

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

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First Lutheran Focus April 2026

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 5	David & Sharron Petznick	Laure Buehrer	Nelson	Emelia Nelson Hadley Anderson
April 12	Russ & Delores Knudson	Megan Ott	Ballantyne	Wesley Ballantyne Caleb Johnson
April 19	Mike & Judy Stevens	Patti Irons	Urbatsch	Olivia Urbatsch Lily Varner
April 26	Stu & Kim Anderson	Morgan Johnson	Waller	Silas Waller

Share Shoppe
Saturday, April 4th

PASTOR'S PAGE

A Journey of Connecting

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

Who do you consider to be the clay jars in your life? Who are those who have been part of your faith life? And, for you, what is the best way to connect with them?

A few years back when I was living in Texas and looking towards marking another year around the sun, I reached out to a dear friend. She was living in Michigan, and it had been several years since we had a chance to see each other. This is the message I sent:

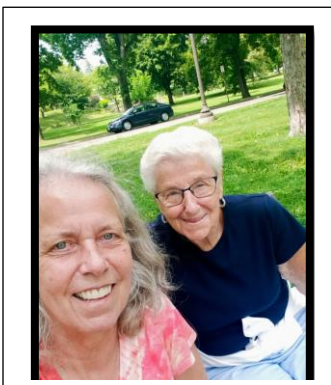
Hey, Ruth!! You have been on my mind a lot lately. I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for who you are, the tremendous witness in my life and for all you did for me during my teens and college years. A while ago someone asked me how I got through the turbulent years with my mom's illness and death and asked if there was anyone who was a strong support. Without hesitation I said, Ruth Behn. I want you to know that and I hold you in prayer daily. If I had a wish, it would be to spend an afternoon with you just to talk about whatever. Maybe someday that will happen, but Texas is a bit out of the way to anywhere! God has blessed me through you. Thank you.

My move to Northwood has opened up several opportunities for Ruth and I to connect and I am both grateful and blessed for each of our conversations.

We are days away from celebrating Easter full of hope, new life, new energy. I hope you would embrace this as an opportunity to connect with your faith community and the people who you hold near and dear.

I am putting together my plans for June/July as I take those months of sabbatical. I will continue my journey of connecting and inviting you to consider doing the same. With the help of others, I am putting together a journey of connecting kit for you to use through the summer months. Watch for more details but don't put off connecting with the folks who matter in your life. Blessed to be your pastor – deeply impacted by the faith of Ruth!

Pastor Becky



Pastoral Acts

Funerals-

Baptisms- Otto Charles Stevens

Weddings-

YOUTH NEWS

During Lent both groups have been having competitions each week to invite new people to Youth and attend services. In Senior High we've put the kids who have been here the longest on a team against the newer kids (The Vets vs The Noobs). In Junior High it's just a mix of the grades together, with the goal being to rely on our team mates to accomplish whatever the task at hand is. An active faith life includes sharing and experiencing with those around us, and both groups are doing that well right now!

With the weather warming up, we've finally been able to get outside more and do things. Recently we were able to get some of the Senior High kids together and go bike riding in Rochester. Looking forward to being able to do more activities outside and just enjoying life outside the walls of our building.

We recently put new lights up in the Youth kitchen. While many of our Senior High kids were gone on spring break trips, it was great to have the college kids back, who helped out quite a bit in removing the old ceiling tiles, painting the ceiling and helping plan out and install the new lights.

A few dates coming up to look out for -

June 1 - 5 – DayCamp for elementary students

July 8 – 12 – Lifest WI

July 27 – 30 – Junior/Senior Retreat

First Lutheran Church Council

Regular Meeting

February 17th, 2026

We Assemble in God's Name

- Members Present: Kris, Connie, Weston, Mike, Judy, Gina, Mariah, Pastor

We Celebrate our past

- Presidential Correspondence
 - Correspondence sent to Council via e-mail from approval of a donation to the church to host a vow renewal. Council approved
 - In April focus looking to do a spotlight on council members
- Secretary's Report
 - Reviewed previous months minutes.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Reviewed reports.
- Pastor's Report
 - Reflected on Pastors recent trip
 - Everything ran smoothly with office in her absence
 - Information will be coming out regarding Feed My Staving Children
- **Motion to approve all reports (Connie/Gina)**

We Present Our Offering

- Worship
 - Morgan Johnson will take over as council liaison for Worship committee
- Inspire
 - N/A
- Education
 - Mariah will be removed as Education council liaison as she is serving as council secretary now
 - Numbers continue to be low after Christmas break
- Property
 - Group meets next month
 - Update given on Boiler
- Fellowship
 - Judy/Connie going through kitchen inventory and looking at labeling where things belong

Concerns for the Present

- Discussed annual meeting suggestions
- Discussed recent funeral and upcoming baptisms
- Council members signed up for Communication Assignments and Devotion

Communion Assignments:

- March 1st: Weston, Connie, Kris
- March 15th: Connie, Kris, Gina
- March 29th: Morgan, Gina, Weston

We Go Out in God's Name

- **Motion to adjourn (Connie/Mike)**
- Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: March 17th, 2026 at 6pm

Financials

First Lutheran Financial Update

January 2026

Income	\$ 8,395.11
Electronic Income	\$ 3,037.66
Expense	\$19,869.66
End of Month	\$(8,436.89)

YTD as of January 2026

Income	\$19,540.17
Electronic Income	\$5,981.01
Other Income	\$0.00
Use of Church	\$475.00
Expense	\$39,302.52
End of Month	\$(13,306.34)

Donations

Youth	\$190.00
Lutheran World Hunger	\$35.63

Memorials

January General Budget Expenses

Payroll:	\$ 13,398.80
E-Giving Expense	\$ 44.54
Church Maintenance	\$ 1025.12
Utilities	\$ 4,010.55
Telephone	\$ 192.93
Office Expense	\$ 952.51
Worship	\$ 605.21
Insurance	\$ (735.00)
N. Iowa Synod	\$ 375.00
Total Expenses	\$ 19,869.66
Income	\$ 11,432.77
Net	\$ (8,436.89)

First Lutheran Missions

January 2026

Riverside Bible Camp	\$
Good Samaritan Fund	\$
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 35.63
Bremwood - LSI	\$
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$
Youth Fund	\$ 190.00
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$
Northern Lights Shelter	\$
LRH Auxiliary	\$
TOTAL	\$

Lilies and Easter

Donations

Lilies

*In Memory of James Watts; and Bill and Doris Erdman
Given by Tom and Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Alice and Wendell Watts
Given by Tom and Joan Watts*

*In Memory of Hellen Holstad
Given by First Lutheran Church Alter Guild*

*In Memory of Dennis and Helen Orvedal
Given by Jeff and Stacie Harms*

*In Memory of Family and Friends
Given by David & Sharron Petznick*

*In Memory of Jim & Kate Shuldhiess; and Harm and Esther Krull
Given by Doug and Jennifer Krull*

*In Memory of Jeanette Knutson; Gary Knutson and Sharyl Nestor; Cornell
and Ila Knutson
Given by Tim Knutson*

*In Memory of Wanda Hoffman
Given by Raymond Hoffman*

*In Memory of Donald and Barbara Joanis
Given by Sherrie Christianson*

*In Memory of Russell and Ruth Selvig
Given by Richard Selvig*

*In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by Harlan and Barb Helgeson and families*

*In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by Gary and June Nerlien and family*

*In Memory of Loved Ones
Given by Jerry and Bonnie Bakken*

*In Memory of Chuck and Avis Lehman
Given by Dave, Patty, Lisa, and Mary Irons*

*In Memory of Michael Walton, Richard Hagen, and Carl Dralla
Given by Conner Colonial Chapel*

*In Memory of Helen Trenhaile
Given by Hoff Celebrations*

*In Memory of Norance and Nancy Reyerson
Given by Mary Low*



Donations

In Memory of Loved Ones

Given by Tom and Joan Watts

General Fund

In Honor of Family and Friends

Given by Brian and Connie Kenison

Education Fund

In Honor of Family and Friends

Given by Brian and Connie Kenison

General Fund

In Memory of Jim and Helen Tanner

Given by Jim Tanner and Arlene Rosdahl

General Fund

In Memory of Loved Ones

Given by Dennis and Janet Reeder

General Fund

In Memory of Loves Ones

Given by Dan and Carolyn Reeder

General Fund

In Honor of Church Council

Given by Richard Selvig

General Fund

In Memory of Duane Thompson

Given by Thompson Family

General Fund

*In Memory of Raymond and Mary Ellen Ihnen; and Jack and
Irma Perkins*

Given by Butch and Steph Perkins

Offering Plates

In Memory of Parents and Loved Ones

Given by Jerry and Bonnie Bakken

General Fund

In Memory of Parents and Loved Ones

Given by Jerry and Bonnie Bakken

Education Fund

News and Announcements

The Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event was a success! Thank you to everyone who stepped up and volunteered. Many of you brought friends and family as well. As a group and community there were 233 volunteers and we filled 14,256 food bags which equals 85,536 meals for starving children around the world. That feeds 234 children for a whole year! God's love through your hands! Thank you for all the help and love you provided!!

Production for Northwood Mobile Pack								
Day	Date	Shift	Shift Start Time	Shift End Time	Volunteers	Boxes	Meals	Kids fed for a year!
Monday	23-Mar	setup	3pm	5pm	10			
Monday	23-Mar	1	6pm	8pm	76	113	24,408	66
Tuesday	24-Mar	2	10am	12pm	43	69	14,904	40
Tuesday	24-Mar	3	1pm	3pm	47	101	21,816	59
Tuesday	24-Mar	4	4pm	6pm	43	113	24,408	66
Tuesday	24-Mar	cleanup	6pm	8:30pm	10			
EVENT TOTALS:					233	396	85,536	234



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

—MATTHEW 25:35

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS

A new video camera is needed for our 'live feed'. The cost is around \$550.00. With technology advancing, this camera will allow us better coverage and will help keep our system up to date.



News and Announcements

Job Opening Part-time Position

We are accepting applications/resumes for the position of Building Custodian. This is a part-time position that consists of cleaning, set-up and re-setting of rooms for the church building. Full job description and application can be found at the church office Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 12:00 noon.



Parents and students~ now is the time to sign up for Riverside Bible Camp. Information can be found on the poster in the narthex at church or on the Riverside website.

Save The Date!
First Lutheran Church
Anniversary Celebration!



Special Service
Special Music
Luncheon to follow
Historical Display



More info to come!

All current and former FLC members, along with members of the community, are invited to join us for a fun-filled day. Friends and family are welcome!

ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE. 641-324-2984

Sunday April 19, 10:30 AM

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8:30: Quilting 9:00: Prayer Group 6:15: Service/First Communion 6:30: Cub Scouts	3 GOOD FRIDAY 6:15 pm: Service at DCV	4 EASTER VIGIL
5 EASTER 7:00am: Easter Service DCV 9:00am: Easter Service FLC 6:30pm: JH. Youth	6	7 6:00pm: Worship Comm 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	8 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	9 8:30: Quilting 9:00: Prayer Group 6:30: Cub Scouts	10	11
12 9:00am: Easter 2 Service 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: J.H Youth	13	14 1:00 pm: Staff Mtg 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	15 2:00pm: Maple Crt worship 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	16 8:30: Quilting 9:00: Prayer Group 6:30: Cub Scouts	17	18
19 9:00am: Service DCV 10:30am: Service FLC & Pre-Anniversary Event follows 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: J.H Youth	20	21 6:00pm: Council Mtg 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	22 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	23 8:30: Quilting 9:00: Prayer Group 6:30: Cub Scouts	24	25
26 9:00am: Easter 4 Service/ Baptism Tolzmann 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: J.H Youth	27	28 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	29 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	30 8:30: Quilting 9:00: Prayer Group 6:30: Cub Scouts		

First Lutheran Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00am until Noon