

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
Parsonage 323-0081

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 33

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FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

January 2018

January 2018 Sunday Worship Schedule

January 7 – Holy Communion – Baptism of Our Lord/ Holy Baptism
January 14 – Service of the Word/ Holy Baptism/ Installation of Council Members
January 21 – Holy Communion
January 28 – Service of the Word



The Core Group of First Lutheran Women is setting up a list of people (both men and women) to either help serve or furnish bars or cake for funerals.



A list will be in the church office for you to sign up for one or both. Please consider helping your church family in this time of need.

AUTOMATIC DOOR OPENER



A donation to cover the automatic door opener bill is given in memory of Keith & Leona Kenison by Brian & Connie Kension.

Confirmation Class WILL MEET

on **JANUARY 3,**

5:30 – 7:30 pm

with confirmation classes from our neighboring Lutheran churches. Our guest speaker will be Kurt Hellmann (he's awesome!) who spent a year in Cambodia as part of the ELCA's YAGM (Young Adult in Global Ministry) program.

From The Pastor's Desk....

THANKS - - - THANKS - - - THANKS

As we end the 2017 calendar year, I am so very grateful for:

the many families, couples, and individuals who have made a financial commitment to First Lutheran for the coming year! (See the information about this in another place in this newsletter.)

the faithful folks who prepare and serve meals for families and friends after a funeral or memorial service. Your warmth and hospitality are a tremendous blessing!

the many gifted musicians – our choir, organists, pianists, instrumentalists, bell-ringers, and soloists, and those who lead them - who have led us and shared with us so much beautiful music in this recent season!

our children – who share the gifts of their voices for singing and reading as they tell the Christmas story – AND for the many adults who helped with their Christmas program and have helped them learn throughout the year about God's love for all people!

the new and returning Council members for 2018 and their time and energy in leading this congregation! AND for those who have 'retired' this year!

generous gifts of food and funds for our Community Christmas dinner – as well as the many hands that set-up, cooked, served, and cleaned-up. It was a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun!

the Worship Committee members who arranged and decorated our church building so beautifully in the Advent and Christmas seasons!

our new automatic opener on the main door of the church – a tremendous asset for many people!

the staff of First Lutheran Church and their dedication to working together on behalf of the congregation!

other projects that will soon be underway at First Lutheran Church thanks to funding through the Worth County Development Authority – a Sound Loop, new kitchen cabinet facing, new carpet, an improved elevator sensor, and repair and new coverings for some of our beautiful stained glass windows!

the many, many people who are present on Sunday mornings to greet, usher, acolyte, read, assist, serve communion, and count our offering!

the many greetings and words of appreciation that I received this month – recognizing our five years together as pastor and people, noting my (BIG) birthday earlier in the month, and celebrating a Merry Christmas too!

the opportunity that I have to serve as pastor at First Lutheran – it's truly a privilege and joy!

Happy New Year and many blessings in 2018!

No cash? Forgot your checkbook?

Use your cell phone!

First Lutheran Church can now receive your financial contribution in two additional ways:

TEXT – send a text to 779-77 with the 'message' flcnw (the letters must be lower-case.) You'll receive a message back with a link to FLC's Pushpay account. This will show you a screen where you can type in an amount to give and whether you want that to be a one-time or a recurring gift. Your gift will be recorded under your name at FLC.

GO TO OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.flcnorthwood.org On your smart phone or computer, you can access the church's website and find the GIVE button. You will be directed to FLC's Pushpay account where you can follow the simple directions to make a contribution.

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

From your pastor –

Steve and I have, for many years, made use of electronic giving – through the one way that was available to us – Simply Giving. Beginning in 2018, we will be giving to First Lutheran Church through our new Pushpay account.

Here's how we will do this:

I receive my salary from First Lutheran on the 15th and last day of the month. Giving my 'first fruits' – a percentage of what I receive off the top and before any other 'bills' are paid – I designate a Biblical tithe (10%) to my church, so that my contribution twice each month will be \$234. That amount will be deducted from our local checking account (on or near the 15th and end of the month) and given to First Lutheran.

I encourage you to check out Pushpay and consider regular giving in this way. It's easy, adjustable, and faithful.

Blessings,
Pastor Judy

YOUTH NEWS

3.

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??

We're in the middle of Christmas break for the college, junior high and senior high students. That means lots of time for them to come and hang out at the church and participate in the many activities that are going on. It's always so great to have our older kids come back from college and share what is going on since they've left. I always get a kick out of the fact that many college freshmen get odd looks from their new friends when they tell them that they “hang out at the church” when they go home. This just isn't a “normal” thing in most places and many college students don't understand why anyone would want to spend any time at a church. We're SOOO blessed to have a congregation that supports the youth of our community. For them to have a safe place to come and hang out, be able to talk about real life issues and faith-for it to not weird or abnormal here. It also makes me sad that there are so many out there in other places where this isn't even an option.

The day before the Children's program at First Lutheran, about 10 of our kids gathered in the kitchen to make up all sorts of goodies to sell after the program. Throughout the day we made dozens of cookies, treats and brownies. We'll use the money raised for events that are coming up this summer. Thanks to everyone who purchased a plate or just donated money. We also sold Milkhouse Candles and have a few leftover. If you wish to purchase one, give me a call, corner one of the kids, or stop into the church office.



On Friday, the 22nd, at noon we had College Aged People Hangout Day at the church. This special day is always one I look forward to. It is a chance for all of our older “kids” to meet up, eat pizza and have great fellowship. In what's becoming very normal for them, I sat alone in the youth room at noon wondering where everyone was. A couple of them showed up around 12:15, a few more around 12:30, then more and more throughout the day. By the time the day had ended I counted over 20 of them that came and hung-out for part of the day. So much fun to see everyone and find out what's going on in their lives.

Later in the day on the 22nd, the Senior High kids gathered at the church for their lock-in. Numbers were down a bit this year, but those that attended had a great night/morning. We spent the night playing a few games, laser tag, and just hanging out—with lots of snacks and food, Many of the college kids stayed after their meeting time to help chaperone. Overall a great time and another chance for me to stay up almost all night. It made me realize I'm not as young as I used to be!!!!



One of the greatest things about the month of December for me is our annual Happy Birthday Jesus Birthday parties. Both Junior and Senior High get to have one night of Youth dedicated to Christmas activities, focusing on the real reason for the season. Every single year is exactly the same, but with a different group of kids, is very different from year to year. We start out with talking about our favorite Christmas memories and then make some paper plate artwork. The 12 Day of Christmas is then sang and acted out along with a game moving candy canes from person to person. We read The Christmas Story out loud and have a special prayer song “The Christmas Song” by Flyleaf. Finally, we end the evening with a goofy present exchange and group photo. This year's events were great to focus on and full of great memories for all involved.

I pray that you had a great Christmas and realize why we celebrate “Baby God” (as one of the little kids called Christ at our Christmas morning service). I also pray for a great year ahead and look forward to all the amazing things God has in store for us all!



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH JANUARY MISSIONS

Riverside Bible Camp

Offering Christian centered ministry to all youth and all ages.

Camperships

Supporting First Lutheran Youth going to camp

Mission money is collected each month from FLW Circles and from our Noisy Offering during worship

Donations may also be dropped off in the slot below the mission bulletin board or the church office.

Financial Commitments for 2018

On Sunday, December 3rd members and friends of First Lutheran Church were invited to make a financial commitment to the church and present that via a 'pledge card' at the time of Holy Communion. Over the next couple weeks, additional cards were received in the church office.

As of December 26, fifty cards have been received. This represents only about 10% of our giving units – those households we list as 'members' of our congregation. The total commitment from those fifty household is \$83,372 – over 1/3 of our approved spending total for 2018.

I encourage anyone who considers themselves members of First Lutheran to make a commitment. A faith commitment is an important spiritual exercise which allows us to reflect on God's gifts to us and the opportunity to give to God through our faith community. It also models our commitment to a growing relationship with God.

Additionally, that commitment helps our church leaders know what will be available so that they can work carefully with those resources.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to our work together in 2018.
Pastor Judy

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



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Kollyns Sue Kortan-November 12th
Ellie Lynne Butler-November 26th
Harrison Russell Vandell-December 3rd

Wedding

No weddings in November or December

Funerals/Memorial Services

Gabriel Mark Wheeler-November 12th
Jerry Olson-November 27th
Bernard Bidne-December 15th

FLC Financial Update

<u>November 2017</u>		<u>Fiscal Year as of November 30th</u>	
Income	\$21,265.02	Income	\$37,933.91
Expense	\$17,456.15	Expense	\$32,610.35
End of month	\$ 3,808.87	Year to date	\$ 5,323.56

FIRST LUTHERAN OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

First Lutheran Missions

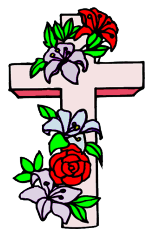
<u>October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018</u>	
Caring Tree	\$ 355.29
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 348.82
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 45.00
Brentwood	\$ 5.00
Opportunity Village	\$ 5.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 10.00
Meals on Wheels	\$ 229.66
MANNA	\$ 154.65
Heifer International	\$ 80.00
Total	\$1,763.41

MEMORIAL

Ronald Shovan and Fred & Stella Stehn
General Fund—\$300
Jerry Olson
General Fund—\$100
Property (Organ) Fund—\$35.00
Bernard Bidne
General Fund—\$195.00

DONATION

Neighbor in Need—\$25.00
Property (Kitchen) Fund—\$100.00
Property (Organ) Fund—\$1,000.00



January Volunteers

Ushers

January 7th—Dan Hendrickson, Bernie VanVeldhuizen, Mike & DeAnn Read
 January 14th—David & Sharon Petznick, Kevin and Maeghan Petznick,
 January 21st—Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
 January 28th—Harlan & Barb Helgeson, Colton and Casson Moretz



Greeters

January 7th—Marlin & Carol Liljedahl
 January 14th—Brad & Shana Brunsvold
 January 21st—Misty Eilertson
 January 28th—Eric & Val Foss

Coffee Servers

January 7th—Ray & Wanda Hoffman and Shirley Olson
 January 14th—Carol Liljedahl and Linda Loken
 January 21st—Leila Gangstad and Gloria Fallgatter
 January 28th—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich, Troy & Dawn Bachtle

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Acolytes

January 7th—Kennedy Christianson and Mason Thofson
 January 14th—Ian Husske and Emmalee VanSabben
 January 21st—Trace Low and Drew Wilder
 January 28th—Nolan Senne and Wyatt Willand



Lay Readers

January 7th—Leila Gangstad
 January 14th—Heather Rheingans
 January 21st—6th Graders
 January 28th—Laure Buehrer

Assisting Ministers

January 7th—Cade Hengesteg
 January 21st—Stu Anderson

Worship Assistants

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Julia Circle

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



Offering Collectors/Counters

January 7th—Russ & Delores Knudson
 January 14th—Mike Stevens and volunteer
 January 21st—Lowell Gangstad and Lee Okerlund
 January 28th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

"Blessed are you among women" Luke 1:42

Julia	No meeting		
Leah	January 4th	9:00 am	Maple Court, Jan Wilder-hostess
Lydia	January 3rd	1:00 pm	Lois Hogan's home (note change)
Rebecca	No meeting		
Sarah	No meeting		



JANUARY

- 1) Isaac Adams, Gretchen Hengesteg, Eric Roerish, Grady Walk
- 2) Ethan Binnebose, Tristan Hanson, Shelby Mattern, Sawyer Ogea, Diane Ubben
- 3) Michael Read
- 4) Chase Boyden
- 5) Arlene Van Sabben, Michelle Schulz
- 6) Bryck Abrams, Kristen Eilertson
- 7) Charles Barr, Stephanie Harmon
- 8) CherAmi Barr, Lowell Gangstad
- 9) Sandra Sime
- 10) LaVonne Flatness
- 11) Amy Hennigar, Justin Nerlien
- 12) Roger Odegaard, Joann Ogea
- 13) Jayson Olson
- 14)
- 15) Connie Fett, Eldora Stehn
- 16) Brian Costello, Dayna Steinman, Landen Nelson, Michelle Petznick, Nolan Senne, Blake Stevens
- 17) Zachary Costello, Edna Turvold– celebrating her 100th
- 18) Marlene Schulte
- 19) Gary Flatness, 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
- 26) Josie Einertson, Sonya Medlang, Michele Schaefer, Matthew Tufte
- 27) Megan Gentz
- 28) Barnes Toresdahl
- 29) John Midtgaard, Galen Pixley, Karen Pixley, Thomas Watts
- 30) Sally Aase
- 31) Douglas Fallgatter, Tanya Olson, Ward Willand





LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA
people focused • results driven

January 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families living in poverty. Iowa children in need of a forever family. Former refugees building new lives.

These kinds of issues are rarely the center of attention at the Iowa State Capitol. Let's change that!

Please consider joining Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for Lutheran Day on the Hill, an annual day of advocacy in Des Moines to uplift the needs of our neighbors. The event will be held on Thursday, February 8. Visit www.LSIowa.org/advocacy next month for event details, online registration, and an online toolkit for your congregation.

If you are new to advocacy, come learn more about the legislative process and your role as a citizen. If you've attended before, join us again. We hope this year's schedule will also allow you more opportunities to connect with legislators. If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

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.

Friendly Competition

When the time came to take their U.S. Citizenship Exam, Bhakti and Chhali felt overwhelmed.

Originally from Bhutan, the couple moved to Des Moines from a refugee camp in Nepal. Since then, they have been busy improving their English and settling into their new home. They both worked seven days a week and struggled to find time to study for their exam.

LSI's Refugee Community Services were there to help. LSI provides English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and Bhakti and Chhali studied hard in class to prepare for the writing and reading component of their exam. They supported and competed with each other, pushing themselves to succeed.

Their work paid off, and Bhakti and Chhali recently passed their exam and are now U.S. Citizens.

"We appreciate the help our LSI volunteers gave us on the Citizenship Exam," Bhakti says. "They are so committed to seeing us meet our goals."

Thank you for empowering your Iowa neighbors. We couldn't do this important work without you!