

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
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Permit No. 33

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

November 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, November 29th**. 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

The writer of Ecclesiastes proclaims, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...." (Chapter 3 verses 1, 4 and 5). Traditionally there are many occasions to live into this passage and typically we all would be busily planning for how we will celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. But this year looks so different. This Covid-19 pandemic has thrown all of us for a loop. We are all exhausted from the contentious election. And we do not really know how we are going to move forward with our family gatherings, special worship services and come through the next few months.

One of my go to books about grief is titled *Life is Goodbye, Life is Hello* grieving well through all kinds of losses. Your lack of energy or your inability to focus or get too hopeful is part of grief. And whether you want to call it that, 2020 brings us to a point of grief. We grieve what we have not been able to do. We grieve the celebrations that we have put on hold or just gave up on. We grieve the freedom to just get together with friends and loved ones without wondering if it is safe.

My suggestion to you is be ahead of the game for your plans for the next two months. My mom died my senior year in high school and my dad suggested that we do something different for Christmas that year. Instead of staying home the five of us drove to Tennessee to spend Christmas with mom's family. It was different. There was still a sadness that hung over our days. But it was wonderful to be with her family and to be able to laugh and tell stories with each other. We even took in a show at the Grand Ole Opry.

Grief is not just related to the death of loved ones. Grief comes and goes, we laugh, and cry and it reflects that we love one another. Grief comes because we are created for community and long to be with others but this year, we must change how we go about our times together.

This year will be different, but we still have so much to be thankful for. This year we are challenged to be creative and think in new ways of how to worship and be with our families. Last month I encouraged you to start a gratitude journal. Every evening before you go to sleep write down five things that you are grateful. It is never too late to begin and it could be a great gift to share with others on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Day.

Blessings to each of you!

Pastor Becky

WHAT'S THE RUSH?

Why are we trying to do a Special Congregational meeting on November 1st? Two Reasons

- 1) Adopting the constitution updates from the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. One of the updates allow us to do Congregational meetings by remote communication. This makes it possible for members to join our meeting through Zoom.
- 2) Take First of two votes to change the Annual meeting to January so that it is in sync with the fiscal year.

First Lutheran Church
309 9th St N, Northwood, IA 50459
(641) 324-2984

October 12, 2020

To the congregation of the First Lutheran Church,

A special meeting of the congregation of the First Lutheran Church in Northwood, IA was called Sunday, October 11, 2020. Unfortunately, a quorum was not met and this meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 1st, 2020. The meeting will be held at 9 AM, in the sanctuary, immediately before worship services.

The ELCA church wide assembly met in 2019 and updated the model constitution. This special meeting is called to vote on adopting these updates into First Lutheran's constitution. One vote of the congregation, by ballot, will update our constitution. A summary of the updates is listed below. If you would like to review the entire constitution prior to this meeting, you may pick up a copy at the church office or have it sent via email from Christa (christa@flcnorthwood.org). Copies will be available at the meeting as well.

Constitution Updates:

- Throughout the constitution are general editing changes as well as language change to reflect the two categories of Rostered Minister as Word and Sacrament/Pastor and Word and Service/Deacon.
- C10.08. and C12.13. was added to allow for holding meetings by remote communication of both the congregational and Church Council.
- Removal of C10.01.01 and adopting the model constitution language of the Annual meeting date to be determined in the bylaws.

This letter will also serve as notice from our audit committee that an audit was completed on January 13, 2020 and no discrepancies were found regarding finances from 2019. You are receiving this notice because the annual meeting occurs every year in November before the fiscal year is complete (ends December 31st). You will be required to receive notice every year that such an audit has been completed unless the annual meeting and fiscal year are aligned. At the special meeting on November 1st, we will again discuss and vote on changing the annual meeting to January to align with the fiscal year. To officially change the annual meeting date, the congregation will have to approve this on two separate occasions. Once at the special meeting on November 1st, and then again at the annual meeting (scheduled for November 15th).

If you have questions or concerns regarding the proposed changes to the constitution, please contact Pastor Becky. Email address: pastorbecky@flcnorthwood.org, cell phone: (612) 718-9151, home phone: (641) 323-7177.

Sincerely,

Shana Brunsvold

Shana Brunsvold
FLC Council President, 2020

YOUTH NEWS

Both Youth groups have been getting into a more normal routine this past month. Getting used to having Youth meetings in the Fellowship Hall and continuing to socially distance from each other. Attendance wise, numbers have been the biggest since before Covid hit back in March.

In the middle of the month, we were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our Youth, Ian Husske. It's so very hard to even put into words how big of an effect this has had on myself and all the teens of this community. The Senior High students were able to gather on a Wednesday afternoon to talk about what had happened and how we were all feeling.

I was also able to spend two days at the school talking to students and helping guide them through this situation. Over the course of the next week, we had 7 students show up for Youth for the very first time. In the midst of so much negativity, there are positive things happening.

One of the students came up with the idea to paint one of the bricks bright orange as a memorial to Ian. Orange was his favorite color, and we'll have a brick to remind us of him until his class graduates in 2023. Once we get back into the youthroom after Covid, you'll be able to see it in our group photos that get posted to Facebook.

Looking forward into December, we are currently not planning on having any Lock-Ins over Christmas break as it would be too difficult to socially distance all night as well as having the teens sleep with masks on! I'm being hopefully optimistic that we may be able to have them over Spring Break in March.

First Lutheran Mission	
January 1– December 31, 2020	
Bremwood	\$ 150.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 401.86
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 455.00
Caring Tree	\$ 442.86
Meals on Wheels	\$ 181.48
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	\$ 12,929.28

First Lutheran Financial Update	
September 2020	
Income	\$7,554.64
Electronic Income	\$2,915.21
Expense	\$19,939.72
End of Month	(\$9,469.87)
YTD as of Sept. 30th	
Income	\$119,988.93
Electronic Income	\$21,446.31
Other Income	\$80,782.42
Expense	-\$210,978.60
End of Month	\$11,239.06

September General Budget Expenses	
PAYROLL:	\$ 15,384.40
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 43.36
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 295.19
UTILITIES	\$ 1,113.23
TELEPHONE	\$ 213.09
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 1,385.45
SYNOD 3 RD QUARTER	\$ 1,125.00
MISC. EXPENSE	\$ 132.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 19,939.72
INCOME	\$ 10,469.85
NET	\$ (9,469.87)

November 2020

LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

National Adoption Month

November is National Adoption Month, a time to honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children in need. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, loving home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI's director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. 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.

“There is Hope”

As a young child growing up in multiple foster homes, Abby dreamed of a forever family. When she moved in with foster parents Joe and Dee, Abby knew she'd found the perfect family for her. Joe and Dee had already adopted two of their sons by the time Abby entered the family, and the children immediately bonded. When Abby was no longer able to reunify with her birth family, Joe and Dee decided to adopt her into their family.

“The kids bless our lives,” Joe says. “I wish people knew what kind of family you can have through foster care and adoption, and how much love these kids have to offer.”

Abby is now a 17-year-old preparing to graduate high school in the spring. She has found a forever family that encourages her to pursue her passions and with the support of her parents and siblings, Abby has found success as a high school wrestler, earning top awards and titles throughout her high school years.

Since being adopted into Joe and Dee's family, Abby has openly shared her story at National Adoption Month events in her community. She wants to raise awareness about foster care and adoption across Iowa, inspire families to become foster and adoptive parents, and she hopes her story can inspire other kids looking for the same loving support system she has.

“To other kids out there in my situation, there is hope,” Abby says. “You will find the perfect family that will give you all their love and care for you, no matter what.”



First Lutheran Church Council
Regular Meeting
9-13-20

We Assemble in God's Name

- Members Present: Janelle Johnson, Tim Knutson, Heather Rheingans, Shana Brunsvold, Mitch Hanson, Deb Athey, Pastor Becky Sogge, MaryJo Senne, Nikkole Koenig

We Celebrate our Past

- Presidential Correspondence
 - Thank you received from DeAnn Read
 - Thank you received from Fran Olson
 - Discussed scheduled payments to Synod monthly of \$1125.
 - Transfer out of congregation Dan & Hayley Horning--to Peace Lutheran
- Secretary's Report
 - No changes
- Treasurer's Report
 - Discussed financial standing year-to-date, is ahead of prior year, and compared to estimated budget usage at this point in the year.
 - Thrivent has given a donation to pay for Pastor's office laptop and sound system laptops and also sound system camera. Discretionary funds from interim pastors also applied to camera. Balance due on camera is now approximately \$40
 - Line of credit for sound system has been repaid to bank with WCDA grant dollars.
- Pastor's Report
 - Has been making connections with synod pastors and synod office.
 - Meeting with clergy women on Zoom.
 - Funeral for Thelma Krull-Boutelle
 - Baptism September 13, Bayley Walk
 - Baptism September 20
 - Groups are meeting, with spacing and masks.
 - Making scheduled visits to homebound people.
- **MMSP to approve all reports (Deb A, Tim)**

We Present Our Offering

- Stewardship
 - Stewardship has met, has plan for a campaign. Mark Anderson from Synod office helping with this.
 - Met last Thursday night with Mark Anderson
 - Discussed a program called "You are not alone" with FLC logo on yard signs to be purchased for homes.
 - Giving Sunday pledge day scheduled November 8.
 - For 6 Sundays, video clips could be shared telling what we have been doing, even during Covid.
 - Meeting again this Thursday at 7pm
- Worship
 - Worship met Sept 1
 - Continuing 2 services in September.
 - One service in October
 - Music options for 9am services were planned
- Youth
 - No report from representative

- Education
 - Meeting Monday night regarding education plan.
 - Outdoor activity scheduled for September 20
- Finance
 - No report this month
- Property
 - No report at this time
 - Discussed using a fogger, borrowed from fire department, to sanitize the sanctuary following services
- Social Ministry
 - Library committee has expressed concerns with changes to handling of previously donated items
 - Will continue to work with this committee on planning a path forward
 - Quilters' guild concerned with the handling of distribution of quilts this May
 - Janelle will share the council's intentions regarding distribution of the quilts, keeping higher-risk members of the congregation safe by distributing on their behalf, in a time when the normal means of distribution at baccalaureate service was not an option.
 - Discussed making a few more adult masks for when church moves to indoor-only services.
- Fellowship
 - Judy Stevens is working with public health to see if there are options for having an outdoor treat/snack at installation Sunday October 4.
 - The fellowship committee will meet again in the next week.
 - Council members requested to be present for installation

Concerns for the Present

- October 11 10am service--special meeting.
 - Constitutional updates of language need one voting date
 - Changing of annual meeting to January to align with fiscal year which ends Dec 31. Requires a discussion and initial vote. If passed, a vote will be done at annual meeting November 15 simply to ratify it. Would go into effect for 2021
 - Volunteers may be needed to collect and count ballots on October 11 meeting.
 - Mary Jo will help
 - A note will be placed in bulletin requesting ballot counters
- In October moving to indoor-only services.
 - Will observe attendance numbers to determine whether there is a need to add additional service times to accommodate more people.
 - Work with public health, and follow school guidelines if we need to scale back, or close services again.
- Discussion on building use fee for weddings in the church.
 - Current fee is \$150
 - Cleaning after a wedding will take more time with Covid-mitigation procedures in place.
 - A suggestion has been made to check with other churches of comparable sizes (Mason City, Osage, etc) to see what their building-use fees are. Nikkole will contact area churches for this information
- Discussion on max number of people to be allowed in sanctuary for events, particularly weddings. 100, including wedding party, is the number under discussion, unless the state or public health advises reducing that number. Nikkole will contact area churches for information on handling of weddings (mask use, size limits, etc)
- Discussed DeAnn's exit interview.
- Christa has requested to move her short-hours day from Thursdays to Wednesday.
 - **MMSP to approve work schedule change (Janelle, Deb Athey)**

- Building use request received for Tae Kwon Do classes, on Thursdays.
 - Will seek more information on start dates, sparring plans, maks use, etc before making a motion
- Nominating committee needs to meet to compile nominees for open positoins
 - Pastor Becky will set up this meeting date.
- Next council meeting in the fellowship hall, at 10am
- **MMSP to adjourn (Tim, MaryJo)**

We Go out in God's Name

- Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: October 18, 10am Fellowship hall

Communion Sept 20

Oct 4

Oct 18

No servers needed at this time as we use pre-packaged elements

(Our Savior--Austin-\$150 building use, \$50 maintenance. If reception \$125 for 4 hours, \$20/hr each additional hour)

Our Savior Osage no info online

Salem Lake Mills no info online

*** November Volunteers ***

Ushers

November 1 - Harlan & Barb Helgeson, David & Melinda Penfold family

November 8 - Brian Costello, Richard Butler, Landon Perkins, Matt Johnson

November 15 - Eric & Austin Foss, Tom & Josh Stevens, Cade Hengesteg

November 22 - Sawyer & Michelle Schulz, Mitch & Jess Hanson, James & Steph Eskildsen Family

November 29 - Jerry & Jan Hopperstad, Larry Foley, Doug Fallgatter

Offering Collectors/Counters

November 1 - Russ & Delores Knudson

November 8 - Mike & Judy Stevens

November 15 - Lee & Becky Okerlund

November 22 - Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson

November 29 - David & Sharron Petznick

Lay Readers

November 1 - Patti Irons

November 8 - Larry Klitzke

November 15 - Sixth Grade Class

November 22 - Jan Thompson

November 29 - Heather Rheingans

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe – November 7 - SARAH

Acolytes, Assisting Ministers, Fellowship Time, and Greeters

We will contact you when routine is back to normal.

Announcements

We are sending blessings to the family of Chris Mielke who passed away on October 12th. His Funeral Service is pending. May God comfort all who mourn Chris's death.

We express our sympathy to the family of Ian Husske who passed away on Friday, October 16th. His Funeral Service is pending. May God comfort all who mourn Ian's death.

The November altar flowers are in loving memory of George "Flip" Lindflott, who would have been 95 years old on November 1st. *—Love, Lavon, Tom, Ron Larry and Families*

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th.

Leah Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 4th at 10:00am.

Bell Choir will have practice on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:00pm.

Attention all women of First Lutheran, we ask your participation! November is our Thank offering yearly gift and mission project. It will be divided between Manna of Worth County and Good Samaritan Fund. Please write checks to First Lutheran Woman and you may bring it to your circle meeting, put it in the FLW Treasurer's box outside the office or send to Myra Harris 1325 460th St. Northwood, IA. Thank you!

The Nominations Committee are seeking volunteers to serve on the council or one of the committees. If you are interested please contact Pastor Becky at 641-324-2984 or pastorbecky@flcnorthwood.org.

Sunday School will be held on: November 8th, 22nd, December 6th and 20th after the worship service.

The 9th Grade Confirmation class will meet at 10:15am on November 8th and 22nd.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$87.42. *—Lutheran World Relief.*

We would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$131.73 which will be used in the housing and caring of the homeless. *—Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless*

Quilters, Thank you so much for the masks and materials. Our students at Highland Elementary in Waterloo are so grateful for your kindness. Our students will use the masks and we will use the adult ones too. Blessed to have all of you! *—Dana Borcharding, Special Education teacher*

Please prayerfully consider helping a child this Christmas. You may take a star from the Christmas tree located in the narthex and buy a gift for the age and gender listed on the ornament you choose. Please return your unwrapped gifts to church by Sunday November 29. If you have questions please contact Cindy Pangburn at 641-583-1434. Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child!

Mission Project for November

Meals on Wheels
&
Manna of Worth County

Donations & Memorials

Donations:

Bremwood Home \$75
Caring Tree \$50
Operation Xmas Child \$120





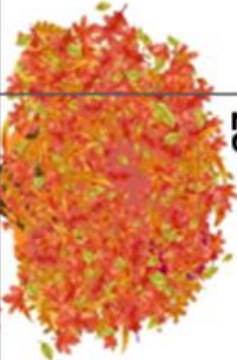
In Memory Of:

Chris Mielke - General Fund \$20
Youth Fund \$25



1. **Stephanie Perkins, Harrisyn Severson**
2. **Erbin Anderson, Gerald Bakken, Nicole Kroneman**
3. **Daniel Schutz**
4. **Michael Brunsvold, Betty Johnson, Morgan Johnson, Tiarra Walk**
5. **Jennie Christianson, Valerie Foss, Michael Gordon, Skyler Petry**
6. **Gail Read, Jack Wheeler**
- 7.
8. **Carolyn Reeder, Gordon Wilde**
9. **John Anderson, Tony Gentz, Donald Johnson, Kenly Solberg**
10. **Cody Hanson**
11. **Robert Bloomingdale, Eileen Dahlby, Brian Kenison, Lindsey Severson, Ivy Toresdahl**
12. **Erin Bedford, Ryder Duvall, Zane Bauers, Harry Kuhlmann, Kyler Varner**
13. **Colby Eskildsen, Matthew Midtgaard, Katie Reding, Tyler Thofson**
14. **Sara Hulshizer, Danny Tenold**
15. **Trudy Capitani, Mary Ann Christianson, Mary Irons, Logan Mix, Zander Severson, Jeannie Tenold**
16. **Andrew Ballantyne, Kenedie Berry, Clay Bauers**
17. **Kail Christianson, Alan Fredericks, Randy Hengesteg, Kay Reyerson**
18. **Kathleen Eilertson, Jim Hanson**
19. **John Adams, Chloe Costello, Hayden Halbach, David Quisley**
20. **Amber Julseth, Chris Quisley, Blane Maher**
21. **Luane Odden, Amaya Rugland, Ashton Trenhaile**
22. **Jacklyn Einertson, Zane Bauers, Paisley Olson**
23. **Kayla Branstad**
24. **Cameron Campbell, Lisa Hagen, Brenda Moretz, Randy Sime**
25. **Holly Adams**
26. **Rebecca Hickman, Carson Tufte**
27. **Conner Harris, Jacob Schroader**
28. **Madison Avelar, Brandon Brockman, Quincey Reyerson**
29. **Wayde Willand**
30. **Jennifer Costello, Andrea Foley**

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <u>All Saints Sunday</u> 9:00am – Worship Service with H, Special Meeting and 3 rd grade presentation of bibles.	2 10:00am – Staff Meeting 2:00pm - JULIA	3 	4 10:00am - LEAH 1:30pm - REBECCA 2:00pm - LYDIA 5:45pm - JH. Confirmation 7:00pm – Bell Choir 7-8:30pm - Youth	5	6	7 
8 <u>Pentecost 23</u> 9:00am – Worship Service with Pastor Mark Anderson, noisy offering 10:00am – Sunday School & Church Council	9 10:00am – Staff Meeting	10	11 5:45pm - JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth Veterans Day	12	13 	14
15 <u>Pentecost 24</u> 9:00am – Worship Service with Holy Communion 10:00am – Annual Meeting	16 10:00am – Staff Meeting	17	18 2:00pm- Maple Court 5:45pm - JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth	19	20	21
22 <u>Christ the King</u> 9:00am – Worship Service with noisy offering 10:00am – Sunday School 10:15am – 9 th Grade Confirmation	23 10:00am – Staff Meeting	24 7-8:30pm - Youth	25	26 	27	28 
29 <u>Advent 1</u> 9:00am – Worship Service	30 10:00am – Staff Meeting	