

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Office hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm
Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed.

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Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus

March 2025

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
March 2	Lee & Becky Okerlund	Laure Buehrer	Skellenger family	Avarie Skellenger Maggie Rye
March 9	Randy & Laure Buehrer	TBD	Trenhaile family	Tegan Trenhaile Logan Trenhaile
March 16	David & Sharron Petznick	Doug Krull	TBD	TBD
March 23	Russ & Delores Knudson	Stuart Anderson	TBD	Lily Varner
March 30	Mike & Judy Stevens	Leila Gangstad	TBD	Amaya Rugland

Communion Set up: March 1 Pat Nelson
March 16 Megan Gentz

Altar Candles: March 1-15 Pat Nelson
March 16-31 Megan Gentz

Share Shoppe
Saturday, March 1st

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 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

PASTORAL ACTS

February

Baptism

Sawyer Alden Amundson 2/7/25

Lutheran Retirement Home

The Annual Meeting will be held on
March 27th, 6:00pm, in the chapel.

Annual Meeting for Shell Rock Cemetery Association

Is to be held on Sunday, March 9th at 1:30 pm
at the home of Myra Harris.

YOUTH NEWS

Looking back at February we had a great month with some awesome lessons. We started out with a lesson called "Speak Life" looking at positivity towards others and how God uses all of us to make impacts on others lives (Matthew 23:17). We didn't have a lesson on Super Bowl Sunday, but instead gathered here at the church to hang out. Some played games, other spent a lot of time creating food in the kitchen, and a few actually watched the game.

The following two weeks lessons focused on loss and death. We know that God has a plan for all of us, but one of the hardest things to go through is losing the people we love. One week was focused on saying now the things we need to say to the people God has blessed us with (Mark 13: 32 + 33) and the following week was spent trying to realize how we need to enjoy those blessings before it's too late (Hebrews 13:5). We ended the month with a lesson about Prayer – how to, why should we, where can we, and what is the point???? Philippians 4: 6 + 7 helped us look at the answers to those questions and why prayer is important.

The month of March looks way different than normal for both Youth Groups. Senior High students will be encouraged to attend the Lenten services each Wednesday night, and our group time will be made up of shorter lessons and games. Junior High will split into two teams – Colby vs Kooper – as two of senior guys, Colby Eskildsen and Kooper Julseth, will lead our younger students all month long. I'm excited to see how this plays out on Sunday nights.

Monday night Bible Study continues to be going well. We usually have anywhere from 4 to 10 students who take turns leading the lessons each Monday night. We also have a small meal and spent time in fellowship afterwards. I'm hopeful that this group continues on the rest of the school year and into the summer.





The basket of flowers on Sunday, February 2nd were placed by the children of Lavon Lindflott in honor of her 100th birthday.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Pastor Becky and her family at the death of her aunt/godmother, Dolores Sogge on January 25th. Her funeral was held in St. Anthony, MN on February 17th.

Thank you to Gabby Hartmann from Riverside Bible Camp for speaking with us on Sunday, February 9th about the opportunities available to our students and families.

Our many blessings go out to the Amundson family, who had their son, Sawyer Alden baptized on Friday, February 7th. His sponsors are Derek and Ashley Haxton.

Congratulations to the 1st grade class who will receive their Catechisms on Sunday, February 23rd.

First Lutheran is looking for people who are willing to help with counting the offering after church on Sundays. We currently have four teams that rotate weekly, with two people per team. Please let the office know if you are interested or speak with Steph Perkins who is the lead counter.

You may order an Easter Lily or give an Easter Memorial in memory of a loved one who has passed or in Honor of someone still living. Please have your orders turned into the office by Friday, March 21st. Forms are available in the Narthex or you can find a copy in the newsletter.

Sunday School Important Dates

3/9 – No Sunday School, Spring Break

3/16 – No Sunday School, Spring Break

As you have probably heard, Troy Bachtle has decided to end his position as building manager at First Lutheran effective March 28. We are beyond grateful for his 13 years of dedication and work beyond the call of duty to First Lutheran. The staff, quilters and all of you will miss his presence and willingness to help out whenever needed. Troy made me promise to not do anything publicly about this transition which I will honor. **In place of a fellowship event please join us in a card shower for Troy. You can drop off the cards or mail them to the church.** Troy promises not to be absent from our church family and will continue to be part of the property committee (and answer his phone if I call him!) Thank you, Troy, for all that you have done for First Lutheran and we will see you as soon as you get back from your spring trip. —
Pastor Becky



Please turn in your Easter Donations by Friday, March 21st. 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

Easter Memorial to remember a loved one who has passed.

And / Or

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

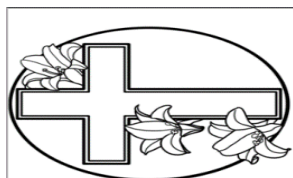
Inspire Service:

General expenses related to each service

Youth Group:

General group events for those in grades 7-12

Orders for Easter Lilies can be made in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The price of a Lily 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 Friday, March 21st.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Given by _____

of plants _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Wednesdays in Lent
Gleanings from the Father's Field
(By Fred Fedke)

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

10:00AM at the Lutheran Retirement Home

12:00 in the Chapel

6:00PM Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

March 12

12:00 in Chapel – Service of the Word

6:00 in Sanctuary Holden Evening Prayer

March 19

12:00 in Chapel – Service of the Word

6:00 in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer

March 26

12:00 in Chapel – Service of the Word

6:00 in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer

April 2

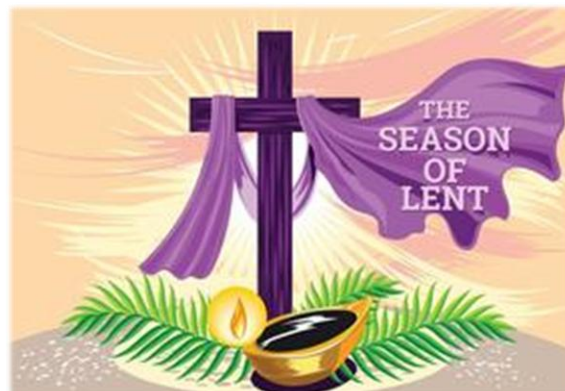
12:00 in Chapel – Service of the Word

6:00 in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer

April 9

12:00 in Chapel – Service of the Word

6:00 in Sanctuary – Holden Evening Prayer





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)

Come early – stay late on our Wednesdays in Lent.

Noon worship will be followed by a soup and sandwich lunch with conversation.

Soup and Sandwiches will be served beginning at 5:00pm on Wednesdays ahead of the 6:00pm service. Are you worried about getting caught up in the confirmation excitement? Don't be, they won't hurt you and quite enjoyable young people who might be ready to have a great conversation with you.

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Join Gary Nerlien on Sundays in Lent for conversation about Marks of the Christian: Lenten Journey.

This is a discussion based on the Book of Faith unit for the Lenten Journey
(books can be ordered for 15.00, sign up in the narthex)

This is a forty-day journey exploring Romans 12. In this chapter, the Apostle Paul calls us to new life in Christ and identifies marks of the Christian life. Sunday mornings gatherings will be a time for Gary to lead a discussion about the mutual journey.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 26, 2025

9:00 AM Opening worship - Pastor Becky

Meeting opened by President, Nikkole Koenig

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Correction to spelling of "Mike Stephens" to "Mike Stevens"

Motion Made to approve minutes by Tom Watts

Second by Gary Nerlien

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 Judy Stevens

Second by Tom Watts

Approved by Congregation

ELECTIONS

- Nominations to be made to fill two seats for the Church Council -
- Judy Stevens Nominates Mike Stevens for Church council. Mike Accepts
- Church Council to fill the final empty seat.

Motion made by Tom Watts to approve ballot unanimously as a congregation. All seats to be filled by potential candidates on the ballots.

Second by Delores Knudson

Approved by Congregation

First Lutheran Financial Update
January 2024

Income	\$42,297.57
Electronic	
Income	\$3,167.39
Expense	\$25,590.83
End of Month	\$24,874.13
<u>YTD as of</u>	
<u>December</u>	
Income	\$42,297.57
Electronic	
Income	\$3,167.39
Inspire	\$
Other Income	\$
Use of Church	\$
Expense	\$25,590.83
End of Month	\$24,874.13

January General Budget
Expenses

Payroll:	\$ 13,469.88
E-Giving Expense	\$ 45.53
Church Maintenance	\$ 2,673.80
Misc. Expense	\$ 2,500.00
Utilities	\$ 3,682.16
Telephone	\$ 216.25
Office Expense	\$ 1,453.29
Worship 1	\$ 192.50
N. Iowa Synod	\$ 375.00
Youth Director Conf.	\$ 982.42
Total Expenses	\$ 25,590.83
Income	\$ 50,464.96
Net	\$ 24,874.13

NEW BUSINESS

REQUESTS/TRUST FUND

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Second Lori Beuher

Approved by Congregation

APPROVAL OF BUDGET

Questions were brought forward about our negative net income.

Randy Buehrer suggested decreasing our giving to the NEIA Synod if necessary. Discussion was held about our commitments and how the giving process works to the synod. Following the Annual Meeting we submit a gift amount we are committed to giving, and they synod bases their budget on those commitments.

Motion to approve 2024 proposed budget - Gary Nerlien

Second - Mike Stevens

Approved by Congregation

Motion to Close Meeting made by Tom Watts

Second - Connie Kenison

Approved By Congregation

Closing Prayer - Pastor Becky

Results:

Church Council: Hayley Maher and Mike Stevens. The third place will be filled by the council.

Nominating Committee: Kevin McClure, Dennis Johnson, Tim Knutson

Audit Committee: Jody Christianson, Kim Hengesteg, Sarah Stevens

Trust Fund: Tom Watts, Ray Hoffman, Jake Urbatsch

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

Voting Member for Synod Assembly: Russ and Delores Knudson

First Lutheran Missions

January 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 17.21
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 149.59
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 326.39
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 200.00
Youth Fund	\$ 156.99
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$ 107.52
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 42.44
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 69.94
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 119.12
TOTAL	\$ 1,437.41

Mission Project for March

**Lutheran World Relief
&
Lutheran World Hunger**



- 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, Fredrick King
- 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 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 Hickie**
- 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 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 <u>Transfiguration</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	3 6:00pm: Worship Mtng.	4 Manna Truck 5:00pm: Pancake Supper 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	5 10am: LRH Noon: Lenten Service 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	6 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	7	8 Daylight Savings Time
9 <u>Lent 1</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. No Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	10 Spring Break	11 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	12 Noon: Lenten Service 5:00pm: Soup Supper 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	13 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	14	15
16 <u>Lent 2</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. No Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	17 	18 Manna Truck 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	19 Noon: Lenten Service 2:00pm: M. Court 4:00pm: Confirmation 5:00pm: Soup Supper 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	20 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	21	22
23 <u>Lent 3</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	24	25 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	26 Noon: Lenten Service 4:00pm: Confirmation 5:00pm: Soup Supper 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	27 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	28	29
30 <u>Lent 4</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	31					