

PASTOR'S PAGE

The latest audio book I have been listening to is called *A Man Called Ove: A Novel* by Fredrik Backman. It's described as a story of a grumpy, yet lovable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door. Ove is a curmudgeon – the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. ...Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. ...this novel is a thoughtful exploration of the profound impact one life has on countless others.

I have enjoyed listening to this book and liked the movie version called *A Man Called Otto* (January 2023) because I have known many Oves throughout my life and ministry. I can imagine both my dad and my older brother as Ove. The turning point in the story is when Ove finds a new sense of connection and purpose.

Healthy connections seem to be the consistent thread that runs through what I have been reading lately.

This has been known for quite some time and reinforced through our covid shutdowns. People do better when they have healthy connections. That is an important part of who we are as a community of faith. We come together in worship. We walk with each other at the activity center or fairgrounds. We spot each other at one of the local food stops and connect with each other. Whether it's a quick hello or a conversation, it's important to connect with each other.



On the flip side, it's hard on the soul to be isolated and feel like you don't have any purpose in life or that anyone cares about you. Two comments about that. First, we care for you at church. You are important and you are an important part of the story of faith that we proclaim. Second, please come and join us in worship or come and tie quilts with the quilters.

I am concerned that many folks have let worship attendance slide to the back burner or even stuffed in the back of the freezer. Some believe that worship is just between 'me and God' and can be done anywhere. There's truth to that, but your neighbor or Ove who is longing for connection need you to come. They long to hear our collective voices sing praise. They need you to pray the Lord's Prayer for them when they don't have the emotional energy to say the words.



You see, we need each other. Community and connections are a huge part of what we all need. Please come and join us in worship. Let it be more than just you and God on the couch or sidewalk on a sunny day. We miss you when you don't come.

Psalm 95:6-7: O Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Pastor Becky

PASTORAL ACTS - 2024

Graveside Service

Ron Wangen 4/19/24
Kay Reyerson 4/30/24

Baptism

Tucker Ryan Janssen 4/6/24
Kris Allan Quam Jr. 4/13/24

YOUTH NEWS

We had a great April down in the Youth room!

After finishing up Vets vs. Noobs in March, we went back to just normal Youth for both groups. We started the month out with a lesson about “coincidences” and are they just that, or something that God gives us? The following week we talked about letting people know the true version of ourselves and that we shouldn't be ashamed of who God has made us to be (Colossians 3:9).



Following that we had a new lesson called “Dash” which is a new song by Crowder and Toby Mac. The song and lesson both focusing on the time from when we are born to when we die and how are we living out our lives of faith (1 Peter 4:10). We ended the month with a lesson about being thirsty for Christ. Sometimes we need to be pushed into some uncomfortable situations in order to realize how truly refreshing God is (Matthew 5:6).



We are still working hard on Day Camp (June 3 – 7). Sign-up sheets will be available the last week of Sunday School and will be available at the church office as well. With summer fast approaching we're also gearing up for Lifest and our Junior/Senior class retreat in July. Summer is going to be a great time!

Looking forward to May we've got a lot going on! Seniors Night at Youth, Youth Olympics, Painting the Youth room and lots and lots of preparation for Day Camp. The current 6th graders will be able to start attending Jr. High Youth on May 19, and current 8th graders will be allowed to attend both groups all summer long.



First Lutheran Church Council
Regular Meeting
March 19th, 2024

We Assemble in God's Name

- Members Present: Gina S, Nikkole K, Weston W, Judy S, Kris K, Kimberly A, Kevin M

We Celebrate our past

- Presidential Correspondence
 - Bogue Services coming to look at Organ due to keys holding notes
- Secretary's Report
 - Mariah Ballantyne will take minutes for today's meeting. Reviewed previous weeks minutes. Just need to update date from previous minutes.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Reviewed documents. Next 2 months should be good months
- Pastor's Report
 - Pastor was not able to attend, but provided Pastor's report to group.
- **MMSP to approve all reports (Judy/Kimberly)**

We Present Our Offering

- Worship
 - Last meeting planned through Easter and 1st week in April. Next meeting is April 9th.
- Inspire
 - Next meeting needs to be set up. This week I final Holden Service and off the following week.
- Stewardship
 - No Update
- Youth
 - Currently doing annual Vets vs Nebs. Vets are leading. 6th graders have been joining Jr High youth on Sunday's until the end of March.
- Education
 - May 5th Last day of Sunday School for the year
 - Kids also sign on the March 24th and May 5th
- Property
 - No Update
 - Update Council liaison to Kris
- Social
 - No Update
 - Update Council liaison to Gina.
- Fellowship
 - Judy will be suppling snacks this Sunday for Sunday School kids
 - Planning something for every month.
 - Council was asked to bring ideas to next council meeting

Concerns for the Present

- Anniversary for Church is coming up. 75 years and need to plan something to celebrate.
- Discussed needing a more online presents, however barrier is technical knowledge. Table for future meeting.
- Next meeting Judy will bring calendar of events she has planned.

- **MMSP to adjourn (Gina/Kimberly)**

- **Communion Assignments:**
 - **March 31st – Gina, Weston, Kimberly**
 - **April 7th – July and Kimberly**
 - **April 21st – Kris, Kevin, and Nikkole**

We Go Out in God's Name

- Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday April 16th at 6pm.

The Foundation of Stewardship

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it. -Psalm 24:1

The Bible consistently gives us a countercultural and counterintuitive understanding of the world and ourselves. It's so radical that many of us can't accept it.

The idea is that the world belongs to God, and so does everything IN the world. Even US! We, who proudly think of ourselves as autonomous, self-directed and self-made, actually belong to God. In other words, we don't own ourselves. We are possessions of the Almighty.

Think about that for just a minute. We don't own the earth, our houses, our cars, our possessions, our animals, our children, or even ourselves. It all belongs to God. We belong to God. We are humble servants, slaves, actually.

The reality that God owns everything, even us, forms the foundation for biblical stewardship. If God owns everything, including us, then we are responsible to God for our wisest and best use of the planet, our possessions, our talents and our lives.

Taking that responsibility seriously, God's people will prayerfully make choices that are in accordance with God's wishes. We will care for ourselves, our neighbors, and the earth. We will strive to love the Lord our God with all our being, and our neighbor as ourselves.

Prayerfully consider, how are you doing?

--Rob Blezard

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Join us on Wednesday, May 1st at 6:15pm for our last Inspire Service until we resume in the Fall.

The Sunday School children will be singing during worship on Sunday, May 5th. We will be having an end of Sunday School party for the children on May 5th.

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 12th, as we will be recognizing our Senior graduates.

Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church, will be on Sunday, May 19th. We wear the color red on this day to remember the power and fire of “the Lord and Giver of Life,” who revealed himself as the promised one.

Join us on Sunday, May 26th for a Memorial Day weekend celebration. Come and be a part of record-breaking crowds as we celebrate Trinity Sunday.

Plan ahead! Day Camp will be from 9:00am until noon June 3rd -7th. The morning will include lots of activities and finish up at the elementary school for the kids to take part in the feeding program available this summer.

First Lutheran Church offers a scholarship to those seniors who are going to a Lutheran College. Applications are in the office.

Our congregations are part of a much bigger community of faith through the synod and the churchwide organization. Companion Synods are our connections to the worldwide church.

The two Companion Synods that we relate to are Namibia and Hungary. Pastor Becky is joining the delegation traveling to Hungary at the end of June. The time spent in Hungary is to learn about the Lutheran Church in Hungary through worship and conversation. Also, to learn about new ways we can connect and support each other’s ministries.

You are invited to give a financial gift to the NEIA Synod’s Hungary Fund which will be presented by the group to Bishop Fabiny to support the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. Financial gifts to offset the cost to support Pastor Becky’s trip expenses are also welcome.

Northeastern
Iowa Synod



CREATIVE
COLLABORATIVE
CONGREGATIONS

Ministry Fair!

JUNE 1, 2024

Come learn about ...

- Call process
- Mutual ministries
- Ministry to parents
- Faith formation
- Volunteer recruitment
- Congregational legacy planning
- Responding to addiction issues
- Repurposing a church sanctuary
- Lay ministry training
- Outdoors as a spiritual playground
- Care for creation ideas
- Strategic ministry plans
- Communications for congregations
- Keeping children safe
- Youth ministry ideas
- Planned giving
- Art as a spiritual practice
- Racial justice opportunities
- LSI's immigrant services
- Campus ministry
- Mission trips
- Mosaic services for fuller lives
- Spiritual care

SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES!

- Bring Birthday Cake Kits
- Donate sanitary products

Download instructions at
[www.neiasynod.org/
ministry-fair](http://www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair).



Everyone
is Invited!

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Wartburg College, Waverly
9 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

Gather in fellowship!
Learn at workshops!
Join the worship band!
Share ideas & get inspired!

\$50 per person.
Register by May 24 at
[www.neiasynod.org/
ministry-fair](http://www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair)
or call 319-352-1414.





Easter Memorials and Honorariums



Floral Memorials

In Memory of Hellen Holstad, Given by First Lutheran Altar Guild

In Memory of Grandpa & Grandma Toft, Given by the Toft family

In Loving Memory of Jeanette Knutson, Given by Tim Knutson

In Memory of Merle, Steve & Sharon Aase, Given by Sally Aase

In Memory of Family and Friends, Given by David & Sharron Petznick

In Memory of Ed and Hellen Senne, Given by Mary Jo Senne

In Loving Memory of our Dad and Grandpa, Duane Thompson, Given by The Thompson family

In Loving Memory of Loved ones, Given by Carol Liljedahl

In Loving Memory of Jim & Kate Shuldhiess, Given by Doug & Jennifer Krull

In Loving Memory of Harm & Esther Krull, Given by Doug & Jennifer Krull

In Loving Memory of Lonnie Harris, Given by Myra Harris & family

In Loving Memory of Wanda Hoffman, Given by Raymond Hoffman

In Loving Memory of Ruth Winkelman, Given by Raymond Hoffman

In Loving Memory of Orlen & Norma Groe, Given by Their family

In Loving Memory of Wendell & Alcie Watts, Given by Tom & Joan Watts

In Loving Memory of Bill & Doris Erdman, Given by Tom & Joan Watts

In Loving Memory of Jim Watts, Given by Tom & Joan Watts

In Loving Memory of Darroll and JoAnn Julson, Given by Mary Reyerson & family

In Loving Memory of Nancy & Norance Reyerson, Given by Mary Reyerson & family

In Loving Memory of Cody Madden, Kay Reyerson, David Gaskill, Larry Gentz, Robert Mills, Sharyl Nestor, and Duane Thompson, Given by Conner Colonial Chapel



Easter Memorials and Honorariums



General Fund

\$455 In Memory of Loved ones, Given by Tom & Joan Watts

\$100 In Memory of Ron Wangen, Given by Judy Wangen and family

\$100 In Memory of my parents, Maurice & Lillian Nystuen, Given by Gregory Nystuen

\$100 In Memory of Norman and Steve Olson, Given by Shirley Olson

Building Fund

\$50 In Memory of Duane Thompson, Given by Mary Jo Senne

Organ Fund

\$100 In Memory of Ed & Helen Senne, Given by Mary Jo Senne

\$100 In Memory of Jeanette Knutson, Gary Knutson, and Cornell & Ila Knutson, Given by Tim Knutson



Please join us on Sunday, May 12th for a special worship service honoring the graduating Seniors of First Lutheran.

Seniors- Please come wearing your cap and gown, you will receive a gift and blessing from the congregation.

First Lutheran Missions

March 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$	171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$	
Bremwood - LSI	\$	190.88
Operation Christmas Child	\$	
Education Fund	\$	
Youth Fund	\$	
Sunday School Fund	\$	
Caring Tree	\$	
Meals on Wheels	\$	
Manna	\$	
Heifer International	\$	
Campers Fund	\$	
Dayspring Children's Village	\$	42.44
Northern Lights Shelter	\$	
LRH Auxiliary	\$	
TOTAL	\$	404.83

Donations

\$42.44 - Day Spring Children's School

\$100 - Lutheran Services of Iowa

Memorials

Duane Thompson \$255 -General Fund

**Margret Griffen \$ 50 -General Fund
(Tom Midtgaard's mother-in-law)**

**Virgil Wagner \$50 -General Fund
(Madelyn Midtgaard's cousin)**

First Lutheran Financial Update

March 2024

Income	\$10,057.10
Electronic Income	\$3,381.78
Expense	(\$19,447.23)
End of Month	(\$6,008.35)

YTD as of March 31

Income	\$43,319.00
Electronic Income	\$10,290.33
Inspire	\$225
Use of Church	\$90
Expense	(\$43,332.54)
End of Month	(\$9,407.71)

March General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 15,323.47
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 71.47
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 361.45
UTILITIES	\$ 2,012.97
TELEPHONE	\$ 180.76
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 806.61
WORSHIP 1	\$ 315.50
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 19,447.23

INCOME \$ 13,438.88

NET \$ (6,008.35)

Mission Project for May

LRH Auxiliary

Share Shoppe

Saturday, May 4th


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



1. Andrew Husske, Makayla Reyerson, James Tanner, Clifford Zipse
2. Kash Hickle, Justin Mills, Bruce Rheinfels
3. Dana Cunard
- 4.
5. Rhonda Tufte, Lucille Watney
6. Angela Gaskill, Terran Haberman, Eric Otis, Michael Otis, Taylor Pierce, Trey Waldemar
7. Lee Nelson, Kyan Skellenger
8. James Krull, Brock Nelson, Ryker Amundson
9. Tyler Husske, Cambria Schreiber, Silas Waller, Robyn Wilder
10. Michael Bachtel, Casey Gentz, Ray Larson
11. Spencer Capitani, Douglas Helgeland, Alyssa Iverson, Casey Carlson, Lois Nelson, Sawyer Schulz
12. Raymond Hoffman, Scott Moretz, Hayden Olson, Wayne Trenhaile, Aurora Navratil
13. Joseph Read
14. Florence Klitzke, Tanner Wright
15. Joseph Kuennen, Joanne Moretz, Colby Severson, Tracy Van Sabben
16. Owen Binnebose, Taylor Foss, Jordan Reindl
17. Tucker Duvall, Jesse Olson, Chandler Schulz
18. Jerry Hopperstad, Julia Quisley, Briar Tenold, Ashley Thompson, Bexton Braun
19. Mikaela Butler, Patricia Nelson, Bernon VanVeldhuizen, Peyton Wilder
20. Roger Harris, Jason Johnson
21. Teri Dahlby, Tyler Julson, Terri Olson, Tinzley Robb, Jace Shackleton, River Flattum
23. Chris Ballantyne, Gene Severson
24. Clara Helgeland, Ryan Kalvig, Cheryl Nitcher,
- 25.
26. Barbara Helgeson, Dylan Hengesteg, Patricia Irons
27. Heather Rheingans, Michael Weisert
28. Gloria George, Kimberly Hengesteg, Colton Moretz
29. Breanne Lombard, Harper Haxton
30. Courtney Meyer, Aaron Stevens, Cassandra Lande
31. Lois Hogen, Marlys Johnson, June Nerlien, Eric Thron

MAY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	2 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	3	4
5 <u>Easter 6</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. kids sing during worship 10:10am: Sunday School with last day celebration 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	6	7 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	8 4:30pm: Confirmation 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	9 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	10	11
12 <u>Easter 7</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	13	14 6:00pm: Worship Mtng. 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	15 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:30pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	16 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	17	18
19 <u>Pentecost</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	20	21 Manna Truck 4:00pm: Trust Fund 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	22 7:00pm: SH Youth	23 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	24 Wedding Rehearsal	25 Wedding
26 <u>Holy Trinity</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	27 Memorial Day	28 11:00am: Staff Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	29 7:00pm: SH Youth	30 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	31	