

**First Lutheran Church**  
**309 Ninth Street North**  
**Northwood, IA 50459**

**Office hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9am – 2:00pm  
Wednesday, 9am- 12pm, Fridays, closed.

**[www.flcnorthwood.org](http://www.flcnorthwood.org)**

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Permit No. 33

# First Lutheran Focus

# April 2025

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
April 6	TBD	Dani Gentz	Trenhaile family	Tegan Trenhaile Logan Trenhaile
April 13	Randy & Laure Buehrer	Shana Brunsvold	TBD	Ivy Urbatsch Amaya Rugland
April 20	David & Sharron Petznick	Patty Irons	TBD	Ivy Urbatsch Kenly Solberg
April 27	Russ & Delores Knudson	Gary Nerlien	TBD	Amaya Rugland

**Communion Set up:**

April 6                      Christa Trenhaile  
April 20                     TBD

**Altar Candles:**

April 6-13                 Christa Trenhaile  
April 20-27                Lindsey Severson

**Share Shoppe**  
**Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

# PASTOR'S PAGE

**Christ is Risen! Christ is risen, indeed.**

This is such an exciting and hope-filled time of the year.

I'm hoping that we can finish our Lenten journey without any more Wednesday blizzards (although the confirmation youth are not complaining!).

This winter has been another crazy weather experience. Not much snow in January but now to blizzards in March. Warm days followed by cold days meaning that jackets and sweatshirts are hard to find in the morning because they are still in the car, the locker or in the lost and found. Allergy meds are on standby for when the trees leaf out and the grass begins to grow. The Robins are here and seem to be able to cope with the weather changes.

One of the many blessings of living in this part of the country is our appreciation of the seasons. A long and snowy winter leads to a much anticipated and loved spring. Our church year reflects a similar journey of ups and downs, joys, and sorrows. Lent serves as a time of reflecting on the journey of Jesus and his followers to the cross. Easter is a much-anticipated celebration of the resurrection following a thoughtful and agonizing Holy Week.

One of the exciting parts of celebrating Easter as a little girl was buying a pretty new dress with the matching white shoes, socks, purse, and hat. It was a big deal. It meant that we were celebrating Easter and that the cold winter was almost over.

Spring and Easter also brought the flower and seed catalogues into our home. My mom and dad both enjoyed gardening and it was fun to look through the catalogues and dream of beautiful flowers and wonder why they wanted to plant all those vegetables. There were some years where half of our back yard was garden and the other half ball field.

Easter is a day that we are invited to celebrate each day. It's not necessary to go out and buy new clothes – but great fun to know that new life, new hope and new blessings come to us each day because Jesus rose from the dead. Death has lost its sting. The earth knows it, the snow melts, the earth warms, the tulips and other flowers poke through the dirt and the birds start to sing. Join the celebration.

**Christ is Risen! Christ is risen, indeed.**

Pastor Becky

## PASTORAL ACTS

### March

#### Baptism

Hunter Aaron Janssen      3/16/25

#### Funeral

Bernon Van Veldhuizen      3/21/25

Dale Johnson – DCV      3/27/25

# YOUTH NEWS

During the month of March we have been holding competitions in both of our groups for the duration of Lent. In Senior High we've put the kids who have been here the longest on a team against the newer kids. Each week they face off in different games to win points, participate in the Lent services, and participate in a quiz over what happens during the church service. The Junior High version runs very similar except they have Kooper Julseth and Colby Eskildsen as leaders for each of the teams. Both groups have seen more teens attending and its been especially great seeing the older students role model for the younger ones and openly talk about our faith.

We are going to try something different for Junior High Youth for the time being. Many of the students who want to attend have sport practices on Sunday nights, so we are going to temporarily move Youth to 4:00 to 6:00. If numbers continue to grow, we'll keep it at the new time until school is out for the summer.

Monday Nights continue to be a great blessing to those of us attending the student led bible study. Each week we have been preparing a meal together and then sit down together and discuss certain parts of the Bible. It's been great to have a few of our college kids helping out with everything we've been doing.





**Welcome to First Lutheran's newest members:** Jeffrey & Stacie Harms, Mike & Laura Walton and Chad & Alli Wurtzel and their children, Parker & Ava.

**The Altar flowers** on March 2<sup>nd</sup> were in memory of Lynne Scott who passed away on February 21<sup>st</sup>, her funeral was held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Conner Chapel.

**Congratulations to** Mike Janssen and Dani Gentz on the upcoming baptism of their son, Hunter Aaron Janssen. He was baptized on Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. His sponsors are Jade Stubble and Mark Willand.

**We extend our sympathy and prayers** to Jean Van Veldhuizen and her family and friends at the death of her husband, Bernie. Bernie's funeral was on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am at FLC, visitation was held on Thursday from 5-7pm at Hoff Celebrations, Sites Chapel.

**The beautiful Altar flowers on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> were in memory** of Bernie Van Veldhuizen whose funeral was held here at FLC on Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30am.

**A special thank you** to JoAnn Lower for leading the Children's Sermon on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you** to Church Council and Staff at First Lutheran for making work so enjoyable. Thank you to the quilters and the congregation for the kind words, cards and gifts. It's has been a blessing to have worked as the Building Manager for many years. -Troy Bachtle

**First Lutheran** is looking for people who are willing to help with counting the offering after church on Sundays. We currently have four teams that rotate weekly, with two people per team. Please let the office know if you are interested or speak with Steph Perkins who is the lead counter.

**Join Gary Nerlien on Sundays in Lent for conversation about Marks of the Christian- Lenten Journey.** This is a discussion based on the Book of Faith unit for the Lenten Journey (books can be ordered for \$15.00, sign up in the narthex). This is a forty-day journey exploring Romans 12.

**First Communion Class for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be Sunday, April 13 from Noon until 3:00PM.**  
**We will celebrate your First Communion on Maundy Thursday worship, April 17 at 6:00PM.**

### **Easter Breakfast**

**Join us for Easter Breakfast beginning  
at 7:30AM on Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Little Caesars Fundraiser**

The proceeds from this fundraiser are used to send our youth to Riverside Bible Camp. You may place your order with any youth, from FLC or DCV, that will be attending Riverside this year. You may also place your order online by going to PizzaKit.com, click on Products, and then Shop. Select "Support a seller I know" and enter Fundraiser ID# 459080. Delivery will be the week of May 12-16.



Passing on the torch or in our case the mop and cleaning supplies! The time has come and although we are sad to say goodbye to Troy, we welcome two new people to the First Lutheran staff. Christopher Madsen (goes by Toffer) and Annika Sogge (yes, you know her mom). They will be sharing many of the tasks of the job including unlocking and locking the building, cleaning and maintenance. Please welcome them as you meet them but we ask that you direct any building concerns to Pastor Becky or the church office while we work out the details of their schedules/tasks.

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**Plan ahead:** Day Camp will run from 9:00 AM until Noon June 9-13. 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.

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### **Please join the Confirmation Class Competition until April 30<sup>th</sup>**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade: PERSONAL CARE KIT** ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\* ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging \* Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade: SCHOOL KIT** FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other ONE pencil sharpener ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well) FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons ONE 2 ½" eraser ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

**First Lutheran Church Council**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Feb 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

We Assemble in God's Name

- Members Present: Kris, Pastor Beckey, Gina, Kimberly, Weston, Mike, Connie, and Hayley

We Celebrate our past

- Presidential Correspondence
  - Discuss at future mtg official agreement with Deer Creek
- Secretary's Report
  - Mariah Ballantyne will take minutes for today's meeting. Reviewed previous weeks minutes.
- Treasurer's Report
  - Reviewed finance reports
- Pastor's Report
  - JoAnn Lower will continue to support the children sermon as she is able
  - Pub Theology has run its course
- **MMSP to approve all reports (Connie/Gina)**

We Present Our Offering

- Worship
  - Did not meet in Feb. Will meet again on 3/3.
  - Small group getting together to discuss choir robes. Several need to be replaced.
  - During Lent - Soup and Salad supper will be held ahead of worship
    - No supper planned on Ash Wednesday
    - Deer Creek will help serve as well as confirmation kids
- Inspire
  - Nothing to report
- Stewardship
  - Will be rolling into Fellowship
- Youth
  - Vets vs Nebs will be starting at Lent
  - Still not seeing a big turnout for Jr. High youth
  - Sr. High youth continue to see good numbers
- Education
  - Welcome day was well attended.
  - Saw a good number of volunteers this year to help teach Sunday School
- Property
  - Grant submitted for outside church sign

<b><u>First Lutheran Financial Update</u></b>	
<b><u>February 2024</u></b>	
Income	\$ 9,019.19
Electronic Income	\$ 2,753.65
Expense	\$24,823.03
End of Month	(\$13,050.19)
<b><u>YTD as of February</u></b>	
Income	\$23,442.56
Electronic Income	\$5,921.04
Inspire	\$
Other Income	\$32,554.20
Use of Church	\$320.00
Expense	\$50,413.86
End of Month	\$11,823.94

<b><u>February General Budget</u></b>	
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Payroll:	\$ 14,070.84
E-Giving Expense	\$ 45.17
Church Maintenance	\$ 560.60
Insurance	\$ 4,027.75
Utilities	\$ 3,626.31
Telephone	\$ 216.42
Office Expense	\$ 756.67
Worship 1	\$ 492.50
N. Iowa Synod	\$ 375.00
Youth Director Conf.	\$ 651.77
Total Expenses	\$ 24,823.03
Income	\$ 11,772.84
Net	\$ (13,050.19)

**Mission Project for April**  
**Meals on Wheels, Manna,**  
**and Share Shoppe**

- Misson
  - No Update
- Fellowship
  - Stewardship will roll into Fellowship
  - Connie will be council liaison

#### Concerns for the Present

- Reviewed job description for church custodian
- Discussed lay school training for Gary Nerlien **MMSP: Mike/Connie.**
- New members Mike & Laura Walton, Jeffrey & Stacie Harms, and Alli & Chad Wurtzel ( Children: Parker & Ava Wurtzel). **MMSP: Gina/Milke**
- Council will be installed at church on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Motion to allow youth council member to vote at council mtgs. **MMSP: Connie/Mariah**
- **MMSP to adjourn (Mariah/Gina)**
- **Communion Assignments:**
  - **March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Weston, Mike, Hayley**
  - **March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm – Gina, Mariah, Weston**
  - **March 16<sup>th</sup> – Kimberly, Connie, and Kris**

#### We Go Out in God's Name

- Lord's Prayer

**Next Council Meeting: Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Devotion: Weston**

#### Donations

<b>\$102.69</b>	<b>- Good Samaritan</b>
<b>\$80.59</b>	<b>- Lutheran World Relief</b>
<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>- World Hunger</b>
<b>\$20</b>	<b>- Youth</b>

#### Memorials

**\$280 - General Fund - Bernie Van Veldhuizen**

#### **First Lutheran Missions**

##### January 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$ 17.21
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 274.20
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 2,730.18
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 326.39
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 200.00
Youth Fund	\$ 176.99
Sunday School Fund	\$
Caring Tree	\$ 107.52
Meals on Wheels	\$
Manna	\$
Heifer International	\$
Campers Fund	\$
Dayspring Children's Village	\$ 42.44
Northern Lights Shelter	\$ 69.94
LRH Auxiliary	\$ 119.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,140.69</b>

#### Staff Phone Numbers

Pastor Sogge	612-718-9151
Mark Willand	641-390-1032
Jan Thompson	641-390-0883
Christa Trenhaile	641-390-0484
Christopher Madsen	641-381-0306



- 1 Kimberly Odegard, Heather Thofson, Kerry Urbatsch
- 2 Jessica Bergsma, Damian LaPoint, Judy Lee, Wendell Meyer, Cary Van Veldhuizen, Jean Van Veldhuizen
- 3 Tanner Iseminger, Parker Iverson, Gaylen Quam
- 4
- 5 Bradley Christianson, Jill Schutz
- 6 DeAnn Read, Ashlynn Van Sabben
- 7 Diane Hanson, Amy Petry, Kandie Shupe
- 8 DuWayne Bottleman
- 9 Todd Moore, Emelia Nelson, Arlyn Rustad
- 10 Season Anderson, Vivienne Vandell, Braxlee Iverson
- 11 Riley King
- 12
- 13 Brian Bestul, Judale Mills, Jamie Nelson
- 14 Clay Carter, Elizabeth Kenison
- 15 Douglas Hall, Robert Hengesteg, Mary Reyerson, Tristan Rothove, Dirk VanRyswyk
- 16 Mackenzie Costello, Levi Eilertson,
- 17 MaryJo Senne, Kyle Waller, Harris Waller
- 18 Brady Christianson, Amber Athey, Jordan Cecak, Westlynn Reinartz
- 19 Coni Butler, Misty Hakes, Corey Haberman
- 20 Koen Bachtle
- 21 Danielle Lickteig, Angela Fallgatter, Jayne Wheeler
- 22 Renee Hartman
- 23 Rick Hanson
- 24 Ronald Christianson, Ashley Duvall, Jonathan Hickman, Madison Shoger
- 25 Cheryl DeArmoun, Scott Halbach, Kael Julseth, Jeremy Solberg, Darrell Hartman
- 26 Brad Brunsvold, Caleb Johnson
- 27 Deanna Halbach
- 28 Samantha Hunt, Laurie Harris, Diane Meyers
- 29 Chad Mills, Helen Trenhaile, Cambry Schulz, Jacob Urbatsch, Kendyl Hertel
- 30 Kyle Baker, Eric Trenhaile

# APRIL 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA– Al-Anon	<b>2</b> Noon: Lenten Service 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	<b>3</b> 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	<b>4</b> <b>Wedding Rehearsal</b> <b>5:30pm</b>	<b>5</b> <b>Quisley/Weigle Wedding</b> <b>4:00pm</b>
<b>6    <u>Lent 5</u></b> 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA– Al-Anon	<b>9</b> Noon: Lenten Service 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:00pm: Lenten Service 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	<b>10</b> 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13    <u>Palm Sunday</u></b> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV Noon: 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Manna Truck 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA– Al-Anon	<b>16</b> 2:00pm: M. Court 4:00pm: Confirmation 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	<b>17</b> 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:00pm: Maundy Thursday with 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion @FLC 6:30pm: Taekwondo	<b>18</b> 6:00pm: Good Friday Service @ DCV	<b>19</b>
<b>20    <u>Easter</u></b> 7:30am: Easter Breakfast 9:00am: Service with H.C. 10:10am: Sunday School 7:00am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA– Al-Anon	<b>23</b> 2:00pm: M. Court 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	<b>24</b> 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27    <u>Easter 2</u></b> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 11:00am: Staff Mtng 7:00pm: AA– Al-Anon	<b>30</b> 2:00pm: M. Court 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth			

