

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

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First Lutheran Church

January 2026



God's Work. Our Hands.

INSIDE

- January 2026 calendar
- Ponderings from Pastor Patti
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Food Pantry
- Thank You
- Giving Statements
- Annual Meeting

Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app
from the app stores.

Text give at:
402-557-0882



JANUARY

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 15.

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 New Year!!

But Merry Christmas is still very appropriate. Did you know that we are still in the season of Christmas? Did you know that the 12 days of Christmas come *after* Christmas Day? There are 12 days from Christmas Day until the day of Epiphany. Most people think that the season of Christmas is the time leading up to Christmas Day, when actually, that season is Advent, when we wait and anticipate the birth of Christ.

This journey through Advent with Mary and Joseph was enlightening for me in relating my life to the difficulties of preparation and anticipation of this new birth. Did you feel it too? It's been challenging at times to slow down and experience silence...breathing in the goodness of God, and breathing out the distractions.

But what does this all mean now? Jesus is born. Jesus is yet to come. Jesus is here but Jesus died more than 2000 years ago. How do we

make sense of all that we know from God's word?

One thing we know is that new life begins every day, with forgiveness and mercy. Beginning a new year is very significant for some. Life might have brought a lot of "curve-balls" for you in 2025, but the page just turned, and new life can begin. It's 2026 now.

After the Christmas season, we enter into a season of epiphany and the time after, which is a time we can focus on this new light that dawns on the darkness of a world filled with sin. Jesus is that light. Jesus is the hope for salvation, but also the hope for a life filled with joy and the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us. Our journey (like Jesus' life) is just beginning. Every year, every season, and even every day.

Christmas is not over yet. As I write this, Christmas Day is still five days away. And the Christmas season hasn't even begun. We will celebrate this year with Christmas songs and their history, until the day of Epiphany, which is when the Wise Men appear at the manger scene, and the season of Epiphany begins. And we will celebrate the light that Christ brings into this world and watch the dark dissipate as our days begin to lengthen and the warmth and love of the light settle in.

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

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

I still need reports from WELCA, Circle I, Lydia, Property, Altar Guild, Food Pantry, Fellowship, and Finance. Please send your reports to Pastor Patti prdpmeier@gmail.com ASAP!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, how time flies. It is already the end of the year. Betty reminded me that the Newsletter was due so I figured this would be a nice break from wrapping presents. I think it's important to look back on the past year and see our accomplishments. First, I would like to thank everyone who served on Council this year. It was an honor being Council President. Second, I would like to thank everyone who served the church in 2025. Our members are the lifeblood of the church.

Now, to several of our accomplishments. I think the main thing that our church is known for is our Food Pantry. We serve this community twice a month, which is roughly 2,000 families a year. Our Giving Tree and Noisy Offering also had some accomplishments this year. We helped about 150 people in our community have a better Christmas.

We have some of the best members in the Siouxland area, and I am thankful to be a part of this family. I hope everyone who reads this will continue to do some self-examination and determine how can we improve in 2026.

Jarrold Knudsen
Council President

LECTORS

January 4	Sue Hunter
January 11	Justin Baker
January 18	Jill Gill
January 25	Mary Wolf

USHERS

January 4	Ruth Ailts & Marla Bianchini
January 11	Ranelle De Jong & Linda Fischer
January 18	Adam Durant & Jenni Durant
January 25	Jill Gill & Kendall Gill

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

November 2	46
November 9	45
November 16	51
November 23	46
November 30	Service cancelled

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 1	Shirley Luehr
January 3	Alexis Stolze
January 8	Joyce Williams
January 10	Bill Bass
January 10	Tim Niemeyer
January 11	Jennifer Durant
January 11	Clark Kleinberg
January 14	Breck Swanson
January 16	Melissa Baker
January 17	Lucas Fader
January 23	Josie Geveshausen
January 24	Beverly Bates
January 25	Chris Reyes
January 29	Billy Denker
January 29	Ruth Weekes

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

January 12	Lincoln Schleusener
January 21	Ryker Stolze

ANNIVERSARIES

January 17	Tom and Jennifer Durant
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If we have missed any birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

CIRCLE I met on Monday, December 15 at 11:30 a.m. at Dakota Perk for our Christmas lunch. Our next meeting is Monday, January 19 at 2:00 p.m. All women are invited!

LYDIA

Join us for our next meeting on Thursday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...JANUARY 4

Wear your favorite Christmas attire to celebrate the last Sunday of our Christmas season. Bring cookies to share (and copies of the recipe to share as well). We will begin taking down the Christmas decorations and it would be helpful to have many hands available to make this job light for all. Stick around for fellowship and to see how you can help.

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 170 families in the month of December.

The students from Gateway to Learning (GTL) helped to put groceries on the tables in the morning of the December 4 pantry. Thank you so much for your help.

Thank you to Jeff Carda and Randy Rahn for your help in monitoring the outside pantry neighbors before distribution starts.

A big thank you to whoever has been setting the tables up for pantry day. It is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Hope Lutheran Church, SSC for the donation of food they collected and the monetary donation for purchasing food for our pantry.

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.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end giving statements will be available at the Welcome Center after January 12. 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. Please note that the email address sending the statement to you is different, so you may need to check your junk mail. The email is flssc3601@gmail.com.

FLC COUNCIL ELECTON

Four Council positions will be filled at this year's annual meeting on January 18. Mike Hunter, Sue Hunter, Jarrod Knudsen and Rita Todd have terms expiring. Nominees to fill the four positions are Amy Groth, Jarrod Knudsen, Tanner Koepp and Rita Todd. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. Don't miss your opportunity to have a voice in the leadership of First Lutheran.

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

Jan. 4 Second Sunday of Christmas
First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Jan. 11 Baptism of Our Lord
First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9
Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43
Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany
First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Gospel: John 1:29-42

Jan. 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany
First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4
Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 1:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

Have you ever wondered how the Newsletter is edited, printed, assembled and mailed?

Consider Betty Barto as the editor, reporters Jackie Gierman, Sandy Larson, Mary Wolf, Helen Koskovich, Linda Fischer and anyone from the congregation who writes an article to be in the Newsletter.

Our first meeting is to review what Betty already has received and any other regular items to put in. Once Betty receives Pastor Patti's Ponderings and a message from the Council President, ushers for the month, lectors for the month, and gets events for the calendar, she does a rough draft. We get together to proof read and edit if need be. If it is approved, Betty then gives it to Kerri Rahn to print. We then get together to assemble and mail.

Thank you to Betty Barto for organizing and typing our Newsletter. Betty does a super job.

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." – Unknown

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Remove Christmas Decorations	5 Worship Plan- ning 5:30 p.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7 p.m.	6 Epiphany Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	7	8 Lydia 6:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	9	10
11 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	12 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	13 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	14	15 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m. Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Quilting Group 9:00 a.m.-noon
18 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Annual Meeting 10:30 a.m. Followed By Council Mtg.	19 Circle I 2:00 p.m. Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	20 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	21	22 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	26 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	27 WELCA Exec. 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m. Amateur Radio Club 7:00 p.m.	28	29 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	30	31



WINTER WORD SCRAMBLE



Rearrange the letters on the left to form some wintry words on the right.

1. ZEEGNIRF
2. STOBO
3. KNOFSWALE
4. BLONSLAW
5. ZYCO
6. BREMCEED
7. FARMFUSE
8. STACO
9. LOVESH
10. BLOWMONSIE
11. SNAKELBT
12. STROF
13. NAMOWNS
14. SLEVOG
15. TELM
16. RETHEA
17. DELSGIND
18. ZILBZRAD
19. CISELIC
20. STEMNTIN
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22. PREFELIAC
23. KINGSI
24. LETSE
25. HINTERABE

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