

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

February 2019

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 3 – HOLY COMMUNION

An informational presentation about FLC's Wicks Organ will be given in the church sanctuary following the worship service. Please plan to attend.

FEBRUARY 10 – SERVICE OF THE WORD

Sunday school children (pre-K through 5th grade) will sing during worship.
Special family craft event during the Sunday school time in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Please reserve your spot via the office or on our FaceBook page – *First Lutheran Church and Sunday School*

FEBRUARY 17 – HOLY COMMUNION and HOLY BAPTISM

FEBRUARY 24 – SERVICE OF THE WORD

Sunday School News

All of the **Sunday school children (pre-K through 5th grade)** will sing during the worship service on February 10. The service begins at 9:00 a.m. Please have the children to their classrooms at 8:40 a.m. The children will sit together, sing, and then return to sit with their parents for the rest of the service.

During Sunday school time on February 10, we will be doing a **Valentine's Day Craft**, which will consist of making a painted wooden sign with the help of Val Foss. We are asking that each child be accompanied by an adult or older sibling. The craft will cost \$5 per sign. We will need to know how many signs per family, so **please RSVP** to DeAnn in the church office at 324-2984 or on the Facebook event page.

This event is open to the entire congregation.

From The Pastor's Desk....

2.

Dear friends,

I was a bit slow to get to it – but finally, last week, I put up my Season-after-Epiphany tree!

Yes – I know that this is not really *a thing* – certainly not in the way that a Christmas tree is! But I have long thought that we have SO MANY decorations for the Christmas season – decorations that we put up and put out – often many weeks before Christmas. And we enjoy them, and they add beauty and light and fun to a fun season!

But after Christmas is over – and it is still cold and a bit dreary and dark for a number of weeks, all of those decorations get put away – and the house seems dark and quiet and empty.

So I try to gather some of the decorations – like stars, snowflakes and snowballs, snowmen and hearts – and use those to continue the celebrating in the Season after the Epiphany. And besides the cheeriness of color and light, I am reminded of the reason for THIS season. The Season after Epiphany – from January 6th until Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, this year – is all about God's light coming into the world in the gift of God's son, Jesus Christ.

In this season, we hear the stories of Jesus' ministry and his teaching as he walked upon this earth. We learn from him about God's great love for us, about God's kingdom, and about how we are a part of that kingdom.

I invite you, too, to continue to celebrate the light that Jesus is – and the light that he brings to make our dark world shine!

Pastor Judy

THANKS - - - THANKS - - - THANKS

Many thanks for

- ◆ A NEW YEAR!
- ◆ New members at First Lutheran!
- ◆ The baptism of an infant, a child, and an adult in one morning AND the opportunity to affirm our own call to live as God's children in and for the world!
- ◆ New sign-ups for Simply Giving – a way of continued giving that sustains the church throughout the year!
- ◆ New Council members and members of other groups and boards – and their willingness to serve FLC in the coming year!
- ◆ The financial commitment of the Trust Fund Board and the congregation to our education and youth programs and activities!
- ◆ Many volunteers who teach and plan and take time for FLC's youngest members!
- ◆ The generosity of many people who share what they have received from God with FLC!

With gratitude for you and our work together,

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

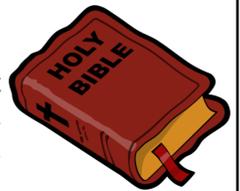
“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??



We rang in the new year with one of our great traditions. This year we had the Jr. High + 6th Grade Lock-In which started at 4 PM on New Years Eve and ended at 8 the following morning. Over 45 kids showed up for a night of fun and games. Many thanks to all the parents who provided snacks and Papa Murphy's Pizza in Mason City, which gave us a great discount on pizzas. The Senior High and college students who chaperoned had just as much fun and the younger students.

We brought back an older youth lesson this past month in the form of “Blanket Fort Night.” During this lesson, the students all brought an old sheet or two from home, and we pinned them together and made a huge fort in the youth room. Once that was accomplished, we played a fun racing game while playing musical instruments and also had our lesson inside the huge tent. We focused on how God needs to be the firm foundation of our lives and how great everything else can be once you know your foundation is solid. Jeremiah 29:11 was our main verse for that evening.

Towards the middle of the month the Jr. High students got a crash course in some of the more odd verses in the Bible. I had selected around 10 verses from the Old Testament that when taken alone really made you question if it was really in the Bible or made up. It was a chance for them to learn about the importance of knowing what comes before and after and not be too quick to judge until we know the whole situation.



While we are in the middle of winter with all it's snow and coldness, there is no better time to start looking ahead to this summer's DayCamp. We're just at the very beginning of planning, but have selected June 3 – 7 to be the official dates this year.

Teaching Sunday School

There are a few more **openings for teaching** Sunday school this spring. Please consider offering your time to share God’s love with our youngest members at First Lutheran! See the sign-up sheets in the hallway near the Sunday school classrooms.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FEBRUARY MISSIONS



GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Distributed through the Worth County Sheriff's Office.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers for February are given in memory of Shyrlamae Berber, Erthl Bakken, Sylvan & Sadie Bakken given by Iola Bakken and Jan & Candace Gerber.



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

Cassandra Lande
Beatrix Koenig-Fierova
Megan Ott

Weddings

No Weddings in January

Funerals/Memorial Services

No funerals in January



MEMORIALS

Melvin Krumm
\$10.00—General Fund
Nancy Converse
\$205.00—Property (Organ) Fund
Lonnie Harris
\$100.00—Property (Organ) Fund
George “Flip” Lindflott
\$20.00—Property (Organ) Fund

DONATIONS

\$600.00—Property (Organ) Fund
\$1,000.00—Fellowship (Christmas Day dinner)

When someone you love becomes a
MEMORY,
the memory becomes a
Treasure

**First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2018 10:15 AM**

4.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Present: Stuart Anderson, Troy Bachtle, Pastor Judy Converse, Josie Einertson, Lisa Hagen, Mitch Hanson, Richard Selvig, Judy Stevens and Jan Thompson. Absent: Shana Brunsvold, Doug Fallgatter, Sharyl Nestor, Heather Rheingans and Jake Urbatsch.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

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

- President (Letter received from Manna of Worth County encouraging Advent season food donations.)
- Secretary (Changes to November minutes discussed and approved.)
- Treasurer (\$4K November profit, \$6K YTD profit. Upcoming expenditures reviewed.)
- Pastoral (Advent services highlighted, discussion of sound and video needs.)

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

- ◆ Education Committee (next meeting TBD)-No report.
- ◆ Fellowship & Social Ministry Committees (next meeting TBD)
 - Family Fun Game Night November 11th 5-7PM was much fun.
 - Winter ski trip outing under discussion.
 - Christmas Day luncheon will be catered. Monetary donations encouraged to defray costs.
- ◆ 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.
 - Fiscal year 2019 will be 15 months in duration from 10/01/2018 through 12/31/2019.
 - Insurance coverage on bus has been terminated.
- ◆ 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:
 - ◇ WCDA grant awarded for back-up power generator. Unit to be installed in spring 2019 once concrete pad poured.
 - ◇ Bus has been sold to Wild Horse Trading for approximately \$1K.
 - ◇ Two expansion tank controllers being bid out for boiler system upgrade. Cost approximates \$3K total. Potential grant from Janssen Foundation or Swensrud Foundation discussed.
- ◆ Stewardship Committee (next meeting TBD)
 - Commitment Sunday annual pledging response and follow-up to be discussed in January.
- ◆ Worship & Music Committee (next meeting 01/08 5PM)
 - Sanctuary decorated for Advent season.
 - "Service of Candles" Choir concert on 12/16 7PM. Free will donation to be taken for Music Fund.
 - More new members have expressed a desire to join FLC.
- ◆ Youth Representative
 - Youth Christmas party being planned.
 - Project Heifer fund raising in-flight during December.

CONCERNS FOR THE PRESENT

- ◆ Council officer election for 2019
 - Council will meet last week of December for elections and Committee liaison appointments.
 - Many thanks to outgoing Council members for their leadership in serving FLC. Those members include Stuart Anderson, Doug Fallgatter, Josie Einertson and Jake Urbatsch.
 - Youth representative appointment
 - Two Youth candidates discussed as potential Council appointee. Follow up with Mark Willand.
- ◆ Sound & Video Update Project (MMSP Hagen / Hanson)
 - Sound and video booth and equipment upgrades have been identified.
 - Troy Bachtle has engaged with Electronic Engineering (EE) for preliminary cost estimates. Walk through with EE will take place 2nd week of January.
 - Council moved to appoint a committee to assess current state and provide recommendations.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Lord's Prayer

We Adjourn to Serve (upcoming dates)

December 24 Communion (Intinction) – Stuart Anderson & Judy Stevens

December 25 Communion (Intinction) – TBD

January 6 Communion (Rail) – Lisa Hagen & Richard Selvig

January 13 Council member installation 9:00 AM, Council monthly meeting 10:15AM

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

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Selvig, Secretary

February Volunteers

Ushers

February 3rd—Eric and Austin Foss, Tom and Josh Stevens, Cade Hengesteg
 February 10th—Sawyer & Michelle Schulz, Mitch & Jess Hanson, James & Steph Eskildsen
 February 17th—Jerry & Jan Hopperstad, Larry Foley, Doug Fallgatter
 February 24th—Dan Hendrikson, Bernie VanVeldhuizen, Mike & DeAnn Read

Greeters

February 3rd—Robert & Jan Wilder
 February 10th—Thelma Krull and Shirley Ausenhuis
 February 17th—Coni Butler
 February 24th—Troy & Linda Eintertson

Fellowship Time

February 3rd—Judy Stevens and Nancy Amundson
 February 10th—Ray & Wanda Hoffman and Shirley Olson
 February 17th—Carol Liljedahl and Linda Loken
 February 24th—Leila Gangstad and Gloria Fallgatter

Acolytes

February 3rd—Nicholas Hanson and Mallory Rheingans
 February 10th—Ian Husske and Reese Wahl
 February 17th—Chloe Costello and Peyton Wilder
 February 24th—Jackson Foss and Haddie Hanson

Lay Readers

February 3rd—Patty Irons
 February 10th—Larry Klitzke
 February 17th—6th Grade Class
 February 24th—Jan Thompson

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Rebecca Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

February 3rd—Mike & Judy Stevens
 February 10th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
 February 17th—David & Sharron Petznick
 February 24th—Russ & Delores Knudson

Assisting Ministers

February 3rd—Tim Knutson
 February 17th—Peyton Pangburn



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

“Blessed are you among women” Luke 1:42

Julia	No Meeting		
Leah	February 7th	9:00 am	Jan Wilder’s home
Lydia	February 6th	1:00 pm	Gloria Fallgatter’s home
Rebecca	February 6th	1:30 pm	Fireside Room
Sarah	No Meeting		

Book Group

The Monday afternoon book group has chosen another book to read and discuss – *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. A few copies have been ordered, and the next meeting/discussion opportunity is Monday, February 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you would like a copy of the book, please let Pastor Judy or the church office know!

FLC Financial Update

December 2018		October 1st- December 31st	
Income	\$39,133.37	Income	\$77,052.97
Electronic Income	\$1,059.00	Electronic Income	\$2,727.00
Expense	\$24,832.84	Expense	\$58,580.78
End of month	\$15,359.23	Year to date	\$21,199.19

SAVE THE DATE:

Manna of Worth County Annual Meeting
 Thursday, February 28th, 2019
 7 PM at First Lutheran Church, Northwood



February 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, families, and adults!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who learn to trade self-harm for self-worth, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. -Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

Helping Kids Thrive

When Kari, a little girl they knew through church, was in need of a foster home, Stacie and Blake decided to step up.

The couple became licensed as foster and adoptive parents, and Stacie says it's been a rewarding experience ever since. With LSI Foster Care and Adoption in their corner, ready to provide support, guidance, or even just a listening ear, Stacie and Blake lift up children in their community through foster care.

After caring for Kari as foster parents, the opportunity came to adopt her. Now 10, Kari is an amazing big sister. The family has fostered and adopted a son, 3-year-old Silas, and they recently welcomed their biological son, 1-year-old Jett, into the family.

Stacie and Blake continue to foster children in need of a safe and supportive home, and Stacie says they hope to adopt again in the future.

"When you become a foster or adoptive parent, yes, you're helping children. But at the same time, you learn about yourself and you learn more about the world around you," Stacie says. "Foster care is an experience that is indescribable and life-changing."

Music has always been an integral part of worship at First Lutheran Church. As you may know, there have been changes that have affected the music program in our church. The Worship Committee felt that it was an opportune time to use those changes to help us move forward in our mission *"That All Men Know the Love of God in Jesus Christ"*. The Worship Committee applied last fall for a Trust Fund Grant to fund some of those changes. We wish to express our appreciation to the Trust Fund Board and to the congregation for this financial assistance. We hope you appreciated those changes and invite your input and participation in any of the aspects of worship and music. The Worship Committee meets generally the first Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm. Remember, we are always looking for singers, ushers, teachers and numerous other workers who help bring the mission of our church forward.

Worship Committee

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	\$ 693.08
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 50.00
Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 25.00
Camperships	\$ 25.00
Operation Smile (SS & Fair Trade)	\$ 462.27
Total	\$ 2,356.98



February

- 1) Tyler Trenhaile
- 2) Courtney Jorgensen, Christine Hulsing
- 3) Mary Dodd, Emily Toresdahl
- 4) Lucus Hoffman, Ohin Shackleton, Darlene Toft, Ryan Tufte
- 5) JoAnn Julson
- 6) Elaine Butler, Anne Marie Kinnin, Amanda Maricle
- 7) Monte DeArmoun, Leland Swenson
- 8) Nancy Hengesteg, Zach Nelson, Kinley Thompson
- 9) Allyson Carlson, Mary Kalvig, Kenlyn Reindl, Mabel Welch
- 10) Clare Hengesteg, Caroline Hengesteg, Matthew Johnson, Jaden Lafferty
- 11) Lon Christianson, Debra Rustad, Roger Rustad
- 12) Nancy Amundson, Janice Hopperstad, John Janssen, Collin Jaspers,
Delores Knudson, Sophie Rye
- 13) Wendy Davis, Deb Hanson
- 14) Abby LaRue
- 15) Callie Carlson, Kent Nitcher, Carol Paulson
- 16) David Capitani, Matt Thompson, Mark Willand
- 17) Kristoffer Kenison
- 18) Dexter Duvall, Larry Kenison, Avery LaRue, Belle Magritz
- 19) Jeri Severson
- 20) Alison Gores, Nicole Husske, Jordan Kenison, Dawson VanRyswyk, Betsy Wright
- 21) Wanda Hoffman, David Irons, Robert Reeder, Tyson Werner
- 22) Henry Houg, Helen Ringham
- 23) Diane Myli
- 24) Daniel Bestul, Nathan Buehrer, Haddie Hanson
- 25) Michael Davey, Dori Kostka, Casson Moretz, Zachary Roppe, Scott Severson
- 26) Mary Bloomingdale, Susan Gaskill, Zachary Katcher, James Kostka,
Tracey Severson, Irene Stricker
- 27) Jody Christianson, Conni Kenison, Annika Schreiber
- 28) Nicholas Shackleton, Ellen Van Sabben, Brian Waller, John Weitzel,
Betty Goodrich, Clayton Ogea
- 29) Shirley Ausenhus, John Berg

