

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

www.flcssc.org
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First Lutheran Church

December 2023



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



December

The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 21.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Jarrod Knudsen 712/898-1170
*Vice-President	Bob Barto 712/490-1676
*Treasurer	Mike Hunter 712/490-2998
*Secretary	Jennifer Lieber 712/212-6932
Tayden Kinnaman	712/490-9360
Branden Lieber	712/259-4312
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PATTI

“Yet, O Lord, you are our Father? We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8)

And here we are into Advent already. One church year has ended and now a new begins. We enter into a season of anticipation and wonder and mystery. By the end of this month, we will have been inundated with more commercialism than we experience in the other 11 months of the year combined, ending with one of the biggest holidays of our lives. As Christians, we anticipate the birth of the One who comes to save us from sin. We prepare and we wait. But that’s not all. Jesus tells us, “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13), and so we anticipate the return of our Lord as well.

Is this confusing at all? It’s easy to focus on the Christmas holiday in terms of what needs to be done in preparation for the day. Santa is coming, there’s work parties, there’s shopping, baking, gift making, trees to trim, preparations for family gatherings...but I find this time of year much more than that. It’s a mysterious time filled with wonder and waiting and preparation...of molding and giving. And that’s why the verse (above) came to mind for our

pondering this month. “We are all the work of your hand,” it says. It means that we fully give ourselves to God as a lump of clay to mold, so we become God’s work in this world. And there’s a lot of anticipation and waiting and mystery in that. I think of myself as one who has gifts to give (as in present tense). I am what I am, but what if I am not all I can be at this very moment? What if God ain’t done with me yet? What if this verse in Isaiah is meant to be more active in its meaning? What if we are always being molded? What if we are to consciously ponder on how we can give ourselves to God? What if this Christmas we were to think about how God wants to use each of us in the world for the good of the kingdom? What if God is molding a new gift in me to be for the world?

How does that change our waiting and anticipation this holiday season? How does that change our life together? If we think beyond this Advent season, we have to be ready for whatever change this world will throw at us. And it will...trust me. Jesus doesn’t promise that all our nights will be Silent Nights filled with wonder and bright stars leading us around. But Jesus does promise that because we believe, we have life eternal...and so we also wait in anticipation for the return of our Lord and Savior to come.

For now, we anticipate together this month of joy and light among us. Emmanuel.

Blessings and Merry Christmas.

Pastor Patti Meyer
prdpmeyer@gmail.com

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Pastor Patti will offer midweek services this year during Advent on Facebook live. Tune in for a devotional worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Tune in to our FB page (www.facebook.com/firstlutheranssc/) and listen to worship which will be devotional and thought-provoking on how we anticipate in this season as we live out our call in this world today.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope fall is treating everyone well. It has been a very nice November, and I am hoping for the weather to continue into December. I first want to thank everyone who helped with our Turkey Tom project. We were able to help five families have a nice Thanksgiving dinner. I am hoping in addition to our annual Giving Tree, I would like to try and donate five Christmas dinners. There is a need in South Sioux and it's nice that our church can be God's representative in South Sioux.

We have started our campaign to get an electric sign on Dakota Avenue. All members will receive a letter in the mail. If you would like to contribute or if you have questions, please call me any time. This is a \$40,000 project; the Foundation has agreed to donate half. I think it's an achievable goal. Remember, this is for the good of our church. We need to show people in our community that we are still open and doing God's work.

Just a few reminders for upcoming dates:

- December 3 First Sunday of Advent
 - December 3 Jacob Gill's Eagle Court of Honor
 - December 4 Fellowship Meeting
 - December 17 Pastor Appreciation Coffee
 - December 17 Council Meeting
 - December 17 Scrip Orders Due
 - December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- Jarrod Knudsen
FLC Council President

LECTORS

- December 3 Bob Barto
- December 10 Tristan Kinnaman
- December 17 Ellen Prescott
- December 24 Linda Swanson
- December 31 Mary Wolf

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

- October 1 41
- October 8 51
- October 15 63
- October 22 55
- October 29 50

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- December 3 1st Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:24-37
- December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11
Second Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8
- December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Second Lesson: 1 Thess. 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
- December 24 4th Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16
Second Lesson: Rom. 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
- December 31 1st Sunday of Christmas
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3
Second Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Carol Marmo. Carol passed away on Saturday, November 25. Services were held December 1 at Mohr and Becker-Hunt Funeral Home in South Sioux City.

COURT OF HONOR CEREMONY

Jacob Gill will have his Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. here at First Lutheran. Everyone is welcome to attend.

PRODIGAL SONS

Prodigal Sons will provide music for our worship service on December 17.

PASTOR APPRECIATION COFFEE

A coffee to honor Pastor Patti will be held on Sunday, December 17 following worship. Come, enjoy cinnamon rolls provided by the Fellowship Committee and take a moment to thank Pastor Patti for all she has done and continues to do for First Lutheran.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 2	Jarrold Knudsen
December 6	Carol Zastrow
December 9	Bart Gotch
December 10	Cheryl Cale
December 14	Chris Lofgren
December 14	Mary Wolf
December 15	Stefani Blessing
December 15	Kris Hunter
December 17	Jerry Davis
December 17	Nicki Oss
December 24	Gary Hayes
December 24	Jeff Prescott
December 25	Shane Benson
December 27	Jean Hedquist
December 27	Caitlyn Todd
December 28	Vicky Johnson
December 28	Sandy Larson

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

December 4	Sylas Trautwein
December 15	Hailey Lieber

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

CIRCLE I

We met on November 20 for our regular meeting with dessert and coffee. We will meet on December 18 for our Christmas lunch at 11:30 a.m.

LYDIA GROUP

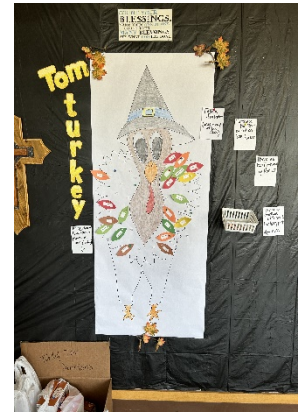
Our next meeting is scheduled for December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government there shall be no end.

— Isaiah 9:6-7

TURKEY TOM

Our first annual “Turkey Tom” project was a huge success. We collected food for five needy families in the South Sioux City community. On November 12, the food was boxed by the confirmation class and sent off to provide all the trimmings for a Thanksgiving feast.



Thank you to all who helped in any way with this project and especially to Thrivent Action Teams for the turkeys.

TIMELINE PROJECT

Some of our transitional work will be to answer the following three questions:

Who are we?

Who is our neighbor?

Who is God calling us to be?

To begin this work, Pastor Patti is entering into a project to help unite us, improve communications, and structure within our church community. I need help filling in the blanks on the timeline that you might have noticed on the hallway walls. Throughout the month of December, we need everyone to fill out a “timeline information” sheet which you will find at the Welcome Center. There is a basket to put your forms in there as well. Please write legibly so that we can interpret your answers as you intend them. And then check the hallway “Timeline” for updates. After the first of the year, we will begin some small group gatherings and Pastor will update us as we move along in this process.

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you being called to this ministry?

The office has received notice that our current organizer for the Food Pantry will not be able to continue after January 1, 2024.

First, we offer much, much, much gratitude for the endless hours Ruth Ailts has given to keep the Food Pantry operational. Ruthie has been a true servant in this ministry.

Her (and helpers') work has involved receiving the order of food on the first Thursday of the month, organizing the food on shelves, volunteering her time for the 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. shift, and making sure the 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. shift is covered as well on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month. The food is ordered by the office currently, but that will also become the responsibility of the new Food Pantry volunteer.

There have been some conversations about reorganizing and running the pantry much like it was handled during the Covid shutdown to help distribution become more efficient, and so there is room for change. The office will help train someone new and help get this ministry running efficiently.

If you are interested in helping keep this ministry alive, please contact Jarrod (712/898-1170) or Pastor Patti (623/910-7859). We need someone who feels called to help with this ministry. Are you that servant that can help during the shifts mentioned above and/or in coordinating this ministry to keep it alive or just want to brainstorm how to make this ministry work? Call us!

Again, we thank you, Ruthie, for your service in this ministry! It is a great ministry that we offer to the community and surround.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end Giving Statements will be available at the Welcome Center after January 8. 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.



CARDINAL CHRISTMAS BASKETS

For the first time since Covid, Cardinal Baskets will be collecting cans of food to distribute. We need to get back to a past tradition of people helping us pack boxes with these cans. We will be doing this on Friday night, December 15 which is prior to delivery on Saturday the 16th. If anyone can help us, please be at Memorial Hall (the old Fire Hall) just south of St. Michael's at 7:00 p.m. Please encourage your youth to participate as they have been of great help in the past.

Also, Cardinal Baskets is in need of people to help deliver boxes on Saturday, December 16. If you can help us out, please be at the old Fire Hall between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. Donuts and coffee are served prior to delivery which starts at 8:00 a.m. Thanks in advance for your help.

Thank you,
Mary Wiltgen, Cardinal Baskets Committee

CARDINAL BASKETS DONATIONS

We are collecting non-perishable food for the Cardinal Christmas Baskets. If you would like to donate, please bring your non-perishable food by December 10 and place in the designated shopping cart.

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP

December 24 – 9:30 a.m.

Worship with communion (no Sunday School).

EVENING CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

December 24 – 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight worship with communion.

Please call Pastor Patti if you are interested in helping with the evening worship:

help with communion distribution

small group singing

reading scripture

Invite your friends and family to worship with us.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 SS 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Jacob Gill's Court of Honor 2:00 p.m.	4 Fellowship Meeting 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Advent Worship on Facebook 6:00 p.m.	7 Food Bank 1:00-2:00 p.m.	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13 Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m. 5:00-7:00 p.m. Advent Worship on Facebook 6:00 p.m.	14 Lydia 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17 SS 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Pastor's Coffee 10:30 a.m. Council Meeting	18 Circle I 11:30 a.m.	19	20 Advent Worship on Facebook 6:00 p.m.	21 Food Bank 1:00-2:00 p.m.	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Worship 5:00 p.m. (Communion)	25 Christmas	26	27 Food Pantry is closed today.	28	29	30
31 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.						

NATIVITY WORD SEARCH



J O S E P H V Q J D I E O B I
O T W I S E S R X D L U D C X
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V W F R A N K I N C E N S E G
R D A V I D M E H E L H T E B

NATIVITY
MARY
JOSEPH
JESUS
MANGER
SHEPHERD
STAR
DAVID
INN
DONKEY
HAY
BETHLEHEM
JOURNEY
ANGEL
WISE
FRANKINCENSE
MYRRH
SHEEP
CAMEL