

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

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First Lutheran Church

October 2020



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

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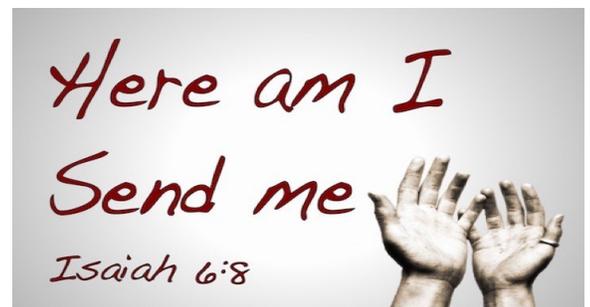
or use

<http://text.flcssc.org>



INSIDE

- October 2020 calendar
- Words from the Pastor
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Coming Events



The deadline for the November Newsletter is October 15.

Worship at First Lutheran

October 4

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)

Second Lesson: [Philippians 3:4b-14](#)

Psalm: [80:7-15](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

October 11

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: [Isaiah 25:1-9](#)

Second Lesson: [Philippians 4:1-9](#)

Psalm: [23](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

October 18

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: [Isaiah 45:1-7](#)

Second Lesson: [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#)

Psalm: [96:1-13](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

October 25

Reformation Sunday

First Lesson: [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)

Second Lesson: [Romans 3:19-28](#)

Psalm: [46](#)

Gospel: [John 8:31-36](#)



Church Office 494-5461

Douglas Dill, Pastor 402/235-6969

pastordoug@flcsc.org

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

office@flcsc.org

Jane Krogh, Organist 494-1630

LeAnn Kilstrom, Custodian

lkilstrom@flcsc.org

Church Council (* Executive Council)

*Deb Kenny, President 712/490-2097

dkenny@flcsc.org

*Jarrod Knudsen, Vice President 712/898-1170

jknudsen@flcsc.org

*Mike Hunter, Treasurer 712/490-2998

mhunter@flcsc.org

*Judy Blessing, Secretary 255-7775

jblessing@flcsc.org

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

Jennifer Lieber (jlieber@flcsc.org) 712/212-6932

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

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

Church Coordinators For:

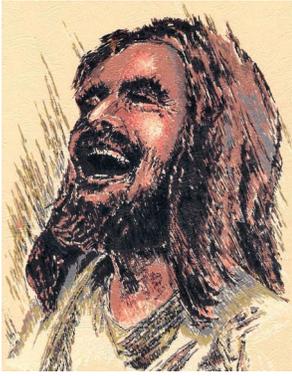
Altar Care: Billy Denker 402/404-4212

Lectors:

Ushers:

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384



Multiple Religions Study Pastor Doug

I am excited that we are back in the church building. Although church has not been closed, it is still good to get back inside. Now that we have been in a couple of weeks, we need to get back to the two most important aspects of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. First, we need to be in prayer. Prayer is the cornerstone to following Christ. It is our conversation with our God, and in that, we can hear the calls we have. The second part is to be in the Bible.

I am proposing we start a study here that looks at other religions and other denominations. How is that Bible study? Well, when we hear what others believe, it will draw us into our Bible to reconcile what we are hearing. It will draw us into the Bible to look deeper to our beliefs. We will need to look to our Bible to be able to respond to what we are learning about other Christian beliefs and about other religions.

We will be using a book titled *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith* and the ELCA document, "A Declaration of Inter-Religious Commitment: A policy statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America". There is room for 28 people to participate. If there is demand for more, then we will get more books and make multiple groups, depending upon the response.

The study will run on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m., starting October 7, 2020. The hope is that we will have this completed by the last Wednesday in November, which is the 25th. There are 32 different areas to cover. Pre-reading is a MUST. We will be covering 4 sections each night. We can also make this availa-

ble via Microsoft Teams, should you want to join the study this way, vs. coming in person. Teams is like using Zoom, Facebook groups and other chat type software. We need you to let us know ASAP if you would like to participate, so we know how many groups to have going. Obviously 28 people in a group is too many, but if we need to, we will break this into 2-3 groups.

You can sign up to let us know you are interested by contacting the office, online or via our app on your smart phone/tablet. It is important to know ahead of time who is interested in joining this study. We need to have enough books and if there are too many online or in person, it will be difficult to have a productive study, allowing for all to have some input.

Please consider, as a disciple of Jesus, learning more about your neighbor's faith and, in the process, learning more about what you believe in.

In His name, Jesus the Christ

Pr. Douglas Dill

Anniversaries

Jerry and Jeana Davis—October 4
Dennis and Linda Fischer—October 21
Chris and Misty Hedquist—October 18
Zach and Katie Kvidera—October 19
Kimon and Ronda Litras—October 1
Andy and LeAnn Mohning—October 20
Danny and Alisha Ostendorf—October 24
Lane and Carol Ostendorf—October 27

Happy Birthday

Ranelle De Jong—October 11
Douglas Dill—October 29
Cathie Galvin—October 11
Madison Gunderson—October 20
Sara Gunderson—October 5
Rick Heuertz—October 29
Melissa Jensen—October 15
Linda Johansen—October 3
Diana Jones—October 8

Bill Kendra—October 26
Becky Knudsen—October 9
Sharie Lieber—October 22
Patty Matz—October 31
LeAnn Mohning—October 3
Bob Oberg—October 5
Sharon Parker—October 18
Kaylana Pedersen—October 29
Mike Rich—October 13
Ray Schleusener—October 10
Randy Walsh—October 11

Youth Birthdays

Myles Chytka—October 4
Daniel Gonzalez—October 8
Bubba Hartshorn—October 13
Grace Hunter—October 13
Katelyn Lieber—October 28

Church Council Minutes

Church Council minutes are available upon request. Contact the office at 494-5461 or office@flcsc.org.

Financial Reports

Financial Reports are available upon request. Contact the office at 494-5461 or office@flcsc.org.

Sign Up Online

Online signup is available for Sunday sanitizing, Sunday door watch, Sunday waiver checker, lecturers, ushers, streaming, and slides/Proclaim at signup.flcsc.org or call the office to volunteer. If the Sunday spots are not filled by the Friday before the service, that particular service WILL NOT take place in person and will only be available online.

Can You Say No to God?

You can't say no to God. You can try to hide. You can try to run. You can even deny. However,

when God seeks you, He will stop at nothing until He finds you.

Being raised as a believer, you may wonder why anyone would ever doubt God. He is always good. He knows what is best. Following Him will always be the best decision in life.

I totally agree with this reasoning, but sometimes His leading is in areas that you may not want to go. Maybe He will ask you to leave your good paying job to some unknown adventure with Him. He may ask you to reconcile with someone that has hurt you a lot. Sometimes He asks you to go out into a storm where you think you will die. What if we don't what to do what He asks?

Well, Moses said no to God. Moses is often referred to as God's friend ([Exodus 33:11](#)), but this 'friend of God' flat out said no to Him. God appears to Moses at the burning bush, and they have a long talk. In the end, Moses doesn't want to go because he has a fear of public speaking. At least twice, Moses tells God no. Finally, God relents and creates a compromise to allow for Aaron to be the spokesman for Moses ([Exodus 4:13-16](#)).

Does this mean we can still say no to God? The question is not whether saying no is the right thing to do; the question is really based on whether God will reject us. I mean, if we say no to Him, would He still love us? Can I still be used by Him in other areas? Can I still have a relationship with Him if I say no to one of His requests?

The answer to those questions is, of course, yes. He will not leave you and would never stop loving you if you said no. The reason is simple. His love and His forgiveness are everlasting. If He needs you he will not relent. I am proof of this. I said no to God for years.

I was asked to participate in the Living Last Supper, the Christmas concert, Christmas Eve services, and the Living Nativity in 2019. I had not been back in First Lutheran since I moved away from the area after high school. That was in 1985.

I was warmly welcomed each time. It wasn't until after the Christmas concert that I started feeling the calling to "come home". I kept ignoring that whisper. It was relentless. I tried to ignore it. Yet I found myself watching the live streams from home. I started listening to contemporary Christian music again which I had not done in years. During this time, I kept hearing that voice saying "You're needed. Come Home." I finally gave in and said yes to God. I started with the Praise Band. I wasn't expecting to be asked to be the music director but yet again, that's what I like to call a "God thing".

I realized through prayer and realization that God will always know what is best for us. That being said, He will wait for us to accept His offer. "He is patient with us not wanting any to perish" ([2 Peter 3:9](#)). "It is His kindness that leads us to repentance" ([Romans 2:4](#)). God is way more interested in our hearts than He is our obedience ([Psalm 51:16-17](#)).

Saying no to God seems like an impossible thing for a Christian. But sometimes it is easier to turn off our hearts in obedience than to wrestle with God about things we don't want to do. God prefers the wrestling to the deadness because the wrestling maintains the connection. He loves you completely and doesn't want separation. Christ went to the cross to bring you to God ([1 Peter 3:18](#)).

My advice to you is if there is an area you want to say no to God about, tell Him about it. Tell Him why you are afraid or what you think may happen. Whatever you do, don't allow it to turn off your connection with God. Allow Him to pour in His kindness and love. He loves you for you!!

Peace and Blessings to you all!

Billy Denker

One Service

We will have one service on October 18 and October 25. October 18 is a service with hymns sung by Josiah Mullins, and October 25 is Confir-

mation Day for 9th graders.

Crop Walk

The Dakota County Crop Walk is Sunday, October 11. Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. here at First Lutheran, and the walk starts at 3:30 p.m.

Giving Statements

If we have your email address on file, we will email your giving statement to you. All others will be printed and available to pick up at the Welcome Center.

100 Years of Ministry & Concert

Join us on October 18 at 9:30 to celebrate 100 years of ministry for the congregation of First Lutheran. Josiah Mullins will lead the worship with hymns sung by him. This is the only service that day. Communion will be served. You will need to bring your own bread and white wine or white grape juice. Come back in the evening (6:00 p.m.) for a concert. A hold harmless waiver will be required. Please download from our website or copies will be available upon entry. <https://www.flcsc.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/FLC-Covid-19-Waiver.pdf>

Soup Supper

Come enjoy a meal from 4:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m. on October 18. Stick around for the concert at 6:00 p.m. which celebrates First Lutheran's 100 years in ministry.

Trust God

I was scrolling through Facebook and came across a cartoon-type drawing of Jesus and a small child. The child was clutching a small teddy bear. She is telling Jesus, "But I love it God...." Now with a much larger teddy bear behind Jesus's back, his reply to her is: "Just trust me".

What a reality check! How many times have I clung to the old ways?

Why is it so hard to move out of our comfort zone and embrace change? When did we become so lazy, we lost our sense of the big picture? When did we become so arrogant?

God calls each of us to be disciples of Jesus. That's a scary word, I get it. Maybe you are asking yourself what that really means. What does discipleship look like? God makes that very easy to see.

Reality is when God says step out of your comfort zone, by golly, step out of your comfort zone! So you don't like change? God says, "Wait, change can be good". Think about that image of the little girl and the teddy bear.

In a recent reading from Jonah 3:10-4:11, we hear Jonah is throwing a temper tantrum, you know the kind that a child throws. Jonah doesn't want to do what God is asking, and doesn't like the results he thinks should have happened. However, our God being ever so loving, kind and compassionate, beyond our own comprehension, he tries to help Jonah understand.

God's plan for us is much greater than our own. Whenever we try to control the outcome, what seems perfect, later becomes a disaster. Our resistance to trust God completely leaves us hurt, afraid and maybe even a little lost. We blame God and/or point fingers somewhere else other than at ourselves.

When you stop feeding a plant it dies, right? So, when we stop listening and trusting in GOD, we die, in a sense. We lose joy, happiness, and even security.

Rest assured, God was there before you were born, saw what you would do before it even happened, and is already waiting on the other side, to say, "I Love You, Trust Me." There is no need to worry but only trust. Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." (John 14:1 NIV)

Sometimes I must stop and ask myself "when did I become bigger than GOD?" Maybe you need to ask yourself that same question.

Gracious Lord, we all call upon you to learn how to trust and have faith that you are in control. Help us to know that you have great plans, and that we are all going to be okay. Help us to let go of our desire to be "right" and feel your presence at work. Help us to understand it won't be easy, but in the end so rewarding. Amen.

Peace to you all, Welcome to your Father's house.

Kris Dill

Disciple Volunteering

I've been giving this a lot of thought lately so thought I'd write about it.

This is why I volunteer at my Church:

1. It helps me grow in my relationship with Christ.
2. It helps me discover my purpose and I feel so fulfilled.
3. It allows me to use my skills and talents to help spread the word of God.
4. Out of obedience to Jesus

Mark 9:35 – "And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, 'if anyone be first, he must be last of all and servant of all'"

5. To follow Jesus' example.

Philippians 2:5-7 – "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

6. To join the mission of the church and to help accomplish that mission.
7. The feeling I get knowing I am contributing to something meaningful.

8. Finding community in relationships with others.
9. There is so much joy in loving people and giving back.
10. Serving can be so much fun!

—Billy Denker



Photo Directory

Directories are available to pick up in the office if you had your photo taken.

October Flower Chart

October 4 (Altar) Given by Lee and Carrie Novak in honor of their many blessings, Austin, Marissa and Summer Gutzmann and Colton Novak.

October 11 (Altar) Given by Kelly Robinson in honor of Joey and Kelly Robinson's 10th anniversary in April and Michael Sigsbee's 18th birthday in April.

October 18 (Altar) Given by the Durant family in memory of Dick Durant.

October 25 (Altar) Given in honor of Gabbi Durant's 2nd birthday on October 22 from her grandparents Tom and Jenni Durant, dad Brett, Aunt Celeste and Uncle Adam.

OCTOBER 11—CROP WALK

OCTOBER 18—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE @ 9:30

OCTOBER 18—SOUP SUPPER @ 4:00

OCTOBER 18—JOSIAH MULLINS CONCERT @ 6:00

OCTOBER 25—ONE WORSHIP SERVICE/ CONFIRMATION @ 9:30

OCTOBER 25—CONFIRMATION CLASS @ 11:45

NOVEMBER 26—OFFICE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 27—OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 25—OFFICE CLOSED

O c t o b e r 2 0 2 0

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																	
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