

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
Office Phone: 641-324-2984
E-mail: flc@flcnorthwood.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus

March 2024

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
March 3	Team 1	Doug Krull	Jake Urbatsch	Gentz family	Maggie Rye Casey Gentz
March 10	Team 2	Larry Klitzke	Solberg family	Haberman family	Brekken Haberman
March 17	Team 3	6 th Grade Class	Severson family	Greg Nystuen	TBD
March 24	Team 4	Madelyn Midtgaard	Jake Urbatsch	Urbatsch family	Ivy Urbatsch
March 28- Maundy Thursday		-	Trenhaile family	Trenhaile family	Tegan Trenhaile Bryck Abrams
March 31	Team 5	Stuart Anderson	TBD	TBD	Kenly Solberg

Communion Set up: March 3 Megan Gentz
 March 17 Lindsey Severson

Altar Candles: March 3-10 Megan Gentz
 March 17-24 Lindsey Severson
 March 31 McClure family

PASTOR'S PAGE

I like to listen to books while I am in the car or outside walking. The latest book (ask me about the title) talks about the importance of exercise, not eating crappy food and the need for meaningful connection.

Meaningful connections is an important element of all recovery programs, strong faith communities and every ones long-term mental health. I'm hoping that you are finding that in our church community. Community is important in much the same way that family is important. Community is a place to be connected, a place to laugh and cry and simply share a common story of life. In the church we can also say that it is where we worship and give voice to our common story of faith.

Throughout the story of faith we experience a variety of family structures and community structures which calls us into the gift and challenge of life. I think that is part of why we were given the Ten Commandments and a whole bunch of laws in scripture and then Jesus summing it all up by saying "love one another as I have loved you."

Eugene Peterson summarizes what connection/community can look like in his paraphrase of Colossians 3:12-17 as recorded by in *The Message*:

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it. Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ – the Message – have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives – words, actions, whatever – be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.

Community and family are a gift but they do take work. There is lots of space for grace and no place for bullying. There is room for laughter and fun as well as sharing our fears and our sorrows. Now that we have been blessed with warm weather in February and look forward to celebrating Easter in a few weeks, take time to celebrate the community that we have and wonder out loud about how we can invite others in as well as reach out to our neighbors.

Blessed to be your pastor,

Pastor Becky

PASTORAL ACTS - 2024

Funeral

Bob Mills 2/9/24

Baptism

Waylon Thomas Brandt 2/4/24

Oliver Jacob Loken 2/4/24

YOUTH NEWS

We are currently in the middle of Vets Vs Noobs which runs all of Lent. Each week we've been playing games and then having shorter lessons in the Youth room. The Senior High students have been attending the church services on Wednesday night and then go downstairs for trivia about all the things that have happened during the church services. Lessons this month have covered the topics of love and hate, temptation and how God gets us through them, and why God will forgive us even when we have a hard time forgiving ourselves.

In Junior High we've invited the current 6th graders to join us, which is always an experience getting to know new people. On March 27th, the current 8th graders will get to join Sr. High Youth for one week as an introduction for when they can join at the end of the school year. We will be having Youth on Easter Sunday at 6:30 for those who can make it that day.

We've been planning for DayCamp which will be here in less than 100 days!!! June 3 – 7 are this summer's dates. We're still working out the times and are excited for what's to come.





Please turn in your Easter Donations by Sunday, March 24th. You may donate to a fund of your choice; suggested funds are on the backside. Donations will be printed in the Easter bulletin.

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Given by:

Designated Fund: _____

Amount: _____

Easter Memorials and Honorariums

An Easter Memorial to remember a loved one who has died.

And / Or

An Easter Honorarium to give thanks for someone living.

You may designate your Memorial or Honorarium to any fund of your choice; suggestions listed below.

General Fund:

Ongoing budgeted expenses of the congregation

Worship:

Music, Special Services

Property:

Building updates, Parsonage, General Maintenance

Education:

Sunday School, Riverside Bible Camp,
Confirmation Students, Summer Day Camp, Adult
Education

Social Ministry:

Manna of Worth County, Meals on Wheels, Share
Shoppe, Good Samaritan Fund, Lutheran World
Relief, ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Relief

Fellowship:

Events for congregation and community

Inspire Service:

General expenses related to each service

Youth Group:

General group events for those in grades 7-12

Annual Meeting for Shell Rock Cemetery Association

Is to be held on Sunday, March 10th at 1:30 pm
at the home of Myra Harris.

Lutheran Retirement Home

The Annual Meeting will be held on
March 28th at 6:00pm

Regular Council Meeting

January 14, 2024

First Lutheran Church - Northwood

In attendance: Kris K., Matt J., Kimberly A., Connie K., Doug F., Megan O., Rev. Sogge

We Assemble in God's Name - Kris K, Vice President Opened Meeting

Devotion - Rev. Sogge

We Celebrate Our Past

Presidential - Nikkole K. - no new updates.

Secretary's - Megan O. - Minutes from the last meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report - Matt J. - We came under budget for the 2023 year and came ahead on income for the year at just over \$23,000.

Pastor's Report - Another full month: 3 funerals, in home visits, wedding/funeral planning, and many community events. The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024 during our usual service time. We plan to open with prayer and announcements and begin the meeting soon after. Pastor has also been working on Basic Skills Coach Training, a Zoom class each Thursday through March 7. This class is focused on teaching and honing coaching skills in order to better assist new and upcoming Pastors and church staff. The classes are voluntary, but very useful.

Motion/Vote to accept the reports - Connie / Doug. Passed.

We Present our Offering.

Finance - Matt J. - nothing new

Worship - Kimberly A. - Last meeting ½ to select music and worship as we move into Lent. Decorations came down from the Christmas season. Thoughts were brought up about having communion at the rail. Many members, young and old, appreciate their memories of communion at the rail. Especially the confirmation kids. We need to talk to the congregation and get multiple opinions as there have been many counter arguments for safety, stability and mobility of all. Mid week Lenten services will be held at First Lutheran. The next meeting will be held 2/6.

Inspire - Gina S. - Nothing New

Stewardship - Connie K. - Working on new ideas. Stewardshipforlife.com will be a good resource.

Youth - Weston - Nothing New

Education - Mariah B. - Nothing New

Property - Doug F. - Troy has been working on upkeep for the boiler and furnace. They have been working hard in the cold weather. The Grant has been returned from the original solar panel project. There are also concerns about our insurance. Many companies in the area/state are leaving or are unwilling to cover churches. With the thinning competition, prices will rise.

Mission - Kris K. - Working on new ideas.

Fellowship - Rich S. - Nothing New

Concerns for the Present

Annual Report

Bad Weather - Rather than canceling or closing church due to bad weather, we should be reminding everyone that they can access the stream on Facebook Live. So, there is an opportunity to be 'present' without leaving the safety of your home.

Regular Giving - Conversation was had about ensuring regular, transparent conversation is had about the importance of individual's regular giving. Funds that are in accounts other than the General Fund, cannot be utilized for things outside of their intended fund. Regular giving is the lifeblood of the functions of the church.

So, we need to make sure people understand the regulations within the church and how their gifts are utilized depending on how they are given.

New Members / Baptisms / Funerals

Funerals - Phyllis Mortenson - Dec 22, 2023
Larry Gentz - Dec 22, 2023
JoAnn Julson - Dec 28, 2023

Communion Servers:

January 21 - Kris, Kim and Doug
February 4 - Gina, Connie, Megan
Feb. 18 - Megan

We Go Out In God's Name

Motion Made to Adjourn Meeting - Connie/Doug - Passed.
The Lord's Prayer

Next meeting - February 20, 2024 - 6:00 pm

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:00 AM Opening worship - Pastor Becky
Meeting opened by President, Nikkole Koenig

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion Made by Tim Knutson
Second - Kim Anderson
Approved by Congregation

COMMITTEE REPORTS - were not read aloud

- Pastor Becky
- Youth Director
- Congregation Council
- Treasurer
- Other Reports

Motion made to approve reports as presented by Russell Knudson
Second by Tom Watts
Approved by Congregation

ELECTIONS

Motion made by Tom Watts to approve ballot unanimously as a congregation. All seats to be filled by potential candidates on the ballots.
Second - Dennis Johnson
Approved by Congregation

NEW BUSINESS

Continued partnership with Deer Creek Valley- Holy Experiment
August 1, 2023 was the first day of our Experiment

6th Month Agreement ends February 1, 2023

Tim Knudtson - Asks for feedback from Rev. Sogge and her opinion of the experiment.

Rev. Sogge communicates it is an excellent partnership. Everything is going well.

It is well within her abilities and a positive experience.

Motion made by Jan Hopperstad to approve our Holy Experiment for an additional six months.

Seconded by Ron Christensen

** Amendment to Motion made by Mike Stephens - To give the Council the ability to approve or deny the continuation of the Holy Experiment with Deer Creek Valley every six months.

Second - Jan Thompson

Amendment Approved

Official Motion with Amendment: The congregation approves an additional six months of our Holy Experiment with Deer Creek Valley Lutheran Church, and gives the Council the ability to approve or deny the continuation of the Holy Experiment from here forward. - Approved by Congregation.

REQUESTS/TRUST FUND RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion Made by Doug Krull to accept the Trust Fund Recommendations as delivered.

Second Dolores Knudtson

Approved by Congregation

APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Motion to approve 2024 proposed budget - Kris Kenison

Second - Gina Solberg

Approved by Congregation

Motion to Close Meeting made by Kris Kenison

Second - Mike Stephens

Approved By Congregation

Closing Prayer - Pastor Becky

Wednesdays in Lent

“40 Acts”

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



Congratulations to Marcus and Madison Brandt on the baptism of their son, Waylon Thomas on February 4th. His sponsors are Alex Eilertson and Kyle Buehrer.

Congratulations to Jacob and Tori Loken on the baptism of their son, Oliver Jacob on February 4th. His sponsors are Shelby and Dustin Tallman.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Bob Mills who passed away on Sunday, February 4th. His funeral was held here at FLC on Friday February 9th.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Kay Reyerson who passed away Saturday, February 10th. A grave side service will be held later this spring.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Judy Wangen and her family. Her husband, Ron, passed away on February 11th. There was a visitation from 4-6, Friday, February 16 at Shroeder & Sites Funeral Home. A grave side service will be held later this spring.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Pastor Al Stoa. A funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 1, 2024, at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, MN; Al's family will greet guests at a visitation held from 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, MN and one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at Graceland Cemetery in Albert Lea, MN at a later date.

Orders for Easter Lilies can be made in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The price of the lilies is \$15.00 per plant and your payment must be made with your order. Names will be printed in the Easter bulletins. Please fill out your order completely and turn into the office by Thursday, March 7th.

Little Caesars Fundraising packets are on the table in the Narthex. All orders are to be turned into the office or submitted online by Thursday, March 14. Please have checks made out to First Lutheran Church. Delivery will be the week of April 8-12.

We will be having First Communion Class for the 5th graders on Saturday, March 23rd from 10am – 2pm at Deer Creek Valley. Students should meet at First Lutheran Church at 9:45am as Pastor Becky will drive students in the church van. Lunch will be provided. First Communion will be taken on Maundy Thursday during worship service which starts at 6:15pm.

Sunday School Important Dates

3/10 – No Sunday School, Spring Break

3/17 – No Sunday School, Spring Break

3/24 – Sing in church

3/31 – No Sunday School, Easter



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

First Lutheran Missions

January 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$	171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$	
Bremwood - LSI	\$	
Operation Christmas Child	\$	
Education Fund	\$	
Youth Fund	\$	
Sunday School Fund	\$	
Caring Tree	\$	
Meals on Wheels	\$	
Manna	\$	
Heifer International	\$	
Campers Fund	\$	
Dayspring Children's Village	\$	
Northern Lights Shelter	\$	
LRH Auxiliary	\$	
TOTAL	\$	171.51

Donations

\$171.51 - **Good Samaritan Fund**

Memorials

Bob Mills **\$20** -**General Fund**
Ron Wangen **\$10** -**General Fund**

Share Shoppe
Saturday, March 2nd

First Lutheran Financial Update

January 2024

Income	\$9,859.10
Electronic Income	\$3,459.05
Expense	(\$16,989.46)
End of Month	(\$3,671.31)

YTD as of January 31

Income	\$9,859.10
Electronic Income	\$3,459.05
Inspire	\$0
Use of Church	\$0
Expense	(\$16,989.46)
End of Month	(\$3,671.31)

January General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 12,704.33
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 47.63
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 247.97
UTILITIES	\$ 2,398.02
TELEPHONE	\$ 247.20
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 871.81
WORSHIP 1	\$ 97.50
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,989.46
INCOME	\$ 13,318.05
NET	\$ (3,671.31)

Mission Project for March

Lutheran World Relief
&
Lutheran World Hunger

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 **Jessica Butler, Sarah Odom**
- 2 **Kailey Eskildsen, Miranda Hodson**
- 3 **Piper Brunsvold, Richard Kraft**
- 4 **Larry Brekken, Jami Tolzmann**
- 5 **Randy Severson**
- 6
- 7 **Wanda Love**
- 8 **Arvin Lande, Keith Olson**
- 9 **Shawn Dahl, Levi Hanson, Janie Odegaard, Emmet Urbatsch, Paisley Wright**
- 10 **Jane Bloomingdale, Merle Hanson, Sandy Liljedahl, Amy Odom, Sofie Quam, Avarie Skellenger**
- 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, Annika Sogge**
- 15 **Wesley Ballantyne, Alexis Halbach, Jaxon Tufte**
- 16 **Megan Ott**
- 17 **Gerald Hengesteg**
- 18 **Susan Cowell, Gary Nerlien, Craig Toft, Joan Watts**
- 19 **Kayla Thirnbeck, Maynard Midtgaard, Jenna O'Neill Weitzel**
- 20 **Valerie Abrams**
- 21 **James Bloomingdale, Leila Gangstad, Brianna Schroader, Wyatt Willand, Laurie Camarigg**
- 22 **Cheryl Gentz, Paul Ubben**
- 23 **Nikkole Koenig**
- 24 **Hannah Severson, Hunter Julson, Samantha Haberman, Chad Trenhaile, Wyatt Turner**
- 25 **Sam Hengesteg, Jolene Hickle,**
- 26 **Ethan Adams**
- 27 **Dani Gentz**
- 28 **Susan Grundel, Spencer Hulshizer, Molly Hunchis, David Penfold, Mark Tufte**
- 29 **Jay Hopperstad, Bruce Odden, Henry Horning**
- 30 **Marjorie Odden, Jayla Varner**
- 31 **Cindy Borcharding, Kollyns Kortan, Rose Marie Kruger, Evelyn Patterson**

MARCH 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <u>Lent 3</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	4 6:00pm: Worship Mtng.	5 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–Al–Anon	6 Noon: Lenten Service 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Lenten/Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	7 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	8	9
10 <u>Lent 4</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth Daylight Saving Time Begins	11	12 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al–Anon	13 Noon: Lenten Service 6:15pm: Lenten/Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	14 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	15	16
17 <u>Lent 5</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	18	19 Manna Truck 6pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al–Anon	20 Noon: Lenten Service 2:00pm: M. Court 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Lenten/Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	21 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	22	23 First Communion Class – Talk with Pastor Becky
24 <u>Passion/Palm</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. with kids singing 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	25	26 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al–Anon	27 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	28 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 7:00pm: Lenten at FLC with First Communion Maundy Thursday	29 7:00pm: DCV Lenten Service Good Friday	30
31 <u>Easter</u> 7:00am: DCV with H.C. 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth						

