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# First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

## How far is it to Bethlehem?

*"In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not. When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in his."* —Ann Weems; *Kneeling In Bethlehem*, 19

Every Christmas Day, after my father had concluded his last of a marathon of



Pastor John Christopherson

worship services, our family would pile into an old Pontiac (with our dachshund, "Fritz," the token German in our all-Norwegian family)—as we began our long winter's journey from Minnesota to southern

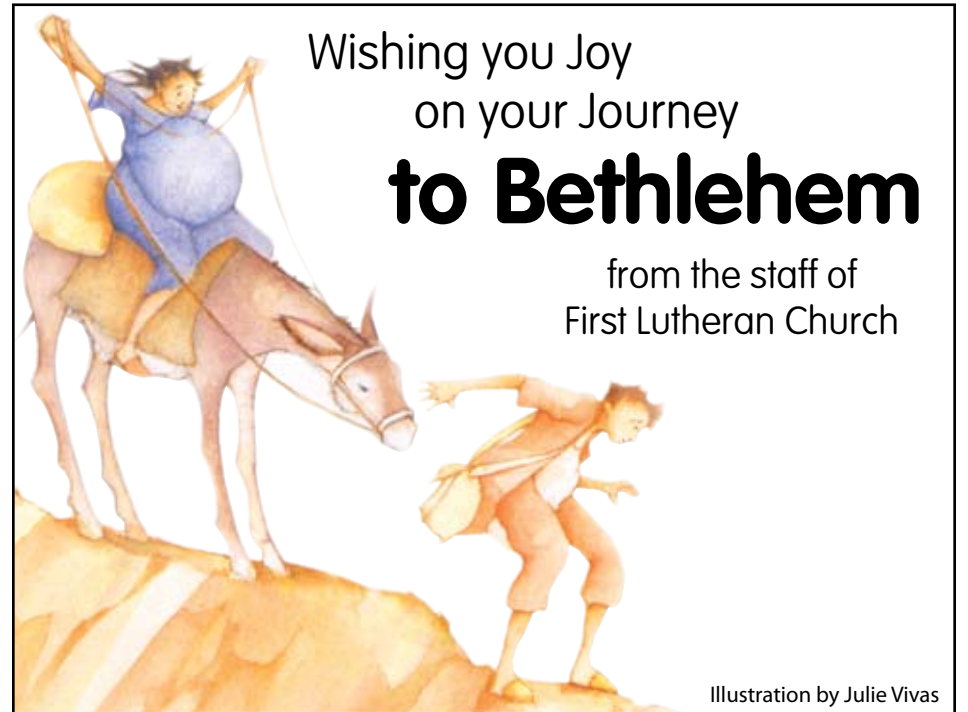
Wisconsin. Southern Wisconsin ... heartland of dairy farming, where, among the thickly wooded rolling hills, my beloved grandparents lived. And any 'cattle that were lowing' ("Away in a Manger," v.2) were definitely of the Holstein variety.

Our family would always arrive late on that "silent and holy night," in a small town called Blanchardville—welcomed by the warm embrace of Grandma and Grandpa, and the glories of Christmas lights; fruit soup and lefse; a big ol' feather bed with lots of Grandma's hand-sewn quilts to snuggle

under; the smell of freshly-baked bread and cookies; and a large Christmas dinner the next day with scads of cousins (15 to be exact). All to be soon followed by days of a veritable winter wonderland, sledding among the steep stands of pine out at "the farm." I can still hear "Hark the herald cousins' scream ... 'Look out for that tree!'" And as darkness settled in, we'd sit on those snow-covered hills, watching the stars come out and a small bright light from the barn at milking time. This was our Bethlehem.

\* \* \*

Such is the real life imagery and symbolism that the Nativity narratives of St. Matthew and Dr. Luke paint for us, as a family of First Lutheran Church, as we are directed to the paths of Advent that lead us once more to Bethlehem. On the first Sunday in Advent, we will be listening to God's promises "of old"—that he will come and dwell with his people, born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; cf. Matthew 1:22–23 and Luke 1:26–38), born in a little town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; cf. Matthew 2:5–6). On the second Sunday of Advent, we will be listening to God's prophet John the Baptist as he joins us out in the wintry wilderness of our lives, calling us to prepare our hearts with humility and repentance in order that our eyes of complacency would be opened, to behold, to attend (Luke 3:4;



Wishing you Joy  
on your Journey  
to Bethlehem

from the staff of  
First Lutheran Church

Illustration by Julie Vivas

cf. Isaiah 40:3). On the third Sunday of Advent, as with the shepherds, we will be listening to our Lord calling us to proclaim the good news of salvation that has come home to us, cradled in our hearts (Luke 2:15–20; cf. Zephaniah 3:14–20 and Isaiah 12:3–6). And on the fourth Sunday of Advent, we will be listening for God's presence that is still rustling in the way of a manger, who's come to dwell among us, Emmanuel ("God with us"); a light that shines upon our paths with a joy and peace that has overcome the darkness of our broken

world (Luke 1:41–44; cf. Micah 5:2–5a; John 1:5, 14–18) ... Yes, o'er the "rocks, hills, and plains ... repeat the sounding joy" ("Joy to the World;" v.2).

\* \* \*

For good or ill, every Christmas functions like a kind of time machine, taking us back to every other Christmas we've spent on this earth. For some of us, it's a reminder of the way life used to be, back when we were down on the farm with a bunch of half-crazed cousins, swooshing down a sledding hill, laughing all the way. For others,

—Continued on page 2

## 'God's Gifts. Our Responsibility.' campaign kicks off in style



Pastor Natanael Lizarazo talks with Milt and Ruby Mutch during the "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." campaign kickoff.

### Members of the steering committee for 'God's Gifts. Our Responsibility.' include:

Milt and Ruby Mutch  
Larry and Suzanne Toll  
Greg and J.J. Gohl  
Micah and Jaclyn Aberson  
Bob and Marilyn Van Demark  
Dick Gregerson

Brian and Denise Aamlid,  
co-chairs  
Mitch and Shantel Krebs,  
co-chairs

More than 200 people helped kick off First Lutheran's new campaign, "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility.," by taking part in an evening of fellowship, food and music by the Apostles Band.

A highlight of the event, that took place on Nov. 12, was the announcement that 44 individuals (mostly members of the staff, FLC boards and the campaign steering committee) had already pledged \$1.34 million toward the effort. Co-chairs of the campaign were also introduced: Brian and Denise Aamlid and Mitch and Shantel Krebs.

The theme "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." communicates that everything we have comes to us as a gift from God. It is each person's responsibility to be a good and generous steward of those gifts. The goal of the campaign is to raise at least \$4.7 million in order to meet a number of congregational priorities. The top three include: eliminating First Lutheran's debt, repairing and maintaining the Aeolian-Skinner organ and committing a tithe to mission and outreach. After that, a number of projects are planned to update and improve the campus.

A sample of the projects includes: new floor covering in the sanctuary, upgrading the television equipment, finishing the organ to the original plans and more. A brochure detailing the campaign is available at the Information Desk.

Co-chair Brian Aamlid described the campaign in terms of a sports metaphor. He said, "This is not like a basketball team where there are five starters and then a bunch of other guys on the bench. This is like youth soccer where everybody plays, everybody participates and everybody contributes. It's a campaign where we expect everyone to participate to whatever degree God has blessed them. Every gift is important. Every gift will be celebrated. And every gift will be magnified because we have a five-loaves-and-two-fishes kind of God."

Over the next few months hundreds of personal visits will be conducted in order to invite everyone from the First Lutheran family to participate. The committee respectfully asks that you receive these fellow members of First Lutheran with joy and open your hearts and minds to what God is calling you to do at this time.

## MISSION STATEMENT

First Lutheran Church welcomes all people into the community of Jesus Christ, equipping and sending them forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are grounded in the great commandment of Jesus.  
(Matthew 22:34-40)

We are grounded in the great commission of Jesus.  
(Matthew 28:16-20)

We are committed to welcome and minister to all people.

We are committed to equipping people for ministry.

We are committed to service in our community and world.

We are committed to a ministry of relationship building.

We are committed to our heritage and identity as a reforming church.

We are committed to excellence in broadcast ministry.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

**SATURDAY** (Christ the Victor Chapel)  
5 p.m. Vespers with Communion

**SUNDAY** (Sanctuary)  
8:15 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

9:45 a.m. Traditional Worship  
11:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
12 p.m. Worship in an African Context (Chapel)

Every third Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. a healing service takes place in the chapel.

### MEDIA MINISTRY BROADCASTS

8:15 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (92.5)  
11 a.m. KSFY-13 (Sioux Falls Cable 7), KPRY-4 (Pierre) and KABY-9 (Aberdeen)

## First Word

*First Word* is the monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. It is distributed to members of the congregation and others upon request.

If you have material for *First Word*, please contact the editor, Kerrie Vilhauer, or a member of the First Lutheran Church pastoral or program staff (see staff listing on page 3).

Opinions expressed in *First Word* are those of the author and are not necessarily shared by the First Lutheran Church congregation or staff. The editors of *First Word* reserve the right to edit submissions. Responses are welcome.

The deadline for articles for the January issue is Monday, Dec. 7, by 12 p.m. Please e-mail articles or questions regarding *First Word* to: [kvilhauer@flcsf.org](mailto:kvilhauer@flcsf.org). *First Word* is also available online ([www.flcsf.org](http://www.flcsf.org)).

# How far is it to Bethlehem?

—Continued from page 1

it's a reminder of the way life should have been but never was—feeling like we've never really been on the path of "comfort and joy," our sledding tougher, slower. Everyone is supposed to go home for Christmas, right? Only where is that exactly? Especially when family is now departed, the Pontiac is no longer running, and memories seem to be so far away we wonder if we've just made the whole thing up ... "What really is God's promise at Christmas?" "How is it again that we are to prepare our hearts?" "Why are we so humbug about a holy night?" "And where is the sense

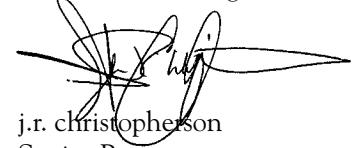
of divine presence that comes to stir up a flame of joy in the darkened and dying embers of life?"

Will you be home for Christmas? Some of us know and some of us are still trying to find out; but come Christmas Eve, as we join in worship together, somewhere between "heav'n and nature sing," the answer will be only as far away as the searching person sitting next to you and as close as the manger—where we come to place our "hopes and fears of all the years." How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Listen to the One knocking on the doors of your

heart. Will you let him inn?

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell; Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!"

May the love of the Christ Child, our Lord and Savior, enfold you once more, in his swaddling cloths ...

  
j.r. christopherson  
Senior Pastor

## Prepare your home and heart for Advent

Advent is the season in the church year where Christians prepare for the coming of the Christ child.

An Advent calendar is enclosed in this issue of *First Word*. Hang it in a prominent place in your home and use it to prepare your heart and mind for Advent.

Also, consider making an Advent wreath. Gather the following supplies:

- Four candles of one color (traditionally blue or purple)
- One candle for Jesus (traditionally white)
- Find an evergreen wreath if you would like to tie it all together.

Or, if you prefer not to use real candles, break out the construction paper and crayons.

Either way, create a sacred space in your home where you can reflect on and prepare for the coming of Christ.



Use an Advent wreath (above) or the enclosed Advent calendar (left) to guide you on your path as you journey to Bethlehem this Advent season.

## Thrivent matching gifts make a difference

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the matching gifts totaling \$1,630 to First Lutheran Church ministries in 2009. All of the ministry groups participated in parking-lot fundraisers. The Media Board earned a match of \$425 for closed captioning costs; the Pastoral Care Board received \$525 in matching funds for the parish nurse salary expense; Worship and Music Board received \$425 in matching

funds for the chapel organ purchased in 2008; and the FLC African Ministry earned \$255 for its spending budget.

First Lutheran is grateful that Thrivent Financial offers this opportunity. Also, a special thanks to the members and friends of First Lutheran Church who support our ministries through their use of the parking lots for the events at the Washington Pavilion.

## Church Council Highlights: Oct. 22, 2009

Mitch and Shantel Krebs, co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Committee, reported to the council that the beginning phase of the campaign is going very well. "God's Gifts. Our Responsibility." has been chosen as the theme for the campaign. A steering committee has been assembled, and visits with leadership and staff are being conducted. The public kickoff has been scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, in Reformation Hall. Co-chairs Marilyn Korsten and Mary Beth Baumberger are planning a reception, musical entertainment by the Apostles Band, and a short program to thank those who have been involved so far and to announce the pledges to date. On Nov. 14 and 15, a report will be

made to the congregation during worship services. Vice President James Moore thanked the committee for their work.

Pastor Natanael Lizarazo announced that during his recent review with the Executive Committee he proposed expanding the mission partnership between First Lutheran and the Lutheran Church in Colombia by devoting 80 percent of his call to serving First Lutheran and 20 percent to providing leadership to the church in Colombia. This proposal was approved and will take effect Nov. 1.

Chair of the Outreach Board Jennifer Gerriets-Masters reported that Joann Gries had resigned from the board. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve Kate Ekstrum as a replacement.

## Have you fulfilled your pledge?

Please prayerfully consider year-end giving to First Lutheran Church. Have you fulfilled your pledge? Gifts must be received or postmarked by Monday, Dec. 31, 2009, in order to be recorded in 2009. If you have questions about your pledge, contact Financial Specialist LaVonne Wolf at 339-1983, ext. 18.

## Scripture lessons

**Nov. 29:** Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

**Dec. 6:** Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**Dec. 13:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

**Dec. 20:** Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

**Dec. 24:** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Dec. 25:** Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

**Dec. 27:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

## ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



# Bible study due up in January: The Psalms

For the past few months this fall, on Wednesday evenings, Thursday afternoons, and Sunday mornings, we've been winging along, by the power of the Spirit, through the Gospel of Luke. We made it from the treasured birth story of Jesus, through Jesus' teachings, to Christ's undeserved death on the cross and resurrection and finally his leaving the disciples



Pastor Jason Burggraff

with his great legacy: The preaching of repentance and forgiveness of sins. Luke enlightened us with some of the surprising sayings and teachings of Jesus, right along side the well-known stories. And God has lavishly blessed us with his Word in Luke (and so many other places), so now let us ask like expectant children at Christmas, "What's coming up next?" Well, the answer to that question, at least as it pertains to these Bible Studies, is: the Psalms!

When it came to personal devotional practice, Martin Luther was known to read a little in the Old Testament, a little in the New Testament and Psalms

everyday. Though he would be the first to admit this is not to make us holy, we will be all the richer for diving into this great piece of God's Word—the Psalms. They offer an incredibly diverse array of personalities: humor, desperation, celebration, anger, sorrow and praise. And so the psalms give us a way to pray to God in all situations.

It's a songbook, it's a prayer book, it's a promise book. The Psalms—coming to a Bible study near you!

The study has three similar sessions and starts on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 7, at noon; and Sunday, Jan. 10, at 8:55 a.m.

## Adult Forum ends its year

Adult Forums continue into December. All forums will be held in the Friendship Room at 9:30 and 11 a.m. unless otherwise noted. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

### Dec. 6—John Simko "Here Comes the Judge"

A former star football player for the North Central Conference champion Augustana Vikings, John has now gone to the bench. John is a United States Magistrate Judge in the Federal Court System. He will weave his judicial work and his hobby of photography into a PowerPoint program, showing the dynamics of naturalization and the beauty of our country, to be enjoyed by all new and old citizens.

### Dec. 13—Dr. Michael Wanous "Is Evolution Compatible with a Christian Worldview? A Historical Perspective"

Dr. Wanous is in his 12th year teaching biology at Augustana College. He received his B.A. from the University of Minnesota, his M.A. from Texas A&M and his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri.

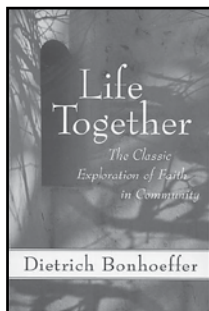
For those who wish, there are copies of advanced reading at the Information Desk—"Can an Evangelical Believe in Evolution?" by Francis Collins and "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany" by Galileo Galileo.

## Book talk slated for the new year Alfred Fuhrer Organ in recital

A book talk on *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer will take place Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pentecost Room.

From the back cover of the book: "[*Life Together*] gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian

service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship."



Bonhoeffer wrote the book while teaching in an underground seminary. He was imprisoned by the Nazis and executed by them in 1945 for his stalwart resistance to Hitler.

The First Lutheran Church Library has two copies of the book in circulation.

On Friday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. in Christ the Victor Chapel join with members of the South Dakota Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in a recital featuring Sioux Falls' newest pipe organ installation, the Alfred Fuhrer organ. The recital will feature music for organ and various instruments in this "organ plus one" program. A special Ostfriesland Tea Ceremony follows the event, recognizing the culture of the instrument's origin, Wilhelmshaven, Germany.

*FLCW*  
*Christmas party*

First Lutheran Church Women will have a Christmas party in Reformation Hall on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 1:30 p.m., hosted by FLCW Executive Board and Circle Chairs.

Entertainment will be Anjelic Singers, a group of Sioux Falls women who have sung for many special occasions and have made three CDs. Join us for afternoon of joy in this Christmas season.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Officers

Eric Severson ..... President  
James Moore ..... Vice President  
Dave Van Veldhuizen ..... Treasurer  
Corey Halstenson ..... Secretary

### Council Representatives

Randy Olawsky ..... Financial Services  
Lyle McLeod ..... Adult Discipleship  
Char Peters ..... Pastoral Care  
Gregg Greenfield ..... Member-at-Large  
Jennifer Gerriets-Masters ..... Outreach  
Eric Hernes ..... CYAAFL  
Stan Meyers ..... Stewardship  
Tracie Osthus ..... Member-at-Large  
Kris O'Connell ..... Member-at-Large  
Bonnie Martin ..... FLCW  
Todd Smith ..... Media  
John Hegg ..... Worship and Music  
Tim Heinemann ..... Property

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

To reach a staff member directly, dial 339-1983 and the phone extension listed in parentheses.

### Pastoral/Administrative Staff

(12) Rev. Dr. John Christopherson ..... Senior Pastor  
(17) Rev. Jason Burggraff ..... Associate Pastor  
(21) Rev. Natanael Lizarazo ..... Associate Pastor  
(19) Rev. Barbara Wangness ..... Associate Pastor  
(1) Rev. James Christopherson\* ..... Associate Pastor  
(53) Rev. Dave Johnson\* ..... Associate Pastor  
(11) Rev. LeeRoy Eikanger\* ..... Visitation Pastor  
(1) Rev. LeRoy Nevin\* ..... Visitation Pastor  
(11) Rev. M. Franklin Pudas\* ..... Visitation Pastor  
(26) Marilyn McNeill ..... Church Administrator  
(1) Carol Knapp ..... Pastors' Secretary

### Children, Youth, Young Adult & Family Life Ministries

(13) Marnie Dahle Backer ..... Director of Youth Ministries  
(34) Debbie Garcia\* ..... Administrative Assistant  
(45) Nancy Henrichsen ..... Director of Children's Ministries  
(41) Mara Stillson ..... Associate Director of Youth Ministries  
(25) Melody Roberts\* ..... Nursery Coordinator/  
Children's Ministries Assistant  
(40) Irma Rodriguez Leon\* ..... Nursery Attendant  
(10) Heidi Tooley\* ..... Recreational Ministries  
Coordinator

### Development of the FLC Foundation

(53) Pastor Dave Johnson\* ..... Director of Development  
(53) Barb Peterson\* ..... Administrative Assistant

### Financial Services

(18) LaVonne Wolf ..... Financial Specialist

### Library

(43) Barbara Siebels\* ..... Library Coordinator

### Media Ministries

(15) Kathy Hein\* ..... Broadcast Technical Director  
(15) Tyler Johnson\* ..... Broadcast Technical Director  
(20) Heather Kuecker\* ..... Media Assistant  
(15) David Palmer\* ..... Broadcast Technical Director  
(15) Kerrie Vilhauer\* ..... Communications Coordinator  
(15) Joe Ward\* ..... Broadcast Technical Director

### Outreach Ministries

(36) Linda Carpenter\* ..... Visitor/Volunteer Coordinator

### Pastoral Care Ministries

(24) Paula Bartels\* ..... Parish Nurse  
(26) Arlene Bich\* ..... Wedding Coordinator  
(16) Dr. Mark Britzman\* ..... Christian Counselor (consultant)  
(26) Sarah Hagenlock\* ..... Wedding Coordinator  
(26) Sherri Schroden\* ..... Wedding Coordinator  
(22) Charlotte Peters\* ..... Caring Ministry Coordinator

### Property and Administrative Services

(29) John Cerwinski ..... Custodian  
(29) Jeff Hartnett ..... Custodian  
(29) Rob Oswald ..... Facilities Manager  
(10) Connie Corey\* ..... Receptionist/Member Secretary  
(10) Barbara Johnson\* ..... Receptionist/Member Secretary  
(10) Kristy Zuraff\* ..... Receptionist/Member Secretary

### Worship and Music Ministries

(35) Shirley Barlow ..... Administrative Assistant  
(35) Dorothy Christopherson\* ..... Women's Choir Director  
(14) Dr. Michael Elsbernd ..... Director of Music Ministry  
(35) Dr. Jerry Hanson\* ..... Director of Music Emeritus  
(35) Marcia Kittelson\* ..... Organist Emerita  
(35) Gerry Kropp\* ..... FLYGHT and Jubilate Singers  
Accompanist  
(35) Bonnie Lindgren\* ..... Carol Choir Director  
(35) Mary Pottratz\* ..... Belle Campagne/Agape Ringers  
Director  
(35) Sue Severson\* ..... Contemporary Music Coordinator  
(35) Pam Sonnichsen\* ..... Instrumental Coordinator  
(35) Hazel Wek\* ..... Carol Choir/  
Women's Choir Accompanist  
(49) Christopher Windle ..... Assistant Director of Music  
\*Part-time

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Toll-Free: ..... (800) 425-9899  
Fax: ..... (605) 336-8370  
Youth Office Fax: ..... (605) 338-3758  
Emergency Cell: ..... (605) 323-7667  
Custodian Cell: ..... (605) 351-8281  
Project Car: ..... (605) 332-2777

## Advent Recital Series



Prepare your hearts this Advent as you listen to music provided by First Lutheran Church musicians.

Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9 and 16  
12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

First Lutheran Church sanctuary

### Dec. 2

Norman Shomper, vocalist  
Christopher Windle, flute  
Michael Elsbernd, organist

### Dec. 9

Anna Vorhes, harp  
Christopher Windle, tenor  
Marilyn Van Demark, organist

### Dec. 16

Kristen Herbst, vocalist  
Pam Sonnichsen, trumpet  
James Moore, organist

A freewill offering will be accepted to benefit the organ fund.

## 2009 bazaar raises more than \$50,000 for mission projects

By Bonnie Martin and Karen Saxvik, 2009 bazaar co-chairs

Beautiful weather and eager shoppers welcomed the 9 a.m. opening of the annual First Lutheran Church Bazaar which raised more than \$50,000. Shoppers were greeted on Saturday, Nov. 7, and guided to many shops, where they also enjoyed the talents of FLC musicians, making for a very festive experience.

The lefse, baked goods and Sweet Shoppe sold out early, and the Scandinavian buffet (kaffe stua) had a steady stream of hungry customers.

Attic Treasures was full of good buys (all donated items), that found new homes with those looking for a bargain.

First Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) extends its thanks to all of the workers and guests who made the 2009 bazaar a joyful and successful event. There are many to thank, but some are: the men working the parking lot and kitchen and helping with set-up and clean-up throughout the church; the youth who helped in the kitchen, shops and with the clean-up; the Cub Scouts who helped with the clean-up; and all the workers throughout the week and day of the bazaar who enthusiastically contributed



Assistant Director of Music Ministry Christopher Windle plays flute outside the Sweet Shoppe providing Bazaar guests with festive shopping music.

their time and helping hands.

The crafts, sweets and baked goods are all homemade, which makes them all the more special, so thank you to the crafters, bakers and candy makers.

It's never too early to be thinking about next year's bazaar. It will take place on Saturday, Nov. 6. Mark your calendar.

All proceeds are distributed to missions in need of financial support here in Sioux Falls, throughout the United States and



Behind the scenes in the lefse room volunteers butter and sugar lefse for the Scandinavian Buffet.

globally. "God's Work, Our Hands" was not only the theme of this year's bazaar, but it also describes the efforts of many who work together to care for others. Thanks be to God!

Right: Alyse Dockter, Preston Seten and Mikah Hagenlock pose at the Nativity scene at the 2008 bazaar. Look for this picture in the December issue of the *Little Lutheran* available in the FLC Library.



## OUTREACH MINISTRIES



## With heartfelt gratitude

By Pastor Natanael Lizarazo

In recent months we have heard about "An Attitude of Gratitude." I cannot but reflect about it again as we close this year 2009.

Beyond the challenges posed by one of the worst economic recessions in recent times, we celebrate that God was actively at work among us through our worship life, prayers, teaching ministries, ministry involvement, and through our financial gifts. Recessions do not own the mission of God's church. No matter how challenging circumstances may be, we have a God who always provides! This I know by the experience of my life and ministry. 2009 was a fruitful year again for mission outreach!

As the Outreach Board of First Lutheran Church, we are grateful for the honor entrusted to us to advance mission outreach in our congregation, our city, the South Dakota Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and God's larger world. With grateful hearts, we praise God for using First Lutheran to be an instrument of blessing, healing and hope across a wide spectrum of local, regional, national and global relationships!

Not too long ago I received a card with the following words: "If not for you, there would be hearts left untouched, and lives left unchanged. If not for you, there would be kindness left unseen, and love unexpressed. If not for you, there would be gifts God has given, unique and meaningful, left unopened." While I am deeply grateful to the friends who sent me this card, I soon realized these words go beyond my humble leadership. These are words that describe our collective life as a congregation and our ongoing grateful response to the mission possibilities God is always bringing to our doorstep. God is at work among us stirring new ministry visions for the sake of the world.

Throughout 2009, God used us to support a rich kaleidoscope of community ministries: The Banquet, St. Francis House, Good Shepherd Center, The Bowden Youth Center, St. Dymas of South Dakota, Family Connection, Lutheran Social Services, Augustana College, Augustana Lutheran Church, Rejoice Lutheran Church, a mission congregation in west Sioux Falls, Woyatan Lutheran Church in Rapid City, Sioux Falls Food Pantry, Food to You and First Lutheran African Ministry. In partnership with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, First Lutheran built a Habitat for Humanity home. In partnership with the Board for Pastoral Care, we hosted the Ronald McDonald Dental Mobile. Just recently, Meals from the Heart was launched as a tangible expression of Christian caring for folks who may be going through challenging times in their lives. Thanks to our mission gifts, our First Lutheran seminary students Denise Broveak and Justin Mootz received support in their ongoing theological training to become pastors.

Our financial gifts also supported benevolence to our South Dakota Synod and to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, thus multiplying the blessings among diverse ministries through South Dakota, the United States and God's larger world. Beyond our benevolence, God gave us the joy of supporting the missionary work of the Hinderlie family in Kenya, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Sudan. Our companion synods, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon and the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope also shared in the blessings of our mission outreach. So also did the five Lutheran Schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and the Colombian Ministry founded by Pastors Natanael Lizarazo and Barbara Wangness, Leadership & Development



Participants in a recent mission trip to Nicaragua talk with young, entergetic members of the Lutheran Church of Faith and Hope.

LIZWAN Inc.

Grateful to God for all his blessings, we are equally intentional about hunger needs in the community, nation and larger world. We are well-known in the South Dakota Synod for our generous support of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, through which millions of hungry people break away from poverty and despair. Beyond the budget of the Outreach Board, we deeply appreciate and celebrate the joyful and most generous mission partnership of First Lutheran Church Women, who so faithfully organize the bazaar year after year and thus bless many local, national and global ministries with their offerings. My friends, in many and different ways, God is truly at work among us! Thanks be to God!

It matters to be the church! It matters immensely to God! It matters immensely to our city. It matters immensely to

God's world! It matters immensely to live our lives in evangelical gratefulness and generosity! Indeed, it matters immensely that we accomplish God's mission together. I wholeheartedly agree with Christian author and speaker Dr. John Maxwell when he states: "I am convinced that a God-given ministry vision is always too large for us to accomplish alone. No individual or organization possesses all the talents and resources necessary to accomplish the task. Quite honestly, if you can achieve your dream all alone, your dream is very likely not from God. God-sized dreams require the help of both God and others. Partnership is a crucial part of God's design for us."

On behalf of all of us on the Outreach Board, a blessed Christmas 2009 and a prosperous New Year 2010! With grateful hearts we look forward to our shared mission ventures in 2010.

## ELCA Good Gifts Program: A one-stop shop for gift-giving

By Barbara Siebels

Don't have a "cow" over Christmas shopping! Give a cow! Don't feel "sheepish" about choosing that one special gift! Give a sheep in honor of someone! Don't have a watered-down version of Christmas! Give life-sustaining water and celebrate a rich Christmas!

The families of First Lutheran Church have a tradition of giving that is unsurpassed. Giving from the heart is part of our heritage and the future we want our children to own. One way to teach generous giving is through the ELCA Good Gifts program. This program helps your children learn about the 2/3 of the world population that owns little or nothing. According to the ELCA Web site, the ELCA Good Gifts

program lifts up more than 65 gift ideas filled with meaning and love. ELCA Good Gifts are a special way you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving a gift to a friend, pastor, teacher, neighbor or other loved one.

A gift of \$10 can buy a pair of shoes so a child can go to school. A gift of \$350 pays for 20 people to receive medical services. A gift of \$25 provides for one seminary course for one day. A \$60 gift supplies a home clean-up kit for after a disaster. For \$420, a student is supported in the Lutheran Schools in the Holy Land.

Check out the catalogs in our church library or at this web address for further information: <https://community.elca.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=469>.



### I got your goat!

Well, actually I gave a contribution in your honor to "God's Global Barnyard," part of ELCA World Hunger's comprehensive program to combat hunger around the world and close to home.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Toy Town comes to First Lutheran

The Salvation Army Toy Town will take place at First Lutheran on Monday, Dec. 21, and Tuesday, Dec. 22.

In the past, more than 20,000 toys have been given to needy children ages newborn to 12.

This year, give to Toy Town through First Lutheran's Christmas Giving ministry. (See article below.)

Volunteers are needed to bring cookies, bars and cider. Also, hosts and hostesses are needed on both Monday and Tuesday.

Call Linda Carpenter at 339-1983, ext. 36, or Don Toft at 361-5348 to volunteer.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT AND FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES



### Confirmation class of 2009



PHOTO BY GENE SMITH

Front row: Mara Stillson, Pastor Jason Burggraff, Pastor Barbara Wangsness, Pastor John Christopherson and Marnie Dahle Backer. Row 2: Alex Steen, Paul Greenfield, Will Reynolds, Taryn Steinbeck, Katie Grevlos, Katie McGuire, Carly Holmstrom and Jared Hofer. Row 3: Nick Paulson, Erin Willadsen, Hannah Duerksen, Anna Bruflat, Danelle Kalo, Heather Berdahl, Elizabeth Garcia, Jessy Sundet and Hunter Bourne. Row 4: Justin Trett, Dylan Myers, Jillian Doty, Anna Litz, Sarah Wadsworth, Kersten Bork, Rachel Thiner, Taylor Gackle, Maggie Timmer, Lindsey Herbert. Row 5: Austin Smith, Dan Nelson, Adam Lund, John Murren, Mitch Nelson, Adam Wek, Austin Melstad, Landon Stroud and AJ Thorson. Row 6: Jacob Puthoff, Landon Paulson, Chris Harner and Brett Ross.

### 4:12 Caroling and Chili feed

Sunday, Dec. 6  
4:30–7:30 p.m.  
Meet in the Den

Bring a dozen cookies. Childcare is provided.

4:12 is young Christian adults in their twenties and thirties experiencing ministries through a balance of fellowship, life-sharing, spiritual growth, and outreach.



## Take part in a Christmas giving tradition

Refugees arrive in Sioux Falls with only a plastic grocery sack of belongings and the clothes on their backs. A friend just found out she is no longer employed. A single parent is trying to figure out how to stretch the food budget to eat for the rest of the week. The husband of the couple who sits two rows in front of you in worship just found out he has cancer.

Make a difference in the lives of the people above and those facing similar circumstances through the Joining Hands Around the World Christmas Giving Ministry. The ministry, sponsored by the high school youth since 2001, offers two ways to give: Sponsor a family or a child, or select an ornament from one of the many Christmas trees decorated throughout the church.

#### Sponsor a family or child

The first option is to sponsor a family or a child through Lutheran Social Services Immigrant and Refugee programs. FLC member Carol Feuerstein, a former elementary school

teacher, has sponsored a child for the past three or four years.

"Children need things that parents can't always provide," Carol says. "But for them to have a gift under the tree is huge. For us, we're used to getting more than we need. It's nice to share with those who really need it."

Carol's husband, Mel, often goes shopping with her. She buys clothing and an age appropriate toy.

Pat Reichert, a volunteer for Lutheran Social Services, helps set up refugees with household basics. For example, a family of four would receive four forks, a frying pan, four towels, toothbrushes and more. She says that the Christmas Giving program not only gives refugees many necessities, but also a chance to see how generous Americans are.

"They receive a gift from a stranger who they will never meet—someone who cares enough to think of them at Christmastime," she explains. "Some of the kids have never had anything given to them. You can't imagine how

excited they can be, even for a McDonald's toy."

#### Christmas trees

Trees adorned with ornaments of needs have been placed throughout the Parish Life Building, Atrium and Welcome Center. The ornaments list a variety of items that are needed. Examples of trees include: Salvation Army Toy Town, Meals from the Heart (the new cooking ministry), Food To You Mobile Food Pantry and more.

Items on the ornaments range from coloring books and games, to toothpaste and HyVee gift cards. Simply take an ornament from a tree, purchase the item and return it by Sunday, Dec. 13.



Director of Youth Ministries Marnie Dahle Backer and Associate Director of Youth Ministries Mara Stillson decorate a tree for the Joining Hands Around the World Christmas Giving Ministry.

Second Corinthians 9:8 says, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

For more information, please contact Director of Youth Ministries Marnie Dahle Backer at 339-1983, ext. 13.

## Christmas pageant Dec. 6

The Christmas pageant will take place during the 9:45 a.m. worship service on Dec. 6. Children from three years through fifth grade who have signed up to participate in the pageant will practice on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

On the morning of the pageant,

participants will report to Reformation Hall by 9:20 a.m.

**Please note:** Communion will be offered at the 8:15 and 11:15 a.m. services on Dec. 6, but not at 9:45 a.m.

DVDs of the Christmas pageant will be available for \$15 each by calling Heather Kuecker at 339-1983, ext. 20.



Children take part in the Nativity photo shoot during the bazaar.

## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES



# Making tough decisions as we grow older

By Paula Bartels, Parish Nurse

Christmas and grandpa and grandma's house often go together. However, as grandmas and grandpas get older, they may need help to stay safely in their home. There may come a time the home they live in may not be the best option for them. Choices and decisions can be confusing and difficult for families. Following are some resources when facing such decisions.

### One Number... One Call:

Affiliated with The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, One Number...One Call can be accessed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. By calling (605) 351-0149, individuals and families will be able to talk with experienced professionals who can navigate the service system to the aging. They can help answer questions such as: Where could my mom go when she is discharged from the hospital? I'm worried about dad's safety at home—what can I do? What does their insurance cover? I know something needs to be done, but how do I broach the subject with my parents?

### Adult Children of Aging Parents:

This is a newsletter for professionals and families dealing with the elderly. Topics include such issues as keeping parents in their home longer, dealing with aging family residing afar and the effects of being an adult child of aging parents. This newsletter is available on the health shelf in the First Lutheran Church Library. It may interest you to know that this newsletter was generated out of the Caring Ministry at First Lutheran under Bea Friesth's guidance back in the early '90s. If you would like more information on the newsletter, call 334-6958.

**Adult Services and Aging with the Department of Social Services:** 367-5444, ext. 4.

### Senior Companion Program:

Provides in-home assistance and respite care to the elderly and disabled. Contact: 361-1133

**Meals on Wheels:** Delivers a hot, nutritious meal to homebound people in Sioux Falls. Contact: 336-6748

Perhaps this Christmas, the **best gift** you can give your aging parent or grandparent is the gift of your **time**.

### Day Break at the Center for

**Active Generations:** An adult daycare program. Contact: 336-6751

**Goodwill Adult Day Care Center:** 338-9429

### Called to Care Respite program:

This First Lutheran program allows caregivers the opportunity to run errands, make appointments or go out for lunch with a friend. If you are a caregiver and are interested, please contact me at 339-1983, ext. 24.

**Living Solutions:** When the time comes to look into other options, contact Janice Lewis at 336-0808. Families can sit down with Janice and express their wishes and needs. She works with nine independent living, assisted living and nursing homes in the Sioux Falls area and can help you decide which best fit your needs. There

is no charge for this service.

Perhaps this Christmas, the best gift you can give your aging parent or grandparent is the gift of your time. If they live far from you, a card, letter, email or phone call could brighten their day. I'm a grandma and being able to spend time with my grandsons makes my day wonderful! When I was younger, I didn't realize how much it meant to my grandparents when I'd stop in for a visit!

So grandchildren, when you don't know what to give your grandparents for Christmas, give them what money can't buy—time! Maybe you could offer to help with things that are difficult for them to do safely. You could give them gift certificates volunteering your time to help them throughout the year.

How great to know we have a heavenly Father who never changes or grows old! Spending time often with him in prayer or reading his Word is good for our spiritual lives. Take time to thank Jesus for his gift of eternal life.

A brisk walk to see the beauty of winter is a great way to take care of your temple. If it's too cold or icy to walk outside, you're welcome to come and walk at First Lutheran. It's warm and there are no steps. It might just be the place to walk with your parent or grandparent! Feel free to stop by the parish nurse office and say "Hi" when you're walking. My usual days are Wednesday and Thursdays. You may also set up an appointment by calling 339-1983, ext. 24.

My prayer for you this Christmas and for the New Year 2010 is a song that parents and grandparents often sing to their little ones: "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so!"

## Life Transitions through the month of October

### Births

"May the Lord give you increase, both you and your children." (Psalm 114:15)

- Claire Madeline Hoar born to Daniel & Kisha Liedtke-Hoar on Aug. 21, 2009.
- Spencer Robert Hernes born to Eric & Susan O'Meara Hernes on Aug. 2, 2009.



### Baptisms

"Go ... make disciples ... baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

- Mickensy Anne Monsen, daughter of Paul & Larissa Monsen
- Kjerstin Mckenzie Kyte, daughter of Patrick & Lindsay Kyte
- Athans Justice Thorson, son of Scott & Laurie Thorson



### Weddings

"So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no one put asunder." (Matthew 19:6)

- Barry Anderson & Melissa Houg



### Deaths

"Death is swallowed up in victory... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 15:57)

- Milly Skovly
- Dr. Wallace Arneson
- Gladys Christiansen
- Stella Engen
- George Feay
- Donna Schnaidt
- Bertha Reitz
- Lorene Devine
- Richard Anderson

## Meals from the Heart available for pick up

Meals from the Heart has wrapped up the first cooking session! Let the meal distribution begin! Is there someone on your heart and mind who could benefit from a homemade meal? Meals from the Heart invites all ages to make a difference in someone's life!

1. Pick up the freezer key at the Information Desk
2. Go to the Luther Lounge
3. Select a meal
4. Sign the log
5. Deliver the meal to someone who would appreciate a homemade meal!



Want to take the mission a step further? Purchase a Hy-Vee or Sunshine card from the youth and donate the card to the Meals from the Heart outreach. (Card sales benefit youth and Meals from the Heart!)

Give a gift from the heart to someone special this holiday season! Cards are available for you to give as a gift. For more information, contact Linda Carpenter at 339-1983, ext. 36, or Jody Gust at 338-7511.



The cooking crew prepared and packed more than 40 meals on Nov. 9. Meals are available in a variety of sizes.

# Parish nursing: The gift that keeps on giving

By Pastor Barbara Wangness

In the midst of this Advent season as we prepare once more to walk to the manger scene at Bethlehem and to thank God for the greatest gift of all time, it's also a good time to thank God for the many other gifts God has blessed us with through the years. For us at First Lutheran Church one of the more recent congregational gifts we've received has been the additional presence of our own



Pastor Barbara Wangness

parish nurse since the summer of 2005. It seems impossible that we are now into our fifth year of our association with the Parish Nurse Institute of Sanford Health.

Locally, the parish nurse program is coordinated by the Holistic Health Cabinet, which is also part of our Pastoral Care Program. During the first four years we were assisted financially by the Parish Nurse Institute, with yearly decreasing payment amounts, and we are now fully funding this important ministry position at First Lutheran Church.

Many of you have shared with me or others on our Holistic Health Cabinet and/or Pastoral Care Board how blessed you have been by the presence and

prayers of our parish nurse, or by the programs and unique ways she has advocated for you in various ways. Our pastoral staff has also been blessed by her gifts in knowing we have another professional staff member working with us to help address the needs and concerns of our congregation.

In this gift-giving season, the Holistic Health Cabinet and Pastoral Care Board want to remind us that memorials and/or honorariums can be given at any time during the year to support this important ministry position.

When discussing our interest in developing a Parish Nurse Endowment with our church administrator, I learned about another option for financially

supporting this position. The interest from a donation to the First Lutheran Foundation, earmarked for our Parish Nurse Ministry program, could go far in assisting the Parish Nurse Program. A minimum donation of \$100,000 will get the endowment started.

Thank you for your support of our Pastoral Care Ministry programs. Please continue to share your ideas about how we can continue to support our ministry programs and their financial requirements. We are especially grateful for the gifts—through and to—our Parish Nurse program. Please give a special thanks to Paula Bartels, our parish nurse, for all her work! A blessed Advent and Christmas of peace to all of you!

## FINANCIAL SERVICES

### Gifts and memorials from October 2009

Thank you to our generous donors who have shared many thoughts, prayers and financial gifts with the ministries of First Lutheran Church. We are blessed by the support of the following people...

**Gifts to the Foundation in memory of**  
**Dr. Wallace Arneson:** Dorothy Grevlos; Milt & Ruby Mutch

**Gifts to the Capital Campaign in memory of**  
**Wally Arneson:** Frank & Marilyn Alvine  
**Kathy Chadwick:** Emil & Carol Knapp

**Gifts to Caring Ministry memory of**  
**Kathy Chadwick:** Joanne Ambrosion; Barb Matson  
**Stella Engen:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Dr. Chesley Houske:** Jay & Elizabeth Wood  
**Harold Odde:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Ronald Reed:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Bertha Reitz:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Donna Schnaidt:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Milly Skovly:** Don & Iola Nelson  
**Dorothy Windahl:** E.N. Wood

**Gift to Media Ministry in honor of**  
**Herb Tammen's 80th birthday:** Wayne & Karen Muth

**Gifts to Media Ministry in memory of**  
**Wally Arneson:** Norm & Muriel Ekeland  
**Wally Arneson:** Harvey L. Nelson; Richard & Marilyn Ronken  
**Garvin Bertsch:** Wayne & Verna Remme  
**Kathy Chadwick:** Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Entringer  
**Gladys Christiansen:** Pr. Franklin & Marit Pudas  
**Thomas Dahle:** Gwen Heyd; John Odney; Sandra Pedersen; Jerome & Cynthia Zechmann  
**Eleanor Dahl:** Tom & Donna Haber; Jerry & Vicki Olson; Ed & Siri Pflipsen; Pr. Franklin & Marit Pudas; Opal Rogness; Edward & Stacie Sevigny  
**Henrietta DeNoble:** Jeff & Edna Husman  
**Lillian Dreyer:** Melvin & Carol Feuerstein; Stephen & Julie Johnson  
**Helen Douthit:** Suzanne Knudson  
**Ernie Edberg:** Jeff & Edna Husman  
**Norman Enger:** Mary J. Osthus  
**Stella Engen:** Cathleen Entringer; Ann Fodness; Kathy A. Meadows; Herb & Grace Ulrikson; Vivien Wissink

**George Feay:** Jeanette Edman; Robert & Betty Johnson; Ken & Lila Kessinger; Don & Florence Toft  
**Mabel Hammer:** James & Barbara McClure  
**Kate Hanneman:** Gary & Shirley Barlow; Don & Florence Toft  
**Dr. J.M. Hermanson:** N.H. & M.J. Nussbaum  
**Lois Larson:** Jean Osthus  
**Donna Schnaidt:** Mrs. Marvin Halstenson  
**Dennis Severson:** Juel & Virginia Berdahl  
**Milly Skovly:** Faith Christiansen; Merle & Muriel Driggs; Truman & Nancy Phelan; Snack Unit  
**Anna Spilde:** Darlene Colwill  
**Mildred Varney:** Clint & Marilyn Baldwin; Pr. Franklin & Marit Pudas  
**Ella Wiedenmeyer:** Doug & Carol Uthe  
**Dorothy Windeahl:** Pr. LeeRoy & Marilyn Eikanger; Jeff & Edna Husman  
**Raymond Yelinek:** Robert & Janis Bonnema  
**Richard Anderson:** John & Marcia Kittelson  
**Wally Arneson:** Warren & Phyllis Day;

Financial update	
October 2009	
<b>Worship Attendance</b>	
October 2009.....	4,348
<b>Total Revenues</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>YTD</b></span>	
2009 Actual .....	\$1,482,820
2008 Actual .....	\$1,515,145
<b>Total Expenses</b>	
2009 Actual .....	\$1,539,734
2008 Actual .....	\$1,546,593
<b>Notes Payable</b>	
Bank Loan - Capital .....	\$1,832,908
<b>Contract For Deed</b>	
Ideal .....	\$648,160
<b>Capital Campaign Income</b>	
Through October 2009.....	\$4,517,815

Ed & Eunice Mansfield  
**Kathy Chadwick:** Mary Ann Hohman

**Gift to Children's Ministry in memory of**  
**Wm Shaff:** Marlys Shaff

## MEDIA MINISTRIES

### October and November broadcast sponsors

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY-13, KPRY-4 and KABY-9 in Eastern South Dakota, Southwest Minnesota, Northwest Iowa and Northeast Nebraska. A live radio broadcast of worship can be heard each Sunday at 8:15 a.m. on KELO-FM, 92.5.

**KELO broadcast sponsored:**  
**Oct. 4:** In honor of First Lutheran Church pastors in celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month, with gratitude for their ministry by the First Lutheran Church staff.  
**Nov. 1:** In memory of Chuck Osthus, who would have celebrated his birthday Nov. 5, by his wife, Tracie, and sons, Scott and David.  
**Nov. 15:** In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hoidal's 59th wedding anniversary.  
**Nov. 22:** In thankfulness for and in memory of Bonnie Merrill, Carl Wilkins, Maudie Wilkins, Bessie Thompson, Dorothy Peterson, Mabel Jasper, and Agnes Welch. It is given by nieces and nephews.  
**Nov. 29:** By Bob and Glennys Meerdink.  
**KSFY telecast sponsored:**  
**Oct. 4:** In memory of the pioneer

ancestors of Marvin and Joyce Hasvold, who established Bellview Lutheran Church in Miner County and Clare Lutheran Church in Moody County.  
**Oct. 11:** With gratitude for the continued relationship between First Lutheran Church and Augustana College, by V. Ronald and Joyce Nelson.  
**Oct. 18:** In memory of Terry Graves by his family.  
**Oct. 25:** By David and Judy Van Veldhuizen and family—Dan, Angela, Sam, Ella, Paul, Heidi, Jack, Winter, Gabrielle and Sasha.  
**Nov. 1:** In loving memory of Raymond Yelinek by his son, Steve Yelinek.  
**Nov. 8:** Through a bequest by L. Inez Rognley in commemoration of her birthday on Nov. 17. The gift to Media Ministry was made through the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

**Nov. 15:** By Morrie and Edith Magnuson in celebration of 64 years of marriage. They were married at Lands Lutheran Church on Nov. 25, 1945. (Partial sponsorship.)  
**Nov. 22:** In loving memory of Tom Dahle, who would have celebrated his 76th birthday on Nov. 24, by his wife, Mitzie, and their children.  
**Nov. 26:** In loving memory of Samuel Spitzer, Edie Boomsma and Tory Boomsma by their family—Emma Spitzer, Elaine Spitzer and Ella Spitzer.  
**Nov. 29:** By earnings of a gift to the First Lutheran Church Foundation in loving memory of Hilmer and Susie Lillebo.  
**Sponsorships available:**  
 Make a difference in the lives of many by sponsoring a broadcast. Call LaVonne Wolf for more information at 339-1983, ext. 18.

**Upcoming television sponsorships:**  
 Jan. 3, 17, 24 and 31.  
 A full sponsorship is \$1,300, a partial is \$675.  
**Upcoming radio sponsorships:**  
 Jan. 31, July 4 and 18  
 A sponsorship is \$115.  
**Upcoming television closed captioning sponsorships:** Jan. 2, 10, 17, 24 and 31.  
 A sponsorship is \$140.

**Holiday schedule**

The following services will air on KSFY-13, KPRY-4 and KABY-9:

- Christmas Eve Service:**  
 Thursday, Dec. 24, at 11 p.m.  
 and Friday, Dec. 25, at 11 a.m.

# First Lutheran Church Calendar – December 2009



## Tuesday, December 1

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
 9:30 AM FLCW Board Meeting GR/GRK  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR 1  
 10:00 AM Flandreau Chaplain Bd PR  
 1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
 4:30 PM College Care Packages GR  
 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsals CMR/S  
 6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsals HR  
 6:30 PM Kindermusik MR 1  
 6:30 PM Gym Night RH

## Wednesday, December 2

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR  
 9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastors GR/GRK  
 11:00 AM Wednesday Night Meal Set-up RH/RHK  
 11:30 AM Spiritual Exercises LL  
 12:15 PM Advent Recital Series S  
 1:05 PM CC Prayer LL  
 1:30 PM Pastors Meeting TR  
 3:30 PM Augustana Vespers Rehearsal S  
 4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsals HR  
 4:30 PM Piano Classes PL  
 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal RH/RHK  
 5:15 PM Piano Classes PL  
 5:30 PM Belle Campana Rehearsal HR  
 5:30 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsals CR/S  
 6:30 PM Ninepatch Rehearsals CMR  
 6:30 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR  
 6:30 PM 7th Gr Confirmation FH  
 6:30 PM 8th Gr Confirmation D  
 6:30 PM 6th Gr Pulse GR/LFT/LL  
 6:30 PM Womens Choir Rehearsals S  
 6:30 PM Flyght Rehearsals CR  
 6:30 PM Women's Study - Beth Moore MdC  
 7:20 PM Wednesday Night Worship RH  
 7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/S  
 7:45 PM Youth Group McD/RH/2/4/5/9/10/D

4:00 PM Augustana Vespers S CR FH FrR  
 5:00 PM Vespers with Communion C  
 5:30 PM Augustana Vespers Dinner RH/RHK  
 7:30 PM Augustana Vespers S CR FH FrR

## Sunday, December 6

8:00 AM Advent Display AD  
 8:00 AM Sale of Santa's Prayer Books WC  
 8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
 8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Screening L  
 9:15 AM HyVee/Sunshine Grocery Card Sales W  
 9:30 AM Adult Forum FrR/ FrK  
 9:45 AM Traditional Worship S  
 10:45 AM Freshman Church Visit to St Joseph Cathe  
 11:00 AM Adult Forum FrR/ FrK  
 11:00 AM Capital Campaign Committee Mtg PR  
 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S  
 12:16 PM Worship in African Context C  
 1:00 PM Augustana Vespers S/CR/FH/FR  
 2:30 PM Augustana Vespers Concert S  
 3:00 PM Counseling PR  
 4:30 PM 4:12 Caroling & Chili GR/RH/N

## Monday, December 7

9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
 9:15 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 4:15 PM Kindermusik MR1  
 4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
 5:30 PM Basketball RH  
 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop UR  
 6:30 PM Family to Family PR

## Tuesday, December 8

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR 1  
 11:00 AM Organ Practice for German Christmas  
 12:00 PM Senior LuncheonFH/FHK  
 5:00 PM Executive Committee FrR  
 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsals CMR/S  
 6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsals HR  
 6:30 PM Kindermusik MR 1  
 6:30 PM Gym Night RH  
 7:30 PM Adult Discipleship Board TR

## Wednesday, December 9

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR  
 9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastors GR/GRK  
 11:00 AM Wednesday Night Meal Set-up RH/RHK  
 12:15 PM Advent Recital Series S  
 1:05 PM CC Prayer LL  
 1:30 PM Pastors Meeting TR  
 4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsals HR  
 4:30 PM Piano Classes PL  
 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal RH/RHK  
 5:15 PM Piano Classes PL  
 5:30 PM Belle Campana Rehearsal HR  
 5:30 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsals CR/S  
 6:00 PM Holistic Health Cabinet PNO  
 6:30 PM Ninepatch Rehearsals CMR  
 6:30 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR  
 6:30 PM 7th Gr Confirmation FH  
 6:30 PM 8th Gr Confirmation D  
 6:30 PM 6th Gr Pulse GR/LFT/LL  
 6:30 PM Womens Choir Rehearsals S  
 6:30 PM Flyght Rehearsals CR  
 6:30 PM Women's Study - Beth Moore MdC  
 7:20 PM Wednesday Night Worship RH  
 7:31 PM Christmas Giving Storage PMR  
 7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/S  
 7:45 PM Youth Group McD/RH/2/4/5/9/10/D

## Thursday, December 10

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GRGRK  
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting FR  
 10:00 AM Piano Classes PL  
 10:00 AM Mentoring Meeting African MinistryD  
 11:00 AM Study: Darkness is My Only Companion PMR  
 11:00 AM Piano Classes PL  
 11:00 AM Organ Practice for German Christmas  
 12:00 PM Project Car Steering Committee TR  
 12:00 PM Christmas Giving Storage PMR  
 5:30 PM Media Board TR  
 5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
 5:30 PM Basketball RH

## Friday, December 11

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC

6:30 PM Oskar/Aughenbaugh Wedding Rehearsal

**Saturday, December 12**  
 9:00 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal FR  
 9:30 AM Christmas Music Sunday Rehearsal S  
 10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
 10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR/S  
 11:30 AM Wedding Hospitality TR  
 12:00 PM Carol Choir Christmas Party FH/FHK  
 12:30 PM African Ministry Choir Practice C  
 1:30 PM WELCA Christmas Party RH/RHK  
 4:30 PM German Christmas Practice S  
 5:00 PM Vespers with Communion C  
 6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D FrR

## Sunday, December 13

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
 8:15 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR  
 8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
 9:15 AM Equal Exchange Coffee WCD  
 9:15 AM HyVee/Sunshine Grocery Card Sales W  
 9:30 AM Adult Forum FrR/ FrK  
 9:45 AM Traditional Worship S  
 9:45 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR  
 11:00 AM Adult Forum FrR/ FrK  
 11:00 AM Capital Campaign Committee Mtg PR  
 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S  
 11:15 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/UR  
 12:16 PM Worship in African Context C  
 2:00 PM Eritrean Ministry Group FrR  
 3:00 PM Counseling PR  
 4:00 PM German Christmas Service S  
 5:00 PM German Christmas Reception RH/RHK

## Monday, December 14

9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
 9:15 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 4:15 PM Kindermusik MR1  
 4:30 PM Piano Class PL  
 5:30 PM Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas S  
 6:45 PM Cub Scouts Pack 153 D

## Tuesday, December 15

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR 1  
 1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
 4:45 PM Youth & Family Board Meeting Off Site  
 5:15 PM Financial Services Bd PMR  
 6:00 PM Bd of Pastoral Care L  
 6:00 PM Board of Outreach TR  
 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsals CMR/S  
 6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsals HR  
 6:30 PM Kindermusik MR 1

## Wednesday, December 16

8:45 AM Faithfully Fit Forever PR  
 9:00 AM Sewing QSC  
 9:30 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastors GR/GRK  
 11:00 AM Wednesday Night Meal Set-up RH/RHK  
 12:15 PM Advent Recital Series S  
 1:05 PM CC Prayer LL  
 1:30 PM Pastors Meeting TR  
 4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsals HR  
 5:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal RH/RHK  
 5:30 PM Belle Campana Rehearsal HR  
 5:30 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsals CR/S  
 6:30 PM Ninepatch Rehearsals CMR  
 6:30 PM FaithWalkers C/UR/PR  
 6:30 PM Womens Choir Rehearsals S  
 6:30 PM Flyght Rehearsals CR  
 6:30 PM Women's Study - Beth MooreMdC  
 7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/S

## Thursday, December 17

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GRGRK  
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting FR  
 9:30 AM Rachel Circle GR/GRK  
 10:00 AM Mentoring Meeting African MinistryD  
 11:00 AM Study: Darkness is My Only Companion PMR  
 5:00 PM Church Council FH  
 5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
 5:30 PM Board of Worship & Music TR  
 5:30 PM Basketball RH  
 6:30 PM Youth Kringle Making RHK

## Friday, December 18

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC  
 7:00 PM Organ Recital C  
 8:00 PM Organ Recital Reception Fr/FrRK

## Saturday, December 19

9:00 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal FR  
 9:00 AM Bells of Christmas Rehearsal S  
 10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
 10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR/S  
 12:30 PM African Ministry Choir Practice C  
 5:00 PM Vespers with Communion C

## Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM Advent Display AD  
 8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
 8:15 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR  
 8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
 9:15 AM HyVee/Sunshine Grocery Card Sales W  
 9:45 AM Traditional Worship S  
 9:45 AM FaithWalkers C/RH/PR/UR  
 11:00 AM Healing Service C  
 11:00 AM Capital Campaign Committee Mtg PR  
 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S  
 11:15 AM FaithWalkers UR/RH  
 12:16 PM Worship in African Context C  
 1:00 PM Salv Army Toy Town RH RHKGR GRK  
 3:00 PM Counseling PR

## Monday, December 21

1:00 PM Salv Army Toy Town RH RHKGR GRK  
 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop UR

## Tuesday, December 22

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
 9:00 AM Salv Army Toy Town RH RHKGR GRK  
 1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
 5:00 PM Stewardship Board Meeting TR  
 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsals CMR/S  
 6:30 PM Agape Ringers Rehearsals HR

## Wednesday, December 23

10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastors GR/GRK  
 1:05 PM CC Prayer LL  
 1:30 PM Pastors Meeting TR  
 4:30 PM Good Vibrations Rehearsals HR  
 5:30 PM Belle Campana Rehearsal HR  
 5:30 PM Jubilant Singers Rehearsals CR/S  
 6:30 PM Ninepatch Rehearsals CMR  
 6:30 PM Womens Choir Rehearsals S  
 6:30 PM Flyght Rehearsals CR  
 7:35 PM Adult Choir Rehearsals CR/S

## Thursday, December 24

4:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service S  
 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service S  
 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service S

## Friday, December 25

10:00 AM Service of Lessons & Carols S

## Saturday, December 26

9:00 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal FR  
 10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
 10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR/S  
 12:30 PM African Ministry Choir Practice C  
 5:00 PM Vespers with Communion C

## Sunday, December 27

8:15 AM Traditional Worship S  
 8:30 AM Genesis Cafe GR/GRK  
 9:15 AM HyVee/Sunshine Grocery Card Sales W  
 9:45 AM Traditional Worship S  
 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship S  
 12:16 PM Worship in African Context C  
 3:00 PM Counseling PR

## Monday, December 28

5:00 PM Property Board TR

## Tuesday, December 29

9:00 AM Worship Planning TR  
 1:30 PM Youth & Family Staff Meeting PMR  
 6:30 PM Praise Band Rehearsals CMR/S

## Wednesday, December 30

9:15 AM Kindermusik MR1  
 10:00 AM Bible Study with Pastors GR/GRK  
 10:30 AM School Break Movie FH/FHK  
 1:05 PM CC Prayer LL  
 1:30 PM Pastors Meeting TR  
 6:30 PM Ninepatch Rehearsals CMR  
 6:30 PM Women's Choir Rehearsal S

## Thursday, December 31

9:00 AM Staff Meeting FR  
 4:00 PM Amundson/ Kimber Rehearsal S

## Join your church family at Wednesday Night Meals

5–6:15 p.m.  
\$3.50/person

**Dec. 2:** Lasagna and tossed salad  
**Dec. 9:** Broasted chicken and  
cheesy hash browns  
**Dec. 16:** Taco bar

## Thursday, December 3

7:30 AM Men's Bible Study GRGRK  
 9:00 AM Staff Meeting FR  
 10:00 AM Visitation Pastors TR  
 10:00 AM Piano Classes PL  
 10:00 AM Mentoring Meeting African MinistryD  
 11:00 AM Study: Darkness is My Only Companion PMR  
 11:00 AM Piano Classes PL  
 1:30 PM God&Cancer Meet/Cancer SupportFrR  
 3:00 PM Augustana Vespers Rehearsal S  
 5:30 PM Kindermusik MR1  
 5:30 PM Basketball RH  
 6:30 PM Youth Lefse Making RHK  
 7:00 PM Pre-baptism class GR

## Friday, December 4

8:00 AM Bulletin Volunteers QSC  
 9:30 AM Senior Citizen Ministry Board MeetingTR  
 11:30 AM Augustana Vespers Rehearsal S  
 5:30 PM Augustana Vespers Dinner RH/RHK  
 7:30 PM Augustana Vespers SCRFR FrR

## Saturday, December 5

9:00 AM Christmas Pageant Rehearsal S  
 9:00 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal FR  
 10:00 AM Violin Lessons UR  
 10:15 AM Open Gym RH  
 10:15 AM Carol Choir Rehearsal CR/S  
 12:30 PM African Ministry Choir Practice C

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## First Word

First Lutheran Church  
327 S Dakota Ave  
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Address Service Requested

## Advent and Christmas at First Lutheran Church



**Augustana Vespers**  
**All My Heart This Night Rejoices**  
 Friday, Dec. 4, at 7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 5, at 4 and 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2:30 p.m.

### Worship Services

Sunday, Dec. 6—  
Christmas Pageant, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13—  
Christmas Music Sunday,  
all services

Sunday, Dec. 20—  
Bells of Christmas,  
8:15 and 9:45 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24—  
Christmas Eve Family Worship,  
4:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship,  
9 and 11 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 25—  
Service of Lessons and Carols,  
10 a.m.

