

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

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First Lutheran Church

December 2022



God's Work. Our Hands.

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Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 15.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| *President | Jarro Knudsen 712/898-1170 |
| *Vice President | Jennifer Lieber 712/212-6932 |
| *Treasurer | Mike Hunter 712/490-2998 |
| *Secretary | Bob Bianchini |
| Bob Barto | 712/490-1676 |
| Jake Gill | 712/389-8527 |
| Branden Lieber | 712/259-4312 |
| Pastor David Halaas | 701/430-3393 |

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wow, December is here. It's hard to believe that the Christmas season is already upon us. I would encourage everyone to attend church during Advent. We will have some great spiritual leaders filling in for us in the month of December. Also, we will have multiple opportunities for communion this month. Hopefully the bathroom renovations will begin very soon. I know I am excited to see them get a remodel. We have many other projects in the works, so please don't hesitate to ask a council member what is going on at FLC.

– Jarrod Knudsen

CHURCH COUNCIL

At our annual meeting on January 22, we will be electing members to the Church Council. A nominating committee is being formed and will be seeking names of people to fill open seats. If contacted, please prayerfully consider serving. Don't wait to be asked. If you would like to be on church council, contact Jarrod Knudsen or any council member.

FROM PASTOR HALAAS

THANKSGIVING AND ANTICIPATION

Giving thanks is of course the everyday calling of God's people. But the beautiful weather and the many Thanksgiving gatherings this past day have been full of good things. Happy Thanksgiving.

And...thank you for your prayers and participation in the life of First Lutheran Church! The recent worship services, Chili event, and Thanksgiving Eve service were a blessing to all.

Thanks also to those who attended the November "listening" times. This was good and helpful conversation! Certainly, the past months have been challenging, because transition and change is often always hard.

With our trust in God's presence, and with increased efforts in communication, I am confident that as we move forward we will find new energy and direction for ministry.

– Pastor David Halaas

Email – david.halaas.rev@wisynod.org

P.S. Please keep in touch! Send an email or schedule a time for a coffee visit!

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| December 4 | Dennis Remington |
| December 11 | Pastor Kristen Van Stee |
| December 18 | Janell Norton |
| December 24 | Pastor David Halaas |

LECTORS

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| December 4 | Jake Gill |
| December 11 | Josie Geveshausen |
| December 18 | Jill Gill |
| December 24 | Open |

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”
– Calvin Coolidge

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Dec. 4 2nd Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
- Dec. 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10
Second Lesson: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
- Dec. 18 4th Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16
Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

| | |
|------------|----|
| October 2 | 61 |
| October 9 | 53 |
| October 16 | 59 |
| October 23 | 66 |
| October 30 | 51 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- December 2 Jarrod Knudsen
December 6 Carol Zastrow
December 9 Bart Gotch
December 10 Cheryl Cale
December 10 Danielle Krontz
December 14 Mary Wolf
December 15 Stephani Blessing
December 15 Kris Hunter
December 16 Suzie Fischer
December 17 Jerry Davis
December 17 Nicki Oss
December 23 Janice Knight
December 23 Shantell Martinez
December 24 Jeff Prescott
December 24 Gary Hayes
December 25 Shane Benson
December 27 Jean Hedquist

BIRTHDAYS CONTINUED

- December 27 Kaitlyn Todd
December 28 Shirley Hansen
December 28 Vicky Johnson
December 28 Sandra Larson

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- December 4 Syllas Trautwein
December 15 Hailey Lieber
December 17 Jayla Martinez
December 21 Blaine Fischer
December 22 Liam Fischer

ANNIVERSARIES

- December 3 Jennifer and Rick Lieber
December 19 Brandi and Jeremiah Johnson

If we have missed any birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Please encourage all young people to come for a lesson and interesting stories from the Bible." Come, join the fun!

FELLOWSHIP EVENT

On December 4 cinnamon rolls and pecan rolls will be served following worship.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy and prayers to:

Jackie and Ottie Gierman on the loss of their nephew, Derek Koster, on October 30.

The family of Gordon Krogh who passed away November 1.

The family of Gayle Kleinberg who passed away November 18.

Lucy Gagnon on the loss of several family members.

CIRCLE I

Circle I met with seven members present. We had fellowship with dessert and coffee followed by Bible study. The December meeting will be a Christmas lunch at 11:30 a.m. We donated to the South Sioux City Cardinal Baskets and to Regency for some hair care.

LYDIA GROUP

Lydia Group will meet December 8 at 7:00 p.m. for fellowship, dessert and a study from Women of Faith "Encouraging One Another." All women are welcome to attend. Please come and see what we are all about!

CARDINAL CHRISTMAS BASKETS

We continue to collect nonperishable food items for the Cardinal Christmas Baskets. Your donation can be placed in the designated shopping cart in the entryway.

GIVING TREE

All gifts (**bagged**, not wrapped) with the identifying tag attached need to be returned no later than Sunday, December 4.

THANK YOU to Carol Zastrow for polishing the brass. Your hard work is appreciated.

THANK YOU for the beautiful birthday cards I received. I feel so blessed to be a member of this church. Many thanks, Marla.

BAPTISM

We welcomed Riverlee Voss, daughter of Samson and Jackie Voss, into the Lord's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 20. Riverlee's sponsors are Nick and Becca O'Brien, and the congregational sponsor is Bonnie Prosser.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:14

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP is at 5:30 p.m.
"Christmas – Candlelight – Communion"

CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25) and NEW YEAR'S DAY (January 1) worship will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 5200 Glenn Avenue in Sioux City at 9:30 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Members of FLC, the Council has set the annual meeting, which will be January 22, 2023.

Please make sure you attend this meeting. It will be following the 9:30 a.m. service. Please make sure you read the requirements to be a voting member. You must satisfy all three requirements to be a voting member at FLC. If you do not meet the requirements, you can still attend and sit in the back rows of the church, but you will not be allowed to vote or address the congregation. Requirements as stated in the constitution (C8.02.c) are as follows:

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

FOOD BANK OF SIOUXLAND

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland. The food bank is open the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Besides the food distribution in the afternoon, help is needed from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. when the truck is unloaded.

SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING from Pastor Halaas

- Remembering in prayer those who have recently died: JoAnn Garvey, Gordon Krogh, and Gayle Kleinberg. Rejoicing in the baptism on November 20 of Riverlee Voss.

- A \$10,000 matching grant has been awarded to First Lutheran from the Nebraska Synod ELCA "Kraft Memorial Fund" to assist with the main bathrooms renovation project. (This project was approved at the annual meeting, and work is expected to begin soon!) Thanks to Jarrod Knudsen for all of his efforts to secure this gift!

- Christmas Eve worship (with Pastor Halaas) will be at 5:30 p.m. Jarrod Knudsen has secured an organist for this service.

- Worship on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day) will NOT be held at First Lutheran...but WILL be held at St. Mark Lutheran, 5200 Glenn Avenue in Sioux City at 9:30 a.m. **All are invited to come to St Mark on these holiday Sundays!**

- Good progress is being made on important building maintenance projects: waxing the floors, new chairs for the fellowship hall (older chairs being donated to the Senior Center), re-keying the building, and snow blower maintenance.

- Appreciation expressed to the Scout Troop. Troop 149 has been "re-chartered" and two Eagle Scout projects that will benefit First Lutheran are in the works.

- Pastor Halaas suggested that we review the many hymnals and songbooks that are currently used, and he will provide an introduction in January and February to the ELCA's worship resources.

- Note: The annual meeting will be on January 22, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. The Council, at its December meeting, will clarify the elections, terms for Council members, and the nominating process. A printed Annual Report will also be prepared as in past years.

- Pastor Halaas has arranged an opportunity for Nebraska Synod Bishop Scott Johnson (newly elected this year) to visit First Lutheran. Assistant to the Bishop Kristen Van Stee, as well as Western Iowa Bishop Lorna Halaas, will also participate. The purpose of this visit will be to introduce Bishop Johnson to First Lutheran, and to discuss together possibilities for future ministry and staffing. More details will be announced.

GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP UPDATE from Pastor Halaas

Mike Hunter is providing the Council with a detailed financial report each month. To Mike (as well as those who count and record the weekly offerings...THANKS!) Thanks also to Kerri Rahn for her assistance!

A new bulletin board will be displayed with the current Church Council minutes, agendas, and reports – including the full monthly financial report that Mike provides.

A Christmas Wish

I wish you the joy of Christmas,
The season's sweet repose.
I wish you the peace of Christmas
To mark the old year's close.
I wish you the hope of Christmas
To cheer you on your way.
And a heart of faith and gladness
To greet each coming day.

—Author unknown

December 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----|--|-----------------------------------|-----|--|
| | | | | 1 Food Bank 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:00 a.m. SS 9:30 a.m. Worship (Cinnamon/pecan rolls served after service.) | 5 | 6 | 7 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 3:00-7:00 p.m. | 8 7:00 p.m. Lydia | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship (Communion) | 12 | 13 | 14 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 3:00-7:00 p.m. | 15 Food Bank 1:00-3:00 p.m. | 16 | 17 |
| 18 9:00 a.m. SS 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Council | 19 11:30 a.m. Circle I Christmas Lunch | 20 | 21 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 3:00-7:00 p.m. | 22 | 23 | 24 5:30 p.m. Worship "Christmas Candlelight Communion" |
| 25 9:30 am. Worship at St. Mark 5200 Glenn Ave. Sioux City | 26 | 27 | 28 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 3:00-7:00 p.m. | 29 | 30 | 31 |