

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

www.flcssc.org
www.facebook.com/firstlutheranssc
www.twitter.com/@FirstSsc

First Lutheran Church

January 2021



***Mission Statement: Christ has called us
to: Invite, Connect, Disciple and Go.***

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

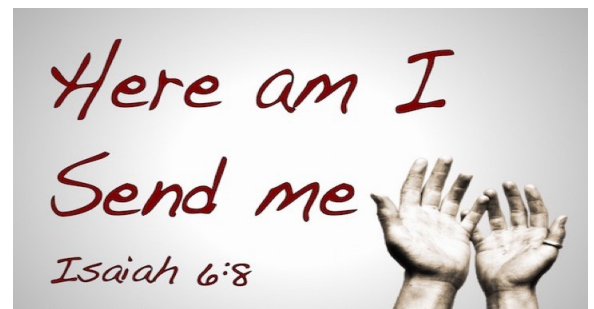
or use

<http://text.flcssc.org>



INSIDE

- Words from the Pastor
- Online Worship
- Video Improvements
- Giving Tree Update
- Annual Meeting
- Stimulus Checks
- Confirmation Info



The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 21.

Worship at First Lutheran

January 3

Second Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: [Mark 1:1-8](#)

January 10

Part 1 of 4 Galatians Series

January 17

Part 2 of 4 Galatians Series

January 24

Part 3 of 4 Galatians Series

January 31

Part 4 of 4 Galatians Series

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

Branden Lieber (blieber@flcsc.org) 712/212-6932

Church Coordinators For:

Altar Care: Billy Denker 402/404-4212

Lectors:

Ushers:

Women of the ELCA Chair:

Bonnie Prosser 494-3384

2021 Theme Verse

Church Office 494-5461

Douglas Dill, Pastor 402/235-6969

pastordoug@flcsc.org

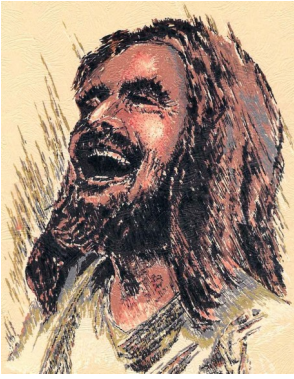
Billy Denker, Spirit Connection Dir. 402/404-4212

bdenker@flcsc.org

Ruthie Ailts, Custodian 494-6456

We will have a new theme verse for 2021. The council has selected the following verse for the coming year.

**“Go,” ...and tell the people the whole Message of this new life.”
Acts 5:20 TCV**



Galatians Sermon Series Pastor Doug

We will start a sermon series based upon the book of Galatians, January 10 and it will run through January 31st. When Martin Luther began his studies to become a priest, he had not read the New Testament scriptures. How he knew God was based upon the Old Testament. Our Old Testament is like Hebrew Bible (Tanakh), there are however some books in our protestant Old Testament that are not in the Tanakh. That is a discussion for another time, however.

Can you imagine if you will, what it might be like today, had Luther never read the New Testament? It is in his reading of these "new" scriptures that Luther had a revelation to the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ. Luther never would have seen that without examining the new scriptures and then looking at them with understanding from the Old Testament and revelation of Jesus in the Old Testament, through the lens of the New Testament.

Martin did not look to make a new denomination but to reform the Roman Catholic church based upon revelations that he had from the scriptures. The book of Galatians is of major importance for Luther. One might say, this book written by Paul, is the corner stone of his Theology. I took a systematic theology class, okay I took three of them. My first class, I did not do well, at first. I was told to go back and read Martin Luther's Works, volume 26-27, which are all based upon Galatians, to understand Lutheran Theology. I did pass the class and went on to take two more classes.

Recently as part of the Journey Group I am involved in; we were reading Galatians for a week. I really loved the readings and wanted to share

this with each of you. In doing so, I hope that you will gain a greater appreciation for a grace-based theology that will provide abundant new life to you.

As I wrap this up, let me touch on something that will be brought out more in the sermon series. As part of the Protestant Reformation, something called Five Solas were formed. They are, Sola scriptura, Sola fide, Solus Christus and Soli Deo gloria. (These are Latin terms) These can also be said as, scripture alone, justification by faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone and Glory to God alone.

As we walk in the scripture from the book of Galatians in the month of January, listen for these terms to be brought out. They are not directly stated, but you will be able to hear where Martin would have fallen back on the book to expound upon and sure up his theology of justification by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone, because of the Glory of God alone as exhibited by scripture alone.

Blessing in a new life revealed in Christ

Pastor Doug

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.

Donate on Facebook

Did you know that you can now donate directly to the ministries of First Lutheran through the donate button found on many posts on our Facebook page (fb.com/firstlutheranssc)? Please consider supporting FLC ministries. Ministry keeps going on. Won't you be part of responding to the ministry Jesus has for us?

Online Worship

We continue to worship online but are prayerful that we will be able to worship together in person, soon. The Congregational Council still continues to evaluate the conditions in our area, which includes not only Nebraska but Iowa and South Dakota as well. Even though we worship online, we still continue ministry to the community in Siouxland but to a much larger area also. We have been having 8-13,000 plus view each 30 day period. We give thanks for you are supporting this ministry as well as other ministries here.

If you have not tried Microsoft Teams to watch worship, now would be a great time! On each email sent out every week about worship, there is a link to the Microsoft Teams Worship link. Why try this out? For our Annual Meeting, we will be using Microsoft Teams exclusively. Try out teams, get the client install and practice before the meeting.

We offer worship on Vimeo, four Facebook sites, Twitter, Twitch, two YouTube sites, and Picarto TV. Soon we will be on LinkedIn. We offer replay of worship and sermons on Roku and Fire TV.

While we cannot meet in person, happy streaming of our worship on multiple platforms and locations, across the world. Also, remember to have your bread, wine/grape juice ready for communion.

Video Improvements

Our online worship has brought to light our need to improve the in person worship experience. You may have noticed how well the worship slides look online. If you recall worshipping inside, which we realize has been some time ago for some, but the slide upon the screen are difficult to see.

In 2021 we expect to be open to worship in the

building. We are also expecting through prayer, that we will welcome many guests, just as our mission statement says. In doing so we need to replace the 15 year old projection system, which is costly to maintain. If you would prayerfully consider giving towards the worship mission, you can designate on your checks to Sanctuary Video or you if you would prefer to give electronically, designate the gift under Sanctuary Video under Worship and Music.

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.

Giving Tree Update

Thank you to all the disciples who provided for God's people through this most important mission. Your donations, purchases and time mean so much to so many! One child had a huge smile when he got to wear shoes that were the right size, rather than the ones that were two sizes too small!

Because of your generosity, 65 of God's children were provided for from multiple organizations. You are an inspiration and I bet Jesus is smiling at all the great mission done.

Thank you

Pr. Doug

Annual Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 17 at 10:45 a.m. This will be an online

meeting only. We realize that this will unfortunately exclude some from participating. For the safety of our members, we will have to have the meeting this way. Council will be at the church to assist with the meeting and streaming. Only voting members will be allowed to cast a vote. Each voting member must have their own connection on Teams, to participate in voting. To share a connection, would amount to a proxy vote, which is prohibited by our constitution, along with absentee voting.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda and the Mission support funds, please contact the office at 402-494-5461 or email office@flcsc.org. Both of these documents will also be made available during the online meeting. This year we will be using Microsoft Teams to host the meeting. You may go to annual-meeting.flcsc.org to join. If you are on a computer, you can use a web browser to gain access. Tablets and phones will need the Teams Client installed, which can be obtained for free from the Google Play Store or from the Apple App Store.

Sponsor a Song

Would you like to sponsor a song for 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.

Stimulus Checks

Once again our Federal Government will be providing stimulus checks. Today we ask you to once again, prayerfully consider a response to Jesus by supporting ministry here as a disciple.

Please respond by at least tithing your check(s) to First Lutheran, so everyone may continue to experience abundant new life here.

We realize that that some people have had a financial burden during this pandemic, and you greatly need the money to take care of yourself and your family. If that is you, keep it all to care for your direct family.

At the same time, we realize also that for some, the stimulus check, along with a decrease in spending during this pandemic, has been a financial windfall for you. Please consider giving more than the tithe. The missions of First Lutheran, and the people of God that we reach in mission, will benefit.

Thank you in advance, Your Congregational Council.

Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program

You can 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? \$145.47 has been raised from 16 donors since we joined the program.

Giving to First Lutheran

Although our Church building has to remain closed, our ministry remains “open for business” as we reach out in mission to the community. We continue to reach many viewers with our worship offerings.

Of course, ministry and mission, whether within or beyond the walls of a church building, require income – our gifts, tithes, and offerings. It probably comes as no surprise, though, that our offering receipts have decreased since we’ve had to pause worshipping in our Church building. Many of us have been trained from childhood to bring our coins, cash, or checks to worship with us so we can place them in the offering plate as it’s passed; and no offering time means no opportunity to give. But, we think we’ve found a way to make it easier for you.

Currently, we have five ways you can give, or catch-up on your giving:

1. **TEXT:** Text the word “GIVE” to 402-557-0882, then follow the instructions texted back to you.
2. **APP:** (did you know we have an app!?) <https://app.flcssc.org/>
3. **CHECK** Sent to the office at 3601 Dakota Ave, South Sioux City NE 68776
4. **AUTOMATIC PAYMENT** can be arranged through your bank, or in our e-Giving at <https://give.flcssc.org>
5. **AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL** can also be arranged through your bank, or with e-giving
6. **FACEBOOK** Many of the posts on our Facebook have an option to give.

Don’t forget: if you have trouble remembering your offering, both our text and app have a “recurring” option that will send your offering to FLC every week or month (you choose), regardless of whether or not you’re in the building! And you can always arrange for Automatic Payment or Withdrawal through your bank!

We can’t begin to say enough THANK YOU’S for your faithfulness and continued generosity.

Confirmation Information

Although we are not having in person worship, this does not mean you cannot do your requirements to be confirmed. After worship, contact your mentor and discuss the worship.

Working with your mentor is the most important part of confirmation. That includes, depending upon your age, Luther’s Small Catechism, Reading Luke or another book that has been agreed upon with your mentor. Don’t forget there are questions to be answered about Luke. There are topics that the mentors and you are to be working on with the confirmands.

It is really important that you get **ALL** the work completed each year, in order to be confirmed. Do not wait until the end of the year to try to get caught up. Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today. You cannot combine 3 years into one year.

Confirmation is not a rite of passage or a graduation. It requires a commitment to re-affirm your baptism. You are taking on the responsibilities of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Your commitment is to attend worship, discuss worship with your mentor. Read and answer questions about the readings. To work both independently and with your mentor. Finally, it is 100% **YOUR** responsibility to get the work done and follow up with your mentor. It is **NOT** up to the mentor to track you down and keep you on track.

If there are any questions by the parents, confirmands or the mentors, please contact Pastor Doug. I am here to help each of you.

I hope to confirm all the 8th graders of today, in October in 2021. I pray that the parents, mentors and the confirmands are able to be part of this confirmation process and not a single person is left out.

In Christ’s name
Pastor Doug