

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Office hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm
Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed.
www.flcnorthwood.org

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Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus

January 2025

Address Service Requested

* We need your help. If you can commit to serve as an usher on a regular basis, please contact the church office to get on the schedule. Yes, training is available.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
January 5	David & Sharron Petznick	Dani Gentz	TBD	Rugland family	Amaya Rugland Brianna Perkins
January 12	Russ & Delores Knudson	Madelyn Midtgaard	TBD	Abrams family	Bryck Abrams
January 19	Lee & Becky Okerlund	6 th Graders	TBD	TBD	Bryck Abrams
January 26	Randy & Laure Buehrer	Gary Nerlien	TBD	Urbatsch family	Ivy Urbatsch Amaya Rugland

Communion Set up: TBD

Altar Candles: TBD

Share Shoppe
Saturday, January 4th

PASTOR'S PAGE

Jeremiah 29:11

For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

(Have you ever wondered, God, is this what you had in mind?)

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Have you ever wondered, God, could you get a bit closer? I need you!)

These two passages rank high on my list of favorites and are frequently referenced. What are your go-to verses? How about favorite hymns. My favorite is “my life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation how can I keep from singing.”

The New Year is beginning full of hope and excitement because God is walking with each of us each and every day. I don’t have plans for a specific resolution other than living with a song in my heart and on my tongue.

What are your plans for this new year? Here are some suggestions:

- Strengthen your private devotional life.
- Take time to read the Bible and pray each day because it is as important as eating right and exercising daily. Prayer is a wonderful time to pray for the needs of others. And prayer is a good place to ask for God’s direction in life.
- What are the gifts that God has given you?
- What new and exciting focus is God calling you to?
- Where will you proclaim God’s presence and witness to Jesus Christ in your life?
- Where will you be the hands and feet of Christ this year?
- How will you give thanks for all God has done for you?

Be brave and write down your plan and share it with someone you trust who will be your accountability partner.

Our journey of faith is an important part of balance in our lives – but it doesn’t just happen to you. It involves you actively doing your part in worship, prayer, learning, sharing, giving of time and talents, faithful stewardship – all those things which come to us as a gift from God. Make a commitment to walking daily with Jesus and you will find the journey exciting!

In Christ,
Pastor Becky

DECEMBER PASTORAL ACTS

Wedding

Barickman/Chicos 12/7/24

Funeral

Margie Davis 12/19/24

YOUTH NEWS

What a busy month we have had down in the Youth room over December. We started out the month with a lesson on how God has created all of us as individuals and we need to focus on who and what God wants us to be (Romans 12:2). We then had a night learning about pain (mental, physical and emotional) and how God wants us to deal with it (Romans 8:18). At the end of the month, we had a combined Jr + Sr High Christmas party, with lots of fun, goofy presents, and reading of the Christmas story.

We started up Senior High Bible Study on Monday nights at the end of November. We've met 4 times so far and have had lessons that focused on 2 Timothy 2, Ephesians 4, Psalms 9, and James 1. I've led two of the lessons so far to give an idea of how to do them, and the kids have led 2 so far. It's a great experience letting them take control and we've had lots of great discussions with lots more questions. Excited to see where this group goes in the future.

The day school let out for Christmas break we had a Junior High + 6th grade lock-in. These nights are always a fun time and allow the kids more time to just be here and a part of what is going on. Always thankful for the Senior High kids and a few college ones that came to help chaperon the night – and a HUGE thank you to Pastor Becky who showed up at 5:00 AM so I could go home and catch some sleep. We'll be having the Senior High lock-in on New Years Eve. That night we'll also have Youth at 7:00 for those who aren't planning on staying the whole night. With New Years Day happening on a Wednesday, we'll have a more laid-back movie night in the Youth room for Senior High at 7:00pm.

We're trying something new for Junior High with the new year. We're going to allow current 6th Graders to start attending on Sunday nights at 6:30pm. Attendance has been lower than normal this year, so we thought we'd try something a little different and let the next class show up a few months early.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Becky in on vacation through January 11. With that in mind, Communion Sunday will be January 12th. Worship on January 5th will be an Epiphany celebration.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Margie Davis who passed away on Thursday, December 12th. Her funeral was held at Deer Creek Valley on Thursday, December 19th at 11:00 am, with the visitation prior to the service.

There will be no Sunday school on January 5th. We will resume class on Sunday, January 12th.

There will be an Altar Guild meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 4pm.

Confirmation and Inspire will begin again on Wednesday, January 15th.

On Sunday, January 19th, we welcome Pastor Matt Larson of the SEMN Synod. Pastor Larson will preach at each church and following the service at DCV he will meet with the joint council at DCV.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make our Advent Season and Christmas celebrations wonderful services. This includes everyone who was involved in the Sunday School Christmas program and Fellowship after church. A huge thank you, to all who were involved in this years Choir Candlelight service: the choir, all musicians, choir directors and to those who served, and baked all the goodies for the gathering after.

Thank you, for all the cards and gifts I have received during this Christmas season. Your kindness is appreciated. -Pastor Becky

Thank you to Gary Nerlien for leading worship on Sunday, December 29th for our Hymns and Carols Service.

The deadline for all committee reports is Friday, January 3rd. . If you have any questions, please call or email Christa at christa@flcnorthwood.org or 641-324-2984.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of both First Lutheran and Deer Creek Valley, will be held on Sunday, January 26th at their regular worship time. Each church will have a brief service followed by their meeting.



We are accepting applications/resumes for the position of Building Manager. This is a part-time position that will begin March 17th with a two-week overlap with the current Building Manager. Job description is available in the church office.



Poinsettias



*In Memory of Hellen Holstad,
given by First Lutheran Altar Guild*

*In Memory of Wanda Hoffman,
given by Raymond Hoffman*

*In Memory of Cayleigh Pepper,
given by FLC Youth Group*

*In Memory of Gabriel Wheeler,
given by Kris & Jayne Wheeler*

*In Memory of Loved Ones,
given by Russell & Delores Knudson*

*In Memory of Loved Ones,
given by Carol Liljedahl*

*In Memory of Eli Benjamin Olson
given by Keith & Fran Olson*

*In Memory of Duane Thompson,
given by Jan & Family*

*In Memory of Arnold Griffith
given by Linda Griffith and family*

*In Memory of family & friends, for a blessed Christmas
given by David & Sharron Petznick*

*In Memory of Loved Ones,
given by Dennis & Janet Reeder
and Dan & Carolyn Reeder*

*In Memory of Ron Wangen,
given by Judy Wangen*

*In Memory of Chuck & Avis Lehman
given by Patty, Dave, Lisa & Mary Irons*

*In Memory of Our Loved Ones,
given by Gary & June Nerlien and Family*

*In Memory of Jim Dahle
given by Sonya Dahle, Jason, Joel and families*

*In Memory of Bill & Doris Erdman
given by Tom & Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Alice & Wendell Watts
given by Tom & Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Jim Watts
given by Tom & Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Loved Ones
given by Tom & Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Giles & Zora Crane, LaDon Crane, Dick Crane,
Bob Crane and LizAnn Crane
given by Judy Wangen*

*In Memory of Sharyl Nestor, Jeanette Knutson, Gary Knutson, Cornell & Illa Knutson
given by Tim Knutson*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**



**Regular Council Meeting
November 19, 2024
First Lutheran Church - Northwood**

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion - Nikkole Koenig for Kimberly

Presidential Correspondence - Nikkole Koenig

Organ tuners have been to church to service organ.

Secretary's Report - Nikkole read through minutes and no corrections were made.

Treasurer's Report - Jan

Shared we are ahead \$70 for the month and will present more discussion during the budget portion.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky

Will be attending "Festival of Homiletics" May 12 through May 15, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia. This will fulfill her continuing education for fiscal year 2025.

Pastor Becky shared her interest in Lilly Foundation. The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program provides opportunities for Pastors to renew and reflect by providing grants up to \$60,000 to offset cost to the church for clergy renewal.. This would include a 3 month sabbatical in 2026 with interest in returning to Hungary or Dayspring Children's Village in South Africa with Kim Katuta. Deadline to apply is March 2025. Pastor Becky spent time researching and watching a webinar about the foundation.

Motion to support and apply for grant was made by Judy and 2nd from Kris. Motion carried.

- Looking ahead to next summer dates are
 - Day Camp June 9-13, 2025
9 AM - 12 PM – Again finishing the day at school for lunch as the school had a 2 year grant for summer lunches.
 - Lifefest July 9-13, 2025
 - ChurchWide Assembly July 28-August 2, 2025
Phoenix, AZ

Motion to accept all reports Mariah Ballantyne with 2nd from Judy. Motion carried.

We Present our Offering

Finance - Jan

Currently working on the budget with Matt and Pastor Becky. Jan will be looking further into the Portico as the employees portion also showed on report. She will be changing the budget to reflect this change. Would like to up the insurance to \$16,000 and consider a 1.5-2% wage increase.

First Lutheran Financial Update

November 2024

Income	\$29,528.81
Electronic Income	\$2,940.99
Expense	\$22,012.34
End of Month	\$10,457.46

YTD as of November

Income	\$155,417.29
Electronic Income	\$36,129.42
Inspire	\$295.17
Other Income	\$1,938.04
Use of Church	\$790
Expense	\$214,967.78
End of Month	(\$20,397.86)

November General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 13,265.26
PASTOR'S MILEAGE	\$ 1,768.75
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 49.55
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 122.29
UTILITIES	\$ 1,345.45
TELEPHONE	\$ 216.25
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 723.24
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00
INSURANCE	\$ 4,027.75
MISC. EXPENSE	\$ 60.00
 TOTAL EXPENSES	 \$ 22,012.34
INCOME	\$ 32,469.80
NET	\$ 10,457.46

Judy would like to write a grant to the trust fund to help pay for the insurance. This would help us get back into the "green". This would also help us with the training expense of a new building manager as we would have 2 on payroll for a short time.

Worship - Note from Kimberly

They discussed what to do with the \$2000 in account. They will be looking into purchasing new choir robes as several are in need of repair and also updating some of the Christmas decorations.

Russ, Delores and Kimberly will be decorating for Christmas on Sunday.

Christmas Services:

First Lutheran

Christmas Eve Service is 4:30 pm

Christmas Day Service is 10:00 am.

Deer Creek Valley

Christmas Eve at 7:30 pm with fireworks

Next meeting will be January 7th

Inspire - Kevin

It has been a slow start and attendance has still been low. He has noticed more families attending which is great. The group is working on some Christmas music. The band will be back as some of the students are able to help again. No service week of Thanksgiving.

Stewardship - Pastor Becky

Have seen an increase in giving with the QR code cards in the pews. Pastor Becky is trying to be more direct in her sermons and information. The Polka Service is set for this Sunday.

Property - Kris

Pastor updated that Thofson's Plumbing and Heating repaired the water heater at the parsonage. Also, the oven was replaced as it has not been working. Would like to explore a grant from the WCDA to update security and install automatic locks on the doors. This would help eliminate someone having to unlock/lock the church daily. The committed will come back with some quotes.

Youth - Weston

High school attendance is still great with high numbers. Held an election party which was fun. Junior High youth has very low attendance.

There will be 2 lock-ins coming up:

- High school - New Year's Eve
- Junior High - December 20th

Mission - Gina/Pastor Becky

Nothing to report.

Pastor Becky shared that the trust fund would like to have committee members/members write grants in the future.

Fellowship - Judy

Would like some help serving brunch after Polka Service. Looking further into doing a ham ball fundraiser around Easter.

Concerns for the Present

Copy of the new job description for the building manager was shared. Starting wage would hopefully be around \$15-16 after looking at similar jobs in the area. Will need to start getting the word out.

New Members:

Christina Stromley
Deanna Luedtke

Tom & Melissa Clagett and 2 children

Motion to approve new members Kris and 2nd from Kevin. Motion carried.

New Members/Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals

New members: Christina Stromley, Deanna Luedtke,
Tom & Melissa Clagett and 2 children

Funerals: Avis Lehman - October 25

Weddings: None

Baptisms: Opal Walk - November 10

Communion Servers

December 1- Nikkole, Kevin

December 15 - Mariah, Weston, Kris

December 24 - Weston, Kris, Nikkole

December 25

Bread - "The body of Christ given for you."

Wine - "The blood of Christ shed for you."

What to say to Children (hand on head) - "Jesus loves you"

We go out in God's Name

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mariah and 2nd from Judy. Motion Carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting December 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

First Lutheran Missions

November 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 149.59
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 326.39
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 200.00
Youth Fund	\$ 156.99
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$ 107.52
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 42.44
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 69.94
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 119.12
TOTAL	\$ 1,420.20




November Memorials

General Fund - \$500 Fred and Stella Stehn



- 1) Gretchen Hengesteg, Eric Roerish, Grady Walk, Colby Trenhaile
- 2) Ethan Binnebose, Tristan Hanson, Shelby Mattern, Sawyer Ogea, Diane Ubben
- 3) Michael Read
- 4) Chase Boyden
- 5) Michelle Schulz
- 6) Bryck Abrams, Kristen Null
- 7) Stephanie Harmon
- 8)
- 9) Sandra Sime
- 10)
- 11) Amy Hennigar, Justin Nerlien
- 12) Roger Odegaard, Joann Ogea, Zoey Andreasen
- 13) Jayson Olson
- 14)
- 15) Connie Fett, Eldora Stehn
- 16) Brian Costello, Dayna Strauss, Landen Nelson, Michelle Petznick, Nolan Senne, Blake Stevens
- 17) Zachary Costello
- 18) Breckan Willier
- 19) Bonnie Roppe, Jason Solberg
- 20) Collin Houg
- 21) Shana Brunsvold, Carl Dralla, Olivia Urbatsch
- 22) Charles Hengesteg, Travis Johnson
- 23) Josh Mattern
- 24) Chad Nelson, Loghan Nelson, Judy Stevens
- 25) Hallie Hanson, Jason Hanson, Dianne Johnson, Emersyn Wahl, Nate Wilder
- 26) Josie Einertson, Sonya Medlang, Michele Schaefer, Matthew Tufte
- 27) Megan Gentz, Atlas Wright
- 28) Barnes Toresdahl
- 29) John Midtgaard, Galen Pixley, Karen Pixley, Thomas Watts
- 30) Sally Aase, Bryden Willier
- 31) Douglas Fallgatter, Tanya Hebrink, Ward Willand

JANUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	2 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	3	4
5 <u>Christmas 2</u> 9:00am: Service with an Epiphany celebration 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	6	7 Manna Truck 6:00pm: Worship Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	8 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	9 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	10	11
12 <u>Baptism of our Lord</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C 6:30pm: JH. Youth	13	14 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	15 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	16 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	17 	18
19 <u>Epiphany 2</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 11:45am: Joint council Mtng. at DCV 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	20	21 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	22 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	23 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	24	25
26 <u>Epiphany 3</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. and Annual Meeting 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	27	28 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	29 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	30 	31	

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