

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

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First Lutheran Church

May 2024



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 June Newsletter is May 16.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Bart Gotch 712/259-2001
*Vice-President	Bob Barto 712/490-1676
*Treasurer	Jim Hansen 402/404-4920
*Secretary	Scott Koeppe 712/389-2944
Branden Lieber	712/259-4312
Chris Lofgren	402/580-6161
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Ray Schleusener	712/898-5464
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PATTI

Happy Spring

As Spring is springing, let us ponder on this verse:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Sometimes it is so hard to think about change, and yet we gaze out our windows and walk around outside, giving thanks for yet another longed-for change in our lives. This change in temperatures, this change in season...It's a good change, isn't it?

Cabin fever hit many of us harder than usual this year. We've yearned for warmer, sunnier days, and so we find this a welcome change. The old has gone and the new is here! Hopefully you've noticed, as I have...all the colors coming back into the world. Hopefully we're noticing a mood-change in the world around us...All for the sake of change.

So then...why is it that we hold onto the old for so long before letting go?

The days of winter are gone, and I am very glad about that!

The days of washing our clothes on a wash board out at the creek are gone, and I am very glad about that!

The days of hanging our rugs out on the clothes line and beating out the dust (I've clearly been watching too many old movies)...those days are gone, and I am very glad about that!

I'm even glad that we don't have the old phones with party lines, and I'm glad that I don't have to write this all out by hand.

We've all had so many changes in our lives...but yet we cling so tightly to some things that we don't want to let go of.

I like this scripture as a reminder that I am a new creation every day. Focusing on Christ keeps me new. Every day is new...every moment...and because I am such a fractured person, I need newness every day. Every day is just another chance to begin again with the Lord.

Walk with me into newness. And receive God's blessings as we explore this new beginning in time and space. Do not be afraid as we continue to explore who we are, who our neighbor is, and who God wants us to be in our community of faith and in this community in the Northeast corner of Nebraska.

— Pastor Patti Meyer

GRADUATING THIS MONTH

Jake Gill, son of Jill Gill and Mike Gill, is graduating from South Sioux City High School on May 19. Jake will be present to receive our support and encouragement at our May 19 worship.

Kendall Gill, daughter of Jill Gill and Mike Gill, is graduating from Wayne State on May 4. Kendall will also be present to receive our support and encouragement at our May 19 worship.

May 19 is also Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the Spirit among us. Come and celebrate wearing red...and let us give thanks for our young people as we support them in their faith journeys as they transition into a new role with us and with their families.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is approaching fast!

Two things I would like your help on:

1. When you catch someone doing good for First, please write their names down and put them in the box at the Welcome Center.
2. Would you be willing to write down one (1) thing that you feel the church is doing well AND one (1) thing that the church needs to improve on. If so, would you jot it down and put it into the same box as "Catching someone doing something good for First" at the Welcome Center.

The Council continues to plan, prioritize, and encourages you to volunteer your time and talents for the good of the church. Again, the Council invites you to attend any and/or all of the Council meetings.

We have a lot to be grateful for at First, especially our pastor and our members/volunteers for the good of the church!

— Bart Gotch

LECTORS

May 5	Bob Barto
May 12	Mary Wolf
May 19	Chris Lofgren
May 26	Ellen Prescott

If you would like to lector but haven't been contacted, please call Mary Wolf at 402/494-4697.

USHERS

May 5	Sue Hunter Rita Todd
May 12	Brooklyn Sorem Terry Sorem
May 19	Sandy Larson Carol Zastrow
May 26	Bart and Terri Gotch

"If at first you don't succeed, do it like your mother told you." — Author unknown

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 5	<u>6th Sunday of Easter</u> First Lesson: Acts 10:44-48 Second Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6 Gospel: John 15:9-17
May 12	<u>7th Sunday of Easter</u> First Lesson: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Second Lesson: 1 John 5:9-13 Gospel: John 17:6-19
May 19	<u>Day of Pentecost</u> First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21 Second Lesson: Romans 8:22-27 Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26	<u>The Holy Trinity</u> First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8 Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-17 Gospel: John 3:1-17

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 1	Jill Gill
May 2	Clinton Barrs
May 3	Robin Hansen
May 7	Judy Blessing
May 9	Lance Hedquist
May 15	Carol Slaughter
May 18	Elaine Fader
May 18	Ashlyn Rich
May 20	Cindy Koeppe
May 24	Tyler Fader
May 27	Deb Kenny
May 30	Lori Jones

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

May 17	Dakota Koepsell
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ANNIVERSARIES

May 7	Scott and Cindy Koeppe
May 12	Jeff and Rita Todd
May 16	Brian and Chris Lake
May 18	William and Ashley Weiland
May 23	Terry and Deb Kenny

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

MARCH ATTENDANCE

March 3	57
March 6 (Wed.)	25
March 10	43
March 13 (Wed.)	23
March 17	53
March 20 (Wed.)	24
March 24	51
March 28 (M.T.)	27
March 29 (G.F.)	18
March 31	92

EASTER LILIES

The lilies on Easter Sunday were given to the glory of God by:

Judy Blessing in memory of Kathy Anders.

Judy Blessing in memory of Gary Blessing.

Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Bill and Myrna Gotch.

Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Eleanor Jones.

Mike and Carla Jo Morgan in honor of their children and their family.

Ray and Colleen Schleusener in memory of Mike Hingst and Kenzie Kollect.

CIRCLE I

Circle I met on April 15. We had dessert and coffee with nice fellowship. We then had our Circle meeting followed by our Bible study. It was about Jesus and food. All women are invited to join us on the third Monday at 2:00 p.m.

LYDIA GROUP

Our next meeting is scheduled for May 9 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

WELCA EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of Shirley Hansen. Shirley passed away April 3.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy and heartfelt prayers to the family of Trish Porter. Trish passed away April 21.

THANK YOU

Dear First Lutheran Church,

The Easter basket was so sweet! Thank you to all! It turned out to be our main Easter decoration this year! Also, the visit with Sandy Larson was appreciated – very uplifting.

Thank you again, Bill and Betty Bass.

THANK YOU

To My First Lutheran Family,

Thank you so very much for the lovely Easter gifts and prayer book which Jackie and Ottie Gierman brought for me to enjoy. I am blessed to have my First Lutheran Family in my life.

With much appreciation, Cathie Galvin.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the adorable and thoughtful Easter gift. Knowing the time and talent it took to make and deliver it, please know it is truly appreciated.

In Christ, Jane Krogh

THANK YOU

Thanks to the group that came on April 20 to learn how to make and bake communion bread. 16 loaves were made that day. The group has volunteered to continue with this going forward.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the group that met recently to learn about setting up for Communion. They will be taught what to do concerning Communion preparation.

“TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE” FORM

Those who attended the Asset Mapping sessions filled out this form and we want to extend an invitation for everyone to fill it out since our church takes a whole village to keep it running. Please fill out the form included in this mailing and return it so that we might know where your interests and passions lie. We would like to know your talents and gifts, and how best to help you use them. You can either drop your completed form off at the Welcome Center or mail it back to First Lutheran Church, 3601 Dakota Avenue, South Sioux City, Nebraska 68776.

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming Events:

5/12 – Mother’s Day/Worship Planning Meeting

5/19 – Graduation Sunday/Council Meeting
Pentecost (**wear red**) with Communion

5/26 – Holy Trinity Sunday/Confirmation Class

5/27 – Memorial Day

STUDY OF WORLD RELIGIONS

The Confirmation class has decided to continue meeting once a month during the summer months focusing on one of the World Religions each month. We will meet on the fourth Sunday after worship and look at the following religions:

April 28	Islam
May 26	Buddhism
June 23	Hinduism
July 28	Judaism

Each session we will be looking at characteristics of that religion to help us understand it; we will compare that religion to Christianity and talk about the differences. The Confirmation class decided that all should be welcome to attend these classes. Come and join in the conversation!

FAITH FORWARD

Pastor was trained and attended a kick-off for this program last month in Des Moines, Iowa (funded through a Lilly Endowment grant and presented by the staff at Grand View University). At this kick-off, participants were trained on the program “Faith Forward” and received kits full of activities to help pastors in small town congregations encourage and empower the congregation (parents, grandparents, and faith mentors) to engage with the children. I will need (at least) 3-5 parents, grandparents, and/or spiritual mentors (and would love more) who will step forward and commit with me to try this program. There is a lot of talk right now about the growth of First Lutheran Church and I believe this program can be an essential part of building and growing our faith by providing a solid foundation for generations to come.

PLEASE, if you are interested in the growth of this church, let me know to what extent you would be interested in participating. I will have more information for you in the ways you can participate in our activities, but for now I will need 3-5 people who are willing to be an active parent, grandparent or mentor in this program.

Email me at prdpmeyer@gmail.com.

Text me or call me at 623/910-7859.

MEMORIAL DAY

Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It’s now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it’s important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones – especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America’s liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, “Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared.”

FOOD BANK

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland. We have food bank on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- During the month of January, we served 96 families.
- During the month of February, we served 148 families.
- During the month of March, we served 166 families.
- During the month of April, we served 146 families.

Help from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. is always appreciated to help unload the truck and set out the food. Food is distributed from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for which help again is appreciated.

During the school year we do have students from the Gateway to Learning program come in the morning to help with unloading and setting out the food. In the afternoon they come back to help carry out and load cars. A Big Thank You goes out to them.

We have several people from our congregation who help both morning and afternoon, along with several people that come to help from other churches. A Big Thank You to all who come together to make this ministry successful.

We are in need of help to mop the Fellowship Hall the Friday following each of the two food bank distributions. If you would be able to help with this, please contact Linda Fischer at 712/259-0889.

AMERICAN FLAGS

If you have an American flag that needs to be retired, you can place it in the designated box in the Narthex. Scouts in our community have projects in which they learn how to dispose of them properly.

QUILTING

It is good to see the quilting group meeting once again. We usually meet the second Saturday of the month, but that day isn't always possible every month. For now, watch for announcements as to when we will meet next.

Any women who would like to assist with this project of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief are very welcome! Please contact Vicki Johnson at 402/494-7089 or 712/281-7089 if interested

Donations of materials are always accepted, especially flat sheets...full size and larger.

PENTECOST

On May 19, Christians around the world will celebrate the Day of Pentecost. It's often remembered as the church's birthday. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon those who believed in his resurrection.

Three thousand people were gathered in Jerusalem when the Spirit came upon them. They were so touched by the Holy Spirit that they began to worship regularly, especially on Sundays, the day of Christ's resurrection.

To symbolize the "tongues, as of fire" (Acts 2:3, NRSV) that came upon the people present at Pentecost, liturgical churches display the color red in their worship services on Pentecost Sunday. Many people attending worship wear red on that day.

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a concern or need for which you would like prayer, please contact Sandy Larson at 402/494-2135 or Mary Wolf at 402/494-4697 or Pastor Patti at 623/910-7859.

"Being considerate of others will take [you] further in life than any college degree."

— Marian Wright Edelman

Your treasure – is where your heart is 2024

Name _____

Have you ever heard the saying “It takes a village to raise a child”?

Well, we find the same to be true for the care of our church and the souls who attend here at First Lutheran. It takes a village....many hands to reduce the load of creative work and maintenance.

Whether you are worshiping online or in person, there are ways to be involved and serve.

Please look through the list below and check those things that interest you for ways you might want to become involved....and indicate if that is a “now” interest, or a “future” interest.

I can serve in the church:

	Now	future interest
_____ Lead in Worship	_____	_____
_____ Lector		
_____ Usher		
_____ Greet Visitors		
_____ Sing in Choir		
_____ Play Handbells		
_____ Play an Instrument		
_____ Prepare / Cleanup Communion	_____	_____
_____ Welcome New Members	_____	_____
_____ Support with Technology in worship	_____	_____
_____ Prepare Power Point for worship		
_____ Run Power Point in worship		
_____ Run YouTube in worship		
_____ Run Sound table in Worship		
_____ General Housekeeping	_____	_____
_____ Website/Audio	_____	_____
_____ Work with Youth	_____	_____
_____ Work/teach young Children	_____	_____
_____ Work with Children's Worship Education	_____	_____
_____ Leadership in Adult book/bible studies	_____	_____
_____ Volunteer in Food Bank (1 st and 3 rd Thursday monthly)	_____	_____
_____ Women's Circles	_____	_____
_____ Bake / Cook	_____	_____
_____ Visit Members in Need	_____	_____
_____ Prayer Shawl Ministry	_____	_____
_____ Quilting		

<input type="checkbox"/>	Set-Up / Clean-Up for Fellowship Gathering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help Office Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Make phone calls		
	<input type="checkbox"/> spend time in office to answer phones or take deliveries		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tidy up Church Grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mowing		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Snow removal		
	<input type="checkbox"/> plant flowers		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Spring/Fall Clean-up		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Take Photos at Church Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on a Committee – mark which Committee(s) you have an interest in participating with		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild – prepare worship space		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship & Music – meets monthly to prepare worship		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff-Parish (Mutual Ministry)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Property		

Please list any other interests or ideas:

This is only an interest survey and does not commit you to anything you mark
Please turn this in to the welcome desk when you have completed it.

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Food Bank 1:00-2:30 p.m.	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	6 Fellowship Meeting 6:30 a.m.	7 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m.	8	9 Lydia 6:30 p.m.	10	11
12 Mother's Day Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship Plan- ning Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	13	14 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m.	15	16 Food Bank 1:00-2:30 p.m.	17	18
19 Pentecost/ Grad. Sunday SS (last day) 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 (Communion) Council Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	20 Circle I 2:00 p.m. WELCA Executive Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.	21 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25
26 Trinity Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	27 Memorial Day	28 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31	



Names in the Bible Word Scramble



- 1. iashia
- 2. jsdua
- 3. nawder
- 4. bamraha
- 5. raachzaih
- 6. cjbao
- 7. imcah
- 8. entpesh
- 9. udsedath
- 10. usjes
- 11. isttu
- 12. eossm
- 13. agrha
- 14. lbaoromehwt
- 15. jeliah
- 16. ikeelze
- 17. einald
- 18. eihnaehm
- 19. htmaetw
- 20. rtpee