

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

First Lutheran Church
Office Phone 324-2984
Office hours
Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Closed on Fridays
E-mail Address flc@flcnorthwood.org
Web Site www.flcnorthwood.org
Pastor Judy Converse
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Cell Phone 1-978-808-6780
Parsonage 323-0081

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Address Service Requested

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

April 2019

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Sunday, April 7th—Holy Communion Service at 9:00 am

Sunday, April 14th—Palm Sunday with Passion Reading and Sunday School singing at 9:00 am

Thursday, April 18th—Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00pm

Friday, April 19th—Good Friday Service at 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 21st—Easter Service with Holy Communion at 9:00 am

Sunday April 28th—Service of the Word at 9:00 am

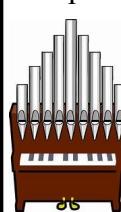


ANNUAL HAM BALLS FUNDRAISER

Orders taken until noon on Sunday, March 31st. Cost is \$7.00 per dozen or \$20 for 3 dozen, payment due at time of order. All proceeds go to the FLC Riverside Campers. Orders can be placed with any camper. ***Orders can be picked up between 4:00 and 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 6th or Sunday, April 7th following worship in Fellowship Hall.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special meeting of the FLC Congregation will be held on **Sunday, May 5th** after the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to make a decision on moving ahead with the Wicks Organ Restoration and Enhancement project.



Please plan to attend.

From The Pastor's Desk....

Dear friends,

I don't think that I have looked forward to spring in the past as much as I am looking forward to it this year!

In part, I think that is because our winter seems to have been longer and colder and snow-ier than other years of late. I think it's also because I dealt with an illness over the winter that kept me from enjoying some of the outdoor fun that winter can offer. And – this has been a longer-than-usual season of the church year – this Time after Epiphany – pushing Lent back into March. And that keeps us waiting for the usual holiday of springtime = Easter.

But now it is almost here!

And of course Easter is truly a high, holy day! But I want to share a thought that I heard from my pastor many years ago:

"Easter can only be fully appreciated after you have walked through Holy Week!"

From Palm Sunday to Easter – in those 8 days – we find the whole story. Celebration, supper, betrayal, denial, pain, suffering, and a truly human death – and *then* the power of God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Come walk with us – walk with Jesus – through those days. And THEN – be ready for EASTER!

Pastor Judy

THANKS --- THANKS --- THANKS

Today – I am grateful for:

Confirmation students who spent a weekend at Urban Immersion in Minneapolis to learn about poverty and issues of inequality – as well as share their time for and with others!

Volunteers who help to coordinate fundraising opportunities to enable our kids to attend Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp!

Our many members who serve in worship each week – as greeters, ushers, readers, communion assistants, acolytes, and assisting ministers!

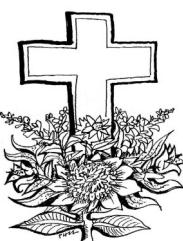
Our musicians – who sing and play instruments that lead the music for our worship services!

Continued generosity that provides for the ongoing mission and ministry at FLC!

Care for those of our community who are ill, recovering, grieving, or facing big life changes!
Sunshine and the warmth of spring days!

In the hope of Christ's resurrection,

Pastor Judy



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

Jack Wheeler—March 17th

Weddings

No Weddings in March

Funerals/Memorial Services

Melba Marker—March 30th

FLC Financial Update

	February 2019	January 1st –February 28th
Income	\$7,938.77	Income \$35,024.52
Electronic Income	\$1,337.00	Electronic Income \$2,782.00
Expense	\$17,855.18	Expense \$37,748.75
End of month	(\$8,579.41)	Year to date \$57.77

FIRST LUTHERAN OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you need offering envelopes, please stop in or contact the church office.

First Lutheran Missions

October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019

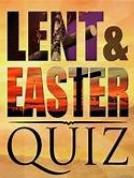
Bremwood	\$ 242.86
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 184.61
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 75.00
Caring Tree	\$ 75.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 25.00
Caring Tree	\$ 84.62
Meals on Wheels	\$ 244.77
Manna	\$ 169.77
Heifer International	\$ 693.08
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 160.00
Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 127.82
Camperships	\$ 203.02
Operation Smile (SS & Fair Trade)	\$ 462.27
Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI)	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 2,861.82

YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??



We are currently in the middle of Vets Vs. Noobs for both Youth groups. This competition which runs from Ash Wednesday to Easter puts the kids who participate the most against those who aren't able to make it to Youth as much. The Senior High students who attend church each Wednesday are actively looking and listening since there is a trivia contest held directly afterwards about what happened during the service. We then play a few games and end the night with a shorter lesson that goes with the readings heard during church.

Our current 6th grade class has been invited to participate in the Jr. High version of Vets Vs. Noobs. This years class is a bit smaller than normal here at First Lutheran, but during March we've had several of our own members and a handful of others show up. The lessons for Sunday nights are a bit more focused since they all aren't attending the Wednesday night services, and the kids seem to be asking lots of questions and learning about the entire Lent season and what it really means.



Spring Break was an opportunity for me and many of our Youth to slow down and relax from the normal school routine. While many of our Senior High students were gone on trips for part of the week, we had many Junior High students here during the day. Sadly with all of the snow it didn't feel much like spring, but now with the warmer temps the kids have been able to get outside and do things. I'm looking forward to much more activity happening outside the youth room as we prepare for the end of the school year and all the joy that is spring!

As we look farther past spring and into summer, we have Lifest from July 10 – 14. This music festival in Oshkosh, WI will be the first time many of our kids will get to participate in a Christian music festival. To say they are excited is an understatement!! This year we decided to let those who attended Youth the most have first shot at going, which led to many of the kids not wanting to miss a single week of Youth. We'll be ordering tickets in the next few weeks and start making plans for what will surely be a highlight for many of us this summer.



MEMORIALS

Elaine Hill

\$15.00—General Fund

\$30.00—Property (Organ) Fund

Doris Johnson

\$20.00—Property (Organ) Fund

Mariel Patzloff

\$25.00—Property (Organ) Fund

\$25.00—Good Samaritan Fund

\$12.00—Riverside Bible Camp

\$13.00—Camperships

\$25.00—LSI

Nancy Converse

\$25.00—Property (Organ) Fund

\$25.00—Good Samaritan Fund

\$13.00—Riverside Bible Camp

\$12.00—Camperships

\$25.00—LSI

DONATIONS

No donations in March



Sunday School News

All of the **Sunday school children (pre-K through 5th grade)** will sing during the worship service on Palm

Sunday, April 14th. The children will meet together in their Sunday school rooms and enter the church together. After they sing, they will be invited to sit with their families for the rest of the service.

On Easter Sunday, April 21st, there will be NO Sunday school.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH APRIL MISSION

Lutheran World Hunger Relief

Training and educating individuals in sustainable farming techniques to alleviate hunger around the world.

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2019 10:15 AM

4.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Opening prayer by Council President Sharyl Nestor.

Present: Deb Athey, Shana Brunsvold, Pastor Judy Converse, Ross DeArmoun, Lisa Hagen, Sharyl Nestor, Heather Rheingans, Richard Selvig and Lynn Tenold. Absent: Mitch Hanson and Judy Stevens.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the following reports:

President, Secretary, Treasurer-No reports

Pastoral

Church policies reviewed covering property use and fee structures, Youth program, requisition of funds and employee handbook.

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERRING

Education Committee (next meeting TBD)

Sunday school program in need of more teachers.

Potential purchase of new popcorn machine discussed.

Fellowship & Social Ministry Committees (next meeting TBD)

55 "Love" signs made at Sunday school Valentine's craft event. Many thanks to Val Foss for her donation of time and materials and her artistic talent for this family event.

Finance Committee (next meeting TBD)

Comparative financial statements being created, to be communicated in Focus.

Suggested future Town Hall meeting to discuss \$20K revenue goal per month.

WCDA grants in-flight for back-up generator, Fireside room remodel.

Property Committee (next meeting 02/11 7PM)

Current projects:

WCDA grant awarded for back-up power generator. Unit to be installed in spring 2019 once concrete pad poured. Fireside room remodel grant application submitted.

Other projects include kitchen dishwasher, LED lighting, new sound and video system and organ refurbishment.

Stewardship Committee (next meeting 03/07 6PM)

Commitment to perpetuate Simply Giving program.

2018 pledging campaign to be discussed.

Worship & Music Committee (next meeting 02/12 5PM)

Sanctuary carpet replacement discussed.

Kimberly Anderson has replaced Sharyl Lunde on committee. Many thanks to Sharyl for her service on this committee.

Youth Representative-No report.

CONCERNS FOR THE PRESENT

Appointment of Youth representative

Ross DeArmoun approved by Council as 2019 Youth council member.

FLC representation role with local organizations

Lutheran Retirement Home, Manna of Worth County and Share Shoppe.

Judy Stevens to comment on participation, tabled until March meeting.

Financial Audit for FLC

Current annual audits encompass special funds only. Full audit of all FLC entities with an external public accounting auditing firm under discussion by Council. Topic tabled until March meeting.

Council Retreat upcoming

Meeting facilitated by Christine Quisley with "Connectedness" as overall theme.

Council member roles will be reviewed.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Lord's Prayer

We Adjourn to Serve (upcoming dates)

February 17

Communion (Intinction) – Ross DeArmoun & Lisa Hagen

February 23

Council Retreat, 9:00AM Fireside Room

March 3

Communion (Rail) – Shana Brunsvold & Heather Rheingans

March 6

Communion (Rail) – Deb Athey & Sharyl Nestor

March 10

Council monthly meeting, 10:15AM

"That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ"

Respectfully submitted, Richard Selvig (in behalf of Judy Stevens), Secretary

April Volunteers

5

Ushers

April 3rd—Eric and Austin Foss, Tom and Josh Stevens, Cade Hengesteg
April 7th & 10th—Sawyer & Michelle Schulz, Mitch & Jess Hanson, James & Steph Eskildsen Families
April 14th & 18th—Jerry & Jan Hopperstad, Larry Foley, Doug Fallgatter
April 21st—Dan Hendrikson, Bernie VanVeldhuizen, Mike & DeAnn Read
April 28th—David & Sharron Petznick, Kevin and Maeghan Petznick

Greeters

April 7th—David, Chris, & Julia Quisley
April 14th—Mitch, Jess, Haddie, & Hallie Hanson
April 21st—Jon, Jessica, Madison, Kenedie & Charlotte Berry
April 28th—Marlin & Carol Liljedahl

Fellowship Time

April 7th—Carol Liljedahl and Linda Logen
April 14th—Leila Gangstad and volunteer
April 21st—Easter Sunday
April 28th—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich, Troy & Dawn Bachtle

Acolytes

April 3rd—Kennedy Christianson
April 7th—Haddie Hanson and Madalynn Hanson
April 10th—Nicholas Hanson
April 14th—Emma Hengesteg and Justin Mills
April 18th—Ian Husske and Damon Reyerson
April 19th—Chloe Costello
April 21st—Nolan Senne and Mallory Rheingans
April 28th—Trace Low and Reese Wahl

Lay Readers

April 7th—Lisa Wangness
April 14th—Passion Reading
April 21st—Carolyn Reeder
April 28th—Doug Krull

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Leah Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

April 3rd & 7th—Mike & Judy Stevens
April 10th & 14th—Lee & Becky Okerlund
April 18th, 19th & 21st—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
April 28th—David & Sharron Petznick

Assisting Ministers

April 7th—Richard Selvig
April 18th—Dennis Johnson
April 21st—Tim Knutson



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

"Blessed are you among women" Luke 1:42

Women's Circle	Julia Leah Lydia Rebecca Sarah	April 1st April 4th April 3rd April 3rd No meeting	2:00 pm 9:00 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm	Bev Madsen's home Jan Wilder's home, Leila Gangstad-hostess Nancy Amundson's home Maple Court, Shirley Meyer-hostess
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ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to pay for Altar flowers in memory of someone or celebrating a special event, please call the church office to reserve that month. Cost is \$120.00 for 2 vases.

Council News

- The Council met for a retreat on Saturday, February 23rd.
- We talked about goals for the coming year and decided on the following:
 - Establish a Sabbatical Policy for FLC
 - Re-vitalize the Mutual Ministry team
 - Continue our goal of good communication via multiple vehicles – newsletter, bulletin, announcements, Facebook page, website, other apps
 - Promoting transparency in our work and decision-making
- The Council has planned another retreat for Saturday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m. We welcome your input!

RIVER CITY BARBERSHOP SHOW

Barbershop Spring Show
Fun for the Whole Family-

The River City Chorus 62th Show "Peoples Choice" will be held Saturday, April 6th at 2 pm and 7 pm at the NIACC Auditorium Special Guest Quartet is "The new Fangled Four".

Early tickets are \$12. for adults and \$5 for students or \$20 at the door. Call Russ Knudson (324-1237) or visit www.rivercitychorus.org to get tickets..



April 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,558 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2017. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2018, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 14,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and Facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Life-Changing Service

Amanda felt helpless when her children were removed from their home. She and her husband, Nathan, struggled with substance use, and they could no longer provide a safe environment for their children.

But with help from LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Amanda has overcome every obstacle to build a future she only dreamed possible.

LSI connected Amanda and Nathan to parenting and sobriety resources in their community, and their LSI worker, Katie, helped them schedule regular visits with their children.

Knowing Katie was there to cheer them on, even on the bad days, the couple was determined to beat their addiction. It was time to turn their lives around and fight for their family.

Amanda and Nathan recently celebrated two years of sobriety, and all three of their children have returned home. Amanda now also collaborates with the Iowa child welfare system and organizations like LSI to support more families in need of the same care she received.

"I'm grateful that Katie and LSI were a part of our lives. They weren't there to hinder, they were there to help," Amanda says. "I feel accomplished, and I feel really good about where my family is at in our lives. Now I'm just happy to help other families achieve their goals and realize they are not alone."

NEW COMMUNION REGISTRATION at FLC

Members of First Lutheran know that sign-in sheets for communion are available on the small tables in the narthex each Sunday (or other times) when Holy Communion is offered. It's a pretty regular and faithful practice to write one's name on the sheet before entering the sanctuary for the worship service.

What might be not so well known to many is that this registration is used only to determine our list of voting members for annual and special congregational meetings. According to the First Lutheran Church Constitution:

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.

It's fairly easy to determine whether a member makes a contribution of record to the church – it's a donation to the church that can be attributed to that member or household.

However, figuring out who has communed in this congregation requires different means. The FLC Constitution provides that:

The Congregation Council shall establish and maintain a mechanism for determining if a member has communed in this congregation during the current or preceding calendar year.

The Congregation Council has voted to establish A NEW MECHANISM that will be used beginning April 7th. A list of all of the confirmed members of the church will be available in the narthex. You are asked to find your name, to write your initials in the space provided, and to add the date. **YOU WILL ONLY HAVE TO DO THIS ONCE EACH YEAR!** These sheets will be available each time communion is offered.

This new mechanism has been suggested to reduce the amount of time and resources used each month in tracking our voting member list.

If you have questions about this new system, please contact a Council member or Pastor Judy.



Electronic Giving Information for First Lutheran Church!

Here are a few facts about our services that you may find interesting!

What is Vanco?

Vanco is a faith-based electronic giving provider that currently works with over 20,000 churches and nonprofits. Our services allow church members to donate online and through a mobile app.

Why is my church offering electronic giving options?

Have you ever found that you don't have cash or a checkbook when it comes time to give on Sunday? With secure e-Giving options, you can quickly and easily give using your debit/credit card or through an ACH transfer from your bank account.

What are the benefits of my church having an online giving option?

You can give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds.

You can schedule and manage recurring donations.

You can make one-time donations to special appeals.

You can pay for events, programs, and other activities with an online giving option.

If you are unable to attend a service (travel, illness, or other circumstances), you can still donate with online giving.

Is giving a donation through Vanco secure?

Yes! Vanco is a Payment Card Industry Level 1 Compliant Service Provider with standards implemented for all IT systems, payment solutions and business applications. We perform annual independent Payment Card Industry and SOC 1SM Type 1 audits and offer extensive network redundancy and data backups.



- 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, Randy Werner
- 7 Diane Hanson, Mary Ihnen, Amy Petry, Kandie Shupe
- 8 DuWayne Bottleman
- 9 Irl Madsen, Todd Moore, Emelia Nelson, Arlyn Rustad
- 10 Season Anderson, Vivienne Vandell
- 11 Riley Olson, Amy Van Sabben
- 12
- 13 Brian Bestul, Judale Mills, Jamie Nelson
- 14 Clay Carter, Larry Gentz, Elizabeth Kenison
- 15 Douglas Hall, Robert Hengesteg, Mary Reyerson, Tristan Rothove, Dirk VanRyswyk
- 16 Mackenzie Costello, Levi Eilertson, Hal Johnson
- 17 Kyle Waller, MaryJo Senne
- 18 Brady Christianson, Amber Varner, Jordan Wright-Thofson, Westlynn Reinartz
- 19 Coni Butler, Misty Eilertson, Corey Haberman
- 20 Koen Bachtle
- 21 Danielle Lickteig, Angela Senne, 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 Butler, Laurie Harris, Diane Meyers
- 29 Chad Mills, Helen Trenhaile, Cambry Schulz, Jacob Urbatsch
- 30 Kyle Baker, Eric Trenhaile

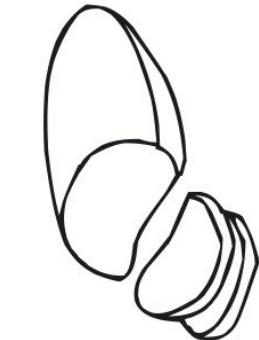
The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.
Matthew 26:14-15



As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."
Matthew 26:26



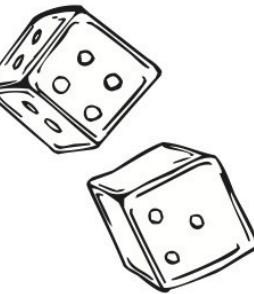
He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."
Matthew 26:39



Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." "Peter," Jesus replied, "the truth is, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."
Matthew 26:33-34



The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.
John 19:2



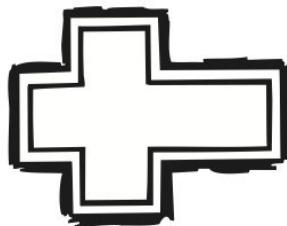
They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.
Mark 15:24b



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.
Matthew 27:59-60



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.
Matthew 28:6



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.
Mark 15:24a