

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

First Lutheran Church
Office Phone 324-2984
Office hours
Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Closed on Fridays
E-mail Address flc@flcnorthwood.org
Web Site www.flcnorthwood.org
Pastor Judy Converse
E-mail Address pastor@flcnorthwood.org
Cell Phone 1-978-808-6780
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Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 33

Address Service Requested

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

December 2017

DECEMBER 3 – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Advent begins on the first Sunday of December this year – also marking the beginning of the church's liturgical year. In celebration of this new beginning, you are invited to worship with us that day and renew your commitment to First Lutheran Church in two ways:

Participate in the 'renewal of vows' – a re-Installation of a Pastor and a re-commitment of the congregation in the covenant between pastor and congregation by Pastor Stephen Brackett, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, and

Make a prayerfully-considered financial commitment to First Lutheran Church for the coming year, fill in the commitment card that you will receive, and bring that card to worship that morning. During the service, you will be invited to bring the card forward and leave it at the altar signifying your intent to give to God through the work of First Lutheran Church. (Look for a letter soon from the church outlining this process.)

Please plan to join us on Sunday, December 3rd at 9:00 a.m.!



Worship Schedule for December 2017

December 3 – Advent 1, Holy Communion, Commitment Sunday, Holy Baptism
December 10 – Advent 2, Service of the Word, Welcome New Members
December 17 – Advent 3, Children's Christmas Program
December 24 – Advent 4, Service of the Word at 9 am,
- Christmas Eve worship and Holy Communion at 4:30 p.m.

December 25 (Monday) – Holy Communion / Christmas Day worship at 10:30 a.m.

December 31 – Christmas Lessons and Carols

From The Pastor's Desk....

Dear friends,
The season of Advent is upon us once again!

There are many reasons for me to love Advent – let me count out a few of them for you!

The BLUE – a color that was always my mom's favorite has become my favorite too. I especially love that deep blue that is typical for our paraments and other seasonal decorations.

The weather – this season falls in the early winter-tide when a dusting of snow is most welcome. The colder and shorter days cause me to be aware of the changes that are part of God's good care for the earth, and they also help me to appreciate our warm homes and buildings all the more.

The waiting – although it sounds a little strange, the Advent season's emphasis on waiting and watching provides a good balance to our world's drive for immediate satisfaction. Waiting teaches patience – not always somethings we choose to learn, yet an important spiritual skill that bears fruit in other times and places.

Part of the waiting involves holding onto this season before jumping into Christmas right away. We can relish the BLUE even as we plan for red and green (and WHITE – the church's color for the Christmas season).

This year we take Advent right up to the doorsteps of Christmas – celebrating the final Sunday of Advent on the morning of Christmas Eve.

I invite you to take time to dwell in the Blue season this year – noticing, waiting, and relishing this season for its gifts to us.

Pastor Judy

THANKS!! THANKS!! THANKS!!

MANY thanks to:

Our Council members who have dedicated time and energy to overseeing the work of First Lutheran Church during this past year!

Our new Council members who were elected (and re-elected) at the Annual Meeting!

Those who have helped prepare and serve at funerals and memorial services, allowing families and friends a space of welcome and hospitality!

Our musicians who dedicate time and skill to lead and present beautiful music for our worship times and other occasions!

Generous givers who continue to provide what is needed to maintain the ministry and mission of First Lutheran Church!

Those who work with our children – teaching, leading music, guiding, and chaperoning – and those who offer a friendship across the generations!

We are the church together! Pastor Judy

“BRING US HOPE”

On Sunday evening, December 17th at 7 pm, the First Lutheran Church Choir will present their annual Candlelight Christmas Service. The theme of the service is “Bring Us Hope”.

The 30 voice choir is under the direction of Lowell Gangstad. The piano accompanists are Leila Gangstad, Loraine Mix, Laure Crippen, and Muriah Reed. The organist is Ryan Hulshizer. Instrumentalists are Laure Buehrer, Lisa Hagen and Laura Crippen.

We invite you to come to this meaningful service of lights and carols to listen and participate as we hear the Christmas story told through music. The choir will sing Christmas selections and the congregations will sing several carols. Scripture, candles, bells instruments, and uplifting organ music will create a joyous evening to remember as we celebrate the birthday of the Christ Child, born to **Bring Us Hope**.

Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall.



YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??

Over the course of the past month we've had a series of lessons and games designed to make the kids think a bit more about the choices they make in life and the consequences of them. Temptation (2 Timothy 2:22)- made us look at how easily it is for us to be tempted and not even know it sometimes. Sin (James 1: 13 – 18)- focused on what is right and wrong and how easily we can loose track of that based off of temptation. Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10 – 18)- let us understand how we can use blessings God has given us to defeat the sin in our lives. Finally, Freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17) -gives us the knowledge that no matter what happens in our lives that it's never to late to turn to God for help.

On November 18th the Jr. & Sr. High students came to the church to give the Youth area a deep cleaning. Throughout the day we accomplished many tasks, including touch up painting the youth room, cleaning out the cupboards, fridge, under the steps, pool table room and camping closet, setting up the Christmas tree, vacuuming out the couches and many other odds and ends.



A change is happening to our annual New Years Eve Lock-In. Over the course of the past couple of years we have had fewer younger kids attending, with most of the kids attending being in 6th Grade. This year we're moving the Jr. High Lock-In to that night and inviting the 6th Graders to attend with them.

With Christmas break heading our way soon, there will be a few changes to our schedule

YOUTH LOCK-IN



- Dec 17 – Jr. High Christmas Party (5:00)
- Dec 20 – Sr. High Christmas Party
- Dec 22 – College Group Day (at Noon)
- Dec 22 – Senior High Lock-In
- Dec 23 – Junior High Youth (Note that this is a Saturday instead of Sunday)
- Dec 27 – Regular Sr. High Youth
- Dec 31 – Jr. High + 6th Graders Lock-In
- Jan 1 – Deeper (College + Sr. High) (5:00)

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE CHANGE



- Wednesday, November 29 – regular confirmation class, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 6 – regular confirmation class, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 13 – Caroling and Party, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 20 and 27 – NO CONFIRMATION CLASS**
- Wednesday, January 3 – Confirmation Class at First Lutheran Church with other confirmation classes from Lutheran churches in our area, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Come celebrate Jesus' birthday with us. The party will be held in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunday School Christmas program on Sunday, December 17th.



All are welcome.

Mission Projects for December



Heifer International

An organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the earth.

Catalog is available in the church office.

First Lutheran Missions

October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018

Caring Tree	\$ 308.82
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 348.82
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 45.00
Brentwood	\$ 5.00
Opportunity Village	\$ 5.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 10.00
Meals on Wheels	\$ 125.00
MANNA	\$ 50.00
Total	\$1,427.64



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

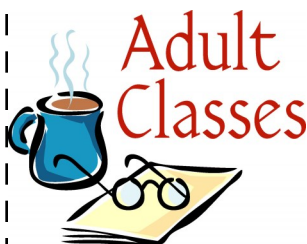
Members and friends of First Lutheran Church received a letter in November notifying them about the Annual Meeting AND giving some information about our Commitment Sunday on December 3rd. Two cards were included with the letter – one (blue to fill out and return) and the other (white) as a reminder to keep.

In light of the discussion at both of the Town Meetings and at the Annual Meeting regarding the spending plan for 2018, **it will be most helpful for everyone to fill out a card. This is the best way to help the Council have some idea of the funds that will be available in 2018 and be able to plan accordingly.**

Reminder: A small (10%) increase in giving by many people would bring us much closer to being able to continue all of the important ministries at FLC.

If a card is not returned by December 3rd, a follow-up letter will be sent to those members and friends as a reminder of this important communication.

Please prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to First Lutheran Church and notifying us of that commitment for this coming year.



Adult Classes

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

A Confirmation Class for adults is beginning in January. I hope to hold this class on Tuesday evenings through the first few months of the year and offer an Affirmation of Baptism opportunity on Pentecost Sunday – May 20th.

If you would be interested in attending this class, please let me know.

Pastor Judy

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas season for most of us is one filled with fun and food and friends. For some people, however, the season brings feelings of sadness and grief over losses – those of the present and past, and possibly those anticipated also.

A Longest Night or Blue Christmas Service is a time to acknowledge those feelings and gather with others to hear God’s message of hope, comfort, and peace.

A Longest Night Service will be offered on Thursday, December 21 – also the Winter Solstice – at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel at First Lutheran Church. The service will include quiet music, prayer, readings, and times of silence. **Please come.**



dreamstime.com

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

“Blessed are you among women” Luke 1:42

Julia	December 4th	1:00 pm	Christmas Party in Fireside Room
Leah	December 7th	9:00 am	Maple Court, Brunch
Lydia	December 6th	12:00 pm	Potluck, Sharyl Ferley’s home
Rebecca	December 13th	12:00 pm	Christmas Party at Signatures
Sarah	December 6th	12:00 pm	Christmas Party at Signatures



Community Christmas Dinner – Christmas Day

Plans are being made to prepare and serve another wonderful Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day following the worship service that morning. The service begins at 10:30 a.m. and dinner will be ready around 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Dinner



Ways to help out:

- ◆ Donations of turkeys or ham are most welcome. Please let the church office know if you leave food in the freezer in the kitchen for this meal.
- ◆ Make a monetary donation for the other fixin’s.
- ◆ We welcome you to help with the preparations for the dinner on Christmas Eve after the morning (Advent 4) worship that day.
- ◆ Volunteers are also needed on the day of the dinner to serve and clean-up.
- ◆ You might want to consider donating to the dinner as a gift from your family to the community.

Thanks!

December Volunteers

5.

Ushers


December 3rd—Scott Halbach, Hayden Halbach, Richard Butler, Samantha Butler
December 10th—Dan Hendrikson, Bernie VanVeldhuizen, Mike & DeAnn Read
December 17th—Doug Fallgatter, David Petznick, Kevin Petznick, Maeghan Petznick
December 17th (7 pm) - Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
December 24th—Harlan & Barb Helgeson and Tony & DeAnna Katcher
December 24th (4:30 pm) - Looking for volunteers
December 25th (10:30 am) - Brian Costello, Dave Capitani, Randy Hengesteg, Scott Hengesteg
December 31st—James, Steph, Kailey, Kennedy & Colby Eskildsen



Greeters

December 3rd—Monte, Cheryl, Paige & Ross DeArmoun
December 10th—David, Chris & Julia Quisley
December 17th—Mitch, Jess, Haddie & Hallie Hanson
December 24th—Gretchen and Emma Hengesteg
December 31st—Jonathan, Jessica, Madison, Kenedie & Charlotte Berry

Coffee Servers

A logo for Coffee Servers featuring a blue coffee cup with steam rising from it. The word "COFFEE" is written in blue above the cup.

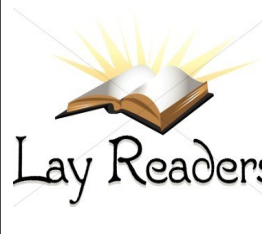
December 3rd—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich and Dawn Bachtle
December 10th—Jan Thompson and Becky Hickman
December 17th—Sharyl Lunde and Jan Wilder
December 24th—Merry Christmas Eve
December 31st—Judy Stevens and Nancy Amundson

Acolytes

December 3rd—Ian Husske and Jason Hanson
December 10th—Nolan Senne and Carly Hengesteg
December 17th—Trace Low and Tyler Mills
December 24th (9:00)—Josh Stevens and Eli Mix
December 24th (4:30)—Madison Berry and Hayden Moore
December 25th (10:30)—Kennedy Christianson and Calli O'Neill
December 31st—Nicholas Hanson and Dylan Tews



Lay Readers

A logo for Lay Readers featuring an open book with rays of light emanating from it. The words "Lay Readers" are written in a stylized font below the book.

December 3rd—Laure Buehrer
December 10th—Jan Thompson
December 17th—Sunday School Christmas Program
December 24th (9:00)—TBA
December 24th (4:30)—Lisa Wangsness
December 25th (10:30)—TBA
December 31st—Numerous Readers

Assisting Ministers

December 24th (4:30)—Peyton Pangburn
December 25th (10:30)—Dennis Johnson

LRH Communion Helper

Shirleen Julson

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Sarah Circle



Offering Collectors/Counters

December 4th—Russ & Delores Knudson
December 11th—Mike Stevens and volunteer
December 18th—Lowell Gangstad and Lee Okerlund
December 26th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson



1. Kase Bachtle, Andrew Houg,
Marlee Nelson, Mark Senne
2. Cole Eilertson, Jackson Foss,
Truman Hengesteg, Teresa Johnson, Bryce Ogea
3. Jacob Loken
4. Steven Olson
5. Austin Morris, Emily Tufte, Jeff Vansteenburgh
6. Ashley Leegaard, Suzanne Olson, Rylee Watts
7. Debra Brockman, Judy Converse, Natalee Lohmann, Guy Patzloff, Max Rugland
- 8.
9. Kory Olson, Kathleen Thron
10. Joseph Bedford, Jessica Berry, Steve Converse, Justin Senne
11. Tiffany Berg, Sue Bestul, Jacob Krull
12. Tony Fredericks, Addie Rugland, Glenn Van Sabben
13. Gary Hanson, Bret Johnson, Carter Thofosn, 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, Arlynn McHenry
19. Callan Brunsvold, Nalda Zipse
20. Elexis Carrison, Mary Dewitt, Candee Hunchis, Katelyn Jaspers, Russell Knudson
- 21.
22. Anna Feley, Wade Flattum, Ronald Hengesteg, Janelle Johnson, Mason Thofson
23. Rhonda Taylor, O'Brian Tyrrell
- 24.
25. Mary Bachtle, Michael Lee, Carol VanVeldhuizen
26. Stephanie Hengesteg, Calli O'Neill
27. David Borcharding, Larry Roerish, Samantha Zipse
28. Jan Mielke, Grayson Pangburn, Megan Storvick
29. Larry Foley, Sawyer Hulshizer, Lauren Severson, Gina Solberg
30. Jonathan Berry, Mary Bloomingdale, Jordan Helgeson, Arlys Reeder
31. Darin Dahlby, Olivia Gentz, Brandon Knutson, Lauren Petznick





December 2017, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story
Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of the foster care system, who fear they will never belong to anyone or have a family to love them.

LSI’s work is Christmas work, shining love, compassion, and light in places of darkness, despair, abuse, neglect, addiction, and loneliness. We could not do this important work without you, and we are so grateful.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Voice for Change

Morgan struggled with anger management before coming to LSI’s Bremwood Residential Treatment Center in Waverly. When she was in stressful situations, she tried to escape her emotions by running away. But she can remember the exact moment she knew she wanted to make a change.

“One day at Bremwood, another resident lashed out at a staff. I was just sitting there thinking this is not the life I want to live,” Morgan says. “This is not me. This is not who I want to be.”

She worked hard to practice her coping skills and soon graduated out of Bremwood. But Morgan wanted to do more to give back and help others.

Morgan, now 19, is going to college for Agricultural Business. She recently took her first international trip to Haiti to study local farming, and she’s already saving money to take a similar trip to Brazil next year.

Morgan turned to LSI once again – but this time, not for herself. Instead, to help others in need: youth just like her who need support, a listening ear and words of encouragement. LSI and Woodhaven Shelter had been there for Morgan during some of her darkest times. Now, she wants to be there for those who need it.

She is now employed as a Youth Associate in LSI’s Woodhaven Shelter! When a new resident comes through the doors, Morgan is there to show them that no matter the odds, they can make a better life for themselves. She is there to help other youth find their path to hope, healing and wholeness.

MEMORIAL

Bertrum Bidne
 \$405.00—Property (Door Opener) Fund

DONATION

\$75.00—Property (Door Opener) Fund
 \$42.00—Property (Kitchen) Fund
 \$430.00—Property (Organ) Fund
 \$100.00—Property (Fireside Room) Fund
 \$217.31—UI Children’s Hospital
 \$83.59 from Sunday School Offering
 \$133.72 from Fair Trade Sales

FLC Financial Update

		Fiscal Year	
		as of October 31st	
	October 2017		
Income	\$16,658.89	Income	\$16,658.89
Expense	\$12,888.03	Expense	\$12,888.03
End of month	\$ 3,770.86	Year to date	\$ 3,770.86

FIRST LUTHERAN OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you need offering envelopes, please stop in or contact the church office.