

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

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First Lutheran Church

September 2026



God's Work. Our Hands.

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SEPTEMBER

The deadline for the October Newsletter is September 17.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Rita Todd 712/574-1769
*Vice-President	Jarrold Knudsen 712/898-1170
*Treasurer	Jenni Durant 712/577-1162
*Secretary	Amy Groth 712/490-4127
Justin Baker	Youth Representative
Bob Barto	712/490-1676
Tanner Koeppe	712/560-2053
Milissa Reyes	712/204-4492
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
*Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS

My prayer for you is that you are settling into a new rhythm with all the changes in our surroundings that happen when the weather cools down and the colors surrounding us change to vibrant oranges and reds and harvest is near. I am settling into a new rhythm again as well, with my Spiritual Direction class beginning this month and so as I write this, I am feverishly finishing up with my summer reading and report. One thing that I realized this summer is something my mother told me many years ago when I yearned to be older than I was and be done with high school. She said, "Enjoy your time now, because the years will fly by faster and faster as you get older." Of course I didn't believe her then. I was a crazy teenager (you know...15 going on 25). And even though I didn't get all my summer homework done yet and am rushing now to finish it, I welcome the start-up of this class. Studying the mystics and finding ways to center myself into God's goodness and love is so grounding for me. And that slows me down. I have to be reminded from time to time how

much God beckons me as much as I beckon Him. And this verse in Acts reminds me of that.

Acts 17:27 – [His purpose in all this] is that they should seek after God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. (NLT)

God is near, always will be, but in the busyness of life, God feels so far away. This time of year seems busier than even normal, but I plan to really enjoy the sunrises and sunsets, plan walks in the cooler temperatures and center myself in the grace of God's love through silence and contemplation.

Join me again to experience a few moments of seeking God. Sit comfortable, relax your shoulders. Breathe in the freshness of the cooler air. Breathe in God's presence. Breathe out the junk. Draw near and remember our baptismal promises as we hear the raindrops, or wash our face, as we smell the freshness of harvest...and then walk in faith, knowing that, when we trip (all the time), God is with us always.

Blessings in your journey,
Pastor Patti

"WEED AND WORSHIP"

(Second and Fourth Sundays of the month.)

After worship is a great time to ponder on what you've experienced in worship and figure out what/how to apply it to our own lives. Don't rush away.

It's like a garden club. Bring your weeding/gardening tools – (garden hats, gloves, hoes, etc.) and join with others who enjoy being hands on with nature. There is something for all ages, experience and sizes to do.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible study is "Jesus, Experiencing his Touch" based on Mark, chapters 1-6. If you would like to join us, we meet on Tuesday evening at 6:15 in the lounge. All are welcome. Note that there will be no Bible study on September 15 or September 22 as Pastor will be on vacation.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What happened to summer? It seems we spend it running here and there and everywhere and seems shorter every year. Sunday School will begin September 20.

We had a nice outdoor service and student, teacher and backpack blessing. The meal afterward was delicious and great fun. Having so many stay to eat always makes the fellowship better. It's always exciting to eat things prepared by others! Pastor Patti displayed pictures with descriptions of the stained glass that makes our building so beautiful to view and read on the way to the fellowship hall to eat. These are still on display if you didn't get a chance.

Yay! It seems like it took a long time but the flooring project is mostly finished now. The Welcome Center is back in place, and we are not looking like a construction project.

Tanner is doing a fabulous job with the LED sign! The colors look great, messages have been fresh and interesting.

Upcoming, September 12 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. will be a community meal to support the emergency food program. Please try to help with/support this ministry.

Pastor Patti, the Council, Fellowship and Worship Committees are working on different ways to welcome each other and visitors to make coming to church more fun. ANY ideas are welcome, please share with any of us if you have an idea.

This month I would like to thank those who take time to attend the monthly Council meetings (Council members and others). You Matter, and we appreciate your input and everything you do for First Lutheran.

Rita Todd
FLC Council President

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I am so thankful for my church family
—Vicky Johnson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September 1	Mike Hunter
September 1	Rick Lieber
September 4	Ottie Gierman
September 5	Gerald Krieger
September 6	Ruth Jensen
September 7	Betty Bass
September 9	Patty Blessing
September 11	Randy Grove
September 12	Colton Novak
September 14	Michelle Kinnaman
September 14	Holly Schleusener
September 17	Amy Groth
September 20	Jan Durant
September 21	Sophie Swanson
September 22	Chris Kinnaman
September 26	Terry Sorem
September 28	Colleen Schleusener
September 30	Anne Lofgren

ANNIVERSARIES

September 12	Rich and Sharon Potter
September 16	Mark and Vicky Johnson
September 21	Mike and Tanya Rich
September 30	Todd and Melissa Baker

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

CIRCLE I will meet on Monday, September 21 at 2:00 p.m. All women are invited!

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

After a summer break, Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m. Thank you to Rita Todd for her dedication in leading this important youth ministry.

JULY ATTENDANCE

July 5	38
July 12	40
July 19	43
July 26	51

LECTORS

September 6	Milissa Reyes
September 13	Amy Groth
September 20	Sue Hunter
September 27	Justin Baker

USHERS

September 6	Jarrod Knudsen Pam Knudsen
September 13	Corliss Bianchini Linda Fischer
September 20	Marla Bianchini Amy Groth
September 27	Bev Bates Rita Legg

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

The Community Outreach Donation Drive continues through September 13. We are collecting donations for Haven House. Suggested items to donate are as follows:

Clorox Wipes, Shampoo, Conditioner, Laundry Supplies, Cleaning Supplies, Tooth Paste, Tampons, Pads, Diapers, Baby Wipes, Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dish Soap, Hand Soap, Storage Totes, Trash Bags, New Tylenol (Adult and Children), New Cold Medicines (Adult and Children), USB-C and iPhone Chargers, Easy Meals like Ramen Noodles.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Do you or someone you know have instruments that are no longer needed? Think about giving them new life by donating them to the South Sioux City Schools! Just drop them off at FLC, and we’ll deliver them to the school.

DID YOU KNOW that we have over 30 dedicated volunteers that help on the first and third Thursday of each month at our FLC-SSC Food Pantry? It takes that many and sometimes more to make everything run smoothly. **THANK YOU** to each and everyone that is volunteering now or has volunteered in the past. If you want to volunteer, **COME ON IN** and we will find a spot for you. —Linda Fischer

FOOD PANTRY

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland as a Mobile Food Pantry. We serve our neighbors on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The month of August we served a total of 193 families.

Student Council students helped in the afternoon of our August 6 pantry assisting neighbors get their groceries in their car. Thank you to Linda Swanson and her group for the help. Thank you to Justin Baker for assisting as well. On August 20 the GTL students were back to school so they helped to unload the groceries in the morning and assisted our neighbors get their groceries in their car in the afternoon. Thank you to all!

We have had some good produce from our friends at the Dakota County Voices For Food-Community Gardens, including some very large kohlrabi, cabbage, red beets, onions, sweet corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, potatoes, zucchini, carrots and peppers. Thank you.

We are still accepting clean egg cartons. Just leave them in the kitchen. Thank you in advance.

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.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

There is a community fundraiser planned for Saturday, September 12 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran. This is an effort to raise funds for F.L.A.P. (First Lutheran Assistance Program). The menu includes burgers, hot dogs, brats, corn on the cob, homemade salads, desserts and refreshments. All are welcome! It is \$10.00 per plate and free will donations will also be accepted. Please join us in making this a success. It is our goal to have no one go hungry.

THANK YOU to whoever generously donated the “You Matter” T-shirts to the congregation.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m.	4	5
6 Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	7 Labor Day Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	8 Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	9	10 Lydia Group 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Community Fundraiser for F.L.A.P. 5:00-7:30 p.m.
13 "Weed and Worship" Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	14 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	15 Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	16	17 Food Pantry 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 Mtg. 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 WELCA Exec. 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7 p.m. Amateur Radio Club 7:00 p.m.	23	24 Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	25	26
27 "Weed and Worship" Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion)	28 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Beginners' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	29 Bible Study 6:15 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	30	Couples' Line Dance 7:00 p.m.		

Labor Day Word Find

UWA I TRESS I PZRI UIRI XOWLFSEFE
KQMEENNAICIRTCESWPPQFDDGBDYLL
ZCYORAKAWFLIRPOSVPCJLIFCXXNYU
JESZCEVTZPYOEBOPPECUTUBERI
APGEKWNYNQBWTHJMSVIMVBPPQS
DJYUJZUHTGHOFGKBEEPIEBBDWBM
UXNPYWRTGHPWQCRGWHTEAEEIOHQ
XAAQZBOSAPLYKCAVNXPRQOMRXN
KHXTXCEKLVLYAALPHOEIDRSCQ
QQSAOQNDVLAWYEROTCCODRSTWVIY
LVQQDLGLAWYEROTCCODRSTWVIY
IGEZWJIKBHXTPO LICETWY YOGGO
ARDCRENPMEOKE RIUGCMLOJ PYZ
VBBXSKEZHGLTNBKNVESFYQRI O
QMSGHCETWC FETMHYUQQDN TTTAH
YNXBWYRJABYAEJZOIVMRBZXAL
TMNQTNWOMRPPCRYTPXXLCBZH SO
QZCQQA VENS BHWJXGTJJ DENGRT
DIZNBDSVXZKHRLTQE UQWNZMHTA
UUNUDSVEZFTCEPSE RQHLLW WOBQC
QBEDJ EZFYFCN WACHWHTNLSLH
XTFMONDA YFCN WACHWHTNLSLH
IBUJHEYRPCMXXDORXRBTLYGGGX

Accountant

Carpenter

September

Prosperity

Electrician

Weekend

Celebrate

Waitress

Engineer

Lawyer

Respect

McGuire

Plumber

Doctor

Honor

Monday

Teacher

Nurse

Pilot

Police

