: \$ - 30,503.60

Receipts:

Contributions	\$17,503.50
<u>Misc. Income</u>	<u>19,301.11</u>
TOTAL:	\$36,354.61

Expenses:

Pastor's salary	\$ 3,458.34
Pastor's allowances / exp.	4,156.39
Auxiliary staff salaries	2,756.12
Payroll Taxes	210.83
Parsonage Payment/Utilities	858.20
Utilities	1,072.07
Grounds Maint.	368.94
Building Maint.	57.48
Youth	39.00
Christian Ed.	104.15
Food Bank	400.00
Office Expenses	611.76
Worship & Music	367.26
Parish	288.53
Insurance	308.00

Church Therapy Exp.	12,230.00
<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>895.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$28,182.07
Transfer to Capital Improvement: \$	100.00
Ending General Fund Balance: \$	-22,431.06

April Attendance & General Fund Receipts

April 5	166	\$ 4,895.00
April 9	79	
April 10	112	
April 12	363	\$ 1,110.00
April 19	337	\$ 3,379.50
April 26	261	\$ 3,389.00
Online/Electronic Giving		\$ 4,280.00

Council Meetings

Council Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in June and July.

Thank You

Marla Bianchini-Thank you for all of the condolences sent to me via cards, phone calls, texts, and Facebook messages on the loss of my brother, Leonard.

Youth Car Wash/Pet Blessing

The youth car wash and pet blessing scheduled for June 6 have been cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions.

Social Ministry

Social Ministry 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 school supplies.

Outdoor Worship

We will continue with one outdoor worship at 10:30 through the month of June. Council will re-evaluate during their June meeting.

Sign Up Online

Online signup is available for lectors, ushers, altar care, cantors, streaming, slides/Proclaim, and Welcome Center M-F at signup.flcssc.org.

Please sign up today!

Foundation Update

We give thanks for the service of Jean Hedquist and Bill McLarty on the Foundation Board.

They have faithfully served the people of First Lutheran. On May 21st, both Jean and Bill resigned from the Board.

On May 26th the council met for the purpose of appointing replacements that will serve until January.

Gary Panko and Sue Hunter were appointed to fill the remainder of the terms of Jean and Bill.

We give thanks for Gary and Sue's willingness to serve alongside Lee Novak and Rick Heuertz.

More Ready Than We Could Have Imagined and Growing with Flexibility

Thank you reading this and most importantly, consider how it fits you, your family and how we grow our Discipleship at First Lutheran. Have you heard this lately: "We could have never imagined this" or "Times we have never seen"? We all have.

Compliments to Pastor Doug as his call to First Lutheran brought to us adding Internet Streaming to our Worship Services. Who could have imagined Streaming would become our means of worship during times we have never seen? If you are following the data of First Lutheran Stream-

ing, hundreds are learning of the many ministries here at First Lutheran and they worship with us.

The Flexibility is thinking out of the box and starting up Drive In Worship weekly sooner rather than later so we can worship together with Streaming for those who cannot get to Drive In Worship. The blend of traditional and contemporary makes our worship together strong in our parking lot and through Streaming. Who could have imagined?

I will tell you how I see it: Our Heavenly Father has always challenged us in big and small ways we have never seen. We are fortunate to have Pastor Doug to lead us to meet the challenges with adaptive and flexible methods. None of us know what might be next, but we are ready.

Mike Hunter

Lutheran World Relief

Join the 75,000 More! Face Mask Challenge! COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and LWR urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth masks you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread? Sign up for more info at lwr.org/masks.

Smart Phone App

First Lutheran has an app for your smart phone: app.flcsc.org. With this app, we hope you find better integration into the community at First Lutheran. You can access your online giving, worship, sermons, critical communications, sign up for activities and much more.

Sponsor a Song

Would you like to sponsor a song for the 10:30 worship? There are many songs that we will use over and over. Normally songs are rented as part of our package we have with MultiTracks.com. However, if we use it often, it would be better to purchase it. The cost to do so is \$30 per song. If

you would like to sponsor a song, please indicate this on your check or use online giving to give towards Sponsor a Song found under Worship and Music.

Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program

You can still help First Lutheran's Food Pantry by buying a red "My Heart" bag. Here is what to do:

1. Visit myHy-VeeCause.com within 7 days of your purchase.
2. Remove the scratch-off layer on the Giving Tag to reveal the unique code.
3. Submit your code and select First Lutheran to receive a \$1 donation.

Your donation must be made within 7 days of your purchase, or the donation will be sent to the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program beneficiary—the monthly featured non-profit selected by store leadership at the store where you purchased the bag.



AmazonSmile

Do you shop at Amazon? Did you know that First Lutheran will receive a .5% donation from your purchase if you shop through smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6000954? We have received \$127.90 since we joined.

Challenges as a New Council Member

As a new member of church council, I was asked to write about my experiences on council. I have put a lot of thought into what to write, that could be beneficial to the congregation and its guests. I hope you find this helpful.

When I was elected, I was so excited to become a part of something bigger than me. I love our church. I mean truly, deeply love our church and all of the people in it. After all the turmoil and disagreements we have been through I believe we will come out stronger than ever. I could not wait to get to work and do something meaningful. I believe God has called on me to step up and help our church and to gather people to come to see how great First Lutheran really is.

We have a wonderful congregation! Every person here has a gift they can share to better First Lutheran, and it is up to you whether or not you use that gift. I have chosen to give my gift to help. When I decided to do that, I didn't realize the great challenges that were in store for me. I learned quickly that there is a lot more to making First Lutheran run smoothly. It doesn't run itself! There are so many parts that have to run smoothly to make just one service go well. I don't think people realize this, as I did not until now.

My first meeting I did not know what to expect and I was not as prepared as I should have been, but with the great patience of our Pastor and council members, they graciously walked me through it. Since COVID-19 we have had to have all our meetings on an online app called TEAMS. It has been quite difficult as everyone knows how well technology can work, sometimes not very well! It has been difficult to not be able to interact with all of you as I have always looked forward to seeing everyone on Sundays. This has been a challenge that I do not like much. Never the less, I will continue to work hard and come up with ideas to gather and hopefully sometime soon we can get together as normal, and not the new normal that they keep calling it.

I do feel Pastor has done a great job bringing people in online to watch the service. This has grown so much and the word of God is spreading rapidly! Praise the Lord! Thanks to all the tech Pastor knows this was able to happen. People

are being led to the Lord in this hard time and he must be smiling down on us. Thanks be to God!

Jennifer Lieber

Class of 2020

High School Graduates

Nyabuay Diew, daughter of Gatluak Diew and Nyabiel Bukjiok.

Jayden Grove, son of Mark and Laci Chytka.

Ashley Kleider, daughter of Greg and Andrea Kleider.

Lucas Leiting, son of Brian and Molly Leiting.

UNL Campus Ministry

All Nebraska Synod congregations have been asked to participate in giving towards a new campus ministry facility at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. If you want to give towards this worthwhile cause, please indicate so on your checks or in online giving by writing Campus Ministry-UNL in the memo line.

Shelter

You can now donate specifically to the upkeep, improvements and maintenance of our new shelter! Visit give.flcssc.org.

Vacation Bible School Shirts

If your child attended Vacation Bible School last summer, we have VBS t-shirts for them! You can pick them up in the church office.

Virtual Marathon Fundraiser

\$2,851.25 has been donated to the church from Jenni Durant's Lincoln Virtual Marathon. Thank you to all who supported her! Thank you also to Tri-State Physicians and Physical Therapy for their donation of \$550 to purchase the t-shirts that were sold.

Shutterfly

Don't forget, if you shop at Shutterfly, you can shop through First Lutheran's storefront at flcsc.shutterflystorefront.com/. First Lutheran will receive 8% of your purchase!

What is Going On? (cont.)

(cont. from page 3)

Merciful Father, we give you **thanks for all the generous gifts you give us**. We give thanks for all those **who have given, who are giving** and those who **wanted to give**. All this we lift to you in the name of your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

As people receive the Word in word and actions, hopefully they give as they were given. Sometimes it takes time; some do it quickly. The Word is spread like seed. It is freely given but not always freely received. From Luke 8:5-8—A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷ Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸ Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

We have been commissioned to go out and spread the seed. From Matthew 28:19-20—¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

This pandemic has been tragic, yet in tragedy, God is present. God works always in the good and in the bad of the world. All to work towards the good that God intends for God's people in God's love for us in Christ Jesus. For us here at First Lutheran, people have stepped up. A shelter is being built to allow outdoor worship, rain or shine, and so much more. Donations to Vimeo

allow us to reach beyond to places we never dreamed of. More people are giving electronically and more are giving on automated giving. The stimulus checks have provided each of us a way to tithe the unexpected monies to the church. We gave ours, did you? Even during this pandemic, God is working good for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Good News, the Gospel of Christ Jesus is told and lived, and the Holy Spirit takes it from there. Thanks be to God!



JULY 3—OFFICE CLOSED

JULY 26—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30

AUGUST 7-9—FLEA MARKET

AUGUST 23—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30

SEPTEMBER 7—OFFICE CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 11—SOUP KITCHEN

SEPTEMBER 27—FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST @ 9:30