

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Office hours
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm
 Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed.
www.flcnorthwood.org
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E-mail: flc@flcnorthwood.org

Non-Profit Organization
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 Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus February 2024

Address Service Requested

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Counter</u> | <u>Lay Reader</u> | <u>Usher</u> | <u>Greeter</u> | <u>Acolyte</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 4 | Team 2 | Heather Rheingans | Landon Perkins | Rye family | Maggie Rye Ivy Toresdahl |
| February 11 | Team 3 | Carolyn Reeder | Petznick family | Iverson family | Brekken Haberman |
| February 14 -Ash Wednesday | | | Trenhaile family | Trenhaile family | Casey Gentz Tegan Trenhaile |
| February 18 | Team 4 | 6 th Grade Class | Haxton family | Reyerson family | Jaxon Reyerson Bryck Abrams |
| February 25 | Team 5 | Gladie Hagen | Johnson family | Toresdahl family | Amaya Rugland Ivy Toresdahl |

Communion Set up: February 4 Pam Perkins
 February 18 Mary Jo Senne

Altar Candles: February 4-11 Pam Perkins
 February 18-25 Mary Jo Senne

PASTOR'S PAGE

Lent is an important time in the church year of hearing and living into our connection to the whole story of faith. The forty days of Lent connect us to the **forty days** Noah and his family spent in the Ark with all those animals. It is but a small amount of time compared to the **forty years** that the Hebrews wandered in the wilderness. It also connects us to the **forty days** Jesus spent fasting and praying in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

Ash Wednesday is just a few days away where many of us who will worship will leave with the smudge of ash in the shape of a cross remembering that we are dust and to dust we will return. Other years have included a Shrove Tuesday pancake meal to use up the rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting period of the **forty days** of Lent. For some Christian traditions liturgical fasting calls for eating simple food while abstaining from meat, dairy products, or eggs. In the Lutheran tradition we have emphasized focus on self-examination.

I invite you to spend an extra **forty minutes** in worship each week during Lent. Worship on Wednesdays won't be quite 40 minutes but will help give focus and be more intentional in our life of faith. If you are looking at the big picture, this is very do-able.

The **forty days** of Lent and **forty** extra minutes of worship are very do-able for us as it strengthens faith, builds community, and gives voice to our life as God's people. This fits well with the invitation and/or challenge to give up something for Lent or take on a new task. Whichever is challenging and life-giving is a great place to begin. To be honest I am glad the call is not to hang out in an Ark with a bunch of animals or a call to wander in the wilderness. Our call is faithfully journey with Jesus to the cross and resurrection.

Pastor Becky



YOUTH NEWS

While it may be just the end of January, we've been pretty busy with looking forward to the warmer months of this year and the plans we're making.

In the middle of July, Pastor Becky, Christa and I will be taking around 40 people to Oshkosh, WI for Lifest 2024. I'm so thankful to have them and a few other adults to help look after our teens at events like these. So many of us look forward to returning each year (This year there are 29 of us who have gone before) to listen to great bands and just enjoy time away from the normal day to day life and relax in God's greatness.

At the end of July I will be taking 14 of our Junior and Senior students to Wisconsin Dells for a retreat. I'm looking forward to more time away and opportunities to have quiet times, a service project, lots of fellowship with one another and some fun as well. I'm hopeful that if this goes well, we'd be able to do a trip like this every couple of years for the students who are about to graduate.

Amazingly in January with all the cold and snow, we only had to cancel one Junior High Youth night. The rest of the month went as planned. We had lessons building a firm foundation in Christ to make the rest of your life much better, how do we believe in the Bible when there are some very very odd verses in it, how do our stories relate to others when we feel we haven't really lived that much, and a night focusing on the many gifts God has given us and being able to use them to help others.

June 3 – 7 will be this year's Day Camp. We're getting our leaders ready and making plans for what I'm sure will be another great year.



Regular Council Meeting
December 19, 2023
First Lutheran Church - Northwood

In Attendance: Nikkole K., Matt J., Pastor Becky, Kimberly A., Gina S.,
Connie K., Doug F., Kris K., Megan O.

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion- Nikkole

We Celebrate our Past

- **Presidential Correspondence** - Nikkole K.
- **Secretary's Report- Megan O.** - Approved with corrections and labeled motions.
- **Treasurer's Report- Matt J.** - Numbers are looking good, and we are on track to finish the year below budget.
- **Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky Sogge** - Snapshot was given up until December 19. Pastor has been busy with Baptisms, funerals (including three more on the way) as well as time in the community and personal visits. She is really enjoying time spent as a reading buddy at the elementary school. The lock in for Jr. High is scheduled for December 31. Mark and Pastor will take shifts watching over the kids and sharing in activities. We've got a new family coming to church with three young boys as well as the Sponsors for the Haxton family. Baptism for an older child (middle/high school) may also be in the works for January.

Motion/Vote to accept the reports Doug / Kimberly

We Present our Offering

FINANCE - Matt J. - proposed 2024 budget.

Motion Made to Accept Budget as Presented - Kris / Gina - Passed.

WORSHIP- Kimberly A. - Last meeting was December 5, 2023. It has been and will be a busy month, but all is going well. Next meeting will be 1/22/2023. We had a great Christmas Program. Thank you to everyone involved! Choir, Bell Choir, Musicians, everyone behind the scenes and Nikkole.

INSPIRE- Gina S. - Attendance has been great. No INSPIRE For the next two weeks. January 3rd will be the first day back. Discussions were held regarding the Holden Evening Prayer services and potentially coordinating them with the INSPIRE service. Unsure of Deer Creek Valley traditions. A meeting will be held to coordinate and plan details. Soon.

STEWARDSHIP-Connie K. - No News. Working on new ideas for Gift Requests.

YOUTH - Weston W. - Lock in on 12/31. Attendance has been steady.

EDUCATION - Mariah B. - Off the next two weeks. Next class is January 7. Great system of teachers, everything has been working well.

PROPERTY - Doug F. - Nothing new. Money from Solar grant will need to be returned to the Casino if they cannot be used in the time allotted. Alliant is not budging on their issues. We will be working on upgrading the fountains and countertops in the fireside room.

MISSION- Kris I. - Discussions of moving the projects within the calendar in order to line up with appropriate speakers and presentations. Disaster Response and World Hunger to be added back into the rotation.

FELLOWSHIP- Rich S. - **No Updates.** Christmas Dinner is on track as planned.

Concerns for the Present

Nominations Committee

New Members/Baptisms/Funerals

Funeral - Harold Quisley, November 22

Wanda Hoffman, November 30

Baptism - Hudson Haxton, December 10

Communion Servers:

Dec. 24 - Doug, Nikkole, Kim

Dec. 25 - Doug

January 7 - Gina/ Nikkole/ Doug

We Go Out in God's Name

Motion to Adjourn - Connie / Kimberly - Passed

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 6:00PM

Devotions: Pastor will lead Devotions

Annual Meeting Results:

Church Council: Kris Kenison, Kevin McClure, Megan Ott

Nominating Committee: Kevin McClure, Dennis Johnson, Tim Knutson

Audit Committee: Jody Christianson, Kim Hengesteg, Lauren Welty

Trust Fund: Kevin Petznick, Dennis Reeder, Bernie Van Veldhuizen

Retirement Home Board: Tim Knutson

Representative to LRH Annual Meeting: Sonya Dahle, Lois Hogan, Janice Hopperstad, Shirleen Julson

Thank you to Ron Christianson for his many years of serving on the LRH board; this position is now being filled by Tim Knutson.

Thank you to Doug Fallgatter for serving on the church council; we welcome Kevin McClure as a new council member.



Congratulations to our 1st graders who received their Catechisms on January 21st. Many blessings to Boden Braun, Zander Duvall, Cole Eilertson, Kenlyn Reindl, Collyns Schulz, Kenny Skellenger, and Harper Ziebell.

Please take advantage of calling Thrivent throughout the year or your Choice Dollars are lost. Call by February 27th of each year and direct the dollars to First Lutheran Thrivent Fund.

Directions: Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". Have your policy number available. A representative will work with you to direct your choice dollars.

Thank you to Molly Bachtle for taking the time to water and care for the Poinsettias this year.

Please bring your spare change for Noisy Offering on Sunday, February 11th and 25th. This offering goes to the mission of the month which is the Good Samaritan Fund which is distributed through the Worth County Sheriffs office for those in need.

Share Shoppe announcement: We are looking for someone to work at the Share Shoppe on Saturday, February 3rd from 9am to noon. Please contact the church office if you can help; 641-324-2984.

The Sunday School children will be singing during worship on February 11th. We will also have a speaker from Riverside here that day talking about bible camp this summer.

If you have a child that would like to attend Riverside Bible camp this year, you may register before February 15th to receive the Early Bird discount. When registering your child please use the code: 24FLN if attending a full week of camp and code: 24FLNA if attending a half week of camp. This will ensure that your child gets put on the First Lutheran Church's account and we will be billed for the remaining amount owed for camp. First Lutheran will pay \$360 for a full week of camp and \$90 for a half week and you are responsible for the remaining balance.

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all the worship helpers who contributed their time throughout this last year. We are still looking for more individuals and families that would be willing to do the following: communion set up, altar candles, changing paraments, ushering and greeting.

If you are interested in helping with any of the jobs listed please speak with, call, or email Pastor Becky or Christa as we are working on the 2024 schedule.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Please join the Confirmation Class Competition during this Lent. We have three small groups, so each group is putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Kits. Each group will be responsible for advertising, collecting and assembling the kits assigned to their group. The three types of kits are Personal Care Kits, School Kits, or Baby Care Kits.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT: **ONE** light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended, **TWO or THREE** bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping, **ONE** adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*, **ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging, **ONE** metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging * Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SCHOOL KIT: **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper, **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, **ONE** pencil sharpener, **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well), **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band, **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band, **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons, **ONE** 2 ½" eraser, **ONE** sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH BABY CARE KIT: **TWO** lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies), **TWO** long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet), **TWO** receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square, **FOUR** cloth diapers, flat fold preferred, **ONE** jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap, **TWO** pairs of socks, **ONE** hand towel, dark color recommended, **TWO or THREE** bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars, **TWO** diaper pins or large safety pins

HOW TO PACK YOUR KITS OF CARE • Wrap items in one of the receiving blanket



Local churches invite families to get ready for "SCUBA, Diving Into Friendship With God!" VBS will be held in Bolan, June 10 - 14, 2024, the week before the Worth County Fair. A FUNDRAISER to help with the expense of materials will take place Sunday, February 18, 2024, at Bethel United Methodist Church, Hwy 9 E, in Manly. Free-will offering, all-you-can-eat pancakes, with sausages, bananas, OJ, milk and coffee from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Join us and the local churches in supporting this ecumenical VBS which benefits the youth of north Iowa!

Wednesdays in Lent

“40 Acts”

February 14th – Ash Wednesday

12:00pm in Chapel

2:00pm – Lutheran Retirement Home

6:15pm Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

February 21st

12:00pm in Chapel – Holden Evening Prayer

6:15pm in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer/Inspire

February 28th

12:00pm in Chapel – Holden Evening Prayer

6:15pm in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer/Inspire

March 6th

12:00pm in Chapel – Holden Evening Prayer

6:15pm in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer/ Inspire

March 13th

12:00pm in Chapel – Holden Evening Prayer

6:15pm in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer

March 20th

12:00pm in Chapel – Holden Evening Prayer

6:15pm in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer



Join us on Wednesday's at 6:15 pm for
fellowship, fun, and music!

Come as you are!

First Lutheran Mission

December 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Bremwood | \$ 137.46 |
| Bibles/Catechisms | \$ 312.35 |
| Operation Christmas Child | \$ 147.58 |
| Education Fund | \$ 1,890.51 |
| Youth Fund | \$ 537.08 |
| Sunday School Fund | \$ 250.00 |
| Caring Tree | \$ 147.58 |
| Meals on Wheels | \$ 276.07 |
| Manna | \$ 121.06 |
| Heifer International | \$ 398.51 |
| Riverside Bible Camp | \$ 35.21 |
| Campers Fund | \$ 125.21 |
| Good Samaritan Fund | \$ 157.88 |
| Lutheran Services | \$ 200.27 |
| Dayspring Children's Village | \$ 258.40 |
| Northern Lights Shelter | \$ |
| LRH Auxiliary | \$ 138.61 |
| TOTAL | \$ 5,038.50 |

Donations

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| \$1,750 | - Education |
| \$71.12 | - Heifer International |
| \$50.00 | - Youth Fund |

Memorials

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| JoAnn Julson | \$20 | -General Fund |
| Larry Gentz | \$65 | -General Fund |
| Phyllis Mortenson | \$250 | -Education |
| Sharly Nestor | \$200 | -Organ Fund |

Share Shoppe

Saturday, February 3rd

First Lutheran Financial Update

December 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Income | \$36,813.76 |
| Electronic Income | \$3,389.05 |
| Expense | (\$20,841.24) |
| End of Month | \$19,361.57 |
| <u>YTD as of October 31</u> | |
| Income | \$218,398.06 |
| Electronic Income | \$44,226.75 |
| Inspire | \$2,657.00 |
| Use of Church | \$795.00 |
| Expense | (\$242,272.98) |
| End of Month | \$23,803.83 |

December General Budget Expenses

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| PAYROLL: | \$ 13,042.24 |
| E-GIVING EXPENSE | \$ 49.02 |
| CHURCH MAINTENANCE | \$ 598.30 |
| UTILITIES | \$ 2,223.99 |
| TELEPHONE | \$ 215.80 |
| OFFICE EXPENSE | \$ 1,835.91 |
| WORSHIP 1 | \$ 62.00 |
| PASTOR MILEAGE | \$ 886.54 |
| FALL CONFERENCE | \$ 237.44 |
| N. IOWA SYNOD | \$ 375.00 |
| | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$ 20,841.24 |
| INCOME | \$ 40,202.81 |
| NET | \$ 19,361.57 |

Mission Project for February

Good Samaritan Fund

Staff Phone Numbers

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Pastor Sogge | 612-718-9151 |
| Mark Willand | 641-390-1032 |
| Troy Bachtle | 641-430-8305 |
| Jan Thompson | 641-390-0883 |
| Christa Trenhaile | 641-390-0484 |



- 1) Tyler Trenhaile
- 2) Courtney Jorgensen, Christine Hulsing
- 3) Mary Dodd, Emily Toresdahl
- 4) Lucus Hoffman, Ohin Shackleton, Ryan Tufte
- 5)
- 6) Anne Marie Kinnin, Amanda Olson
- 7) Monte DeArmoun, Leland Swenson
- 8) Nancy Hengesteg, Zach Nelson, Kinley Thompson, Xander Gentz
- 9) Allyson Deboer, Mary Kalvig, Kenlyn Reindl
- 10) Clare Hengesteg, Caroline Hengesteg, Matthew Johnson, Jaden Lafferty
- 11) Lon Christianson, Debra Rustad, Roger Rustad, Josie Reindl
- 12) Nancy Amundson, Janice Hopperstad, John Janssen, Collin Jaspers, Delores Knudson, Sophie Rye
- 13) Wendy Davis, Deb Hanson
- 14) Abby LaRue
- 15) Callie Flattum, Kent Nitcher, Carol Paulson
- 16) David Capitani, Matt Thompson, Mark Willand, Jim Price
- 17) Kristoffer Kenison
- 18) Dexter Duvall, Larry Kenison, Avery LaRue, Belle Magritz, Keagan Brandt
- 19) Jeri Severson, Kenny Skellenger
- 20) Alison Gores, Nicole Husske, Jordan Smally, Dawson VanRyswyk, Betsy Wright
- 21) Tyson Werner
- 22) Henry Houg
- 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,
- 27) Jody Christianson, Connie Kenison, Annika Schreiber
- 28) Nicholas Shackleton, Ellen Van Sabben, Brian Waller, John Weitzel, Betty Goodrich, Clayton Ogea, Kennedy Schulz
- 29) Shirley Ausenhus, John Berg

FEBRUARY 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|-----------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo | 2 | 3 |
| 4 <u>Epiphany 5</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C 6:30pm: JH. Youth | 5 | 6 Manna Truck 6pm: Worship Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | 7 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth | 8 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology | 9 | 10 |
| 11 <u>Transfiguration</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. Kids sing in school 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth | 12 | 13 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 5-6:30: Pancake dinner at FLC 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon Shrove Tuesday | 14 12:00pm: Lenten worship 2:00pm: LRH 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Lenten worship 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth Ash Wednesday | 15 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo | 16 | 17 |
| 18 <u>Lent 1</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C 3:00pm: LRH 4:00pm: Conf. Assembly 6:30pm: JH. Youth | 19 Presidents' Day | 20 Manna Truck 6pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | 21 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Lenten worship 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth | 22 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology | 23 | 24 |
| 25 <u>Lent 2</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth | 26 | 27 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon | 28 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Lenten worship 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth | 29 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo | 1 | 2 |

