

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
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FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

March 2019



Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes and Painting

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent begins – and a traditional day to ‘clear the cupboards’ of the things that people traditionally ‘give up’ for Lent. For many centuries that has meant eating up the pancakes!



On Shrove Tuesday this year (March 5) FLC Youth will offer a supper of pancakes and sausage, as well as orange juice, milk, and coffee from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

Either before you eat or afterwards, Val Foss will be there to lead you through a simple wooden sign painting project with an Easter theme. We ask that children be accompanied by an adult or older student.

No cost for supper or project. We'd appreciate knowing if you are planning to make a Easter sign, so that we can have enough supplies. You can contact the church office, respond via the First Lutheran Church and Sunday School Facebook page, or on Val's Facebook page.

Chocolate for Lent?

This sounds a bit strange, huh? Usually chocolate is one of those things we consider giving up for Lent.

I'd like to offer a Lenten study called Chocolate for Lent. It is based on the movie, *Chocolat*, a nominee for an Oscar in the Best Picture category in 2000. Viewing the movie in one sitting would be part of the study, and the discussion time takes up the characters of the movie and their transformation over the course of the time we observe them in the movie.

For starters, I will play the movie, *Chocolat*, on Sunday, March 3, after worship AND Tuesday, March 5, after the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Sign Painting event (around 6 pm). We can discuss additional discussion times based on the interest and schedules of those involved.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Pastor Judy

BEST LENT EVER
DON'T GIVE UP
chocolate
FOR LENT

From The Pastor's Desk....

2.

Dear friends,

This winter has been long (it seems) and challenging in many ways. Cold temperatures, quite a bit of snow, and gusty winds have kept us in, sent us away, and/or just made for tough season!

But we KNOW that spring is on the way. Certainly we can't really see it outside our windows quite yet, but by checking a calendar – as well as having faith in God's gracious turning of our world and it's patterns - we believe that spring will come!

I am sure of this – because of that calendar on the wall – AND because of the church season calendar – which tells me that we are almost onto the Season of Lent. We have moved through a longer-than-usual Season after Epiphany because of the lateness of Easter. But Lent still comes – and Lent means 'spring.'

At First Lutheran, Lent is observed in a few different ways:

- ◆ our Sunday worship changes a bit and allows a little more silence in this contemplative and repentant time
- ◆ we meet for a simple supper together and share a short worship time together utilizing Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings
- ◆ a Lenten study is offered (see information elsewhere in the newsletter for this year's plan).
- ◆ we see a lot of purple!

Nothing is required – all are welcome.

Looking ahead to a good season together,
Pastor Judy

THANKS --- THANKS --- THANKS

Many thanks for - - -

- Congregation leaders and staff who work together for the good of our faith community!
- Generous members who give to support a special need at First Lutheran!
- An opportunity to gather on 'retreat' with leaders to talk about goals and priorities in the year (and more) ahead!
- Music provided by our Sunday school kids – with leadership and direction by Allix Braun!
- The continued wonderful music that we hear from our adult choir and bell choir on Sunday mornings!
- Val Foss (and family) for providing all of the supplies and 'know-how' to create 57 Valentine's Day signs at our special family craft day!
- Continued care for those of our church family who are ill, recovering, grieving, or facing big life changes!
- Safety in the face of storms and cold!

With gratitude for you and our work together,
Pastor Judy

GREETINGS FROM THE SHARE SHOPPE BOARD

2018 was a year of changes for the Share Shoppe. New by-laws, new information gathering, and now new board members. The Share Shoppe has been blessed again this year with great volunteers and givers.

In June, we put together the following information about our finances, in hope that churches and/or individuals would be guided to help the Share Shoppe monetarily.

July 2017—December 2017	Deposits—\$2,255.00
	Withdrawals—\$3,842.00
January 2018—June 2018	Deposits—\$2,783.00
	Withdrawals—\$3,562.00

We had a blessed November and December with congregations and women's groups giving monetary gifts, volunteering and offering up prayers for the Share Shoppe. December 2018 bank total -\$5,616.10.

Our mission it to help others, and you have truly supported us in this mission. We wish we could personally thank everyone, but we can't. Thank you very much.

Yours in Christ,
Share Shoppe Board and Manager

YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??



At the end of January, I was fortunate to attend the ELCA Youth Directors Extravaganza (Or “The E!” as it’s called among Youth Directors) in Jacksonville, FL. This year’s theme was “Disrupt”, which focused on shaking things up and not be content with that same old thing we get used to doing in our faith lives. I got to attend several classes during the daytime and hear some really good speakers during the evening. A personal favorite was Prairie Rose Seminole, a Native American from North Dakota. Her stories and calm demeanor were a great reminder in today’s society that we need to look at everything from different perspectives and understand that we’re all different, and that’s alright!

At the end of January, we missed an entire week's worth of Youth because of snow days and cold temperatures. Just a reminder that if school is canceled or lets out early because of weather we will not have anything that night. If it's bad on a Sunday, I will decide by 3:00 PM if we are having Youth and will let students know on social media.



At the beginning of February, we had a combined Jr/Sr High Super Bowl party. While the game and commercials may not have been that exciting, we had a very fun and busy night down in the basement. We had lots of great food, shuffle board and lots of different games going on throughout the night.

As always we had a month of very different lessons during our regular Youth meetings. One that sticks out was called “If You Really Knew Me”. The lesson dealt with being more honest about how God has made all of us different and to not be afraid of not being in agreement all the time. The fact that we can all have such different views on everything and come together to worship the same God is amazing! We also had a lesson about Hell, which had a hot food challenge and a time to share about what the Bible says about Hell. Our focused verse that night was Matthew 25:46 and the discussion during, and after Youth, about what we know about Hell was encouraging to see these kids seeking out answers!



We’ll be starting up our tradition of Vets Vs. Noobs as the Lenten season is soon upon us. Sr. High students will be at the service on Wednesday nights and then go to the youth room for an ongoing trivia contest about the services. We’ll then play games on our teams and then have a short lesson to end the night. It’s great to see how much they learn during Lent and to see teens from different churches actively participating here.

Women's Circle

FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

“Blessed are you among women” Luke 1:42

Julia	March 4th	2:00 pm	Fireside Room
Leah	March 7th	9:00 am	Jan Wilder’s home
Lydia	March 6th	1:00 pm	Gloria Fallgatter’s home
Rebecca	March 6th	1:30 pm	Fireside Room
Sarah	March 5th	1:00 pm	Fran Pixley’s home



PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms
Harrison Severson-February 17

Weddings
No Weddings in February

Funerals/Memorial Services
Elaine Hill—February 26th

MEMORIALS

Doris Johnson
\$500.00—General Fund

Mariel Patzloff
\$10.00—Property (Organ) Fund

Nancy Converse
\$10.00—Property (Organ) Fund

DONATIONS

\$639.99—General Fund

\$10.00—Property (Organ) Fund

When someone you love becomes a
MEMORY,
the memory becomes a
Treasure



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH MARCH MISSION

Lutheran Service of Iowa

For over 150 years serving Iowa's' most vulnerable people, fulfilling a promise to respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

Mission money is collected each month from FLW Circles and from our Noisy Offering during worship

Donations may also be dropped off in the slot below the mission bulletin board or the church office.



Riverside preview for 2019

We are looking forward to welcoming Bailey Comegys to First Lutheran on Sunday, March 31! Bailey will speak briefly to the gathered congregation at the beginning of worship, and then she'll spend some time with the elementary school kids during the Sunday school time – singing, talking about camp, and praying together.

Many FLC kids are already signed up to attend Riverside this summer. If you would like more information about the camp and some of the fund-raising that is planned, please contact Jen Costello or Heather Rheingans.

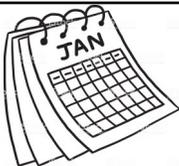
FAQ about the project: WICKS ORGAN at FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

What will happen if we do nothing about our organ?

Our organ will continue to deteriorate. As the connections and individual components fail, the organ becomes much more difficult to play. Already there are 25+ notes that do not play consistently, and this reduces the options for even a skilled organist.

What are the advantages of the proposal we're looking at?

An updated organ will insure the use of this fine instrument well into the future. Besides updates to the electrical system (not changed at all since it's installation almost 54 years ago) and re-voicing of the numerous pipes for better, balanced sound, the enhancement proposed will increase the options for the organist. An additional rank (keyboard) increases the options for the organist, actually making it easier to play. A recording system included will allow an organist to record hymns and service music in advance – and then that music can be played with just the touch of a button – allowing tremendous versatility.



Financial Reporting for 2019

The vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting in November to change the fiscal year from a October 1 – September 30 year TO a January 1 – December 31 calendar year means that the numbers that you see each week in the bulletin and each month in the newsletter will have been recorded starting at a new date. Since January 1, 2019, we started again, the YTD balance does not take into account any giving during October, November, or December of 2018.

We have had quite a few new sign-ups for Simply Giving, and the Council encourages you to try this automated way of consistently supporting FLC. See Jan Thompson, our Financial Manager in the office to learn more or sign up.

Manna of Worth County deeply appreciates all your contributions to feeding the hungry in Worth County over the last **38 years**. We find that more and more families are struggling with hunger and food insecurity issues. 395,620 Iowans are living below the poverty level and the number of food insecure children in Iowa is staggering:



- About 40% of Worth County school children are food insecure
- About 1,246 in Worth County are eligible for Medicare support
- 30% of your income is the appropriate level for you to pay in rent or mortgage. There is not one state in the U.S. where a worker who is paid minimum wage can find a two bedroom apartment at this rate.

Please consider donating a personal hygiene item, a box of cereal, a can of food. You may contact Bobbi Bendickson, our Director, at (641) 324-8588 or you may deliver items to Manna Food Pantry on Monday's from 10-12 or Thursday's from 4:30-6:30. We are able to obtain food from the Food Bank of Iowa for 14 cents per pound. So each dollar goes a long ways.

Also please consider these Volunteer Opportunities:



Reception: Greet the client, check eligibility, Record dates of client visit and record information for first time client visit. 2 1/2 hours per day served. (1 per shift).

Greeter: After client has checked in, the greeter directs clients into the shopping area and introduces client to shopping assistant. Manages traffic flow and assists with packing and loading as needed. 2 1/2 hours per day served. (1 per shift).

Shopping Assistant: Helps client select food according to household size and guides client through the shopping area. 2 1/2 hours per day served. (2-3 per shift).

March Volunteers

Ushers

March 3rd & 6th—David & Sharron Petznick, Kevin and Maeghan Petznick
March 10th & 13th—Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
March 17th & 20th—Harlan & Barb Helgeson, Colton Moretz, Casson Moretz
March 24th & 27th—Brian Costello, Richard Butler, Landon Perkins, Matt Johnson
March 31st & April 3rd—Eric and Austin Foss, Tom and Josh Stevens, Cade Hengesteg

Greeters

March 3rd—Greg Nystuen and Steve Converse
March 10th—Wayde, Jill, Wyatt & Weston Willand
March 17th—Barry & Lisa Wangsness
March 24th—Gretchen and Emma Hengesteg
March 31st—Carl, Janet, Sophie & Maggie Rye

Fellowship Time

March 3rd—Molly Bachtle, Betty Goodrich, Troy & Dawn Bachtle
March 10th—Maynard & Madelyn Midtgaard and Hal & Dianne Johnson
March 17th—Patty Irons and Avis Lehman
March 24th—Judy Stevens and Nancy Amundson
March 31st—Ray & Wanda Hoffman and Shirley Olson

Acolytes

March 3rd—Lindsey Moore and Madalynn Hanson
March 6th—Emma Hengesteg and Justin Mills
March 10th—Damon Reyerson and Mallory Rheingans
March 13th—Trace Low
March 17th—Reese Wahl and Peyton Wilder
March 20th—Nolan Senne
March 24th—Joshua Stevens and Chloe Costello
March 27th—Jackson Foss
March 31st—Madison Berry and Lindsey Moore

Lay Readers

March 3rd—Myra Harris
March 10th—Delores Knudson
March 17th—6th Grade Student
March 24th—Jan Thompson
March 31st—Stu Anderson

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Sarah Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

March 3rd—Mike & Judy Stevens
March 6th & 10th—Lee & Becky Okerlund
March 13th & 17th—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
March 20th & 24th—David & Sharron Petznick
March 27th & 31st—Russ & Delores Knudson

Assisting Ministers

March 3rd—Cade Hengesteg
March 6th—Steve Converse
March 17th—Julia Quisley
March 31st—Stu Anderson



Thanks to Our Volunteers!



LENTEN MEAL SIGN UP

Looking for groups or families willing to host a Lenten meal. Please give church office a call to sign-up. Dates available are March 20th & 27th, April 3rd & 10th.



March 2019, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

March is National Professional Social Work Month

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our community!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

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 www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Finding a Support System

Aubreigh knew something needed to change.

She was struggling with substance use and alcohol. She couldn't find a way to take care of her mental health. She was unable to provide a safe home for her son, who needed to move in with his dad. When she finally took a step in the right direction and found a home, all her belongings were stolen.

Through LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Aubreigh connected with her worker, Kelsy. Together, the duo is working on budgeting Aubreigh's money, finding a good job, and building a safe home environment for her son.

"I was in a bad situation, and I'm really thankful for LSI," she says. "Without them, who knows where I'd be." Aubreigh now meets with Kelsy once a week and feels like she is finally on the right path after plenty of hard work. She is working with her son and his father to build a healthy co-parenting relationship, and she knows Kelsy will always be in her corner, ready to cheer her on.

"Kelsy has been an awesome resource. She helps if we have issues co-parenting, and we do a lot better now as a family," Aubreigh says. "If I have any problems, Kelsy is there."



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.

FLC Financial Update

<u>January 2019</u>		<u>January 1st -31st</u>	
Income	\$27,085.75	Income	\$27,085.75
Electronic Income	1,445.00	Electronic Income	\$1,445.00
Expense	\$19,893.41	Expense	\$19,893.41
End of month	\$ 8,637.34	Year to date	\$8,637.34

FIRST LUTHERAN OFFERING ENVELOPES

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

First Lutheran Missions

<u>October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019</u>	
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	\$ 110.00
Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 127.82
Camperships	\$ 153.02
Operation Smile (SS & Fair Trade)	\$ 462.27
Total	\$ 2,701.82

MARCH

- 1 Jessica Butler, Sarah Odom
- 2 Kailey Eskildsen, Miranda Hodson
- 3 Piper Brunsvold, Richard Kraft
- 4 Larry Brekken, Jami Dahlby
- 5 Randy Severson
- 6
- 7 Wanda Love
- 8 Arvin Lande, Keith Olson
- 9 Shawn Dahl, Levi Hanson, Janie Odegaard, Emmet Urbatsch
- 10 Jane Bloomingdale, Merle Hanson, Sandy Liljedahl, Amy Odom
- 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
- 14 Allen Anderson, Mary Willand
- 15 Wesley Ballantyne, Alexis Halbach, Jaxon Tufte
- 16 Megan Ott
- 17 Gerald Hengesteg
- 18 Susan Cowell, Gary Nerlien, Craig Toft, Joan Watts
- 19 Kayla Hauge, Maynard Midtgaard, Jenna O'Neill Weitzel
- 20 Valerie Abrams
- 21 James Bloomingdale, Leila Gangstad, Margaret Grell, Brianna Schroader, Wyatt Willand
- 22 Cheryl Gentz, Paul Ubben
- 23 Nikkole Koenig
- 24 Hannah Hennigar, Hunter Hennigar, Samantha Stricker, Chad Trenhaile, Wyatt Turner
- 25 Sam Hengesteg, Jolene Hickie, Sharlene Stoddard
- 26 Sharon Aase, Ethan Adams
- 27
- 28 Susan Grundel, Spencer Hulshizer, Molly Hunchis, David Penfold, Mark Tufte
- 29 Jay Hopperstad, Bruce Odden, Henry Horning
- 30 Marjorie Odden, Taylor Van Sabben, Theresa Van Sabben, Jayla Varner
- 31 Cindy Borcharding, Kollyns Kortan, Rose Marie Kruger, Evelyn Patterson

happy
birthday!