

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

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First Lutheran Church

December 2025



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 18.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Jarrod Knudsen 712/898-1170
*Vice-President	Rita Todd 712/574-1769
*Treasurer	Mike Hunter 712/490-2998
*Secretary	Sue Hunter 712/490-1110
Clint Barrs	712/301-8951
Bob Barto	712/490-1676
Jenni Durant	712/577-1162
Carli Lake	Youth Representative
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
*Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS

Happy Holidays!!

It's a busy time of year preparing for gatherings with family and friends, shopping, baking and cleaning...just to name a few. There will always be things to do, but I am encouraging us, together, to slow down and find ways this Advent season to enjoy a profound sense of serenity and peace. There is so much symbolism in this season to help us appreciate all we can experience as we wait in anticipation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The symbolism of blue in Christianity is deeply rooted in its association with themes of hope, divinity, the divine presence, and the transcendence and eternal nature of God. We decorate our worship space in blue to remind us of qualities like trust, loyalty, and wisdom, all which align with the core tenets of our faith.

The Advent wreath presents more symbolism in its circular shape, evergreen branches, and

candles representing eternal life, hope and the light of Christ entering the world. We remember in this season the virtues that we are called to embody, fostering a sense of spiritual introspection and renewal.

The Christmas tree carries religious symbolism connected to Christ's birth and salvation. The evergreen nature of the tree signifies eternal life and hope. The lights on the tree symbolize Jesus as the light of the world. And the Christmas ornaments each represent a significant aspect of our Christian faith.

I wonder sometimes how we can celebrate the liturgical seasons year after year and still gain new insight into the story and into our own spiritual journey. Join with me in this journey as we walk through the story again. Read Matthew 1:18 – 2:13. As you read, name the character in the story that you most relate to. Enter into it and become a character in the story back then. After you have spent some time in meditation in this story, join together in our journey through Advent with one another to serve others.

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Blessings in this journey,
Pastor Patti

GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who participated in taking names from the Giving Tree to provide gifts to others in need this year. Please check the back of the tag for the date the gift needs to be returned to First Lutheran. Place the gift in a bag and securely attach the tag to the bag. Thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24. Plan on attending this inspirational service and invite family and friends.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's November and things are going well at FLC. As we wind down our year, we still have some projects that we are working on. I would like to thank Jennifer Lieber who has taken on the role of painting manager, which we would like to complete before we put in the new flooring. By the time this gets to everyone, the congregation will have chosen which flooring is going to be put in the church. In the Welcome Area it will be vinyl flooring and in the hallway, we will have carpet.

I would also like to thank everyone who has donated to the Thanksgiving meals and the Christmas Giving Tree. Our generosity is outstanding, and I am proud to say to the community that FLC is the place to be.

Jarrold Knudsen
Council President

LECTORS

December 7	Pam Knudsen
December 14	Mary Wolf
December 21	Bob Barto
December 24	Jennifer Lieber
December 28	Justin Baker

USHERS

December 7	Pam Knudsen Vicki Lyons
December 14	Chris and Milissa Reyes
December 21	Bev Bates Rita Legg
December 24	Jeff and Rita Todd
December 28	Clint Barrs Randy Rahn

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

October 5	47
October 12	49
October 19	36
October 26	38

Give others a piece of your heart, not a piece of your mind.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 2	Jarrold Knudsen
December 6	Carol Zastrow
December 9	Bart Gotch
December 10	Cheryl Cale
December 14	Mary Wolf
December 15	Kris Hunter
December 24	Gary Hayes
December 24	Jeff Prescott
December 27	Jean Hedquist
December 28	Vicky Johnson
December 28	Sandy Larson

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

December 15	Hailey Lieber
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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 met on Monday, November 17. We had Bible study and discussed our Christmas project. We will meet Monday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Dakota Perk for our Christmas lunch.

LYDIA

Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Have you ever wondered who does what around First Lutheran Church and how things get done? You don't always think about who takes care of things that you take for granted when walking up to the church or into the doors of the church. Such as...who decorates the tables in the entryway or who launders the altar linens to name only a few. Watch the newsletter in the coming months as we hope to shed some light on the tasks in and around the church that are being done so faithfully by dedicated volunteers.

FOOD PANTRY

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

Food Pantry served right at 200 families in the month of November.

The students from Gateway to Learning (GTL) helped to put groceries on the tables in the morning and came back in the afternoon to help load groceries into the clients' cars. Thank you so much for your help.

We were lucky enough to have butternut and acorn squash along with several different varieties of peppers from the Community Gardens at our first November pantry. That will be the end of produce from the Community Gardens for this gardening season.

Thank you to Clint Barrs for heading up the pantry activities for the last few years. He has decided to step down. He will still be there to guide us if needed. If you have questions, you can reach out to Jean Hedquist or Linda Fischer

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.

DECEMBER SCRIP ORDERS are due December 14 and gift cards will be ready for pick up the following Sunday, December 21. If you have any questions about SCRIP, please see Sue Hunter.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS will come down between January 4 and January 11. Please stick around after worship on January 4 to see how you can help.

THE ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for January 18, 2026 after worship. **Please have your reports in by January 1.**

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

- Dec. 7 Second Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
- Dec. 14 Third Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10
Second Lesson: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
- Dec. 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16
Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 23 Christmas Eve
First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7
Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20
- Dec. 28 First Sunday of Christmas
First Lesson: Isaiah 63:7-9
Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

A CHILI COOKOFF was held November 16. Thank you to everyone who participated. Congratulations to the winners!

1 st Place	Bev Bates
2 nd Place	Sue Hunter
3 rd Place	Jenni Durant

THANK YOU

Dear members of First Lutheran Church, On behalf of all of us at Harney Elementary, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous donation of hats and mittens. Your thoughtfulness truly makes a difference and reminds our school community that we're surrounded by people who care.

Lexa Meehan, School Counselor

ADVENT

Advent is a time of year that can mean more activities to squeeze into our calendars and so we focus here in church on slowing down, waiting, and anticipating the birth of the one who comes to save us all from sin and the evil of this world. We gather on Sunday mornings for a time (that I would like to create as...) to experience peace and assurance in the midst of one of the busiest times of the year.

This year we also focus on gratitude. Each week we will have a group from the church lighting the Advent candle(s). And we will remember to give thanks for that group and all that they do.

WEEK 1 (November 30) is the candle of FAITH celebrating the gift of Incarnation – A Grand Miracle.

WELCA – Lydia Group will be lighting the candle of Faith.

Lydia Group meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. to study, have fellowship together, and work on projects such as the “Giving Tree” that brings opportunities for us to help others in the community who are in need of Christmas Cheer. They carry out the Noisy Offering giving at Christmas time, purchasing and wrapping gifts for needy children in our community. And there is so much more. Thank you for all you do.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Lydia Group, call Rita at 712/574-1769.

WEEK 2 (December 7) is the candle of HOPE recognizing Immanuel, (God with us).

Food Pantry volunteers will be lighting the candle of Hope.

Let us give thanks for all who volunteer to help serve our community with one of our most basic needs. There is a lot of time and energy that goes into preparation, serving those who come through, and then clean-up. It takes a village to

serve 80-100 people who need food for their tables. The Food Pantry is open to residents in the tri-state area every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Thank you for all you do.

If you would like to help, call Linda at 712/259-0889.

WEEK 3 (December 14) is the candle of JOY to celebrate the Christ figure.

WELCA – Circle I will be lighting the candle of Joy.

Let us give thanks for all they do, such as fruit plates at Christmas and a plant or flowers at Easter for our homebounds, backpacks and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief, and giving to the SSC Cardinal Christmas Drive, and much more. Thank you for all you do.

Circle I meets the 3rd Monday of each month and would welcome anyone who would like to gather to study and fellowship. All women of the church are a part of WELCA and are welcome.

If you would like more information about this group, call Sandy at 402/494-2135.

WEEK 4 (December 21) is the candle of GRATITUDE celebrating the upcoming birth of our Savior.

Facility Maintenance Volunteers will be lighting the candle of Gratitude.

We are grateful for all who help to keep our grounds and our building in tip-top shape all year round. They take care of watering the plants (inside and out), mowing the lawn, trimming, snow removal, clearing out old debris, maintaining the heat and cooling systems, changing lightbulbs, cleaning our bathrooms and Welcome Area, keeping the sanctuary clean and beautiful...and so much more. Thank you for all you do.

If you have gifts that you would like to offer in help for any of these areas, call Randy at 928/551-2464.

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	2 Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	3	4 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m.	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (*Communion)	8 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	9 Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Lydia 6:30 p.m.	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (**Communion)	15 Circle I at Dakota Perk 11:30 a.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	16 Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	17	18 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m.	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (*Communion) Council Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	22 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	23 Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Amateur Radio Club 7:00 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 p.m. (*Communion)	25 Merry Christmas	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (**Communion)	29 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	30 Bible Study 5:45 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	31		*Communion by cup **Communion by intinction	

CHRISTMAS SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters to find the Christian Christmas words.

UEJSS

EYKODN

TEUIEYDL

CISTRH

SAENGL

SOHRWPI

INKEENPRE

EALMICR

VAROSI

TITIANVY

NMLEEAMU

LEGSSNIB

HDEHSEPR

IGTRALHTS

HMASSRCIT

MEHLEBETH

DWGLNDISA

UHLLEAHLAJ

FSRSENGIVEO

CNEAIEFKSNRN



