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Permit No. 33

**Office hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm

Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed

**www.flcnorthwood.org**

**Office Phone:** 641-324-2984

**E-mail:** flc@flcnorthwood.org

**First Lutheran Church**

**309 Ninth Street North**

**Northwood, IA 50459**

**First Lutheran Focus December 2022**

Address Service Requested

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**Join us on Wednesday, December 7th, 14th and 21st at 7:00 pm for fellowship, fun, and music!  
 Come as you are!**

**PASTOR’S PAGE**

**Time to Wake Up**

Advent is a season of waking up. Even as the days grow darker, we are awoken to the light of truth about our lives, the world, and, ultimately, God. But no one really *likes* being woken from sleep, real or metaphorical. No one likes being pulled from a cozy blanket to a crowded commute, from dreams to reality, from what’s comfortable and “always has been” to what’s actually happening right now. It’s why when we have pivotal, perhaps painful moments in our lives in which we become aware of something previously hidden, or about which we shed the veil of denial, we refer to them as “wake-up calls.”

Yet it is never God’s intent to hurt us by rousing us from sleep. It is not to punish us for our past mistakes, to expose our inner failings to the world, or to add to the already deep well of shame that so many of us carry. *It is for our good* that God comes to reveal that which was hidden, breaking into our world as human flesh and blood. And it is for our good that, through our baptism, we are able to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14). The divine image is revealed in you, and in every friend and stranger. God knows, loves, and takes delight in each of us.

That is why nations will beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks, and their guns into gravel to build a highway for our God. We won’t *need* to learn war anymore, as the prophet says (Isaiah 2:4), because you can’t raise arms against your own kin, another person in whom the living Christ dwells.

This season is a time for us to awaken to this new reality: at any moment, and at every moment, Christ lives among and within us, helping us rub the sleep out of our eyes, and revealing a different way. Welcome to Advent.

**PASTORAL ACTS - 2022**

**Baptisms:**

**11/20/22 Bentley Keith Eilertson**

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**YOUTH NEWS**

Christmas will soon be here – and with it, many things happening for Youth. A few schedule changes –   
Jr. High Youth will have their Christmas party on Sunday December 18th at 4:30 PM. They will miss Youth on December 25th but will have normal Youth on January 1st. Sr. High will have their Christmas party on Wednesday, December 21st, and normal Youth on December 28th. Both of those nights we will be meeting earlier than normal at 7:00 PM.

During Christmas break we will have the Senior high lock-in on Thursday, December 22nd starting at 4 PM that day, and a Junior high and 6th grade lock-in on Saturday, December 31st which will start at 5 PM that day. Lock-ins will cost $10 per person if signed up early, or $15 the day of and permission slips will be available outside of the Youth Room.

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***A group of people posing for a photo

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A group of people posing for a photo

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**Left: Kenedie Berry, Taylor Foss, Sophie Rye, Weston Willand, Pastor Becky,  
Brady Christianson, Camryn Rheingans, Emersyn Wahl, and Lauren Petznick.**

***Kenedie Claire Berry***

***“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.”***

**Isaiah 43:2**

Daughter of Jonathan and Jessica Berry. She was baptized on   
January 13, 2008 at First Lutheran in Glenville, MN. Her sponsors are Katie Thofson and Michael Thofson.

***Brady Adams Christianson***

***““The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?   
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”***

**Psalm 27:1**

Son of Bradley and Jennie Christianson. He was baptized on May 25, 2008 at United Methodist in Northwood. His sponsors are Ben Hengesteg and Kerby Helgeson.

***Taylor Rae Foss***

***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*****Jeremiah 29:11**

Daughter of Eric and Val Foss. She was baptized on August 18, 2008 at Bethlehem in Myrtle, MN. Her sponsors are Aaron Perleberg and Sandy Mogen.

***Lauren Renae Petznick***

***“When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.”***

**Isaiah 43:2**

Daughter of Kevin and Michelle Petznick. She was baptized on   
February 10, 2008 at First Lutheran. Her sponsors are Chad & Jamie Nelson and Sam & Holly Duncomb.

***Camryn Jean Rheingans***

***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him,   
and he will make straight paths.”***

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Daughter of Tory and Heather Rheingans. She was baptized on October 12, 2008 at First Lutheran. Her sponsors are Kevin & Arlene Myhre and George & Diana Rheingans.

***Sophie Ellen Rye***

***“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”***

**Romans 8:18**

Daughter of Carl and Janet Rye. She was baptized on March 23, 2008 at Elk Creek in Kensett, IA. Her sponsors are Scott Butler and Jesse & Kylie Butler.

***Emersyn Dustie Wahl***

***“For we are what he made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*****Ephesians 2:10**

Daughter of Ryan and Jennifer Wahl. She was baptized on August 8, 2008 at First Lutheran. Her sponsors are Brandon & Lori Evans, Rusty & Jennifer Wahl, Kristen Wagner and Jonathan Penn.

***Weston David Willand***

***“Do not, O lord, withhold your mercy from me;  
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.”***

**Psalm 40:11**

Son of Wayde and Jill Willand. He was baptized on December 9, 2007 at First Lutheran. His sponsors are Sherry & Mike Heideman and Wanda Christensen and Wendell Willand.

**First Lutheran Church Council**

**Regular Meeting**

We Assemble in God’s Name

* Members Present:

We Celebrate our Past

* Presidential Correspondence
  + Dec 11 we will Guest Speaker Rev. Art Zewert will present regarding Lutheran Hospice
  + Organ tuner came on Monday November 7
* Secretary’s Report
  + No changes
* Treasurer’s Report
  + Pastor, Judy Stevens, Matt Johnson and Jan Thompson met this past week.
  + The 2023 budget will be presented at our December meeting.
  + Anticipating a reduction in the health insurance cost during the course of 2023.
  + Planning to keep things the same until income/giving increases.
  + Month of October was the first month with giving in the positive.
  + Through October we have use 81% of estimated budget and are on track for the remainder of 2022.
* Pastor’s Report
  + Pastor conducted a wedding for Megan & Scott Avila, and funerals for Bruce Mogk and Linda Coonrod.
  + 3rd grade Bibles were presented
  + Confirmation
  + Pastor attended ministry workshop based on establishing core values.
  + Pastor is on synod council, and a subcommittee
* **MMSP to approve all reports and minutes. (Janelle Johnson, Kris Kenison)**

We Present Our Offering

* Stewardship
  + At November meeting, discussed a generosity event. Possibly a thank you/appreciation brunch January 22. To thank all those who have contributed time, talent, and treasure to the ministry of FLC.
* Worship
  + Committee met on Tuesday November 8
    - Hymns were selected and piano/organ players were set for the month of November-early December
* INSPIRE
  + Attendance continues to hover around 50-70
  + Continues weekly at 7pm
* Youth
  + Our new youth representative is Weston Willand
  + Youth went to Adventureland
  + JH youth went to Rudd haunted house
* Education
  + Kids singing Dec 18 for Sunday School program
  + Practicing every Sunday for the program between now and then
  + No communion on Dec 18
* Finance
  + Budget will be presented at next meeting
* Property
  + Tuesday Nov 15 we will hear whether FLC received a WCDA grant for solar panels.
* Social Ministry
  + Nothing new to report
* Fellowship
  + No report
* Care Groups (Mary Jo is the liaison for this committee)
  + Revisions and restructuring will be considered in the new year.

Concerns for the Present

* Nominations committee will be meeting soon to plan for the ballot for the annual meeting
* Communion assignment
  + Nov 20–Janelle, Mariah, Nikkole
  + Dec 4–Kris, Mariah, Assisting minister Tim Knutson
* Possibly serving Christmas dinner on Christmas day–Pastor Becky will speak to Thrivent committee about sponsorship and plans
* Committee reports due ASAP for the annual report.
* **MMSP to adjourn (Mariah, Janelle)**

We Go out in God’s Name

* Lord’s Prayer

**Next Council Meeting: December 11**

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| **First Lutheran Missions** |  |
| **January 1 – August 31, 2022** | |
| Bremwood | $ 155.36 |
| Operation Christmas Child | $ 25.82 |
| Education Fund | $ 200.00 |
| Youth Fund | $ 665.00 |
| Youth Campership | $ 220.00 |
| Caring Tree | $ 225.82 |
| Meals on Wheels | $ 120.00 |
| Manna | $ 120.00 |
| Heifer International | $ 188.96 |
| Riverside Bible Camp | $ 80.55 |
| Campers Fund | $ |
| Good Samaritan Fund | $ 125.00 |
| Lutheran Services | $ 1,020.00 |
| Dayspring Children’s Village | $ 115.00 |
| Northern Lights Shelter | $ 245.00 |
| LRH Auxiliary | $ 220.00 |
| **TOTAL** | $ 3,696.51 |

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| **First Lutheran Financial Update** | | | |
| **October 2022** |  | |  |
| Income | $18,152.66 | | |
| Electronic Income | $3,583.18 | | |
| Expense | ($19,861.35) | | |
| End of Month | $1,874.49 | | |
| **YTD as of August 31** | |  |  |
| Income |  | | |
| Electronic Income |  | | |
| Expense |  | | |
| End of Month |  | | |

**October General Budget Expenses**

PAYROLL: $ 15,003.46

E-GIVING EXPENSE $ 70.87

CHURCH MAINTENANCE $ 205.00

PARSONAGE MAINTENANCE $ 173.35

UTILITIES $ 961.16

TELEPHONE $ 215.31

OFFICE EXPENSE $ 1,747.92

PROF. EDUC. EXP $ 85.63

FALL CONFRENCE $ 80.00

WORSHIP $ 742.00

NO. IOWA SYNOD $ 750.00

TOTAL EXPENSES $ (19,861.35)

INCOME $ 21,735.84

NET $ 1,874.49

**Donations**

**$20.00 Lutheran Services of Iowa**

**$225.82 Caring Tree**

**$25.82 Operation Christmas Child**

**$120.00 Manna**

**$120.00 Meals on Wheels**

**Mission Project for December**

**Heifer International**

**December Share Shoppe**

**JULIA Circle will be working October 3rd**

**Staff Phone Numbers**

Pastor Sogge 612-718-9151

Mark Willand 641-390-1032

Troy Bachtle 641-430-8305

Jan Thompson 641-390-0883

Christa Trenhaile 641-390-0484

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**Congratulations to the 2022 Confirmation class:** Kenedie Berry, Brady Christianson, Taylor Foss, Lauren Petznick, Camryn Rheingans, Sophie Rye, Emersyn Wahl and Weston Willand.

**Congratulations** to Levi and Shayna Eilertson on the baptism of their son, Bentley Keith Eilertson. His sponsors are Alex Adams and Keelie Balek.

**Please have your Caring Tree gifts** under the tree by Thursday, December 1st. All gifts will be distributed to families on Monday, December 12th.

**We are looking for a couple people** to help cover the office and answer the phone while Christa is on vacation. Coverage would be from December 19-23 from 9am – 12pm. If you are able to help Call 641-324-2984 or email flc@flcnorthwood.org.

**The Trust Fund** grant application forms are available in the Church Office. Grants are recommended for new ministries, separate and apart from the day-to-day operation of the Church. Please submit your application to the appropriate committee of the church for review and approval. The deadline for committees to submit approved applications to the church office is noon on December 7, 2022. Please contact any Trust Fund member with questions.

**Please take advantage** of calling Thrivent throughout the year or your Choice Dollars are lost. Call by March 30th of each year and direct the dollars to First Lutheran Thrivent Fund. Directions: Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say “Thrivent Choice”. Have your policy number available. A representative will work with you to direct your dollars.

**Year End Offering**- You may leave your 2022-year end contribution in the mailbox attached to the office door if the offices are closed. Please have it in by December 31st if you would like it on your 2022 Contribution Statement.

**Women of Every Age-** For many reasons, most of the Circles of our FLW have disband. Thinking of that, there may be women interested in a simple, informal, relaxed fellowship time with Bible Study. I am inviting you to come “as you are” to my house for just that purpose. To make it convenient for you, I am suggesting two times: **Monday, January 9th at 9:30am or 7:00pm**

We’ll use Gather Magazine’s Bible Study starting with the January issue and we will have a copy for you. The study will begin with a look at the Ten Commandments and how they are pertinent in our lives of faith.

Please call if you can come and which time you prefer. Seriously consider this opportunity.

**Leila Gangstad, 641-324-1149** (you can leave a message) **101 5th Ave N, Northwood, IA 50459**

**Annual Meeting Date and Deadline for Reports**

**The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th at 10:00 am.**

The deadline for all committee reports is Monday, January 9th. The best way to send your reports is by emailing a word, publisher or excel file. We can also use a PDF document or hard copy printed out but it is not ideal and takes more office time to make it work in the report. If you have any questions please call or email Christa at [christa@flcnorthwood.org](mailto:christa@flcnorthwood.org) or 641-324-2984.

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**1.  Kase Bachtle, Andrew Houg, Marlee Rasmusson, Mark Senne**

**2.  Cole Eilertson, Jackson Foss, Jenna Bauers, Truman Hengesteg, Teresa Johnson, Bryce Ogea**

**3.  Jacob Loken**

**4.**

**5. Austin Morris, Emily Tufte, Jeff Vansteenburg**

**6.  Ashley Leegaard, Suzanne Olson, Rylee Watts**

**7.  Debra Brockman, Natalee Lohmann, Max Rugland**

**8.**

**9. Kory Olson, Kathleen Thrond**

**10.  Joseph Bedford, Jessica Berry, Justin Senne**

**11. Tiffany Berg, Sue Bestul, Jacob Krull**

**12.  Tony Fredericks, Addie Rugland,**

**13.  Gary Hanson, Bret Johnson, Carter Thofson, Patricia Trenhaile**

**14. Linda Christianson, Daryl Love, Madelyn Midtgaard**

**15.  Chelsea Boyden, Judith Jorgensen, Bryan Sime**

**16.  Tom Hakes, Jesse Harang, Tyler Hillman, Barbara Trenhaile**

**17.  Jason Adams, Holly Hankins, Bonnie Hengesteg, Frances Olson, Austin Schutz, Joclyn Shackleton**

**18.  Troy Einertson, Kristine Gordon**

**19. Callan Brunsvold, Nalda Zipse**

**20.  Elexis Carrison, Mary Dewitt, Candee Hunchis, Katelyn Thofson, Russell Knudson**

**21.**

**22.  Wade Flattum, Ronald Hengesteg, Janelle Johnson, Mason Thofson, Avery Nielsen**

**23. Rhonda Taylor, O’Brian Tyrrell**

**24.**

**25.  Mary Bachtle, Michael Lee, Carol Van Veldhuizen**

**26. Stephanie Hengesteg, Calli O’Neill**

**27.  David Borcherding, Larry Roerish, Samantha Zipse**

**28.  Jan Mielke, Grayson Pangburn, Megan Avila**

**29.  Larry Foley, Sawyer Hulshizer, Lauren Welty, Gina Solberg**

**30.  Jonathan Berry, Jordan Helgeson, Arlys Reeder**

**31.  Darin Dahlby, Olivia Gentz, Brandon Knutson, Lauren Petznick, Blythe Vandell**

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| **December 2022** | | | | | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|  |  |  |  | **1**  8:30am: Quilting  9:00am: Prayer Gr.  6:30pm: Taekwondo | **2** | **3** |
| **4 Advent 2**  9:00am- Service with H.C.  10:10am- Sunday School  6:30pm- JH. Youth | **5** | **6**  11:00am: Staff Mtng.  6:00pm: Worship Mtng  6:30pm: Bell Choir  7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | **7**  5:15pm: Confirmation  5:30pm: Choir  7:00pm: Inspire  7:50pm: SH Youth | **8**  8:30am: Quilting  9:00am: Prayer Gr.  6:30pm: Taekwondo  7:00pm: Pub Theology | **9** | **10** |
| **11 Advent 3**  9:00am- Service with N.O.  10:10am- Sunday School  10:10am- Church Council  6:30pm- JH. Youth | **12** | **13**  11:00am: Staff Mtng.  6:30pm: Bell Choir  7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | **14**  5:15pm: Confirmation  5:30pm: Choir  7:00pm: Inspire  7:50pm: SH Youth | **15**  8:30am: Quilting  9:00am: Prayer Gr.  6:30pm: Taekwondo | **16** | **17** |
| **18 Advent 4**  10:00am- Service with S.S. Christmas Program and luncheon  3:00pm- LRH Servie  6:30pm- JH. Youth  7:00pm-Candlelight Service | **19**  **Christa is out of the office** | **20**  7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | **21**  3:00pm: Chapel @ M. Court  5:15pm: Confirmation  5:30pm: Choir  7:00pm: Christmas Inspire  7:50pm: SH Youth | **22**  8:30am: Quilting  9:00am: Prayer Gr.  6:30pm: Taekwondo  **SR. High Lock In** | **23** | **24**  **Christmas Eve Worship**  **4:30 pm**  **10:00 pm** |
| **25 Christmas 1**  **Christmas Day Worship with Dinner**  **10:30 am** | **26**  **Office**  **Closed** | **27**  11:00am: Staff Mtng.  7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | **28** | **29**  8:30am: Quilting  9:00am: Prayer Gr.  6:30pm: Taekwondo | **30** | **31**  **JH. Lock In** |