

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

April 2024

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 7	Team 1	Lisa Wangsness	Haxton family	Haxton family	TBD
April 14	Team 2	Leila Gangstad	Petznick family	Rugland family	Amay Rugland Tucker Duvall
April 21	Team 3	6 th grade Class	Solberg family	Solberg family	TBD
April 28	Team 4	Laure Buehrer	Severson family	Skellenger family	Avarie Skellenger Ivy Toresdahl

Communion Set up:

April 7 Pat Nelson
 April 21 Gina Solberg

Altar Candles:

April 7-14 Pat Nelson
 April 21-28 Gina Solberg

PASTOR'S PAGE

Christ is Risen! Christ is risen, indeed.

This is such an exciting and hope-filled time of the year.

One of the exciting parts of celebrating Easter as a little girl was buying a pretty new dress with the matching white shoes, socks, purse, and hat. It was a big deal. It meant that we were celebrating Easter and that the cold winter was almost over.

Spring and Easter also brought the flower and seed catalogues into our home. My mom and dad both enjoyed gardening and it was fun to look through the catalogues and dream of beautiful flowers and wonder why they wanted to plant all those vegetables. There were some years where half of our back yard was garden and the other half ball field.

This winter has been crazy weather experience. Warm days in February. Snow and rain at the end of March. People are watching sump pumps diligently. One of the many blessings of living in this part of the country is our appreciation of the seasons. A long and snowy winter leads to a much anticipated and loved spring. Our church year reflects a similar journey of ups and downs, joys, and sorrows. Lent serves as a time of reflecting on the journey of Jesus and his followers to the cross. Easter is a much-anticipated celebration of the resurrection following a thoughtful and agonizing Holy Week.

Easter is a day that we are invited to celebrate each day. It's not necessary to go out and buy new clothes – but great fun to know that new life new hope and new blessings come to us each day because Jesus rose from the dead. Death has lost its sting. The earth knows it, the snow melts, the earth warms, the tulips and other flowers poke through the dirt and the birds start to sing. Join the celebration.

Pastor Becky

PASTORAL ACTS - 2024

Funeral

Duane Thompson 3/23/24



YOUTH NEWS

With Holy week wrapping up, we have come to the end of Vets vs Noobs in Youth. All during Lent the students have been in different groups having competitions and games and lots of trivia to see which group was best. In Sr. High, the older students won the competition, and in Junior High the 7th graders won. Junior High had the 6th graders attending during Lent and it was good to see our next group of kids who will get to join us permanently once summer starts.

During Easter week, we had a huge turnout for Senior High Youth – 36 students, plus six 8th graders got to attend for a preview week. 2 weeks before that we had 9 Senior High students as Spring Break had our students traveling to Costa Rica, DC, Arizona, Florida, California and Texas. Great to have everyone back and to hear all about the trips they got to go on.



We've now got 7 weeks left before Summer starts, so looking forward to having some great lessons and wrapping up time with our current group of Seniors. We've got lots of helpers on board for DayCamp from June 3 – 7. We will have sign-up sheets available during the last week of Sunday School.

Other things we've got coming up in the next few months include repainting the Youthroom on Graduation night and Youth Olympics on May 22 for current 6th graders to those who will have just graduated. We've got 42 people signed up for Lifest in the middle of July and our Juniors and Seniors are really looking forward to our Wisconsin Dells Retreat at the end of July.

We're truly going to be busy, but seriously soo blessed by the opportunities God has put before us!



Regular Council Meeting
February 20, 2023
First Lutheran Church - Northwood

In Attendance: Kevin M., Judy S., Gina S., Matt J., Nikkole K., Rev. Sogge, Megan O.

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion - Rev. Sogge

As a member of the Fellowship Committee, Judy Stevens will be sitting on the council in place of Rich Selvig for the 2024 year.

Motion made to approve Judy Stevens to stand in for Rich for the 2024 year was made by Megan/ Gina. - Passed.

Organization for 2024 - Council officers, devotion sign-up, committee assignments

Motion made for officers to remain in their previously appointed positions by Gina S./Judy S. - Passed.

New (tentative) Committee Assignments:

Finance-Matt Johnson

Worship-Kimberly Anderson

Inspire-Kevin McClure

Youth-Weston Willand

Education-Mariah Ballantyne

Property-Kris Kenison

Mission-Gina

Fellowship-Judy Stevens

Next Best Steps--committee to be formed soon.

Devotion Sign Up will be decided at the next meeting.

We Celebrate our Past

Presidential Correspondence - Nikkole K.

Wicks organ company sent a letter regarding a used organ keyboard console that was purchased with organ funds in 2018, in anticipation of its use as part of a potential organ refurbishment at that time. After a very lengthy committee and voting process regarding the organ refurbishment from 2018-2022, the congregation voted against any refurbishment projects. Wicks has been holding onto this console all this time, without having charged any rental/storage/restocking fee. Wicks would like to sell the console since we are no longer going to use it. Nikkole spoke to Scott Wicks 2/21 and he said they would be able to refund 50% of the price to us, recouping some of their storage expenses if we allow them to sell it.

A discussion was set to be held via email.

Secretary's Report - Megan O.

Corrections of spelling need to be made to Annual Report - Mike Stephens to Stevens.

Treasurer's Report- Matt J.

January was a rough month. With a net income of (-\$3,671.31) for the month. Though this seems to be quite typical for the month of January, after all of the holiday festivities and one Sunday affected by weather. It has been evident that with more activities, more events, (especially with the children) and more people physically in the seats, we certainly do better financially. Matt plans to look into previous years first months of finances and make sure we are on track.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky Sogge

A "Next Best Steps" Commission will be created. This group will focus on Vital Congregations and how we support and partner with neighboring churches. Potential candidates for this group will come together in the following weeks and months. Lay Minister training will be available later this year. It is held one weekend a month from September through March and will guide and train individuals. Knowing that in the next few years many of our local pastors will be reaching retirement age, there may become an increased need for new solutions and this is a great opportunity. We need to start thinking of individuals who may be interested in pursuing this, or individuals who may be a good fit. Pastor has continued to keep up with their Basic Skills Coach Training, meeting with colleagues on Thursdays through March 7. The Synod Assembly is held every two years, so this year is a Synod Ministry Festival.

Motion made to accept the reports made by Judy / Kevin - Passed

We Present our Offering

FINANCE - Matt J.

WORSHIP- Kimberly A.

Last meeting was held 2/6. Next meeting will be 3/4. They have been working with Deer Creek Valley on planning Organ, Piano and congregational music. The Lenten Services have been planned as well.

For Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday will be held at 10pm at FLC

Good Friday will be held 7pm at DCV

Easter Sunday will be normal times at each location.

INSPIRE- Gina S.

Very consistent attendance! There have been some concerns about food allergies, in particular peanut allergies. So, being mindful that there are options for everyone has become increasingly important. There have been some questions with Inspire being live vs. recorded. Due to sound technicalities and balancing, the service is recorded in order to produce the "best" quality and audience experience. We don't want to put out something that we are not proud of. The big focus is getting people in the door! Come, Join and bring a friend. You never know who might enjoy this style of worship!

STEWARDSHIP - Connie K.

Meetings to be held soon.

YOUTH-Weston W.

Very eventful week/month. Vets vs. Noobs has begun. Vets are up 9 to the Noobs 5. Many new faces and looking forward to the Super Bowl Party!

EDUCATION - Mariah B.

Good attendance. Having difficulties again with keeping teachers and teacher's scheduling full.

PROPERTY - Doug F.

The work and drinking fountain upgrade in the Fireside room are complete.

MISSION- Kris K.

Kris met with Pastor Becky and Christa. The list of missions was changed a bit, to put a few similar missions together, reschedule them to have funds in place in a more timely manner or to line up with when a representative from the group could be at a church service to share some information.

FELLOWSHIP- Judy Stevens

They had Valentines with the Sunday School Kids that went well. 30 people enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Judy has a dedicated event just about every other month including the first Sunday after Easter, a farmer's meal in August, Halloween and something in the winter. It would be nice to have a dedicated coffee set up on the main level in order to reduce the amount of trips taken up and down stairs.

Day Camp is June 3-7. The Hours will be from 9am -12 pm

Concerns for the Present

New Members/Baptisms/Funerals

Funeral - Robert Mills, February 9th, 2024

Deaths - Kay Reyerson, Ron Wangen graveside services at a later date.

Baptisms - Oliver Jacob Loken, February 4, 2024

Waylon Thomas Brandt, February 4, 2024

A designation was needed for the Lenten midweek service offerings. It was decided that they will go towards the confirmation kits in order for them to buy more supplies. These kits are personal care kits, infant/baby kits and school kits for the Lutheran World Relief.

A motion was made to designate the offerings to confirmation kids in order to further their supplies for the Lutheran World Relief Kits. - Judy / Gina - Passed

An assumption was made on the Annual Meeting Ballot regarding Audit Committee candidates. Our previous candidate no longer wishes to serve in this capacity. So, a new candidate will need to be appointed. A few suggestions were brought forth and the suggested individuals were going to be approached in the coming weeks/months.

Communion Servers:

March 3 - Judy, Gina, Megan

March 17 - Kevin, Gina, Megan

Bread - The body of Christ given for you."

Wine - "The blood of Christ shed for you."

What to say to children...(hand on head).... "Jesus Loves You!"

We Go Out in God's Name

Motion to Adjourn - Kevin / Gina - Approved.

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: March 19, 6:00PM



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Duane and Jan Thompson. Duane passed away on Monday, March 18th. The visitation was held on Friday from 5-7pm at Conner Colonial Chapel. His funeral was held here at FLC on Saturday at 1:00 pm with a visitation one hour prior.

Congratulations to our 5th graders on taking their First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Ryker Amundson, Charlotte Berry, Axel Flattum, Graham Holstad, Tucker Janssen, Emelia Nelson, Kinzley Nelson, Max Rugland, Austin Schutz, Kellan Stambaugh, Olivia Urbatsch, Silas Waller, Ayden woodside.

Pastor Becky will be out of the office from April 1st-5th. She will be reachable on her cell phone if needed.

On Sunday, April 7th, we will have Pastor Kristen Corr Rod joining us for worship.

There will be an Altar guild meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at 4pm in the Fireside room.

The Easter Altar arrangement was in memory of JoAnn Julson. Given by Mary Reyerson and family.

The Lutheran World Relief Kit collection date has been extended until April 17th.

Join us in worship on Sunday, April 7th with Pastor Kristen Corr Rod who serves as the DEM for the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

Plan ahead! Day Camp will be from 9:00am until noon June 3rd -7th. The morning will include lots of activities and finish up at the elementary school for the kids to take part in the feeding program available this summer.

Our Little Caesar's order will be delivered to the church on Monday, April 8 at 11:30am. Please make plans to pick up your order on Monday before 5:00pm. Contact Christa if you need to make other arrangements for picking up your order.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the reading of The Passion Story from the Gospel of Mark.

Narrator: Gladie Hagen

Jesus: Gary Nerlien

Peter: Stuart Anderson

Judas: Dennis Johnson

High Priest: Leila Gangstad

Servant: Madelyn Midtgaard

Pilate: Monte DeArmoun

Witness: Janelle Johnson

People: All Speakers

Easter Brunch

**Join us for Easter brunch on Sunday,
March 21st following worship.**

First Lutheran Missions

February 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$	171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$	
Bremwood - LSI	\$	90.88
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	\$	262.39

Donations

\$90.88 - Lutheran Services of Iowa

Memorials

Al Stoa **\$45** -General Fund

First Lutheran Financial Update

February 2024

Income	\$23,719
Electronic Income	\$3,449.30
Expense	(\$26,895.85)
End of Month	\$272.45

YTD as of January 29

Income	\$32,912.60
Electronic Income	\$6,908.35
Inspire	\$225
Use of Church	\$440
Expense	(\$43,885.31)
End of Month	(\$3,399.36)

February General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 16,599.71
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 71.96
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 364.98
UTILITIES	\$ 2,510.59
TELEPHONE	\$ 215.83
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 3,339.53
INSURANCE	\$ 3,418.25
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 27,168.30
INCOME	\$ 13,318.05
NET	\$ 272.45

Share Shoppe

Saturday, April 6th

Mission Project for April

**Meals on Wheels, Share Shoppe
and Manna Food Bank**

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 Kimberly Odegaard, Heather Thofson, Kerry Urbatch
- 2 Jessica Bergsma, Damian LaPoint, Judy Lee, Wendell Meyer, Cary Van Veldhuizen, Jean Van Veldhuizen
- 3 Tanner Iseminger, Parker Iverson, Gaylen Quam
- 4
- 5 Bradley Christianson, Jill Schutz
- 6 DeAnn Read, Ashlynn Van Sabben
- 7 Diane Hanson, Amy Petry, Kandie Shupe
- 8 DuWayne Bottleman
- 9 Todd Moore, Emelia Nelson, Arlyn Rustad
- 10 Season Anderson, Vivienne Vandell, Braxlee Iverson
- 11 Riley King
- 12
- 13 Brian Bestul, Judale Mills, Jamie Nelson
- 14 Clay Carter, Elizabeth Kenison
- 15 Douglas Hall, Robert Hengesteg, Mary Reyerson, Tristan Rothove, Dirk VanRyswyk
- 16 Mackenzie Costello, Levi Eilertson,
- 17 MaryJo Senne, Kyle Waller, Harris Waller
- 18 Brady Christianson, Amber Athey, Jordan Cecak, Westlynn Reinartz
- 19 Coni Butler, Misty Hakes, Corey Haberman
- 20 Koen Bachtle
- 21 Danielle Lickteig, Angela Fallgatter, Jayne Wheeler
- 22 Renee Hartman
- 23 Rick Hanson
- 24 Ronald Christianson, Ashley Duvall, Jonathan Hickman, Madison Shoger
- 25 Cheryl DeArmoun, Scott Halbach, Kael Julseth, Jeremy Solberg, Darrell Hartman
- 26 Brad Brunsvold, Caleb Johnson
- 27 Deanna Halbach
- 28 Samantha Hunt, Laurie Harris, Diane Meyers
- 29 Chad Mills, Helen Trenhaile, Cambry Schulz, Jacob Urbatsch, Kendyl Hertel
- 30 Kyle Baker, Eric Trenhaile

APRIL 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		2 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–AI-Anon	3 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	4 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	5	6
7 <u>Easter 2</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	8	9 6:00pm: Worship Mtng. 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–AI-Anon	10 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	11 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	12	13
14 <u>Easter 3</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	15	16 Manna Truck 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–AI-Anon	17 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir	18 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	19	20
21 <u>Easter 4</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. with Easter Brunch 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	22	23 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–AI-Anon	24 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	25 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	26	27
28 <u>Easter 5</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	29	30 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–AI-Anon				