

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

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First Lutheran Focus September 2024

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
September 1	Mike & Judy Stevens	Laure Buehrer	TBD	TBD	TBD
September 8	Lee & Becky Okerlund	Lisa Wangsness	TBD	TBD	TBD
September 15	Randy & Laure Buehrer	Leila Gangstad	TBD	TBD	TBD
September 22	David & Sharron Petznick	Doug Krull	TBD	TBD	TBD
September 29	Russ & Delores Knudson	Stuart Anderson	TBD	TBD	TBD

<u>Communion Set up:</u>	September 1	Coni Butler
	September 15	Ashley Haxton
<u>Altar Candles:</u>	September 1-8	McClure family
	September 15-22	Ashley Haxton
	September 29	Anneke Urbatsch

PASTOR'S PAGE

The next few weeks the second lesson appointed for Sunday comes from the book of James so I've been thinking that we should take a deeper dive into this New Testament book. First of all, take time to read this 5-chapter book (right after Hebrews if you can't find it). The details about who wrote it and when it was written are very few. Some suggest that James, the brother of Jesus, wrote it while others suggest it was written many years after James was martyred by an unknown follower.

Martin Luther noted that the general themes set out in the first chapter are then expanded to give powerful encouragement for responsible Christian action amid the complex realities of daily life.

Here are a few verses from the second half of chapter one.

16-17 *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. Every generous act of giving, every perfect gift, is from above...;*

19-20 *You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness.*

22-25 *But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they look like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.*

There are lots of wonderful gems throughout the Bible but join me in this deeper dive into James. I will a verse in my daily walks posted on Facebook and Instagram https://www.instagram.com/hope_grace_for_today/#

My goal is to walk more and so I invite you into a quick look at our morning walks and reflect of a verse each day in the book of James.

As you read the book of James write down your insights and questions. Pull out a commentary or Google (if you must), and dig deeper into what James says to you and share it with me.

Our mutual work together as a church is to invite and encourage one another into a deeper life of faith. We get to do this through worship, through daily devotions and through our conversations together.

Blessed to be your pastor!

Pastor Becky

AUGUST PASTORAL ACTS

Funeral

Bradley Eichmeier	8/16/24 - Mason City
Loren Nelson	8/24/24
Lois Sola	8/30/24 - DCV

YOUTH NEWS

...And just like that, Summer is over and we are back in the routine of School! While it's always great to get back into that routine, it's sad to see Summer end as we had so many things going on.

At the end of July I was able to take 14 of the kids who had just graduated and who are currently Seniors on a 4 day retreat to Wisconsin Dells. It was a trip filled with things going on all the time and so many memories made. Highlights include going to a ropes course, boat ride, go karts, beach/waterfall, haunted boat ride, a water park, escape room as well as time to just hang out. Each morning and night was book ended, with time spent in our devotional books. A huge thank you to the Trust Fund for helping make this trip happen.

This past month also had many opportunities to just hang in the Youth room and socialize, many times to go out riding bike around town or in different places, quite a few game nights and just the chance to be together. This past summer we had a lot more college kids hanging out and it was a great time seeing them role model for the younger students, but really hard to see them all leave the past few weeks.

As the school year approached we had lessons about Power and how God strengthens us (Philippians 4:13), Making the most of our time and not just sitting at home, but going out and doing the things God wants us to do (Proverbs 6: 6 – 8). In the middle of last month there was a lesson about Quitting and all the things that God wants us to do (1 Corinthians 10:13). Ending the month were lessons about how God wants us to befriend others (1 Peter 4:9) and how sometimes it isn't always easy being a Christian and believing in God (Deuteronomy 31:6).



**Last Day of Youth
for the Seniors!**



We extend our condolences to Brian and Susan Nelson on the loss of their father, Loren Nelson. His funeral was held at Connor's funeral home on Saturday, August 24th at 10:00am. The luncheon was served at First Lutheran Church following the burial.

There will be a Confirmation meeting for J.H. students and parents on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:00pm. Confirmation class will begin on Wednesday, September 18th at 4:00pm.

Join us for our Inspire service on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:15pm.

Pub theology will be on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Brewery. Join us on September 12th and 26th at 7:00pm.

Thank you for your generous donation of eleven quilts to LSI. When you give a gift to LSI, you join thousands of others committed to helping LSI empower individuals, strengthen families, and build communities throughout Iowa.

London-Deer Creek Cemetery Association will have it's 68th Annual "Pancakes & Pie" on Saturday, September 14th, serving from 4-7pm at Deer Creek Valley in Glenville, MN.

Please bring your spare change for Noisy Offering on September 8th and 22nd. This offering goes to the mission of the month which is The Caring Tree.

We are always looking for more help in just about any part of what happens at First Lutheran. If you are interested in singing in choir, quilting, teaching Sunday School, singing in the Inspire Band, serving Sunday morning coffee, serving at funerals, helping set up communion, being a lay reader.... The list can go on and on. Please talk to Pastor Becky or the church office and we will get you connected.

BOLAN FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Food, Music & Market Vendors

Bolan Schoolhouse Pancakes 8:00 – 10:30 AM

Trinity UMW Bazaar 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM (lower-level of school)

Bicycle Ride departing at 9:00 AM

UMW Lunch of scalloped potatoes & ham 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Bolan Community Homemade Pie & Ice Cream 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ORPHAN TRAIN PROGRAM 1:00 PM

By Dennis Wilson of Mason City

Retired Canadian Pacific Railroad Conductor

Lori Willert, BSCC Chairperson and Bolan Promoter ☺

Email: lwillert@wctatel.net or Call: 641-903-9472 for more info

Regular Council Meeting
July 23, 2024
First Lutheran Church - Northwood

We Assemble in God's Name
Devotion - Judy Stevens

We Celebrate our Past

Presidential Correspondence - Nikkole K. - A letter was received from the Assessor's Office asking to combine the strip of land along side the parsonage and the parsonage lot.

Motion Made to Approve this decision - Kris / Gina Approved

The Synod office sent a letter. Prayers being sent for us on August 31, and Praying for Pastor Becky the Last week of July, First week of April.

Waldorf College- The Waldorf Foundation was able to buy the University back and has returned to being an ELCA College. Gifts may be sent in the future and information/details will be gathered for any interested parties. The 'for profit' change kept their doors open, so we can be grateful they were able to switch back.

Secretary's Report - Megan O. - In May's minutes, a necessary correction to "Judy Stevens" should be made. Motion Made to Approve the minutes from April and May - Judy / Mariah Approved.

Treasurer's Report- Matt J. - Money coming in is quite typical, but on paper it does not look good... What can we be doing differently? There are no items out of line on the budget, and everything expense wise is on track... the only thing to fix is the income.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky - Hungary was a wonderful experience. She is currently working on a presentation to share with us. Life Fest was a ton of fun! They got caught in a rain storm and had to run half a mile to shelter! They were up early on Sunday to come home and are looking forward to next year!

The group is in need of new/more tents, a pickup to pull the trailer and other accommodations to help.

Motion/Vote to accept the reports Gina / Mariah Approved

We Present our Offering

FINANCE → Matt J. - No updates

WORSHIP- Kimberly A. - No Updates. The Golden Tones robes may find a new way to be utilized. The Quilting ladies may be able to reuse some of the fabrics. One or two should be kept for display.

INSPIRE- Kevin M. - No updates.

STEWARDSHIP - Connie K. - No Updates.

YOUTH- Weston W. - No Updates.

EDUCATION - Mariah B. - They need more teachers and more involvement. They are looking into options for the Youth to be able to assist in teaching. The ongoing challenge is finding people to help. It can be overwhelming with only a few teachers and so many kids. They are working on Encouraging and Challenging families to worship together and trying to bring the family to church. Potentially looking at hosting "Sunday School" but on Wednesday evenings? It might attract new teachers and people to help? Get more families to Inspire? More research and information will need to be gathered. Confirmation asks that half the sermon notes come from Sunday service and half come from Inspire, pushing them to be present. A highlight was made about the importance of accountability of the Acolytes and the schedule.

PROPERTY - Kris K. - Dripping toilets have been fixed and our new gutters are complete! Property committee will be meeting soon. The elevator had a slight issue last weekend. It is being looked into and new steps are being taken to ensure more people know how to handle the elevator in the event of a similar situation.

MISSION- Gina S. - Bremwood has closed, so we will need to look and find a new mission to give in its place.

FELLOWSHIP-Judy S. - Anniversary Celebration will be held. Looking at potentially October. A small group will brainstorm next council meeting. A kick off for Sunday School is in the works as well. Some ideas were shared for potential events: Popcorn in the parking lot for 4th of July, Shuffle Board tournaments, Bingo, 4 Square, etc. Having consistent events involving the community will be good way to keep people interested. Advertisements and communicating on social media would be a big help as well! Looking at a Blessing of the Backpacks as well as activities and a meal.

September 15 is National "Back to Church" day.

September 8th is "God Work our Hands"

Concerns for the Present

New Members/Baptisms/Funerals

Baptisms:

May 26: Bryden Willier, Fredrick King, Brody, Evelyn & Hunter Ralston

June 2: Atlas Wright

June 9: Cash Tolzmann

Weddings:

May 25: Michaela Butler & Eric Lehmkuhl

Funerals:

June 30: Roger Wagner (at the Methodist Church)

July 1: Cayleigh Pepper

Communion Servers: August 4 - Gina

and August 18 Mariah / Kris

We Go Out in God's Name

Motion to Adjourn - Gina / Mariah Approved

Lord's Prayer

Next Meeting: August 20, 6:00PM



Mark your calendar!

**On Wednesday, September 11th at
6pm is our confirmation meeting for
parents and students.**

First Lutheran Missions

July 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 219.71
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 200.00
Youth Fund	\$ 156.99
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 42.44
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 69.94
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 119.12
TOTAL	\$ 1,056.41

Memorials

Roger Wagner	\$150	- General Fund
Shirley Olson	\$120	- General Fund
Shirley Olson	\$25.00	- Youth Fund
Shirley Olson	\$25.00	- Children's Ministry

Donations

\$76.70	-Day Spring
\$56.99	-Children's Ministry

Mission Project for September

The Caring Tree

First Lutheran Financial Update

July 2024

Income	\$17,277.63
Electronic Income	\$3,347.03
Expense	\$20,624.66
End of Month	\$4,784.73

YTD as of July

Income	\$91,653.52
Electronic Income	\$23,615.64
Inspire	\$295.17
Other Income	\$1,938.04
Use of Church	\$720
Expense	\$137,079.32
End of Month	(\$18,856.95)

July General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 13,374.00
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 46.27
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 150.43
UTILITIES	\$ 843.64
TELEPHONE	\$ 215.10
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 835.49
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 15,839.93
INCOME	\$ 20,624.66
NET	\$ 4,784.73

Share Shoppe

Saturday, September 7th

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

SEPTEMBER

1. Bryson Hennigar, Kooper Julseth
2. Kathleen Berg, Laure Buehrer, Laura Twedt, Ashley Ernster
3. Ellissa Allbright, Chloe Breitsprecher, Caysen Chodur, Toby Mills, Tyler Roppe, Caitlyn Rops, Michael Stevens
4. Jolene Berg, Olivia Hodson, Bryn Pangburn, Heidi Vansteenbure
5. Ryan Severson
6. Nathan Berg, Keeghan Severson, Mark Taylor, Jennifer Wahl (Rural)
7. Melissa Heiken
8. Daniel Julson, Cinda Rustad
9. Kelsea Koch, Jaxon Reyerson, Nikolas Werner
10. Eric Foss, Mindy Tenold
11. Austin Foss, Ashlee Stephens, Sadie Johnson
12. Jennifer Krotzer, Teresa Stehn
13. Walker Ogea
14. Emma Hengesteg, Morgan Wilson, Samuel Krull, Maeghan Petznick
15. Frances Pixley, Tory Rheingans, Collyns Schulz, Steven Thompto
16. Linda Anderson, Wanda Hillman, Colleen Olson, Cindy Pangburn, Vicki Stricker
17. Jo Jaspers, Gregory Nystuen, Lee Okerlund, Kenneth Quam, Janet Rye, Zeke Thompson
18. Heather Chambers, Brianne Kilborn
19. Sonya Dahle
20. Chandler Jacobsmeier, Avis Lehman, Lynn Tenold, Suzan Waller, Suzanne Elliott
21. Alex Breitsprecher, Karen Foley, Dylan Hahn, Chad Watts
- 22.
23. Erika Hertle, Bruce Johnson, Carl Rye
24. Jennifer Breitsprecher, Cory Hengesteg, Marty Hopperstad, Beverly Madsen, Braelynn Reinartz, Valerie Johnson
25. Stacy Adams, Teresa Olson, Riley Pangburn, Jessica Perkins, Janelle Thompson
26. Denise Dahl, Elizabeth Patterson, Angela Sime
27. Lauren Heiken, Joshua Iverson
28. James Eskildsen, Wyatt Hahn, Madalynn Hanson, Mitch Hanson, Sharon Swanson, Tim Thofson,
29. Dianne Roerish, Richard Smallwood
30. Zachary Hengesteg, Rod Loken

SEPTEMBER 2024

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