

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Office hours

Monday-Wednesday, 9am – 3:30pm
Thursday, 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

December 2020

Address Service Requested

2020 POINSETTIAS ORDER

The Worship Committee invites you to help us fill the sanctuary with poinsettias again this Christmas at First Lutheran. You may fill out an order form which you will find in the sanctuary before worship service on Sunday as well as the office.

Plants are priced at **\$15.00** and orders will be taken in the church office until **Sunday, December 20th**. Payment must be made with your order. You may take your plant home after Christmas.

We will print a list of those contributing poinsettias and whom they wish to memorialize or honor so please fill out your order completely.

If you have questions, please call the Church Office at 324-2984.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. ...for a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forever more.

The zeal of the Lord of host will do this.

With the first Sunday in December the season of Advent has arrived! Advent is a wonderful time to bring together and celebrate our story of faith in biblical times, the here and now, and love forward with great anticipation of life as it will be in the fullness of time.

It is important that we are connected to the biblical story of faith. How the prophets spoke of the birth of the Savior. Watching and waiting for years. Preparing and anticipating through so much of history. And, it is important to know that throughout the world Christians are preparing, anticipating and waiting for the coming of Christ.

We have condensed our vision of preparing, watching and waiting to four short weeks. Our hardships and struggles are often limited to being over-scheduled and under-focused. But, for the people of Israel, it was many, many years of waiting and watching. Their time of waiting was challenged by great hardship, false hope and wondering.

Each Sunday in Advent a candle on the Advent wreath will be lit, reminding us of our watchfulness of the coming of the Lord. Connecting us to our story of faith, giving voice to our part of God's unfolding drama. God's great love for us, sending Jesus as an infant reminding us that peace will reign and that the eternal light will shine brightly.

-Pastor Becky



Staff Phone Numbers

Pastor Sogge	612-718-9151
Mark Willand	641-390-1032
Troy Bachtle	641-430-8305
Jan Thompson	641-390-0883
Christa Larson-Trenhaile	641-390-0484

The church is always open to anyone looking for personal prayer in the Sanctuary or if you would need to speak to the staff.
 If you would like access to the church you may enter through the handicap door by pushing the button.

December Share Shoppe

LYDIA Circle on December 5th

Mission Project for December

Heifer International – An organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the earth. They provide livestock and training for those in need.

Donations & Memorials

Donations:

Meals on Wheels \$25
 Caring Tree \$5
 Operation Xmas Child \$145

In Memory Of:

Ian Husske- Youth Fund \$20
Thelma Krull/Boutelle- General Fund \$50
 Music \$200

First Lutheran Mission

January 1– December 31, 2020

Bremwood	\$	150.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$	546.86
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$	475.00
Caring Tree	\$	447.86
Meals on Wheels	\$	206.48
Manna	\$	1,673.47
Heifer International	\$	707.79
Lutheran World Relief (Trust Fund)	\$	7,000.00
Riverside Bible Camp	\$	139.95
Camperships	\$	45.00
Good Samaritan Fund	\$	1058.55
Lutheran Services	\$	143.32
Lutheran Disaster Relief –Iowa Storm	\$	200.00
Day Springs	\$	230.00
Northern Lights Shelter	\$	100.00
TOTAL	\$	13,124.28

First Lutheran Financial Update

October 2020

Income	-	\$11,204.29
Electronic Income		\$2,848.13
Expense		(\$16,091.78)
End of Month		(\$2,039.36)
<u>YTD as of Sept. 30th</u>		
Income		\$131,193.22
Electronic Income		\$24,294.44
Other Income		\$80,782.42
Expense		-\$227,170.37
End of Month		\$9,099.71

October General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$	12,671.05
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$	67.46
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$	85.00
UTILITIES	\$	755.91
TELEPHONE	\$	213.09
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$	1,005.66
EDUCATION EXPENSE	\$	59.90
MISSIONS	\$	<u>1,230.50</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	16,091.78
INCOME	\$	14,052.42
NET	\$	(2,039.36)

December 2020

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! This year has been challenging for all of us, and we are grateful for the lowans who have stepped up just for the sake of giving and helping LSI in 2020. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our neighbors who are so often overlooked in our society. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

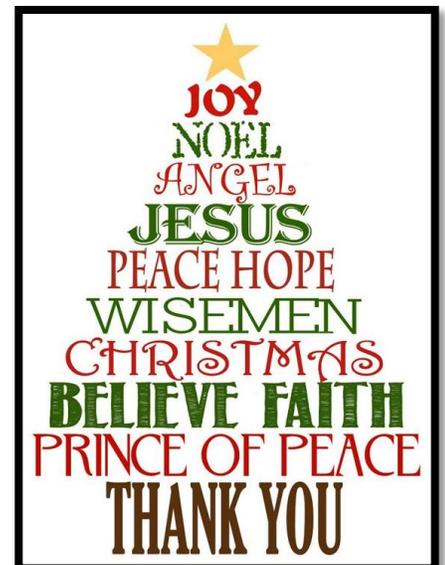
Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Continuum of Care

As she prepared to celebrate her 18th birthday, Sam was also preparing to age out of foster care. She had lived with her foster mom, Marty, for years and Marty wanted to ensure Sam had a smooth transition into adulthood. That’s when they signed up for LSI’s Host Homes program.

Provided through LSI’s Services for People with Disabilities, Host Homes provides personalized care for lowans with disabilities who find greater success living in a private family home instead of a busier community living environment with roommates. Individuals are carefully matched with a Host Homes mentor and live with them in their home, where they can build strong relationships and become better engaged with their communities.

Marty became a Host Homes mentor so Sam could continue living in her home and receive the same care and support she was used to. Sam is thriving and Marty gets to continue walking alongside her as she builds a bright future full of independence. They work on Sam’s goals every day, including cooking and planning meals. Marty especially loves fishing and going on picnics with Sam and as a Host Homes mentor, she can continue serving as a foster parent to other Iowa teens.



Announcements

**"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."**

(Ephesians 4:2-3)

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Arlen McHenry who passed away on Sunday, November 8th.

Thank you for your donation of \$30. It will be used to help the at-risk children through Christian education.
-Dayspring Children's Mission

Thank you to my First Lutheran Church Family for all the love and concern you have shared with us through your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and memorials. The comfort you've given has eased the sadness of losing Chris. Our Lord's Peace and Blessings we share with all of you.

-The Family of Chris Mielke, Jan Jessica, Patti, Rachael and Derek

The Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Zoom, Sunday, December 6th at 10:00am.

If you have any questions or need help figuring out how to use Zoom, please contact the office at 324-2984 or email flc@flcnorthwood.org and Pastor Becky would be more than happy to help!

First Lutheran Church Community 2020 Christmas Meal

Due to the current restrictions regarding COVID-19 and possible more restrictions, the Fellowship Committee has decided to put the Christmas Meal preparations on hold at the present time.

Please watch for any updates and information during our on-line services or First Lutheran Church Facebook page.

Reminder to all Women of First Lutheran

November was Thank offering month.

This is the only time we ask that you participate and hope your able to send what you can. This year it will be divided between Manna of Worth County and Good Samaritan Fund at the Sheriff's office. Some donations have been received but more is needed.

Please write checks to First Lutheran Women and send to:

Myra Harris, 1325 460th St. Northwood, IA 50459

or put in FLW Treasurers box in the office entry at the church. **-FLW Core Group**



1. Kase Bachtle, Andrew Houg, Marlee Nelson, Mark Senne
2. Cole Eilertson, Jackson Foss, Jenna Bauers, Truman Hengesteg, Teresa Johnson, Bryce Ogea
3. Jacob Loken
- 4.
5. Austin Morris, Emily Tufte, Jeff Vansteenburgh
6. Ashley Leegaard, Suzanne Olson, Rylee Watts
7. Debra Brockman, Judy Converse, Natalee Lohmann, Max Rugland
- 8.
9. Kory Olson, Kathleen Thron
10. Joseph Bedford, Jessica Berry, Steve Converse, Justin Senne
11. Tiffany Berg, Sue Bestul, Jacob Krull
12. Tony Fredericks, Addie Rugland, Glenn Van Sabben
13. Gary Hanson, Bret Johnson, Carter Thofson, Patricia Trenhaile
14. Linda Christianson, Daryl Love, Madelyn Midtgaard
15. Chelsea Boyden, Judith Jorgensen, Bryan Sime
16. Tom Hakes, Jesse Harang, Tyler Hillman, Barbara Trenhaile
17. Jason Adams, Holly Hankins, Bonnie Hengesteg, Frances Olson, Austin Schutz, Joclyn Shackleton
18. Troy Einertson, Kristine Gordon, Belle Magritz
19. Callan Brunsvold, Nalda Zipse
20. Elexis Carrison, Mary Dewitt, Candee Hunchis, Katelyn Thofson, Russell Knudson
- 21.
22. Anna Feley, Wade Flattum, Ronald Hengesteg, Janelle Johnson, Mason Thofson, Avery Nielsen
23. Rhonda Taylor, O'Brian Tyrrell
- 24.
25. Mary Bachtle, Michael Lee, Carol Van Veldhuizen
26. Stephanie Hengesteg, Calli O'Neill
27. David Borcharding, Larry Roerish, Samantha Zipse
28. Jan Mielke, Grayson Pangburn, Megan Storvick
29. Larry Foley, Sawyer Hulshizer, Lauren Severson, Gina Solberg
30. Jonathan Berry, Mary Bloomingdale, Jordan Helgeson, Arlys Reeder
31. Darin Dahlby, Olivia Gentz, Brandon Knutson, Lauren Petznick

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
			5:45pm: JH. Confirmation			
6 <u>Advent 2</u> 9:00am – Virtual Worship Annual Meeting 10am via Zoom	7 10am: Staff Meeting	8	9 5:45pm: JH. Confirmation	10 	11	12
13 <u>Advent 3</u> 9:00am – Virtual Worship 10:00am – Church Council Meeting	14 10am: Staff Meeting	15 	16 5:45pm: JH. Confirmation	17	18	19 
20 <u>Advent 4</u> 9:00am – Virtual Worship	21 10am: Staff Meeting	22	23 No Confirmation	24 4:30 pm <i>Christmas Eve Service</i> 	25 10:30 am <i>Christmas Service</i>	26
27 <u>Christmas 1</u> 9:00am – Virtual Worship	28 No Staff Meeting	29 	30 No Confirmation	31	1  Happy New Year!	2