

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

First Lutheran Church
Office Phone 324-2984
Office hours
Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 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
Permit No. 33

Address Service Requested

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

January 2019

January 2019 Worship Schedule

January 6 – The Day of Epiphany/ Magi Visit
Holy Communion and Holy Baptism/ Welcome to New Members
January 13 – Jesus' Baptism
Service of the Word and Installation of Congregation Council
January 20 – Tempted in the Wilderness
Holy Communion
January 27 – The Beatitudes
Service of the Word with Guest Preacher: Nathan Johnson



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.

From The Pastor's Desk....

2.

Dear friends,

Words cannot express my deep gratitude for your prayers, cards, hugs, gifts of food, memorials, loving words, and thoughts in these past few weeks as I grieved the loss of my mom. Coming just four months to the day since my dad's death in July, I have felt so much sadness over these combined losses – but also a small measure of thankfulness that my mom died peacefully in her sleep, seemingly without struggle or pain, and that she and my dad are together again.

Thank you also for your care for Steve on the loss of his mom just before Christmas. We are both very grateful for our wonderful parents

And our life here together continues . . .

Very soon we begin a New Year, and look forward to what 2019 will bring. On the near horizon, I see three kings and three baptisms on January 6 – the 12th Day of Christmas and also the Day of Epiphany! What a great way to begin again!

Looking ahead with hope,
Pastor Judy

THANKS - - - THANKS - - - THANKS

Many thanks for

- New members at First Lutheran!
- A wonderful morning at FLC on December 16th – hearing our children tell the story of Christmas and gathering in the Fellowship Hall afterwards to celebrate Jesus' birthday!
- And the time (and patience!) of many teachers and leaders who help our Sunday school children each week and in preparing for the program!
- Generous giving that helps FLC continue the good ministry of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with others!
- A wonderful evening of music and candlelight when so many people in our congregation and community shared their gifts and talents on December 16th.
- And the time and energy of directors and accompanists who lead rehearsals and balance schedules to make it happen!
- The joy of parties and gatherings to eat and tell stories during this holiday time!
- Beautiful quilts that adorn and warm!
- Loving care for all those who grieve a bit during this Christmastime!
- Many helping hands that made our Community Christmas Dinner such a wonderful event! Special thanks to Judy Stevens, Rich Selvig, and Galen & Karen Pixley!

Many blessings,
Pastor Judy

The Wicks Organ at First Lutheran Church

In 1964 a committee was formed to work on a recommendation of a new organ for the sanctuary at First Lutheran Church. The members of the committee were Mr. Cornell Knutson, Mrs. H. A. Wilke, Mrs. Whitney Randall, Mrs. S. W. Lee, Miss Stella Tenold, Mr. Lowell Gangstad, and Mr. Harvey Kruger. The recommendation of a Wicks Organ with 26 ranks and 1502 pipe was unanimously approved by the congregation. The cost for the new organ was just under \$35,000.

The new Wicks Organ was installed in the balcony of the church. It was dedicated on December 4, 1966.

Over the 52 years since it's installation, our organ has served the church well. But, like all things, age takes a toll. Some serious issues have been noted recently when the organ is tuned each year, and those who play the organ regularly have had to make adjustments to their choices because of these issues.

A new committee was formed last year to learn about the issues with the organ, and do some work to determine how to address them. The committee came back to the Congregation Council with a recommendation to use the same company, Wicks Pipe Organ Company, to restore our organ and make updates to it so that it can continue to be a vital part of our church and our worship for at least another 50 years.

Please plan to be present on **Sunday, February 3** after our morning worship service to hear about our organ and the plans for restoration and updating. **Scott Wick, president of the Wicks Pipe Organ Company**, will be present to present the plans and answer questions.

YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??



December has been as busy as ever! Once we get to the middle of the month many of our college students return home, so it's great to catch us with them and spend time talking about faith and where their lives are currently.

One of the highlights of the month for me was a lesson we called “Blanket Fort Night.” The kids brought old sheets and we built an enormous blanket fort in the youth room. It's always great to see them all figure out different ways to help each other in a group activity like this. Afterwards we got to play a few games inside the fort and got a chance to talk about having a solid foundation in Christ. We focused that night on Jeremiah 29:11.

Our Jesus Birthday Parties for both groups were a great gathering this year. The Jr. High group had 33 kids show up which is now our highest attended normal youth night in the 11 years I've been here. Sr. High almost broke their attendance record for this year. Both nights were filled with games and treats, as well as some time to be quiet and spend some time reflecting on the true reason of Christmas.



YOUTH LOCK-IN



On the 21st we had the Senior High Lock-In. We were able to go to the Northwood Theater and watch a movie that night, then return to the church for lots of pizza, games, more movies and lots of fellowship. I'm anticipating a large turn out for the upcoming New Years Eve Lock-In which is open to 6th - 8th graders.

I'll be gone from January 24 – 28 for the ELCA Extravaganza which is being held in Jacksonville, FL this year. I'm excited to go learn more about what other youth directors are doing and to share all that we've been up to right here. There will be no Jr. High youth on the 27th or Monday Night Deeper on the 28th. Looking even farther forward in the new year, many of us are excited to be making plans to attend Lifest Festival in Oshkosh WI, from July 17 - 21.



Looking for Adult Help with Fair Trade Sales

Approximately twice a month, the sixth graders in our Sunday School sell fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate, and olive oil after worship to help small farmers and also to benefit our Sunday School benevolence partner. The kids need some **adult supervision** with the sales to oversee handling of money and inventory. The job involves setting up the Fair Trade table before worship, manning the table with the kids for approximately ten minutes after worship, then recording the sales, taking down the table, and securing the proceeds. Currently, just one adult is regularly involved, leaving gaps in selling when that person is unavailable. Therefore, we are looking for one or more other adults who would enjoy helping out in this way on an ongoing basis, usually twice a month. If interested in finding out more, please speak with Steve Converse, Pastor Judy, or the church office. Thank you for helping keep this valuable tradition alive at First Lutheran!



Best Year Ever for Kids' Benevolence!

The final check has been sent off to the **American Diabetes Association**, our 2017-18 Sunday School benevolence partner. The check for \$142.35 brought our total for the year to **\$1891.92**, our best ever! These funds are a combination of the weekly offerings from our Sunday School kids and the profits from the FairTrade product sales run by our sixth graders. Obviously, the kids (with help from their parents) and the coffee, tea, chocolate, and olive oil buyers really knocked it out of the park. Way to go, and thank you!

Now on to this year. Back in October, the FLC Sunday School kids chose their 2018-19 benevolence partner and we're really excited about it. The charity we'll be supporting is **Operation Smile**, an organization that sends volunteer doctors, nurses, and support staff to poor places around the world to provide free surgical repair of cleft lip and cleft palate conditions, mostly in kids but also in adults. This condition is always corrected at a young age in the US and other wealthy nations, but is out of reach to families in many parts of the world. Operation Smile truly changes people's lives and we are so proud to be a part of their support team this year! Kids – remind your folks to help you bring a generous offering to Sunday School every week. And adults – please visit the Fair Trade table in the narthex after worship several Sundays each month. You're the best!

**First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2018 10:15 AM**

4.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Present: Shana Brunsvold, Pastor Judy Converse, Josie Einertson, Doug Fallgatter, Lisa Hagen, Sharyl Nestor, Heather Rheingans, Richard Selvig and Lynn Tenold. Absent: Stuart Anderson, Mitch Hanson and Judy Stevens.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

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

- President (No report.)
- Secretary (Changes to October minutes discussed and approved.)
- Treasurer (\$2K October profit, upcoming expenditures reviewed.)
- Pastoral (New members at FLC to celebrate upon, Constitution bylaw changes.)

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERRING

Education Committee (next meeting 12/02 11AM)

Children's Christmas program on 12/16. Lauren Severson will serve as musical director for this event.

Fellowship & Social Ministry Committees (next meeting TBD)

- Family Fun Game Night November 11th 5-7PM.
- Caring Tree gift responses due by November 27th.
- Christmas Day luncheon discussed.

Finance Committee (next meeting TBD)

Current annual audits encompass special funds only. Full audit of all FLC entities with an external public accounting auditing firm under discussion by Council.

Property Committee (next meeting TBD)

Council tasked Committee to assess independent appraisal of assets for appropriate coverages with insurance carrier. Report back to Council pending.

Current projects:

- Phase 3 of kitchen remodel approximates \$17K. Dishwasher project still being researched.
- WCDA grant pending for back-up power generator.
- Parsonage upgrades – Gutter and downspout replacement to be completed in April 2019.
- Bus – Is 20 years old and in need of major engine repairs. As is used four times per year on average and ongoing insurance and maintenance continue, Council has decided to divest by selling bus to a scrap metal business for approximately \$1,100. Alternative transportation needs for Youth events discussed. (MMSP Fallgatter / Urbatsch)

Stewardship Committee (next meeting 12/06 7PM)

Will discuss Commitment Sunday annual pledging response and follow-up tasks.

Worship & Music Committee (next meeting 12/04 5PM)

Many thanks to Mary Reyerson for her time and artistic talent in her "Harvest & Holiday" decorating work at FLC.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving church service at Methodist Church on 11/18 7PM.

"Service of Candles" Senior Choir concert on 12/16 7PM. Free will donation to be taken for Music Fund. (MMSP Brunsvold / Nestor)

No Wicks organ project update to be made at Annual Meeting.

Youth Representative

- 40 Halloween "Manna Monsters" collected food donations for Manna of Worth County.
- Project Heifer fund raiser being discussed.

CONCERNS FOR THE PRESENT

Annual Meeting

Constitution Changes: Notable changes address term limits (based on Council duration of two 3 year terms) and fiscal year timing. Council members encouraged to market these changes to Congregation.

2019 Budget approval being sought.

Trust Fund granting approval being sought.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Lord's Prayer

We Adjourn to Serve (upcoming dates)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 18 | Communion (Intinction) – Doug Fallgatter & Lisa Hagen |
| November 18 | Congregation Annual Meeting, 10:15AM |
| December 2 | Communion (Rail) – Josie Einertson & Sharyl Nestor |
| December 8 | Council Christmas party at parsonage 2-5PM. |
| December 9 | Council monthly meeting 10:15 AM |

"That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ"

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Selvig, Secretary

January Volunteers

Ushers

January 6th—David & Sharron Petznick, Kevin and Maeghan Petznick
 January 13th—Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
 January 20th—Harlan & Barb Helgeson, Colton and Casson Moretz
 January 27th—Brian Costello, Richard Butler, Landon Perkins, Matt Johnson

Greeters

January 6th—Jake, Anneke, Ivy, Olivia & Emmet Urbatsch
 January 13th—Ron & Judy Wangen
 January 20th—Jordan, Kally, Kenlyn & Kam Reindl
 January 27th—Nancy Amundson and Lois Hogan

Coffee Servers

January 6th—Leila Gangstad and Gloria Fallgatter
 January 13th—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich, Troy & Dawn Bachtle
 January 20th—Maynard & Madelyn Midtgaard and Hal & Dianne Johnson
 January 27th—Patty Irons and Avis Lehman

Acolytes

January 6th—Nolan Senne and Madalynn Hanson
 January 13th—Joshua Stevens and Emma Hengesteg
 January 20th—Madison Berry and Justin Mills
 January 27th—Kennedy Christianson and Damon Reyerson

Lay Readers

January 6th—Leila Gangstad
 January 13th—Heather Rheingans
 January 20th—6th grader
 January 27th—Laure Buerer

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Lydia Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

January 6th—Lee & Becky Okerlund
 January 13th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
 January 20th—David & Sharron Petznick
 January 27th—Russ & Delores Knudson

Assisting Ministers

January 6th—Dennis Johnson
 January 20th—Wyatt Willand



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

"Blessed are you among women" Luke 1:42

Julia	No Meeting		
Leah	January 3rd	9:00 am	Senior Center
Lydia	January 2nd	1:00 pm	Lois Hogen's home
Rebecca	No Meeting		
Sarah	No Meeting		



FLC Financial Update

	<u>November 2018</u>		<u>Fiscal Year as of November 30th</u>
Income	\$21,381.98	Income	\$37,919.90
Electronic Income	\$670.00	Electronic Income	\$1,668.00
Expense	<u>\$18,108.31</u>	Expense	<u>\$33,914.94</u>
End of month	\$ 3,943.67	Year to date	\$5,672.96



Raising our Voice for Iowa Children and Families – Lutheran Day on the Hill

Families struggling without access to mental healthcare. Human services providers overworked and underpaid. Former refugees striving to build new lives.

These are all issues faced by Iowans. Join us to make sure they are heard at the Iowa State Capitol.

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 Tuesday, February 19. 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 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.

Building a New Home

After spending almost 20 years in a refugee camp in Nepal, Narayan and Chandra are grateful for the life they have built for their family with support from LSI’s Refugee Community Services.

After marrying in the camp, Narayan and Chandra resettled to Des Moines in 2009. Everything was new. Everything was different. Their child, Aaman, was a newborn, and they found themselves overwhelmed with medical bills. Chandra desperately wanted to pursue her medical career. At the time, it seemed impossible.

But LSI helped Chandra enroll in college classes. Narayan started volunteering at LSI as an interpreter. Later, he became a full-time case manager with LSI, where he continues to lift up former refugees by connecting them to resources, educational activities, and supporting them as they pursue citizenship.

“LSI supported me and allowed me to provide for my family. It helped us establish ourselves in Iowa,” he says.

Chandra now works as a lab assistant in an Iowa pediatric clinic. Narayan and Chandra have become homeowners and feel confident, independent, and established in their new community.

MEMORIALS

- Guy & Muriel Patzloff
\$1,065.00—Property (Organ) Fund
- George “Flip” Lindflott
\$1,375.00—General Fund
- \$75.00—Property (Organ) Fund
- \$20.00—Property (Kitchen) Fund
- Kevin Kltizke and Sharon Hiolt
\$25.00—Property (Organ) Fund
- Kevin Kltizke and Sharon Hiolt
\$25.00—Worship & Music Fund
- Bev Pangburn
\$155.00—Property (Organ) Fund
- \$20.00—General Fund



DONATIONS

- \$130.00—Property (Organ) Fund
- \$142.35—American Diabetes Association
(SS Offering and Fair Trade)

First Lutheran Missions

October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019	
Bremwood	\$ 242.86
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 184.61
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 75.00
Caring Tree	\$ 75.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 25.00
Caring Tree	\$ 84.62
Meals on Wheels	\$ 244.77
Manna	\$ 169.77
Heifer International	\$ 575.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 1,971.40

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
- 9) Sandra Sime
- 10)
- 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
- 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, Nate Wilder
- 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

