

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

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First Lutheran Church

October 2024



God's Work. Our Hands.

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<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



OCTOBER

The deadline for the November Newsletter is October 15.

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

Greetings and Grace to you all.

“For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption of Christ Jesus.”

– Romans 3:22-24 –

October is the month in which Reformation Day falls, which is a day we celebrate the reform of the church. It is that day when Martin Luther posted a list of “inconsistencies” he found between what the Bible was telling him and what he was hearing from the church authorities.

The Bible was printed only in Latin in those days and so the average person was not able to read it for themselves. But Martin Luther had received some higher education which opened the scriptures for him, but what he was reading did not match up with what the church leaders were telling the people. And so, he posted the list (95 Theses) on the Wittenberg Church doors to encourage a debate with the authorities. And that is how the reform of the church began.

God calls us to be formed and reformed daily in our faith journey, shedding the old self and breathing in new life, living into our new identity as Child of God.

God also invites us to ponder on how God might be inviting us into grace. In Paul’s words to the Romans, we learn that grace is a gift of God.

We cannot earn it ... nor do we ever deserve it, but it is given freely to us. It embodies the gifts of life and salvation which are pure gifts as well.

We cultivate love throughout the month of October by Cultivating Grace through reconciliation and continued community connections. As we remember the reforming of the church, let us listen for God’s invitation for us to “be” church in a changing world.

So let me leave you with a question to ponder on. In what ways have you seen and experienced God’s grace made real for you?

Pray with me ... Dear God, prepare our hearts to be a sanctuary for your word and love. And let us cultivate your love in our families, in our communities and in your world. Amen.

– Pastor Patti

FAITH FORWARD INITIATIVE

The Faith Forward initiative is about finding ways that we can share our faith stories with each other and with our families. Here is a Meal Time activity that you can practice with your family around a meal or use with your little ones when talking on the phone or facetime.

What are the “greats” in your life? There are no right or wrong answers.

- Greatest friend ...
- Greatest teacher ever ...
- Greatest toy I ever owned ...
- Greatest dessert I ever ate ...
- Greatest video game ever ...
- Greatest pet ...
- Greatest TV show ever ...

...that you have access to on the website that you can connect to just by scanning the QR code on the magnets found in the Welcome Area ... or taking one of the packets that have many activities you can try.

The packets include tools and suggestions of how to share your faith stories at home with your families. There are plenty for all to take one home, and the ideas can be interchangeable. Parent’s ideas can be used by grandparents and grandparent ideas can be used by parents.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Harvest is right around the corner. May the harvest be bountiful and the grain prices rebound.

May your favorite high school, college or pro teams continue to do well.

We appreciate everyone's support and helping hands – whether you get caught or not! We have many members dedicating their time and talents towards the well-being of the church and its facilities. Keep up the good work!

We have witnessed several new and old faces at our worship services. Please welcome and encourage them to join us each and every Sunday. Please continue to invite a past member, a friend or family member to church!

Again, the Council invites you to attend any and or all of the Council meetings.

– Bart Gotch

LECTORS

October 6	Tristan Kinnaman
October 13	Mary Wolf
October 20	Terri Gotch
October 27	Chris Lofgren

USHERS

October 6	Marla Bianchini and Amy Groth
October 13	Sandy Larson and Carol Zastrow
October 20	Sue Hunter and Rita Todd
October 27	Anne and Chris Lofgren

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

August 4	54
August 11	57
August 18	56
August 25	58

GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a third quarter giving statement, please contact the office.

Phone: 402/494-5462

Email: office@flcssc.org

The will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We are into our year of learning about the Reformer, Martin Luther, and the Catechism.

Please pray for our students, their mentors and parents too, as we journey through this year to learn more about our Lutheran roots and help our students grow in faith together.

So, this is where we have another connection...students – mentors – parents and the entire congregation.

CRAFT/VENDOR/BAKE SALE will be on October 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The congregation can help serving lunch, at the bake sale table, setting up, cleaning up and most especially by BAKING for the Bake Sale! Also, come shop and support our vendors! Contact Rita Todd (712/574-1769) to help. Baked goods may be brought in on Friday evening from 6:00-7:30 p.m. or Saturday before 9:00 a.m.

QUILTERS NEEDS:

Sheets – full size or larger, used or new for backing. **New spools of neutral color thread**, 250 or 300 yards for Lutheran World Relief Sewing Kits. **Helpers** to put together quilts on the third Saturday of the month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. No skills required.

TURKEY TOM

Keep your eyes peeled for Turkey Tom to appear this year again. We will be collecting food for six families to receive a Thanksgiving meal in our community. There will be feathers to pluck beginning October 27 and the food will need to be brought in by mid-November.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the anonymous donor for the generous gift of the WWJD t-shirts. We are all enjoying them.

THANK YOU

Mary Wolf has recently resigned as treasurer of WELCA. Thank you, Mary, for your many years of dedicated service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 5	Bob Oberg
October 9	Becky Knudsen
October 10	Ray Schleusener
October 11	Ranelle De Jong
October 11	Cathie Galvin
October 13	Mike Rich
October 18	Sharon Parker
October 26	Bill Kendra
October 31	Scott Koepsell
October 31	Patty Matz

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

October 13	Grace Hunter
October 13	Harley Koepsell
October 28	Katelyn Lieber

ANNIVERSARIES

October 1	Kim on and Ronda Litras
October 10	Mason and Amy Groth
October 19	Zachery and Katie Kvidera
October 21	Dennis and Linda Fischer
October 24	Jerry and Jeana Davis
October 27	Lane and Carol Ostendorf

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

CIRCLE I met on Monday, September 16. We had dessert, coffee and Bible study. In addition, we packed four backpacks with supplies which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Our next meeting will be October 21 at 2:00 p.m. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend.

LYDIA will meet Thursday, October 10 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

POINSETTIAS

Believe it or not, it is not too early to think about ordering poinsettias for Christmas. In checking with the florist, she has a deadline of November 5 for First Lutheran's order to be submitted. A sign-up sheet will be available shortly along with more details including pricing.

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.

The month of September was another busy time serving between 80 to 90 families each week that Food Bank was held.

We once again had a variety of produce from the Dakota County Voices For Food Community Gardens.

Thank you to the students from Gateway to Learning for the help with unloading the pallets of groceries onto the tables for distribution in the morning. Then, returning in the afternoon to help load groceries into the cars.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to ALL who show up to volunteer or has anything to do with supporting this ministry. This ministry would not be possible without all of your support.

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING WITH QUESTIONS

Quiet yourself. Welcome God's presence and be aware of your own presence.

Breathe in: "Holy Spirit"

Breathe out: "Guide me into your truth."

Read the following scripture and hear the words as if Jesus is speaking to you slowly and lovingly.

"Remain in me as I remain in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit from itself unless it remain in the vine...if you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall happen for you."

(selected words from Jesus in John 15:4,7)

Breathe in ... Breathe out.

Abide ... allow God to ask questions of you.

Ask questions of God.

When finished, ask Jesus what he longs for you to know about yourself, about God, and about your life.

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Food Bank 1:00-2:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	7 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	8 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Lydia 6:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m./ Koeppel Baptism Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	14 Worship Planning Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	15 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Food Bank 1:00-2:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Quilting Group 9:00 a.m. - Noon
20 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Council Meeting 10:30 a.m.	* 21 Circle I 2:00 p.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	* 22 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m. Amateur Radio Club 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Craft Fair/ Bake Sale 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Reformation Sunday 27 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	28 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m. WELCA Exec. Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	29 Worship/The Palm at Regency 2:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	30	31 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	* Pastor at Synod Leadership Conference October 21-22	

HALLOWEEN

WORD SCRAMBLE

1. MPNKIUP _____
2. ONLEESKT _____
3. OOKYPS _____
4. LEHLOEAWN _____
5. UMCCTSEO _____
6. OMSNERT _____
7. NTUHEDA _____
8. VEPMIRA _____
9. BTCOOER _____
10. HCWTI _____
11. TASB _____
12. CDYNA _____

