

# First Word

The monthly newspaper of First Lutheran Church

## “You give them something to eat.”

By Jeff Backer, Intern Pastor



The disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them [the crowd] away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” Mark 6:35-37

Much of Jesus’ ministry takes place around a meal of some sort. His first miracle takes place at the wedding feast at Cana as found in the gospel of John, chapter 2, and the final event of expressing His great love for all of humankind is found in the last supper with the disciples as he gives them himself in the Lord’s Supper the night he is arrested.

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 brings an entirely different emphasis. Referred to as a “monumental miracle,” the crowds had started to follow Jesus because they were hearing teaching and witnessing healings and miracles like they had never seen before. But it is the fixation that the crowds had on the miracles and healings that becomes the problem. This is not why Jesus had come; the crowds had missed the point. It was in what Jesus was teaching that the greater understanding was found.

Jesus had been naming the sins of those he encountered, and in absolving them, those who were healed were not only freed from their physical afflictions, but from their sinful afflictions as well. As the crowds await another miracle, the disciples grow anxious. They come to Jesus saying, “What shall we do? We do not have the means to provide for all of these” as what was expected in the culture of hospitality in that time. In one fell swoop, Jesus changes

the role of the disciples from students, to waiters. “You give them something to eat!” What he was about to give to the crowd was much more substantive than the fish and barley loaves of the multiplication. He is going to give them God’s Word, and along with it, he was going to bestow the greatest blessing that they could receive, the fruit of the kingdom... that is forgiveness of sins and new life in himself.

As we give God thanks for His bountiful harvest in our daily bread, we come together in this season of gratitude to celebrate all of the good blessings that we have received. But like the miracles the crowd focused on, sometimes we miss the point. In Thanksgiving we find ourselves most often focusing on all good things for the body. Daily bread has filled our bellies and given us shelter, clothing, shoes for our feet, and vocations to bring us income. All these things satisfy our bodily needs so that we can now hear Jesus’ good teaching for us.



“Loaves and Fishes” mosaic in the floor of the church at Tabgha, the traditional site of the feeding of the 5,000.

As we gather around the table this Thanksgiving season, make time not only to share the good blessings for your body, but also for faith. Take time for expressing your gratitude to and for one another, and may God’s

Word wash over you as you have ears to hear and hearts to know Him. May you find comfort in family and community, but also peace and hope in hearing God’s Word of Christ in your ears so that faith is given, salvation is granted in Christ, and that good works spring forth like good fruit from a good tree, for the sake of our neighbor, not that we may boast, but that God is glorified.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” John 15:16

## What Can I Bring?

By Jean Colon, Bazaar Co-chair

How often, when you are invited to someone’s home for a meal or get-together, do you ask, “What can I bring?” And then the reply to you is, “Just bring yourself!”

That is not unlike the invitation you are given to come to be with Jesus, to come to the Spirit of God... you do not need to bring anything – just bring yourself.

As we are reminded by the theme for this year’s Bazaar, The Gift of Christmas, we are invited to come to the manger to share in this gift of Jesus, the Savior. We are not asked to bring anything – just ourselves and an open heart.

But like the Magi on their journey to the manger, the desires to give, to welcome, to show thankfulness, to help out, are also gifts we want to share. The Bazaar is a gathering of these gifts. It is a place of giving, of welcoming, of showing thankfulness to our God and His abundant blessings, of helping out in the spirit of fellowship. Many bring their gifts of creativity and time to share at the Bazaar for our church, our community, and our global mission. All such gifts are heartfelt and welcome. All are invited to please come and share in this glorious Bazaar-- just bring yourself - and your friends!



## Love for the least

### A Reflection for Christ The King Sunday

By Pastor John Christopherson,  
Senior Pastor



“Tell me who you love and I will tell you who you are.”  
(Creole proverb)

Throughout November, our appointed Gospel text for each week will come from the 25th

Chapter of St. Matthew (Nov. 12: *Matthew 25:1-13*; Nov. 19: *Matthew 25:14-30*; Nov. 26: *Matthew 25:31-46*). After we lift our eyes and voices in praise to God for a “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1) who now continue to cheer us on from celestial bleachers on *All Saints Sunday* (Nov. 5; *Matthew 5:1-12*) ... the concluding Gospel texts of November crescendo into their fullest scale and voice of the Church Year; that is, Christ the King Sunday. Take special note of how this “scale and voice” finds an expression of awe and majesty, shining through the center panel of our stained glass windows – Christ the King – above the altar in our sanctuary.

As we give ear to Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 25, we hear once more the parable of “The Ten Bridesmaids” with their warried wicks (vv. 1-13), the parable of “The Talents” put-in-the dirt or put-to-work (vv. 14-30), and finally, the parable of “The Final Judgment” that includes the sobering language of separating the sheep from the goats (vv. 31-46). And it is with this last parable that we conclude on Christ the King Sunday. It is with this parable that Jesus puts into words the very message his life put into action: “*Love for the least.*”

In Matthew 25 we see the significance of the final judgment. We see its certainty – there is no doubt to Jesus’ return. (By the way ... 1/20th of the New Testament speaks of Jesus’ return. There are over 300 references to his Second Coming. Twenty-three of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament speak of his return.) We also see its totality – everyone will be there. And we see its troubling finality – of Jesus separating the sheep from the goats. But on what basis? Part of the answer might surprise us. It’s tucked right there in the heart of this parable. Listen again to Jesus’ words: “I was hungry, and you gave me

food. I was without clothing, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison and you visited me” (Matthew 25:35-36).

Now, I’m not going to get into wrangling over matters of universalism here or predestination or various plans of salvation; but rather, I’d have us stay close to the heart of this parable of Jesus. Simply stated: Jesus’ purpose here is not to give us a moral code, but rather he provides the foundation upon which every moral decision rests. “*As you*

*do it unto the very least of these [my brothers and sisters], you do it unto me*” (v.40). Jesus calls

his disciples (and us) not to love out of reasons of calculation or merit, but because God makes himself present in human need. This is an inclusive, universal call, but also an exclusive claim (cf. Matt. 20:16; 22:14). It startles and shakes us out of our complacent slumbers; knowing there’s an ol’ goat in all of us sinners (cf. Romans 3:23, 6:6; I Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 4:22). And if this parable doesn’t serve to give us a jolt, nothing will!

What Jesus is doing is to call those who would follow him to responsibility, to accountability, to discipleship – to a “*love for the least.*” It’s a wondrous evangelical response to the age-old question: “So what finally happens to all those folk who’ve never heard of God’s forgiving and saving love in Jesus Christ?” Well... Preach it sister! Preach Christ. Share Christ. Do Christ. This moral imperative of love is not just to get-

us-off the “Old Goat List.” Not for my sake. Rather, it’s for God’s sake. For our neighbors’ sake. The sign of all who would love Christ is to show their “*love for the least.*”

And, did you note how simple the expressions are? Jesus doesn’t say: “I was sick and you cured me... Was in prison and you did a jail-break for me.” Nor does he say: “I was thirsty and you gave me spiritual counseling.” There’s no fanfare. No trumpet. No C-Span coverage. Just simple folks doing kind and loving things for those in need, because of God’s love revealed in Christ (cf. John 3:16; I John 4:7f).

In a “fashion” ... Jesus lives in the forgotten. He’s taken-up-residence in the ignored and ostracized. He’s made his

# Leadership and governance outline

By Pastor Lars Olson, Executive Pastor



In the last few years, FLC has been engaged in a strategic vision process that sought two main objectives: 1) an objective view of the current state of FLC, and 2) to gather hopes and ideas for new ministry initiatives from a wide group of stakeholders in the congregation. Both of these were needed for FLC to best discern where this congregation needs to change and adapt (and what needs to NOT change!). The process has done exactly what was intended. The CAT (Church Assessment Tool) gave us good, honest, data about our current state. This allowed FLC to produce

the “First & Foremost” Strategic Plan with over 90 recommended actions (please visit [flcsf.org/firstandforemost](http://flcsf.org/firstandforemost)).

We now, as a congregation, need a way to sort through, prioritize, and accomplish these recommended actions.

Recommended Action 7.3 asks FLC to “Undertake a reorganization of the church governance structure (church council and boards) to better accommodate the 2016 Strategic Plan.” That is, to make changes in the church leadership and governance to support carrying out the rest of the strategic plan. Thinking through these changes has been a major undertaking through the Council, Executive Committee, Leadership Task Force, Senior and Executive Pastors over the past two years. Proposals have been changed and improved through these conversations with the continuing goals being:

1. **Improve Strategic thinking and direction setting**
2. **Value wide congregational representation & conversation**
3. **Engage more people in “on the ground” ministry**

One proposal (which was dismissed) was to shrink the council to only nine members. This likely would improve the ability of the council to have more strategic thinking, but it would have devalued the congregational representation on council, without a clear understanding of how it would engage more people. Another related proposal, concerning boards, assigned each board member a specific job: communication, volunteer recruitment, etc. While this is still being discussed with much support, FLC is not currently able to implement these roles, but we keep working on it. What we need is an improved approach to meeting the needs of this large congregation for direction, representation, and implementation.

## Governance Goals & Hopes

The current proposal is more of a realignment of the current structure to fit the goals above than a completely new model.

1. **Strategic thinking and direction** is best done with a smaller group of leaders, ideally less than 10. This allows for more people to speak their thoughts. So, rather than shrinking the council, the proposal is to empower the Executive Committee to lead in this way. The Executive Committee will grow to 7 members by adding two “at-large” members who will be selected (nominated, then voted in at the annual meeting by the congregation) for needed experience and skills for strategy and leadership each year. (For example, if improving advertising and community presence is a goal, someone with strong skills and experience in marketing may be selected)

2. **Representation and Conversation** that leads to collaborative, cooperative, ministry that touches many groups across FLC requires a council meeting. Retaining the basic council structure (while realigning board names and descriptions - see proposed boards below) will allow each board (represented by their board chair) to listen and respond to the strategic direction proposals from the Executive Committee. The Council will be able to react, give feedback, approval or alteration, of the proposal. Instead of Council having to do the strategic thinking, proposals are shared for their input, and then to begin asking questions like, “How will this affect our board?” “Which boards can work together to carry out this ministry?” “How will this matter in our ministry area?” Discussing such questions at Council allows for more shared ministry and cooperation throughout FLC. (For example, if a change in the Wednesday schedule is proposed, the council would be able to think and discuss the effects, hear other Board Chair input, and offer concerns and improvements)

3. **Do Ministry.** This is where the rubber meets the road, where ideas, strategies, and conversation have to be put into action. This should begin with Boards, but they are not the only ones getting in on the action. Boards need to be freed to implement ministries in the best way possible. So a Board could decide to do the task themselves, or if it seems better, they can form a ministry team, a task force, recruit a committee, or assign one willing volunteer to carry out the ministry. More ministries will require more people, and supporting more people in the ministry of the gospel is the goal of the Boards.

## FLC Staff Support to Ministry

That’s the basic proposal from the Governance side of things. Yet that is only half the equation. There is also staff members who need direction, input, and conversation in order to support the ministry of the gospel through FLC. To implement ministry well, the direction and implementation happening through the Governance (Executive Committee, Council, Boards) should be the same as the staff members are receiving. So we have been working toward this structure:

1. **Leadership Staff** - Sr. Pastor/Executive Pastor/Church Administrator Works hand in hand with the Executive Committee to share in strategic thinking and direction setting, in order to direct and supervise the Director Staff.
  - a. Sr. Pastor - John Christopherson
  - b. Executive Pastor - Lars Olson
  - c. Church Administrator - Marilyn McNeill
2. **Director Staff** - Ministry Area Directors (including Leadership Staff) Every Board will have a director assigned who works very closely with the Board

Chair. Directors will ideally be responsible for supporting one board. In this fashion, Directors support the Board, keep the Chair informed on daily ministry happenings, and discuss with one another at weekly meetings how to collaborate, support, and carry out ministries.

- a. Youth & Family - Marnie Backer
  - b. Worship & Music - Zachary Rygiel
  - c. Care & Health - Pr. Katherine Olson
  - d. Evangelism & Outreach - Jeff Backer
  - e. Education & Discipleship -
  - f. Stewardship & Giving -
  - g. Welcome & Community -
  - h. Finance, Administration & Property - Marilyn McNeill
- (Pr. John & Pr. Lars will each serve one board, so one additional Director will need to be hired in this model)

## 3. Support Staff - All staff (includes Directors & Leadership Staff)

All staff support the direct carrying out of ministry and support volunteers, teams, and task forces. Some duties need to be handled by staff on a day to day basis, and other tasks need staff support and encouragement. One of the chief goals is to have staff give members a place to minister, train them, check in with them, and give them the help they need to do a good job.

**NOTE on Boards:** Financial Services will integrate with Administration & Property, Media Board will continue to function as a ministry team, and Welcome & Community will be created to help oversee needed ministries of welcoming, member engagement, and hospitality.

## Cooperative Model - Governance & Staff

The model of directing, cooperating, and carrying out ministry is then done in tandem with the members and staff. The Leadership Staff works with the Executive Committee to help set goals and direction. The Council (Board Chairs) works closely with the Director Staff to oversee major ministry areas. Boards then work to implement ministries that match the strategic direction of the congregation by involving and supporting members and teams.

Governance-Members-Teams	Description	Staff
Executive Committee	1. Strategic Leadership & Direction	Leadership Staff
Council	2. Cooperation & Communication	Director Staff
Boards	3. Implementation & Execution	Support Staff

Now we are arriving at a functional structure that meets all of the goals set forth above, and that clarifies roles for everyone. As stated, this is very close to how FLC actually functions currently. There are some specific changes proposed below.

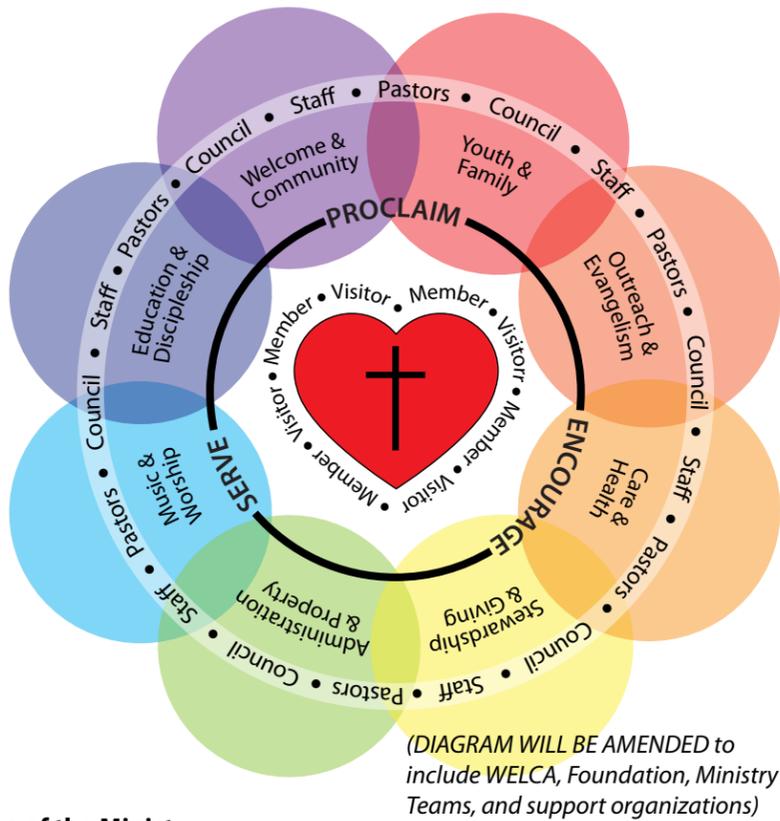
- Expanded Executive Committee will include two At-Large council members. This will give the Executive Committee broader representation, and at the same time provide opportunity to include people with specific experience and skills to help with strategic direction. With term limits and year-to-year terms, the Executive Committee will retain experience, but nobody will be able to hold too much control for too long.
- Council will consist of Board Chairs who will be nominated and approved by the congregation. This will give the council two needed things, both of which will give the council more confidence to represent their board and the congregation:
  - 1) Consistent membership (currently either the Chair or the Council Representative can attend and vote, which means that it is possible that council is a different group each month).
  - 2) Council will be directly approved by the congregation (currently council members are selected by the boards themselves).
- Board can have more freedom to carry out ministry. Direction that is shared across the congregation and boards give confidence and empowerment. What they will need is some room to operate, so boards should be free to make use of volunteers, staff, teams, and FLC systems in the best way possible. Even asking another board for help or cooperation. Maybe one board will function better with fewer members, while another needs extra. With the Executive Committee’s approval, boards can have as few as five and as many as nine members. In addition, there are some revisions of board names and duties.

## Direction & Feedback

It is important to hear that this is not a “top down” or “military style” command and control structure. Good leadership and direction requires plenty of listening and feedback. Direction cannot be “You must go west, no matter the obstacle!” but instead direction toward an agreed upon goal. “Everyone is going to meet at Falls Park. Get your group there the best way that works for your group, and let us know what obstacles you encounter so we can help.”

Therefore, part of leadership/direction from the Executive Committee needs to include opportunities to intentionally listen to council and individual boards, just as each board needs to listen to their ministry teams and volunteers. In addition, boards need a way of communicating back to Exec & Council what is holding them back from implementing and executing. This model is primarily listening and communicating with one another, and so it is goal oriented, cooperative, and focused toward execution, which serves the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

– continued on page 3



### Shape of the Ministry

All of this governance and structure discussion finally arrives at this diagram. This is what the ministry is about. At the heart of FLC is Jesus Christ, his cross, and his Gospel Word. It is the gospel that calls us into new life, and makes us Christians. This word is not just for members, but for strangers, sinners, visitors and all who come into contact with FLC. The community of Christ is the heart that flows out from the cross.

The outer rings are the boards, staff, pastors, and council.

These overlapping circles all work together to support and carry out the ministry of FLC, the work of the gospel. Each is a major ministry focus, distinct yet working together in this shared ministry.

PROCLAIM, ENCOURAGE, and SERVE are what every person, board, and ministry does. This is the basis of our mission together. We proclaim Christ. We encourage one another with the gospel. And we serve one another in Jesus' name.

### Congregational Input

This is your congregation and your input and feedback are needed and welcome. There has been much thought and discussion about this proposal to bring it to this point. Thanks for listening. It is now the congregational leadership's turn to listen and learn. We want to hear your support, concerns, questions and suggestions. Please join us at one or more of the following opportunities:

- Wednesday, Oct. 25, 5 p.m., with Brian Aamlid, Aaron Ellingsen & Pastor Lars
- Sunday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m., with Aaron Ellingsen & Pastor Lars
- Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., with Brian Aamlid, Mindy Moore, Pastor Lars
- WELCA Meeting Thursday, Nov. 9, at 11:45 a.m. with Pastor Lars
- Sunday, Nov. 12, Noon - Brian Aamlid & Pastor Lars

Meeting with individuals and groups is also a priority. Members of Executive Committee will be attending Bible studies and meetings over the next month. Please call the church office, (605) 336-3734, to schedule a conversation.

## Love for the least cont.

dwelling place amidst the ill and infirm. If you want to see God, Jesus calls us to go among the broken and beaten down and there we will encounter him (cf. Mark 9:37; also Leo Tolstoy's famous story *Where Love Is, There Is God Also*). In his commentary on this passage from Matthew 25, Martin Luther observes:

*"Here below, here below," says Christ. "You will find me in the poor. I am too high for you in heaven. You are trying to climb up there for nothing." Thus it would be a very good idea if this high command of love were written with golden letters on all the foreheads of the poor so that we could see and grasp how near Christ is to us on this earth."*

Jesus' message is stirring: "As you did it to the least of these my [brothers and sisters] you do it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). Of all the teachings during the last week of Jesus' life on earth, this one is for me one of the most convicting and penetrating. His word reminds us, in our age shot-through with all brands of individualism, material wealth, and good looks ... "Now look! Look!" To see Jesus, go to *Avera* or *Sanford* and ask the Charge Nurse to take you to see someone who has not had any visitors. To see Jesus, turn-off the TV and spend time with your children. To see Jesus, visit the lonely, the forgotten and neglected, the least in the world's eyes.

On the one hand, we need to be careful of all the moralizing or death-traps of legalism in this text. On the other hand we might call this parable something of a judgment test that sheds light on our priorities and marks

of Christian character. For we are daily in need of having our expectations adjusted. Daily in need of repentance, of re-examining our motives. That is, we serve "the least" not for our own sake or some feel-good or moral-ladder-climbing, but for the sake of him who has given himself for us: the One who "so loves the world" (John 3:16).

Think about it. Those times when we've turned our back on "the least" or "unattractive" we just might have missed the opportunity to meet the best or wisest friend ever. And had God turned his back on the "least" or "unattractive" – and that's all of us sinners! – there never would have been the blood of Jesus' cross, and we would never have known the love of our precious Savior who continues still, right now, to call you and me forth as his disciples, to love the least: *"As you do it to the least of these my [brothers and sisters] you do it to me," says Jesus.*

P.S. Are you still stuck way back there on the question of whether you're with the sheep or goats? Take heart, for in the asking, Jesus' Word brings good news to your heart this day: "My sheep know my voice" (John 10:4f). That's why you're even asking the question! As the Psalmist would reassure you – all who are within ear shot: "For you are the LORD'S people, and the sheep of his pasture." (Psalm 100:3). And all God's people say: "AMEN!"

In service of Christ the King, the King of all creation ...

j.r. christopherson,  
Senior Pastor

### GOVERNANCE Leadership

**Executive Committee - Purpose (Direction)**  
 -Lead congregation, council, and boards through strategic planning and setting policy  
 -Provide direction and support to council boards  
 -Use teams as needed to oversee personnel, nominating, financial oversight, and budget processes  
 -Supervise and direct Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor

#### Terms

1-year term, up to 3 years consecutive (5 year maximum consecutive Exec Committee, for when a treasurer or vice pres becomes pres)

#### Members

-President, Vice-President, Treasurer/Finance, Secretary  
 -2 At-Large with specific skills needed for the year, such as finance, leadership, personnel, marketing, education, capital campaign  
 - Senior Pastor

- At-Large members will be selected to enhance the Executive Committee's ability to lead and give direction to the congregation & council.
- Leadership staff (Senior Pastor, Executive Pastor, Admin Director) attend Executive Committee regularly and can be excused by the President whenever needed to discuss matters which concern leadership staff.

### Council - Purpose (Communication & Cooperation)

-Provide feedback & approval for Executive Committee plans  
 -Communicate vision, direction, and goals to boards  
 -Cooperate with other board chairs  
 -Approve recommendations to take to congregational meetings (such as budget, nominations, etc.)

#### Terms

3-year term, (2 terms, 6 year maximum consecutive service)

- Council Members/Board Chairs shall be voting members of council.
- Nominating the board chairs will include the Staff Director, since Director & Chair will need to have a strong, cooperative working relationship.

### Boards - Purpose (Implementation)

-Implement ministry in line with strategic plans & policies  
 -Oversee the carrying out of ministry plans  
 -Empower and support ministry teams and volunteers  
 -Provide and receive feedback to staff about programming, concerns, and direction

#### Terms

3-year term, (2 term maximum consecutive service)

- Youth & Family; Worship & Music; Evangelism & Outreach; Care & Health; Stewardship & Giving; Education & Discipleship; Welcome & Community; Finance, Administration & Property
- Boards work within themselves and with other boards, ministry teams, volunteers and staff to carry out ministry. There is no "one size" solution, but many flexible solutions to carrying out ministry.

## Staff news

By Marilyn McNeill

First Lutheran Church is blessed with a very dedicated staff. We are so thankful for each and every staff member for the support they provide to the ministries of First Lutheran Church. Those celebrating special anniversaries this year are Rick East, Custodian, and Paul Nesheim, Adult and Women's Choir Director, celebrate five years of service; Nancy Henrichsen (former Children's Director, current Nursery Attendant) and Irma Rodriguez, Nursery Attendant, celebrate 10 years; and Marilyn McNeill, Business Administrator, celebrates 15 years of employment at First Lutheran. Please congratulate them on their dedication and extend your appreciation to all of the staff for the work they do.

## Wednesday night forums 6:30-7:30 p.m. Gathering Room

- Nov. 1 No forum  
 Nov. 8 "Erasmus and Luther: A Comparative Study in Their Understanding of the Reformation" led by Pastor John Christopherson  
 Nov. 15 "The Radicals and Luther: Finding Heretical Parallels in 2017" led by Pastor John Christopherson  
 Nov. 22 No forum - Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30 p.m.  
 Nov. 29 – Dec. 13 Handel's "Messiah" led by Donna Johnson

## Caring Ministry



### Remembering those who have died

By Pastor Katherine Olson, Associate Pastor



All Saints Sunday, which we will celebrate this year on Nov. 5, is a time to solemnly remember those Christians who have died, particularly those who have been dear to us and have influenced our own life of faith. All Saints is not simply a day to remember the

lives of these beloved companions in the faith. It is also a celebration that death is not the end for those who are entrusted to Christ's care and keeping. For when we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death – and as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. (Romans 6)

Sometimes it's easier to believe and trust in this truth – that those who have died are kept in the merciful care of our Lord Jesus – than it is to believe that we, who must walk as yet by faith, are also kept lovingly in his care. It is tough to journey on without those we love – grief can be a difficult burden to bear and can threaten our joy and peace. However, we also have this promise in



### Grieving with Grace

#### Grieving With Grace – November

Grieving With Grace will not hold its usual meeting on the first Saturday of the month in November. Participants are encouraged to attend the "Grieving a Loss During the Holidays" event on Saturday, Nov. 18 (See details below). The next regularly scheduled Grieving With Grace session will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, with social time beginning at 9:30 a.m. and class session lasting from 10 – 11 a.m. All adults grieving the loss of a loved one are welcome to attend.



### Grieving a loss during the holidays

Breakfast, Presentation, Chapel Service  
Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 – 11 a.m.

All adults grieving the death of a loved one are invited to attend this special event at First Lutheran. A free breakfast will be served in the church's Gathering Room at 9 a.m., as licensed professional counselor and First Lutheran member, John Hegg offers a presentation on the topic of grief, and gives suggestions on how navigate the holiday season while coping with the death of a loved one. The morning concludes with a prayer service in the chapel of First Lutheran as we honor our loved ones with a candle-lighting ceremony and encounter comforting words of hope through Scripture and music. This event is free and open to all adults, but advance registration is required. Please stop by First Lutheran's Information Desk or call to register by Monday, Nov. 13. Alternatively, you may fill out a registration form online at [flcsf.org/holidaygrief](http://flcsf.org/holidaygrief). Questions, contact Pastor Katherine Olson at 339-1983 ext. 214 or [kolson@flcsf.org](mailto:kolson@flcsf.org).

Scripture: "We do not live to ourselves and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord, so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose again, so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living." (Romans 14) He who keeps those who have died is also our Lord, and he loves us very much, sustaining us even in our sorrow and pain.

If your heart is particularly burdened by grief this year, our prayers are with you as All Saints and other holidays approach. We invite you to attend a special event we have planned to help fix your eyes on the future. See "Grieving a Loss During the Holidays" below left.

Whether or not you attend this event, please remember those who are struggling with grief, particularly as this holiday season approaches. Remember them in your prayers and consider small acts of service to let them know you care: a card, a phone call, an invitation or a thoughtful gift. What's more, tell others of God's love and store the good news of God's son Jesus in your heart this season...and always.

### Maggie and David performances

Pastor David Houck and his wife Margaret, known by their stage name, "Maggie and David," perform at area assisted living and nursing facilities. Their program features popular music of decades past, Christian hymns, scripture, prayer, and spoken words of encouragement. Maggie and David provide this program in conjunction with the Caring Ministries of First Lutheran Church. Everyone is invited to attend!

- Fri., Nov. 3, 2-3 p.m. – Bethany Meadows (3008 E. Aspen Blvd., Brandon)
- Wed., Nov. 8, 2-3 p.m. – Lake Lorraine Forum Theater (2815 S. Westlake Dr., Sioux Falls)
- Wed., Nov. 29, 3 p.m. – Good Samaritan Society (410 W. 2nd St., Sioux Falls)

### Tips and a prayer to overcome loneliness during the holidays

By Jana Elkins, Parish Nurse

Adapted from *Missionaries of Prayer*, Nov. 30, 2010

The holiday season is a time when loneliness, depression and sadness can take root in our lives. We know by the word of God that we shouldn't feel this way but we are human and it can and will happen if we don't take the necessary steps to guard our heart and mind. Those who suffer from loneliness may be single, widowed, divorced those who have lost a loved one, the empty-nester and even married people. That covers just about everyone! What can we do as Christians during this time to guard our thoughts and feelings from negative emotions?

**Go to church if you are physically able** – This is not the time to attend the "Living Room Church" through your computer or television. You need to go to church if you are able. Get in a community with others who have similar interests. If you are already involved in a church perhaps you will consider inviting someone to church who may be struggling with loneliness during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

**Pray** – We know that prayer works! Pray about your situation and leave the rest to the Lord. He will work everything out, no matter how difficult the case may be, for your own good.

**Help someone else** – Doing volunteer work during the holiday season is a great way to take your mind off your situation. Become the hands and feet of Jesus by

### God has called

By Jana Elkins, Parish Nurse



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God's presence and call often show up in unexpected places and at surprising times. Recently I have felt God nudging at my heart.

I am writing to let you know I have accepted a call which will pull me away from First Lutheran Church.

I believe that God has called me back to the mission field – local, national and international missions. With this I will be doing missionary nursing around the world as well as assisting in the development of a missionary nursing master's degree program and helping to develop a missiology program for theology students. My time here at First Lutheran has been a God-given experience that I will cherish in all that I do as I journey onward.

Recently I was talking to a FLC church member about my plans and I related how it was all a bit scary, there were many unknowns, and how I questioned whether or not I was qualified for such a grand task. She reminded me that accepting God's call requires courage to follow, and that she had no doubt that I would do exactly as God had asked me to do. She said it is normal to feel fear and self-doubt, but ultimately God knows we can handle the calling which God places on our hearts, because He never leaves us or forsakes us. Her words reminded me that the Spirit of God lives within every follower of Christ. God equips us for each task as we yield to His leading. When God prompts us to do something on His behalf, He leads the way and blesses our obedience for His glory. It's all about His glory. He simply wants our willingness and our obedience, and puts others in our path to encourage and teach us as we follow.

Thank you to all my brothers and sisters in Christ at First Lutheran Church for encouraging me and for helping me continually grow in the Spirit. Many, many blessings to each of you this day and every day!

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 (NIV).

helping others. You can also invite others over to your house for dinner to share the holidays with you.

**Meditate on Scripture** – Meditating on the word of God will guard your mind from falling into depression and fill you with the joy of Christ so that you will be able to enjoy the season. The word will strengthen you and give you hope as you meditate on it, Psalm 119:28 and Psalm 130:5 are favorites.

**Find an activity that you enjoy and keep yourself busy** – Sitting at home worrying about your situation will not make things better and will only lead to negative thoughts and depression. Now is a great time to start a new hobby you have considered, learn how to cook or go rock climbing. Don't be idle! Use Jesus as an example – he prayed, taught or helped others.

**Here is a prayer for you:**

Father, as your child I come to You asking that You fill every empty place within me. Fill the void in my life that is there because of \_\_\_\_\_. I ask that You would guide me through Your Scriptures so that I may hear directly from You. I pray as Samuel prayed that You "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." I ask that until You take this loneliness away You help me to glean every lesson possible from this present place. Protect my mind from self-centered thoughts and cause me to focus on the many blessings that You have given me. Help me to focus on the fact that Jesus is my friend, my brother, my husband and my father. He is my provider and the One who takes care of all of my needs according to Your glorious riches. He is the healer of the broken-hearted. He is the greatest gift that I could ever receive. I thank You for my salvation and I pray that I would be Your hands and feet during this season to bring You to others. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# Youth & Family Ministry



## Affirmation of Baptism

By Marnie Dahle Backer,  
Youth & Family Ministries Director



“I present the 2017 sophomore confirmands, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.” These are the words from the

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) that we will say on Sunday, Nov. 5, as we celebrate the confirmation of 22 sophomore youth! Affirming their baptism is what this day is all about. These sophomores have spent the last four years learning about Jesus, the Bible, The Small Catechism, other Christian denominations, service and more. Their parents have brought them faithfully to God’s house to fulfill the promises they made to their precious babies on the day of their baptism. And the church has been here to welcome them with open arms to help fulfill the promises we as a congregation made that day as well.

And now... the celebration of this faith and these young adults standing up to say “YES! I intend to continue in the covenant God made with me in holy baptism...” (ELW) They may or may not be jumping up and down with joy as they do this. I say this tongue in cheek, but it’s actually quite true. Some of these precious children are ready – they are excited – their faith is important and they understand what an impact it has on their daily lives. And some of these precious

children might be going through the motions frankly – they are doing what their parents have told them to do... and this is all part of it. And finally... some of these precious children are struggling – deeply – who is this God? What is this church thing really all about. What do I believe?

And you know what? All three of these confirmands are ok, wonderful, perfectly acceptable – faith is not easy, life is not easy. And this is why the work of Jesus is not over, and why we as parents and a congregation are not done yet either. We must continue to promise to support and pray for one another in the life of the Christ. And together the people of God respond “We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.” And regardless of how well any of us succeed in keeping our promises – God’s promise will hold true – “You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia!” (ELW) God will never let you go.

Congratulations to our confirmands:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Katherine Amundson | Max Martin        |
| Rangsimun Bargmann | Garrett Masters   |
| Armen DerHagopian  | Eli Moore         |
| Melia Dockter      | Taylor Neely      |
| Isabella Ellingsen | Cole Olson        |
| Jack Glenn         | Payton Ortman     |
| Sophie Jansa       | Morgan Oskar      |
| Brooke Kokenge     | Elizabeth Searles |
| Annika Kramer      | Noah Specht       |
| Caitlin Kramer     | Lauren Williams   |
| Britta Larson      | Alyssa Wiseman    |

## Faith Photo Project

Each year we ask the confirmands to turn in a photo of themselves in a place they feel close to God and to write a brief paragraph explaining why. Here are a few of them:

“I feel closest to God when I am in nature, specifically at Rush Lake where my family and I go every year. Whenever I’m out on the water, I know God is close to me because he is always looking out for me, and making sure I am safe. Also, nature is what God has created, and I feel that when I am in his creations, I am right alongside of him.”

– Jack Glenn



“Music brings me closer to God. Through music, I am able to praise God and help spread His word through my own gifts and talents.”

– Garrett Masters



“In this photo I’m at the farm with my horse, Hot Sauce. I feel closest to God when I’m riding. I feel free and peaceful, like nothing stands between me and the sun on the horizon, or the stars in the sky. It’s the best feeling in the world, like I could touch the face of God with my soul and come back down healed.”

– Morgan Oskar

“If I want to feel close to God, I will head over to our church. I can always feel His loving presence surrounding me. I know that this may sound a little cheesy and obvious, but I always feel better when I enter into His house. There is a warm existence in our church. I can always see God’s love in the people and in their words and actions.”

– Taylor Neely



## Milestone Minute

Prayer Pillow Milestone was celebrated on Sunday, October 1. Teaching our four-year olds (and their parents) the importance of praying to our God any time and at all times – at meal time, night time, play time, in the car and more! Children were given a special prayer pillow with a prayer booklet tucked inside. Our prayer is that all of us are remembering that God hears our prayers at any time of day and ALL day. The children received a special blessing from Pastor Jeff at the 11 a.m. worship service.



Above: Lauren Downs, Adley Thompson, Kate Madsen, and Ali Sorenson make their prayer books with help from high school volunteer Ashley Elton

Left: The Thompson family reads through the prayer booklet provided during the Prayer Pillow milestone for four-year-olds.

Right: Leo Cahoy and Devin Kruger decorate their prayer books.

Below left: Four-year-olds receive their prayer pillow and learn about praying wherever they are.

Below right: At the 11 a.m. worship service the children received a special blessing from Pastor Jeff.



## Mission

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



## Worship Services

### Saturday (Chapel)

5 p.m. Vespers/Communion

### Sunday (Sanctuary)

8 a.m. Traditional Worship with Communion

9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

11 a.m. Contemporary Worship

### Media Ministries Broadcasts

8 a.m. KELO-FM Radio (101.9)

11 a.m. KSFY (Sioux Falls), KPRY (Pierre) and KABY (Aberdeen)



[www.youtube.com/flcsf](http://www.youtube.com/flcsf)



[www.facebook.com/flcsf](http://www.facebook.com/flcsf)



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@firstlutheransf

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

Newsletter submissions are due the first business day of the month. Please submit articles or questions regarding First Word to Susan Bell, Communications Coordinator, at [sbell@flcsf.org](mailto:sbell@flcsf.org). Reader feedback is always welcome. First Word is available to read or download online at [flcsf.org/firstword](http://flcsf.org/firstword).

## Financial update

**Total Revenues – Year-to-date 9/30**  
2017 Actual..... \$1,469,219  
2016 Actual..... \$1,379,239

**Total Expenses – Year-to-date 9/30**  
2017 Actual..... \$1,481,225  
2016 Actual..... \$1,468,448

**Contract For Deed – Ideal . \$335,607**

**God's Gifts. Our Responsibility.**  
Income thru Sept. 2017... \$3,997,805

**Campus Improvement Income**  
thru Sept. 2017..... \$200,752

**Worship Attendance Sept. ... 3,351**

## Ten good reasons to join WELCA!

By Marcia Huffman, WELCA President



Our church home! What an awesome place to be able to feel we are with family, at our "church home." Perhaps some of you like me went to the website to donate to the

ELCA'S Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund. I was inspired when I read the following: "This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person - questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world." Don't those words make you feel good?

During the forty years since I first joined FLC, I have been involved in many various activities. At this time in my life, my involvement at First Lutheran centers around our women's group, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Being part of this church family group is very rewarding and fulfilling. So please let me share with you Ten Good Reasons to join WELCA!

**1. Participating in service** to our Father and our Savior by reaching out to serve God as we serve other people. As church women, we work on stewardship projects such as fabric, baby care and personal care kits, we give financial offerings, we serve funerals, we sew and quilt and we minister to those in need through cards, phone calls and visits.

**2. Being involved in the gift of God's Word** as we gather in our Circle Groups to read, study, discuss and share in order to more deeply understand and appreciate the Scriptures.

**3. Fellowship – the Fellowship of All Believers.** This is accomplished while we are studying, eating, working, listening, serving or praising God. The important thing is that we are gathered together in fellowship with one another as women of faith.

**4. Renewing acquaintances.** In April at our Easter Hat Gathering I came in contact with someone I had been in Circle with 35 years ago. She even remembered a pine cone wreath that was hanging on my wall at the time. It has been a gift to become reacquainted with Shirley.

**5. Making new acquaintances.** We have probably all seen familiar faces or heard familiar names over the years. Come to WELCA and you will be able to put the names and faces together as you meet and get to know fellow members of First Lutheran.

**6. Being part of something bigger than yourself.** Last summer 3,322 women from all 50 states and 12 foreign countries gathered at the Tenth WELCA Triennial Convention in Minneapolis. And that was only a small representation of all of the WELCA ladies who were not able to attend. Yes, we are a part of something bigger than ourselves, God's women of faith around the world.

**7. Learning about issues that confront many people in our country and the world.** We deal with ongoing concerns and needs as we learn ways to be useful doing God's will among His people. We have touched on homelessness, family issues, physical needs, veterans' issues, mental health issues and many others.

**8. Practicing prayer, praising and thanksgiving.** Yes, we always have prayer, devotions and hymn singing when we gather. This helps unite us in our common faith and love for our God.

**9. Working on and enjoying the Fall Bazaar.** This is a huge project for the women of First Lutheran and we start planning the next bazaar as soon as we finish the current one. This event incorporates everything – fellowship, prayer, creativity, learning to work well with others, meeting new people, and having fun. This project culminates on the first Saturday of November when we raise thousands of dollars for missions!

**10. Contemplating new things.** What would it feel like to be part of a minority, what is a jingle dress dance, have you ever seen a service dog at FLC, are we as forgiving as we ought to be, so what was so good about the "good old days"? Curious...we invite you to come discover the answers.

Yes, there are a lot of reasons to join WELCA. Our prayer is that one of these reasons will prompt you to join us. You may call Marcia Huffman at 360-4168 or Kathy Stelzer at 929-5667 for more information.

## Senior luncheon

All First Lutheran senior adults and their friends are invited to join us for lunch Tuesday, Nov. 14, at noon. The program is the Norway Nurses from Augustana University. The menu is goulash, caesar salad, bread sticks. Please remember to RSVP by calling the church receptionist at 336-3734, by Wednesday, Nov. 8. Need a ride? Call Project CAR, 332-2777, by 9 a.m. Monday, Nov. 13.

## FLC serves at The Banquet!

First Lutheran Church will be serving dinner at The Banquet on Tuesday, Nov. 14. A large crew is needed – 6-8 workers at 2 p.m., and 40 workers from 5:15 – 8 p.m. Young people are welcome; age 13+ can work in the kitchen, those younger in the dining room. Please contact Betty DeBerg at [betty.deberg@uni.edu](mailto:betty.deberg@uni.edu).



### Births

**June 6** Richmond T. Phocole, son of Saah and Vivian Phocole

**July 20** Kessler Jordan MacRandall, son of Jordan and Megan MacRandall

**Aug. 25** Emilia Anne Paulus, daughter of Evan and Elizabeth Paulus

### Baptisms

**Sept. 10** Lucas Michael Derrick, son of Troy Derrick and Ashley Hotchkin-Derrick

**Sept. 30** Emilia Anne Paulus, daughter of Evan and Elizabeth Paulus

### Deaths

**Sept. 11** Tina Fechner

**Sept. 12** Clifton Cronkhite

**Sept. 18** Billie Greenfield

**Sept. 19** Jean Paisley

**Sept. 23** Charles Kessler

## Church Council

### Officers/Executive Committee

Brian Aamlid..... President  
Aaron Ellingsen..... Vice President  
Eric Severson..... Treasurer  
Mindy Moore..... Secretary  
Pr. John Christopherson..... Senior Pastor

### Council Representatives

Alma Kallesen..... Adult Discipleship  
Gayle Johnson..... Caring Ministry  
Colleen Kokenge..... Evangelism, Mission & Outreach  
Deb Nelson..... Financial Services  
Marcia Huffman..... FLCW/WELCA  
Brad Thompson..... Media  
Julia Kramer..... Member-at-Large  
Diane Atchison..... Member-at-Large  
Maria Neely..... Member-at-Large  
Lyle Eidsness..... Property  
Tim Heinemann..... Stewardship  
Suzanne Willadsen..... Worship and Music  
Ben Ready..... Youth and Family

## First Lutheran Church Directory

### Pastoral Staff

(203) Dr. John Christopherson... Senior Pastor  
(210) Rev. Lars Olson..... Executive Pastor  
(214) Rev. Katherine Olson\*... Associate Pastor  
(209) Jeff Backer..... Intern Pastor  
(202) Rev. Bob Chell\*..... Visitation  
(202) Rev. David Houck\*..... Visitation  
(202) Rev. Roger Noer\*..... Visitation  
(202) Rev. Dennis Tranberg\*..... Visitation  
(202) Rev. Dave Johnson..... Emeritus

### Administrative Staff

(202) Donna Jahr..... Secretary to the Pastors  
(236) Marilyn McNeill..... Church Administrator  
(201) Judi Mueller\*... Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary  
(201) Cleo Sorensen\* Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary  
(201) Sandy Rieck\*... Receptionist/Mbr. Secretary

### Caring Ministries

(202) Cheryl Satterlee\*... Wedding Coordinator

### Financial Services

(211) LaVonne Wolf..... Financial Specialist

### Media Ministries

(252) Susan Bell... Communications Coordinator  
(213) Jared Callahan\* Communications Assistant  
(236) John Cerwinske\*... Sound Board Technician  
(213) Kathy Hein\*..... Broadcast Director  
(213) Garrett Masters\*..... Broadcast Director  
(213) David Palmer\*..... Broadcast Director  
(213) Hons Oakland\*..... Broadcast Director  
(213) Tanner Wangness\*..... Broadcast Director

### Facilities

(201) Dave Wilson..... Facility Manager  
(201) Rick East..... Custodian  
(201) Jeff Hartnett..... Custodian

### Worship and Music Ministries

(260) Zachary Rygiel..... Director/Organist, FLYGHT and Jubilant Singers Director  
(261) Shirley Barlow\*... Administrative Assistant  
(261) Donna Hamilton\*..... Accompanist  
(261) Dr. Jerry Hanson\*... Dir. of Music Emeritus  
(261) Ali Hoffman\*... Youth Handbell Director  
(261) Marcia Kittelson\*..... Organist Emerita  
(261) Bonnie Lindgren\*... Carol Choir Director  
(261) Dr. Paul Nesheim\*... Adult Choir Director and Women's Choir Director  
(261) Larry Olson\*... Contemporary Worship Coordinator  
(261) Mary Ryrholm\*... Agape Ringers Director  
(261) Sue Severson\*..... Accompanist  
(261) Pam Sonnichsen\* Instrumental Coordinator

### Youth and Family Ministries

(204) Marnie Dahle Backer..... Director  
(228) Nancy Henriksen\*... Nursery Attendant  
(228) Gayle Johnson\*... Nursery Attendant  
(228) Irma Rodriguez Leon\* Nursery Attendant  
(238) Heather Smith..... Children's Minister  
(228) Kris Stark\*..... Nursery Coordinator  
(228) Samantha Stark\*... Nursery Coordinator  
(235) Elias Youngquist..... Youth Minister  
(228) Kristy Zuraff..... Administrative Assistant

( )=Direct dial phone extensions \*Part-time

**Main phone:**.....(605) 336-3734  
**Direct dial:**.....(605) 339-1983  
**Toll-free:**.....(800) 425-9899  
**Fax:**.....(605) 336-8370  
**Pastoral emergency:**.....(605) 610-9431  
**Custodian cell:**.....(605) 351-8281  
**Project CAR:**.....(605) 332-2777

# Peace to you and grace from Him

## Celebrate Advent, Christmas and Epiphany at First Lutheran

By Zachary Rygiel, Director of Music



How would you explain the season of Advent to a visitor? An explanation might go like this: "Well the color changes to blue on the altar, and there is a wreath added.

We light another candle every week and garland is put up in the sanctuary." These observations would work at the beginning of worship. Blue is a soothing color. Candle-lighting and garland remind us that Christmas is right around the corner.

Ten minutes later, words from the prophet Isaiah, together with Jesus' words from the gospel of Mark, are read by a pastor. Our picture of Advent is interrupted.

The prophet writes: "We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away" (Isaiah 64).

Jesus says: "But in those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not

give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father... And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake" (Mark 13).

How would you explain Advent now? Isaiah's words are anything but soothing, and far removed from Christmas. Jesus addresses the end times and urges his disciples to "wake up!" In a world that begins decorating department stores for the Christmas season in October, why would we bother celebrating Advent?

Since the fourth century, Christians have set aside the weeks leading to our Lord's birth for repentance and preparation. As the prophet writes: "All our righteousness deeds are like a filthy cloth." We cannot stand before our Lord on our own merit. However, Christian repentance is marked also with hope and confidence, as we trust God's promise to send a Savior and return to judge the living and the dead.

In an effort to support the scripture texts chosen for Advent and mark the weeks leading to Christmas as a time of preparation, Advent worship at First Lutheran will look and feel different this year. Rather than Christmas Music Sunday and Bells of Christmas, musicians and pastors have planned an evening service of Lessons and Carols for the Advent season. As church musicians and pastors, we know this is a change to a long-standing tradition at First Lutheran. There may even be a sense of loss because of this change, and it is not a decision we make without great thought and care. This change will help us more fully trace the

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons in their entirety. These worship services will include much of what made past celebrations unique to this congregation.

On Dec. 10, at 6 PM, we will worship with the Sioux Falls community in anticipation of our Lord's birth and return on the last day. Together with First Lutheran choirs, bell ensembles, orchestra, and vibrant hymn singing, we will hear and sing of God's promise to redeem His people.

Consider a few more words about Advent and our reason for celebration. When Jesus speaks about the end times, he exhorts his followers to "watch" and "keep awake!"

For what do we watch and prepare during Advent? It is not simply a time to prepare for Christmas. Just as the prophetic voices of Isaiah could not prepare the world for the birth of Christ, no amount of watching or waiting will prepare us for the last day when "the sun is darkened and stars fall from the sky." Even Jesus says "no one knows the day or the hour" of final judgment. What a strange word God gives!

The truth is, our Lord has prepared us for Christ's return with his forgiveness and mercy. Through repentance, God the Father prepares us well to receive the gift of his Son. Advent is a time to "wake up" and be alert to the joys of life in Christ now, and those promised in the life to come. Today, our Lord gives us his Word preached and given in the sacraments. We are given the very Son of God in response to our cry for salvation.

Why do we celebrate Advent? During this season, our faith and trust in God is renewed as we hear of one who has come into the world and promises to come again!



### Come Celebrate with us

**"Peace to You and Grace from Him" Advent Service of Lessons and Carols**  
Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m.  
Choirs, bells, orchestra, and vibrant congregational singing anticipate the arrival of our Lord.

**Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve**  
Sunday, Dec. 24, at 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, and 9:30 p.m.  
Flute, violin, brass, timpani, organ, and choirs proclaim the birth of Christ.  
Note: We will hold one morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 24 to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

**Epiphany of Our Lord - Festival of Light**  
Saturday, Jan. 6, at 6 p.m.  
Trace the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany story with brass, timpani, flute, organ, choirs, and tableau. We celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord and conclude with the visit of the magi to the Christ-child.



*Adoration of the Magi*, 1481, Leonardo da Vinci

## Financial Services



### Gifts and memorials

#### Gifts to the Foundation:

##### In Honor of:

Pr. Jim Christopherson's retirement:  
Gary & Shirley Barlow, Marilyn McNeill

##### In memory of:

Opal Barnes: Paul & Barb Halstenson  
Lyn Oyos: Cheryl Satterlee  
Jean Paisley: Dorothy Grevlos

##### Gift to Caring Ministry in memory of:

Peggy Eagan: Mr. & Mrs. John Kinkead

##### Gift to FLCW Quilters in honor of:

Gladys Halstenson birthday:  
Steve & Doris Bushard

##### Gift to Media Ministry in honor of:

Don & Joyce Helberg:  
Pr. Leroy & Elaine Nevin

##### Gift to Media Ministry in memory of:

Opal Barnes: Roxanne Aronson, First Lutheran Church Women,  
Mrs. Marvin Halstenson  
Clifton Cronkhite:  
Pr. Leroy & Elaine Nevin  
Peggy Eagan: Country Club Estates, First Lutheran Church Women, Frances Kilen,  
Orrin & Pat Townswick

Tina Fechner: Mary Ann Hallberg  
Evelyn Gill: First Lutheran Church Women

Orlie Hjellming: Julie Greenfeld, Mr. & Mrs. John Kinkead, Kevin & Debra A. Nelson, Hazel Stahl

Hazel Miller: Jeff & Edna Husman  
Don Minor: Bob & Betty Gednalske

Lyn Oyos: Shirley Stenseth  
Kathy Ross: First Lutheran Church Women, Shirley Stenseth

Charlene Rust: First Lutheran Church Women

Anna & Iver Spilde: Mary Ann Hallberg  
Bev Stoeckmann: James Stoeckmann

Ray Stordahl: Don & Flo Toft

Leonard Stahl: Roger & Bev Lamp

Mary Thsodosen: Doug & Carol Uthe  
Melissa Winstead: First Lutheran Church Women

#### Gift to Music Ministry

##### Organ Fund in honor of:

Pr. Jim Christopherson: Marv Widmann

##### Gift to Music Ministry

##### Organ Fund in memory of:

Eunice Quamen: Cheryl Satterlee

##### Gift to Youth Ministry in memory of:

Bob Meerdink: Cheryl Satterlee

## Media Ministry



### Media broadcast sponsors August – September

First Lutheran Church's worship can be seen every Sunday at 11 a.m. on KSFY, KPRY and KABY in South Dakota, southwest Minnesota, northwest Iowa and northeast Nebraska. A live radio broadcast of worship is aired Sundays at 8 a.m. on KELO-FM, 101.9.

#### KELO broadcast sponsored:

Aug. 6: In remembrance of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their daughters, Robin, LeAnne and Sarah.

#### KSFY telecast (fully sponsored unless noted otherwise):

Aug. 6: In remembrance of Bob and Margaret Doescher's wedding anniversary by their family and friends.

Aug. 13: In loving memory of Richard W. Hass by Jan, family and friends.

Aug. 27: In loving memory of our sister, Edie Boomsma and our nephew, Tory Boomsma given by Elaine Spitzer and Ella Spitzer.

Sept. 10: In loving memory of Bill Kost by his wife Janice, family and friends.

Sept. 17: In memory of Lloyd Osthus by his wife Jean and family.

Sept. 24: In memory of former First Lutheran choir members Howard Hagen, LaVonne McElroy, Julia Simons, and Wally and Alicemae Steele through the memorial gifts of family and friends.

#### KSFY closed captioning sponsored:

Aug. 6: In memory of Cora Boneff through earnings from a bequest she made to the First Lutheran Church Foundation.

Aug. 13: In loving memory of Don Nelson who would have turned 91 years old on August 15th by his wife Iola and family.

Sept. 3: In loving memory of Donna Gallant by Dianna and Greg Spath.

#### Sponsorships available

Worship broadcasts are made possible by supporters from all around the country. To learn more about sponsoring a radio broadcast, telecast or closed captioning in honor of, or in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special life event, please call Donna Jahr at (605) 339-1983, ext. 202. Donations of any size will help the broadcast ministry. Dates for future months not listed may be available. Please call for additional dates throughout the year.

**KELO radio broadcast sponsorships** (\$150) available for Dec. 10 and 31.

**KSFY telecast sponsorships** (\$1300) are available for Nov. 5 and Jan. 7, 14 and Jan. 21.

**Closed captioning sponsorships** for the weekly KSFY telecasts (\$140) are available on Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, Christmas Eve, and 31; Jan. 21.

Un-sponsored broadcast, telecast and closed caption dates are made possible in part through gifts and memorials to First Lutheran Church Media Ministries.

## Evangelism, Mission and Outreach Ministries (EMO)



### One-Year thank you

By Rebel Hurd, SAM, Mission Developer



As the one year anniversary of Church on the Street's (COTS) office being housed in First Lutheran is upon us, I reflect on the gratefulness of the gifts that have transpired with it. Being housed here has not only been very convenient for our ministry and members, it has fostered the ability to share daily happenings of this powerful ministry with both staff and members of First Lutheran, and to be able to partner in many ways. There are many facets of the partnership with First Lutheran. Unfortunately, I am the only one that gets to see the whole puzzle put together.

For example, the FLC Youth and Family have been active in COTS, nearly every month. Whether it has been stuffing Easter eggs, packing purses with love for ladies on the street, creating meals for our newly housed members from the leftover Wednesday Night Meals, making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and delivering them during our street ministry, writing compassionate notes with Bible verses to be added to hygiene kits, creating Baptismal baskets for the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, joining us in our Health and Healing event and purchasing and wrapping Christmas gifts for our members. I could go on and on.

The WELCA ladies hosted the COTS Easter Worship, provided snacks, invited us to share this ministry with their entire group and have left many notes of support in our office. The FLC Quilters have shared their skills and gifts by making a layette for a baby living out on the streets and have donated many gifts of warmth. The Men in Mission gifted us with funds to purchase hand warmers, gloves and ministry supplies as well. Additionally, the FLC Prayer group has done an amazing job of keeping COTS on the list for prayers.

Finally, we have partnered with the Evangelism, Mission and Outreach Board in reaching our neighbors through the Multi-Cultural Center's Prayer Bus, New member events, sharing First Friday events with our members, Rock Around the Block Party, and are looking forward to a Sleep Out event in the near future. As we enter a new year of partnership, please hear us say, THANK YOU and we Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!

Cheerfully in Christ,

Rebel



### FREE Coffee and Prayer celebrates a milestone!

The ministry of the drive-thru FREE Coffee and Prayer recently celebrated a milestone of having served over 1,000 cups of coffee, juice, or bottled water!

Each Wednesday morning, volunteers are here from 7:30 – 8:30 to greet people as they stop, offer a beverage, and offer a short prayer to get the morning going.

We consistently have prayers with folks from First Lutheran, and with many non-FLC people that just drive by, see the signs, and pull through. Much of the staff of FLC also looks forward to being greeted at the door and starting their day with a prayer for them. Many comment that it is the best way to start their day!

Please stop by some Wednesday morning!



### Blessings for day Laborers A new ministry opportunity

By Doris Bushard

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last" (Matthew 20:16). Thus concludes the parable of the land owner and the workers in the vineyard, and the Gospel that Pastor Katherine preached on Sept. 24. During the Wednesday Bible study on Sept. 20, this passage was deliberated, and questions were raised concerning day laborers in Sioux Falls who show up at organizations such as People Ready in the early morning, looking for a day's work. Are these laborers anxious for work? Are they battling hunger? Do they need better community support to make it from "marginally employed" to "fully employed?" As a result of this discussion, some concerned participants gathered to discuss ways to offer a blessing to such individuals.

And so the ministry "First Morning Blessings" has begun, with support from Bible Study participants, as well as the church's Caring Ministry and Evangelism, Mission and Outreach departments. Our purpose is to show love, support and kindness to those who face each day with the anxiety of hoping to find employment. We offer blessings in the form of donuts or other breakfast foods which we are able to obtain at a discount (or for free) from various businesses around town, as well as water bottles donated through First Lutheran Church which bear our church logo and worship times.

We are looking for more volunteers interested in supporting this ministry with prayers, financial contributions or volunteer time. Our volunteers make deliveries to the employment agency during normal business hours, to be served the next day early in the morning.

We believe that all blessings of life are first given to us by a gracious God. First Morning Blessings seeks to offer a blessing to others as a community of faith, made alive by this simple truth! To get involved, contact Doris at [doris.bushard@live.com](mailto:doris.bushard@live.com) or Gene at [emerick@sio.midco.net](mailto:emerick@sio.midco.net).

### November Special Offering - camperships

By Cindy Moegenburg, Former EMO board member

At this time of the year our youth begin planning for the next summer's camp opportunities. Even now in the later years of my Christian journey, I have fond memories of my church camp experiences which started in 1959! The friendships, counselors, being away from home, all the fun activities – swimming, canoeing, games, horseback riding, crafts, music, campfire sing-alongs and vesper services, as well as beginning to understand what it means to be a Christian – are just some of the memories that have stayed with me. My youth camp experiences have had a lifetime impact which I'm sure many of you can recall!

Even back then we had a "camp bank" at church where we saved money to attend camp. First Lutheran has a similar program for our campers where each family is encouraged to contribute towards the cost of camp and do some fundraising throughout the year. The Hy-Vee card sales is an easy way to help raise funds for camp. Five percent of the cards value can go to the student's camp account – \$100 in card sales gives the student \$5 in his or her account. Ask a First Lutheran youth next time you need Hy-Vee cards or stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings to purchase grocery cards. Cards are also available Monday through Friday during church office hours. Earning a portion of the camp fees gives the student ownership.

First Lutheran also provides financial assistance to those who are unable to afford the full cost of a summer camp. An application is available upon request from the Youth and Family office. Included on the form with the amount being requested is a space for the student to write a sentence or two on why he or she would like to attend camp. It is the desire of First Lutheran Church that all who wish to attend camp are able to do so.

On behalf of this important ministry for our youth, please consider a gift to the November special offering to support our church camping programs. I can guarantee it will have a positive impact on their Christian journey. Thank you for your support and consideration.

*Special offering envelopes are included with your regular offering envelopes. If you do not have an envelope please bring your donation to the Information Desk at church or visit [flcsf.org/give](http://flcsf.org/give) to make an online donation.*

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The church office  
will be closed on  
Thanksgiving and  
Friday, Nov. 24.



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