

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

October 2020

Address Service Requested

YOUTH NEWS

With the temperature getting a bit colder and the sun setting much earlier each night, we have moved all of our Youth meetings inside the building this past month. We are now meeting, socially distanced with masks on in the Fellowship Hall. At the end of the night all of the chairs and touch points are being cleaned to prepare for the next day.

One of the lessons we had recently talked about the 7 steps to make it easier to have faith in God while being a teenager. The 7 steps very briefly are **1) You don't have to be in a relationship to enjoy school. 2) You are beautiful. 3) You are not defined by how smart you are. 4) It's okay to not fit in. 5) Don't beat yourself up over the past. 6) Surround yourself with people who are like-minded but keep yourself open minded. 7) Never feel that you have to earn the approval of others.** The discussions that happened with each of these points was truly an awesome thing. I am continually amazed by how these teens will open up to each other and share what's really going on.

Looking into October we should have all our normal meetings at regular times. Looking much farther into the future, we are not planning on having lock-ins during Christmas break if covid restrictions continue to be in effect.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Webster's dictionary defines gratitude as the state of being grateful or thankful. And, grateful is what we hear throughout the Bible even when times were tough. At the end of his first letter to the people of Thessalonica Paul reminds calls them to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances..." The people were dealing hard issues. There was fighting and a growing sense of dissention. Too many opinions, too much division but yet God was in the midst of them. Calling them to keep their focus with this promise "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this." 1Thessalonians 5:24

The Covid-19 pandemic has crossed the six-month mark and doesn't appear to be letting up. The news that fills our lives is overwhelming and the tension of the upcoming election adds to the burden of weariness. It's not easy to know how to plan. What will the next few months look like for worship? What will the next few months look like for how we connect with each other? Yes, we have more questions than answers. And, as I listen to other pastors talk there is a growing sense of decision fatigue.

But dear friends, we have a lot to be grateful for. First of all, we believe that God is in the midst of our lives and has not abandoned us. God has given us the gift of life and the creativity to find new ways of doing worship, connecting with others and living with hope.

Soon you will see yard signs popping up over town that say "You Are Not Alone First Lutheran Church is With You." The Stewardship Committee is leading us through the next several weeks focusing on all the things that still have happened at First Lutheran during the pandemic. We believe firmly that God is with us and both calls and empowers First Lutheran to be present for our community. During worship we will hear from members of their "Gratitude" moment. We will spend time giving thanks for all that we have and invite everyone to focus on an *attitude of gratitude*.

One way you can do this is join the 7th & 8th grade confirmation students in creating a gratitude journal. It doesn't have to be fancy it simply is an invitation to write down five things you are grateful for at the end of each day. If you are stuck in a funk, read through the Psalms because they don't stay stuck.

Life is different for all of us compared to the beginning of 2020 but we still have a lot to be grateful for. God is with us!

Pastor Becky



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

September 8, 2020

To the congregation of the First Lutheran Church,

A special meeting of the congregation of the First Lutheran Church in Northwood, IA has been called for Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 10:00 AM. This meeting will be held in the church parking lot after the indoor service.

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 are 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. was added to allow for holding meetings by remote communication for the congregation.**
- **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 October 11th, 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 by ballot vote on two separate occasions. Once at the special meeting on October 11th, and then again at the annual meeting this November.

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**

October 2020, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Warming Hearts with God's Love and a Good Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.

We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children at Beloit and Bremwood. Youth in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give them the opportunity, when possible, to choose their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please 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.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

A Path to Healing

When 14-year-old Bri first came to LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, she was struggling with aggression, frequently ran away, and had a hard time focusing in school. And as she was trying to heal from years of trauma, Bri's beloved grandpa suddenly passed away. She felt stuck and nothing was getting better, no matter what she tried. But her Beloit team was there to cheer her on.

The LSI team at Beloit provides 24-7 mental health treatment for Iowa children who have often experienced years of trauma, abuse, or neglect. Staff members are there to encourage children on their path to hope and healing, and they were there to lift up Bri when she decided to make a positive change in her life. Bri began actively participating in individual and group therapy sessions provided at Beloit, and she made it a point to encourage her peers on campus every day. Her Beloit team helped her to feel more comfortable opening up about her grief, and staff members were there to remind her of all the progress she had made to help her stay focused on the positives.

After months of hard work, Bri found a loving foster family and was able to leave Beloit's programming. And while she felt uncertain and anxious about leaving, she knew she was ready to move forward.

Bri continues to keep in touch with the team at Beloit, providing details on her new life, school, and her new room at home. Bri's anxiety about the unknown has diminished, she feels confident communicating her emotions, and she has hope for the future.



First Lutheran Church Council
Regular Meeting
August 9

We Assemble in God's Name

- Members Present: Shana Brunsvold, Pastor Becky, Deb Athey, Tim Knutson, Heather Rheingans, MaryJo Senne, Janelle Johnson

We Celebrate our Past

- Presidential Correspondence
 - Received a thank you from Cameron Campbell for graduation gifts.
- Secretary's Report
 - No changes
- Treasurer's Report
 - Finances are on track compared to budget for this time of year.
 - A thank you will be published in the Focus for the congregation continuing to cause FLC to meet budget.
- Pastor's Report
 - Approve a pretax payroll deduction thru Portico of Pastor Becky's employee contribution for a retirement contribution, annual HSA contribution, annual furnishings allowance per IRS guidelines
 - At some point the church may need to furnish a laptop to the Pastor.
 - Two FLC representatives are needed for MANNA board. Pastor Sogge will be one of them. Will ask nominating chair to find another member
 - Working on a plan with confirmands
 - Working on the plan to return to worship inside, maybe do a hybrid
 - A wedding is upcoming on October 3 and a plan is needed to determine safety and policies for this event.
 - **MMSP to pursue purchase of office laptop computer for Pastor usage (1 Tim Knutson, 2 Deb Athey)**
 - Find a laptop and cost
 - Check into a Thrivent request for a portion of the cost
- **MMSP to approve all reports (Heather Rheingans, Tim Knutson)**

We Present Our Offering

- Stewardship
 - A meeting has not been held in recent months
 - Need to recruit more members
- Worship
 - Committee met Monday August 3
 - Outsided services planned to continue through Aug
 - Communion planned for 3rd and 4th Sundays in Aug, and 1st and 3rd Sundays in September
 - Discussion on phased reopening plan in hybrid mode in September. Pastor Becky will create a revised plan to be reviewed prior to end of August.
- Youth
 - Youth director has requested an increase to 15 people per group. Generally meeting outside.
 - Questions about steps to take if student cannot wear mask
 - Reaching out to Public Health about shields vs masks, etc
 - Request for trip to the Grotto

- Reach out to Public Health about safety within the vehicle.
 - **MMSP to approve these plans, granted that Mark contacts Public Health and follows their recommendations (Heather Rheingans, Deb Athey)**
- Education
 - Plans for fall Sunday School are uncertain. Will have a Zoom meeting in early September to determine a plan with options for indoor and outdoor.
- Finance
 - Will not meet again until October
 - Trust fund met this past week
 - Shannon Kropp is the new certified financial planner for this group.
 - There will be a meeting regarding the grant process in October
- Property
 - The fence is installed and paid for at the parsonage.
 - Discussion on planting a visually appealing hedgerow along the south fence.
- Social Ministry
 - Puppet ministry videos have been turned into DVD and put onto Youtube to make them accessible to Sunday School students through FLC facebook page.
- Fellowship
 - Welcoming plans for Pastor Becky--flowers and sign
- **MMSP to approve committee reports (Deb Athey, MaryJo Senne)**

Concerns for the Present

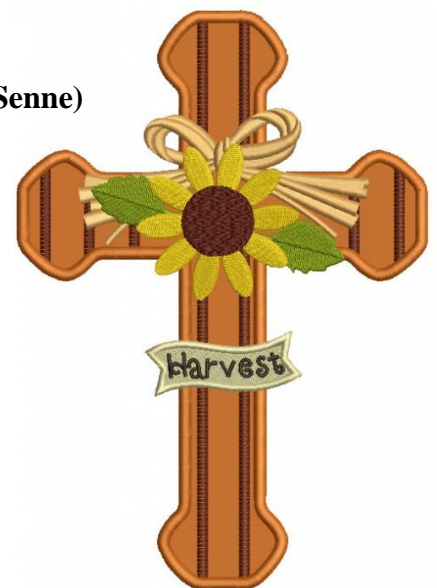
- Working on updating FLC constitution
 - Need to approve the new constitution in order to hold congregational meeting remotely.
 - Approval will require 2 votes.
 - Working with synod office to arrange special meeting to vote on Annual meeting and constitution.
 - Proposed Changes to constitution will be shared on paper and electronically. Discussion and questions will be held prior to the actual meeting by Zoom, phone, etc.
 - Proposed meeting dates September 20th and 27th. Would need to be announced in bulletin by 6th and 13th. Letter about meetings would need to be mailed out on or around September 3.
- Installation Sunday October 4th for Pastor Becky. Pastor Brackett will attend and deliver sermon that day.
- Office Manager has requested change to office hours
 - Proposed hours---Office Hours 9-3:30pm (30 min lunch) Monday-Wednesday
 - **MMSP to approve new office hours (Janelle Johnson, Deb Athey)**
- Mutual Ministry Team to assist in transition for new Pastor, meeting quarterly.
 - Mike Stevens, Sharyl Nestor, Megan Ott, Loraine Mix
 - Looking for at least 2 more members
- **MMSP to approve FLC Employee Handbook (Tim Knutson, MaryJo Senne)**
- Exit interview with DeAnn Read August 18 at 7pm by ZOOM
- Communion
 - August 16
 - August 23
 - September 6 (2 services)--indoor & outdoor

We Go out in God's Name

MMSP to adjourn (Tim Knutson, Deb Athey)

- Lord's Prayer

Next Council Meeting: September 13, 2020



Announcements

Our condolences to Dianne Johnson and her family and friends at the death of her husband Hal Johnson on August 1st.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Thelma Krull-Boutelle, who died on August 31st as is buried at Sunset Rest Cemetery.

Congratulations to Derreck & Tiarra Walk on the Baptism of their daughter, Baylee Renelyn Walk. Her sponsors are Riki & Joey Mickelson, Grant Boyer and Zoie Staplecamp.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be a Lay reader in the past. If you are interested in being a reader please talk to Laure Buehrer or contact Christa in the office at 324-2984, fllc@fllcnorthwood.org.

Our quilters helped in the Derecho Response by sending 31 quilts to an ELCA church in Cedar Rapids! Thank you to Mary Dodd for transporting 18 quilts and personal care kits to Bremwood Lutheran Children's Home.

Join Us for Sunday School, on October 11th and November 1st after the worship service.

The Nominations Committee are seeking volunteers to serve on the council or one of the committees. If you are interested please contact Pastor Becky.

The 9th Grade Confirmation class will meet at 10:15am on October 25th, November 8th and 22nd.

First Lutheran Mission	
<u>January 1– December 31, 2020</u>	
Bremwood	\$ 75.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 281.86
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 430.00
Caring Tree	\$ 342.86
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	\$ 12,609.28

First Lutheran Financial Update	
<u>August 2020</u>	
Income	-
Electronic Income	\$12,620.15
Expense	\$2,796.67
End of Month	\$18,659.02
<u>YTD as of July 31</u>	
Income	-
Electronic Income	\$124,446.34
Expense	\$18,531.10
End of Month	\$148,668.51
	(\$5,690.97)

<u>August General Budget Expenses</u>	
PAYROLL:	\$ 13,584.78
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 46.76
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 181.89
UTILITES	\$ 1,000.64
TELEPHONE	\$ 200.64
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 936.31
MISC. EXPENSE	\$ 35.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,659.02
INCOME	\$ 15,416.82
NET	\$ (3,242.20)

Mission Project for October

**The Caring Tree &
Operation Christmas Child**

* October Volunteers *

Ushers

October 4 - Jerry & Jan Hopperstad, Larry Foley, Doug Fallgatter

October 11 - Dan Hendrickson, Dennis Johnson, Mike & DeAnn Read

October 18 - David & Sharon Petznick, Kevin Petznick, Megan Petznick

October 25 - Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reader

Offering Collectors/Counters

October 4 - Mike & Judy Stevens

October 11 - Lee & Becky Okerlund

October 18 - Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson

October 25 - David & Sharron Petznick

Lay Readers

October 4 - Delores Knudson

October 11 - Laure Buehrer

October 18 - Sixth Grade Class

October 25 - Leila Gangstad

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe - October 3rd - JULIA

Acolytes, Assisting Ministers, Fellowship Time, and Greeters

We will contact you when routine is back to normal.

If you wish to stay in your car, tune to 88.9 FM to pick up the service.

The worship services are on the First Lutheran Church and Sunday School Facebook page.



Donations & Memorials

Donations:

Third Grade Bibles -\$50 Northern Lights Homeless Shelter -\$50 Daysprings -\$30 Lutheran Disaster Relief -\$200

In Memory Of:

Hal Johnson

General Fund \$115

Music \$20

Thelma Krull-Boutelle

General Fund \$50

Youth Fund \$30

Iola Bakken

General Fund \$125

New Office Hours

Monday: 9am – 3:30pm

Tuesday: 9am – 3:30pm

Wednesday: 9am – 12pm

Thursday: 9am – 3:30pm

Friday: Closed

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



- 1 Randy Buehrer, Ila Jensen, Lois Meyer
- 2 Daryl Hennigar, Lisa Irons, Tyler Mills
- 3 Lane Ballandby, Phyllis Mortenson, Larry Perkins, Rachel Ritzert, Dale Sime
- 4 Janet Reeder, Ryan Wahl
- 5 Dustin Hodson, Russell Olson, Jill Willand
- 6 Harley Severson, Sandra Thoen
- 7 James Medlang
- 8 Katie Baker, Trey Gonzales, Maggie Rye
- 9 Keith Braun, Madison Eilertson, Linda Loken, Paige McClure, Daniel Reeder, Dennis Reeder
- 10 Lisa Christianson, Kary Paulson, Sharron Petznick, Judy Wangen
- 11 Gloria Fallgatter, Douglas Krull, Tayah Lande, Danneka Love
- 12 Mitchell Athey, Kimberly Helgeson, Vivian Peterson, Mark Severson
- 13 Gavin Hankins, Kelvin Hendrikson, Tony Katcher
- 14 Anthony Hauge, Ben Johnson, Reese Nielsen, Jessica Paulsen
- 15 Deanna Gentz, Michael Kuhlmann, Bryan Odegaard
- 16 Becky Logemann, Ronnie Stricker
- 17 Kenneth Schmidt
- 18 Harold Van Sabben
- 19 Lynn Schaub
- 20 Chris Thofson
- 21 Sydney Harris, Suzanne Senne
- 22 Arly Hillman
- 23 Axel Flattum, Sandra Madden
- 24 Mark Midtgaard, Lawson Perkins, Kyle Stumo
- 25 Becky Haberman
- 26 Marcia Kraft, Kaelix Iverson, Journey Thompson, Emmalee Van Sabben, Lisa Wangsness
- 27 Allix Braun, Jacob Katcher
- 28 Dwayne Wright
- 29 Sue Anderson
- 30 Candace Low
- 31 Baylor Abrams, Patricia Brekken, Damon Reyerson, Raegen Reyerson, Dennis Schutz, Alex Shoger, Ella Stevens, Daniel Turner, Weston Willand

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4 <u>Pentecost 18</u> 9:00am – Installation Sunday with Holy Communion	5 10:00am – Staff Meeting 2:00pm – Julia Circle in Fireside Room	6 Worship Comm. Mtg.	7 2pm – Lydia Circle in Fireside room 5:45pm – JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth	8 10am – Leah Circle in Fireside Room 7pm – Steward. Comm. “Zoom”		
11 <u>Pentecost 19</u> 9:00am – Worship Service Sunday School after Worship Special Congregational Meeting	12 	13 10am –Staff Meeting	14 5:45pm – JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth	15	16 	17
18 <u>Pentecost 20</u> 9:00am – Worship Service with HC and Baptism 10:00am –Church Council	19 10:00am – Staff Meeting	20 Trust Fund Mtg.	21 2pm –Maple Court HC 5:45pm – JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth	22	23	24
25 <u>Reformation Sunday</u> 9:00am – Worship Service 10:15am -9 th Grade Confirmation	26 10:00am – Staff Meeting 	27	28 5:45pm – JH. Confirmation 7-8:30pm - Youth	29	30	31 