

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
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Address Service Requested

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

MARCH 2018

HEARING LOOP

Thanks to a WCDA grant, a hearing loop has been installed at First Lutheran. A telecoil option is installed in most hearing aids, but those who wear hearing aids may have to ask your audiologist to activate or add it to your instrument.

If you don't have a telecoil equipped instrument, the hearing loop will alert you to borrow a loop listener. First Lutheran is hoping to have a couple of these in the near future.



CONGRATULATIONS

Since 2010, over \$370 million has been distributed to thousands of churches, schools, and other. Through this program, eligible members can recommend where Thrivent donates millions of charitable outreach dollars each year.



Connecting faith & finances for good.®

In 2017 First Lutheran Church received \$2,184 in charitable outreach funding . This gift helped to support our ministry.

All 2017 Choice Dollars® have been made available for members to direct. If you have Choice Dollars through Thrivent, please direct them now to First Lutheran Church. As a reminder, 2017 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2018. Thank you!

From The Pastor's Desk....

Dear friends,

Lent is upon us. And although we may not observe many of the traditions of old in other seasons, there is still something about Lent which causes us to want to 'do something' – try something different for this short 40-day time period.

The usual ways of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting, and giving alms (money or items to those in need.) Fasting is one that hasn't usually caught my attention. This year, however, I ran across a different 'take' from Pope Francis on the idea of fasting.

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

Sounds like good spiritual advice to me.
Blessings,

THANKS - - - THANKS - - - THANKS

- ◆ for our many musicians who continue to rehearse and 'perform' music that helps to build faith!
- ◆ for busy hands and hearts who made so many small 'pocket prayer shawls' for Lent – to remind us and enrich our Lenten journeys!
- ◆ for busy hands and hearts of our quilters on Thursday mornings – piecing, sewing, and tying up to eight quilts in a day's work!
- ◆ for new energy and enthusiasm on our Council!
- ◆ for continued generosity in giving to the work of this church!
- ◆ for coordinated efforts by many people during the installation of the Sound Loop AND to the WCDA for the grant to fund it!
- ◆ for those who reach out to the sick and homebound of our congregation and community with care and soup!
- ◆ for this season of Lent – and the opportunities to grow and learn together!

Walking with you in this 'purple time,'
Pastor Judy



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Clay Evans Bauers– February 18th

Wedding

Danial & Courtney Onken

Funerals/Memorial Services

Esther Springer-February 12th

Please contact Pastor Judy or the church office if you or a loved one is or will be hospitalized.

Cell: 1-978-808-6780,
Home: 323-0081,
Church Office: 324-2984



YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??

With Lent upon us, we move into our tradition of having Vets vs Noobs. This is a six week competition between the kids who have attended Youth the most (The Vets) against the ones who are newer (The Noobs). Each week they will try and earn points for their teams, through attending church services, trivia about the Lent services, games and inviting others to Youth. This part of the year is always a fun time for all of the students involved.



During the time of Lent we're allowing our current 6th Graders to join us on Sunday nights. It's been interesting getting to know all of the new kids and I look forward to having them be a part of Jr. High Youth this summer. In years past we've allowed the 6th graders to join us for just one week, but we figured we'd try things a little different with hopes that they will bring more friends throughout the next few weeks.

The night before Ash Wednesday, many of our youth and a few of the college students gathered together for a Shrove Tuesday meal. They had fun making pancakes and serving up the food to everyone. A huge thank you to Judy Stevens who did so much prep work for us to make the entire evening go so smoothly.

Shrove Tuesday



At the beginning of the month around 30 of our Youth gathered in the Fellowship Hall to watch this years Super Bowl. It was a fun night of watching the game and commercials, board games with lots and lots of food. It was great watching the game on the new TV that is now upstairs being used in Messiah Cinema.

DAY SPRINGS BREAK-IN

Dayspring School, which is run by Kim (Thorsfeldt) and her husband Elijah Katuta, was broken into and burglarized last week. Nine rooms, both tool sheds, a park home (which is used for staff kitchen and class), a store room, caravan, main house, two offices, and two bedrooms were broken into. They took every computer, two refrigerators, a microwave and tried to take the safe, but it was too heavy.

Please pray for Dayspring and consider making a financial gift to help with their loss. You may make a tax-deductible donation to Dayspring Children's Mission and either leave it at the church office or sent it to :

Kris Gordon
Dayspring Children's Mission
PO Box 172
Northwood, IA, 50459

Please continue to pray for Kim & Elijah, their faithful staff, and the children. Thank you!

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH MISSION



Lutheran Service of Iowa

For over 150 years serving Iowa's' most vulnerable people, fulfilling a promise to respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

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

4.

**First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2018 10:15 AM**

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Attended: Stuart Anderson, Shana Brunsvold, Judith Converse, Josie Einertson, Doug Falgatter, Lisa Hagen, Mitch Hanson, Sharyl Nestor, Heather Rheingans, Richard Selvig, Judy Stevens and Jake Urbatsch.
Guests: Lynn Tenold and Jan Thompson.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the following reports: (MMSP Rheingans / Urbatsch)

President

Secretary (Reviewed December minutes. Special thanks to departing Secretary Nancy Amundson.)

Treasurer (Strong financial results December \$21K net income and \$26K YTD net income.)

Pastoral (Mutual ministry rotation of two incoming new members discussed. Weather cancellation policy reviewed. Radio ministry possibly on U-Tube on e-Church app, "Facebook Live". Combine FLC and Sunday School Facebook pages and link on e-Church app.)

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

Education Committee (next meeting 01/16 6PM) - No report.

Fellowship & Social Ministry Committees (next meeting 01/12 4PM)

Shana Brunsvold and Heather Rheingans to meet with Pastor to discuss mission of committee.

Acceptance of all 2018 mission action projects voted on as presented. (MMSP Nestor / Tenold)

Shrove Tuesday Lenten dinner open to community on 02/13 with 5:30PM start time.

Finance Committee

Annual ELCA Synod contribution of \$4,500 to be reviewed in subsequent months.

WCDA grants received for hearing loop, stained glass refurbish and kitchen cabinets remodel.

Personnel files to be maintained for individual employees with annual reviews included.

Signatory authority on bank accounts discussed. Full list of bank accounts being compiled.

TASC fees have been cancelled with \$4,500 annual savings.

Insurance policies to be reviewed jointly by Property & Finance committees for completeness of coverages at competitive rates.

Property Committee (next meeting 02/12 7PM)

Remodel projects continue throughout January most notably carpet replacement.

Stewardship Committee (next meeting 01/25 7PM)

Results of "God inviting us to be generous" offering discussed. 70 pledge commitments received totaling \$100K in pledges.

Follow-up reminder letter sent out to all non-respondents to consider making formal pledge.

e-Church Push Pay app rolled out to Congregation enables a donation via smart phone.

e-Church app development in-flight.

Worship & Music Committee (next meeting 02/05 5PM)

Thanks to all volunteers who made Advent season a special time of worship and praise.

Discussed current insurance coverage, refurbishing of electronics and maintenance schedule of Wicks organ. Current assessed replacement value of roughly \$725,000.

Competitive bids received from Grandahl & Engen, Dewey Kruger Music and Wicks Organ Company.

Grandahl & Engen – Two phases, \$62K phase 1 new electronics, \$99K phase 2 revoicing.

Dewey Kruger Music - Proposal received in December to be reviewed at next meeting.

Wicks Organ Company – Proposal due on January 23rd.

Youth Representative

Baked goods and candle sale for Advent went well.

Junior High & 6th Grade combined lock-in in January. Plan is to combine 6th Graders with older youth group for future events.

Continued on page 5

CONCERNS FOR THE PRESENT

Election of Council officers and Youth Representative.

- President – Judy Stevens
- Vice President – Heather Rheingans
- Secretary – Richard Selvig
- Treasurer – Lynn Tenold
- Youth Representative – Josie Einertson

Council Committee Liaisons for 2018

- Education – Jake Urbatsch
- Fellowship – Judy Stevens
- Finance / Stewardship – Sharyl Nestor & Richard Selvig
- Property – Doug Fallgatter & Mitch Hanson
- Social Ministry – Shana Brunsvold
- Worship – Lisa Hagen
- At-Large Representative – Stuart Anderson

Council Winter Retreat

Questionnaire responses from five groups which have funds that operate independently of Church budget to be reviewed. Plan is to meet with groups to unify ministries of FLC and review succession planning for these groups.

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S NAME

Lord’s Prayer

We Adjourn to Serve (upcoming dates)

- January 21** Communion (Continuous) – Shana Brunsvold and Lisa Hagen
- February 3** Council Retreat (9:00 – 11:30AM)
- February 4** Communion (Rail) – Doug Fallgatter and Judy Stevens
- February 11** Council monthly meeting 10:15 AM

“That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ”

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Selvig, Secretary

| FLC Financial Update | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>January 2018</u> | | <u>Fiscal Year as of January 31st</u> | |
| Income | \$31,720.21 | Income | \$105,882.90 |
| Electronic Income | \$1,444.00 | Electronic Income | \$5,244.00 |
| Expense | \$19,112.60 | Expense | \$71,173.93 |
| End of month | \$14,051.61 | Year to date | \$39,952.97 |

SHELL ROCK MEETING

Shell Rock Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting March 11, 2018 at 1:00 pm of the home of Lonnie & Myra Harris.

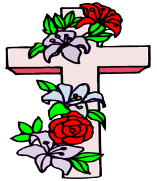
| First Lutheran Missions | |
|---|--------------------|
| <u>October 1, 2017-September 30, 2018</u> | |
| Caring Tree | \$ 355.29 |
| Operation Christmas Child | \$ 348.82 |
| Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms) | \$ 45.00 |
| Bremwood | \$ 5.00 |
| Opportunity Village | \$ 5.00 |
| Lutheran World Relief | \$ 10.00 |
| Meals on Wheels | \$ 229.66 |
| MANNA | \$ 154.65 |
| Heifer International | \$ 233.73 |
| Good Samaritan Fund | \$ 170.00 |
| Total | \$ 2,013.41 |

MEMORIAL

Marie Dempewolfe
\$25-General fund

DONATION

\$100—Property (Organ) Fund

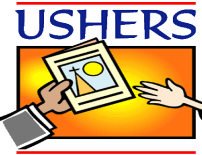


UNDERSTANDING GRIEF & LOSS
by Hospice of North Iowa

- ◆ A free 6 week program for adults grieving a death
 - ◆ Space is limited.
 - ◆ Registration required prior to 1st session

Monday evenings, March 26th-April 30th 6-8 pm
Tuesday mornings, April 17-May 22nd 10 am– noon
at Hospice of North Iowa
Call 1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208 to pre-register.

March Volunteers



Ushers

March 4th & 7th—David & Sharon Petznick, Kevin Petznick, Meaghan Petznick
 March 11th & 14th—Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
 March 18th & 21st—Harlan & Barb Helgeson, Colton Moretz, Casson Moretz
 March 25th, 29th & 30th—Brian Costello, Dave Capitani, Richard Butler, Samantha Butler,

Landon Perkins



Greeters

March 4th—James, Steph, Kailey, Kennedy & Colby Eskildsen
 March 11th—Sawyer, Michelle & Collyns Schulz
 March 18th—Randy, Kim, Scott & Carly Hengesteg
 March 26th—Pam Perkins and Avis Lehman

Coffee Servers

March 4th—Ray & Wanda Hoffman and Shirley Olson
 March 11th—Carol Liljedahl and Linda Loken
 March 18th—Leila Gangstad and Gloria Fallgatter
 March 25th—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich and Troy & Dawn Bachtle

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



Acolytes

March 4th—Nicholas Hanson and Calli O’Neill
 March 7th—Dylan Tews
 March 11th—Ian Husske and Mason Thofson
 March 14th—Trace Low
 March 18th—Nolan Senne and Emmalee VanSabben
 March 21st—Drew Wilder
 March 25th—Josh Stevens and Wyatt Willand
 March 29th—Madison Berry and Jace Gentz



Lay Readers

March 4th—Myra Harris
 March 11th—Delores Knudson
 March 18th—Sixth Grade Students
 March 25th—Jan Thompson

Assisting Ministers

March 4th—Mary Irons
 March 18th—Peyton Pangburn
 March 29th—Dennis Johnson

Worship Assistants

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Julia Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

March 7th & 11th—Lowell Gangstad and Lee Okerlund
 March 14th & 18th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
 March 21st & 25th—Russ & Delores Knudson
 March 29th, 30th & April 1st—Mike Stevens and volunteer



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

“Blessed are you among women” Luke 1:42

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|------------------------------------|
| Julia | March 5th | 2:00 pm | Beverly Madsen’s home |
| Leah | March 8th | 9:00 am | Maple Court, Shirley Olson-hostess |
| Lydia | March 7th | 1:00 pm | Lois Hogan’s home |
| Rebecca | March 7th | 1:30 pm | Fireside Room, Iola Bakken-hostess |
| Sarah | March 6th | 1:00 pm | Fran Pixley’s home |



MARCH



- 1 Jessica Butler, Sarah Odom
- 2 Kailey Eskildsen, Miranda Hodson
- 3 Piper Brunsvold, Richard Kraft
- 4 Larry Brekken, Jami Dahlby
- 5 Randy Severson
- 6
- 7 Marybelle Block, Wanda Love
- 8 Arvin Lande, Keith Olson
- 9 Levi Hanson, Janie Odegaard
- 10 Jane Bloomingdale, Merle Hanson, Sandy Liljedahl, Amy Odom
- 11 Mark Johnson, Donna Tyrrell, Karli Watts
- 12
- 13 Andrew Breitsprecher, Emily Christianson, Hannah Gentz, Dennis Johnson, Hayden Moore, Blake Severson, Marilyn Skellenger, Melissa Thofson
- 14 Allen Anderson, Mary Willand
- 15 Alexis Halbach, Jaxon Tufte
- 16
- 17 Gerald Hengesteg
- 18 Susan Cowell, Gary Nerlien, Craig Toft, Joan Watts
- 19 Kayla Hauge, Maynard Midtgaard, Jenna O'Neill Weitzel
- 20 Valerie Abrams
- 21 James Bloomingdale, Leila Gangstad, Margaret Grell, Brianna Schroader, Wyatt Willand
- 22 Cheryl Gentz, DeWayne Roppe, Paul Ubben
- 23
- 24 Hannah Hennigar, Hunter Hennigar, Samantha Stricker, Chad Trenhaile, Wyatt Turner
- 25 Sam Hengesteg, Jolene Hickie, Sharlene Stoddard
- 26 Sharon Aase, Ethan Adams
- 27
- 28 Maynis Aamodt, Susan Grundel, Spencer Hulshizer, Molly Hunchis, Mark Tufte
- 29 Jay Hopperstad, Bruce Odden
- 30 Marjorie Odden, Taylor Van Sabben, Theresa Van Sabben, Jayla Varner
- 31 Cindy Borcharding, Kollyns Kortan, Rose Marie Kruger, Evelyn Patterson



March 2018, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for our many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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.

A Home Full of Love

Many of Cheryl's favorite memories involve raising her two children, watching them thrive, and counting the shoes in the doorway each night to see how many of her children's friends she would be making dinner for.

As her children grew up, Cheryl knew there were more Iowa youth who needed a loving family and support system like hers. That's when her family began adopting.

"We were a welcoming family, and we really didn't want that journey to stop," Cheryl says.

Since starting her journey as an adoptive parent 20 years ago, Cheryl has welcomed 19 adopted children into her family and her children range from ages 9 to 35. They come from different backgrounds and cultures, and Cheryl says it's been enriching to celebrate those differences in her home.

Iowa has a great need for more foster and adoptive families like Cheryl's. She says it has been a learning experience to raise so many different children but together, her family has found lots of love and laughter along the way.

"People will say to us, 'God bless you that you've done this.' We don't see it that way," Cheryl says. "We see it as how blessed and thankful we are to have a family that's so big."



ANNUAL HAM BALLS FUNDRAISER

We will be starting our famous hamball pre-order sales soon!
A limited number will be sold this year so get your orders in!
Join us in making hamballs on Friday, March 23 and Saturday,
March 24th in the FLC kitchen!



ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash

Wednesday

Sacrifice

Almsgiving

Prayer

Fasting

Lent

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter

Palm Sunday

Purple

Palm Branch

Forty Days

Jesus

Passover

Foot Washing

Resurrection

Love

