

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

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Permit No. 33

First Lutheran Focus

December 2024

Address Service Requested

<u>Week</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Lay Reader</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
December 1	David & Sharron Petznick	Carolyn Reeder	TBD	TBD	Caleb Johnson
December 8	Russ & Delores Knudson	Delores Knudson	TBD	Trenhaile Family	Tegan Trenhaile Logan Trenhaile
December 15	Mike & Judy Stevens	6 th Graders	Solberg Family	Rye Family	Maggie Rye Avarie Skellenger
December 22	Lee & Becky Okerlund	Megan Ott	TBD	TBD	TBD
December 29	Randy & Laure Buehrer	Stu Anderson	TBD	Brunsvold Family	Piper Brunsvold

Communion Set up:

December 1 Pat Nelson
December 15 Gina Solberg

Altar Candles:

December 1-8 Pat Nelson
December 15-22 Gina Solberg
December 29 Anneke Urbatsch

PASTOR'S PAGE



As I sit in my office, reading ahead and planning for the next few weeks, my heart skips a beat as I read “the days are surely coming...” “how can I say thanks...” and “stir up your power and come.” The season of Advent is full of beautiful images and wonderful words of hope.

We have condensed our vision of preparing, watching and waiting to four short weeks. Our hardships and struggles are often limited to being over-scheduled and under- focused. But, for the people of Israel, it was many, many years of waiting and watching. Their time of waiting was challenged by great hardship, false hope and wondering.

The beginning of Advent also is the beginning of a new church year and so we move to hearing the gospel story from Luke. Luke’s gospel tells the story of Jesus on a journey. Take a quick look. Most of the passages are about arriving or moving on to the next place. Most of us like to be on the move as well. Sometimes we get caught looking too far forward and miss what is right there next to us. I say that knowing that we put up Christmas trees and lights as soon as we can. The stores play Christmas music for weeks before Christmas day.

Each Sunday in Advent a candle on the Advent wreath will be lit, reminding us of our watchfulness of the coming of the Lord. Connecting us to our story of faith, giving voice to our part of God’s unfolding drama. God’s great love for us, sending Jesus as an infant reminding us that peace will reign and that the eternal light will shine brightly.

It is important that we are connected to the biblical story of faith. How the prophets spoke of the birth of the Savior. Watching and waiting for years. Preparing and anticipating through so much of history. And, it is important to know that throughout the world Christians are preparing, anticipating and waiting for the coming of Christ.

My invitation to you is to embrace Advent this year. To come for worship and join in our lighting of the Advent candles, listen to the passages that lead us to the manger and join your voices as we sing the songs of Advent. Take part in this part of the journey in Luke.

Maybe put this prayer (from the 1st Sunday in Advent) on your refrigerator or mirror and use it every day.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

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NOVEMBER PASTORAL ACTS

Baptism

Opal Walk

11/10/24

YOUTH NEWS

Happy Advent greetings to you all! We had a very busy November and are looking forwards to a much busier December!

We started doing Senior High Bible study on Monday nights at the end of November. So far it seems to be going well and I'm excited to dig into the Bible with the kids in a way that they can understand. Each week we will gather in the Youth room for a meal, then move into a student led study. With different students leading each week, it will keep things from getting stale and challenges them all to step up and take the lead.

Starting in January we are making a pretty big change to Jr. High Youth. We're going to allow the current 6th graders to join in permanently. Attendance has been down a bit this year, so gonna try something different and see what happens! Change can often times be a good thing, even if it seems scary at the time.

The first half of December looks completely normal – and here is the schedule for Christmas Break.

December 20 – Jr. High + 6th Graders Lock-In (2:00 PM – 8:00 AM)

December 22 – Sr + Jr High Combined Christmas Party (4:30 PM)

December 25 – No Youth

December 29 - Normal Jr. High Youth (6:30 PM - 8:00PM)

December 31 – Sr. High Lock-In (6:00 PM – 8:00 AM)

January 1 – Sr. High Movie Night (7:00 PM – 8:45 PM)

January 5 – Jr High Youth (1st night with 6th Graders)





Congratulations to Derreck and Tiarra Walk on the baptism of their daughter, Opal Kathleen. She was baptized on November 10th. Her sponsors are Nate & Aften Breamer, Jacob Breamer, and Spencer Breamer.

Join us, for our Sunday School Christmas program, “Building Christmas– Lego theme”. On Sunday, December 15th with Fellowship to follow.

Thank you to the First Lutheran Quilters, we are grateful to your church and the hands that assembled the beautiful red blanket that contributed to the Riverside quilt auction this year.

A Special thank you to Lois Hogen for making the November 24th Polka Service and brunch possible. Thank you to Judy Stevens for all her planning of the brunch and Fellowship.

TRUST FUND UPDATE: The Trust Fund Committee would like to remind congregation members that grant application forms are available in the Church Office. Grants are recommended for new ministries, separate and apart from the day to day operation of the church. This years forms include a section for approval by a committee of the Church. Please submit your application to the appropriate committee of the church for review and approval. The deadline for committees to submit approved applications to the Church Office is noon on December 18, 2024. Please contact any Trust Fund member with questions.

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of First Lutheran. We are hoping to continue to grow our ministry together. Please consider a year end gift to help us move beyond covering only salaries and utilities. Every gift matters. Please have it in by December 31st if you would like it on your 2024 Contribution Statement. Again, thank you.

Please take advantage of calling Thrivent throughout the year or your Choice Dollars are lost. Call by March 30th of each year and direct the dollars to First Lutheran Thrivent Fund. Directions: Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say “Thrivent Choice”. Have your policy number available. A representative will work with you to direct your dollars.

Please bring your spare change for Noisy Offering on December 8th and 22nd. This offering goes to the mission of the month which is, Heifer International & ELCA Good Gifts.

Annual Meeting Deadline for Reports

The deadline for all committee reports is Friday, January 3rd. The best way to send your reports is by emailing a word, publisher or excel file. We can also use a printed document but hard copy printed out but it is not ideal and takes more office time to make it work in the report. If you have any questions, please call or email Christa at christa@flcnorthwood.org or 641-324-2984.

Every offering/gift you give to First Lutheran matters. This is true whether you place it in the offering plate, send it in the mail, give electronically once or set it up as your monthly gift. It's easy to look at the financial update in the newsletter and think 'whew, the church survived another month' or 'oh, no, I forgot again!' Here is a basic breakdown of what money comes in and what it covers

General Fund is the money that comes through the offering / your regular gifts to the church. There are people who give significant amounts once or twice a year. There are people who continue to write weekly checks and put them in the offering plate. Vanco helps many who prefer to do their finances online.

What the General Fund covers are the basics nuts and bolts of First Lutheran without any fluff. You can see in the monthly budget expense that it covers payroll, utilities, basic office supplies and our regular benevolence giving to the synod and larger church.

Noisy Offerings received during worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month are designated Mission Projects.

Memorials that are received are given as designated and listed in the newsletter each month.

Once again, every offering/gift you give matters.

Thank you. For those who have not made regular giving a part of your financial life **please** consider giving to First Lutheran. Setting up a regular donation through Vanco simplifies the process for you and it helps regulate the income flow.

What about the **Trust Fund**? This was established many years ago with the gift of someone as they were planning their estate wanting to make money available to start new programs. It is not intended to cover basic ministries of the church. The interest is gifted through the grant process.

Share Shoppe
Saturday, December 7th

First Lutheran Financial Update **October 2024**

Income	\$13,085.37
Electronic Income	\$3,359.86
Expense	\$16,445.23
End of Month	\$70.15

YTD as of October

Income	\$125,933.48
Electronic Income	\$33,128.43
Inspire	\$295.17
Other Income	\$1,938.04
Use of Church	\$745
Expense	\$162,040.12
End of Month	(\$30,915.32)

October Donations

Lutheran Services \$106.68

October Memorials

General Fund - \$100 Shirlene Stoddard

General Fund - \$635 Avis Lehman

Worship/Music - \$20 Avis Lehman

Mission Project for December

Heifer International
&
ELCA Good Gifts

October General Budget Expenses

PAYROLL:	\$ 13,491.70
E-GIVING EXPENSE	\$ 47.11
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$ 231.70
UTILITIES	\$ 736.07
TELEPHONE	\$ 215.76
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$ 1,177.74
N. IOWA SYNOD	\$ 375.00
PROFESSIONAL EXP.	\$ 100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 16,375.08
INCOME	\$ 16,445.23
NET	\$ 70.15

**Regular Council Meeting
October 15, 2024
First Lutheran Church - Northwood**

We Assemble in God's Name

Devotion - Mariah Ballantyne

Presidential Correspondence - Nikkole Koenig - None

Secretary's Report - Nikkole read minutes - Correction of typo of name Kris Quizley to Chris Quisley under Fellowship.

Treasurer's Report - Pastor Becky - Financial numbers are still pretty straight forward. We still need to do what we can to bring more income.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Becky - Just returned from the Fall Theological Conference and had many great discussions.

Vacation has been postponed until after Christmas and will be planned for 2 weeks. She plans to be on vacation November 24-30th and will have something figured out for Sunday November 24ths.

Funerals: Arnold Griffith at Sion Lutheran Church in Lake Mills, Iowa and Donald Harang.

Weddings: Michael and Addison Waller

Motion to accept the reports Connie and 2nd Kim. Motion Approved.

We present our Offering

Finance - Pastor Becky

Laminated "I Give Electronically" cards are out for people to start using during offering. These will be put back into the pews after each service.

We need to be more BOLD about asking people to give and will continue to in newsletter, announcements, etc. Ideas were thrown around of different ways we can put "giving" out there for everyone to see. One idea is to make reels of "who we are" to advertise the church on WCTA and Facebook.

Worship - Kim

Committee met on October 1 and all music was set through November 3, 2024. Candlelight service will be on November 22, 2024. Kim will talk at the next meeting about the \$2000 in account. Has plans to update a few decorations and will decide what to do with the remaining balance. Next meeting is set for November 4, 2024 at 6 pm.

Delores has broken her arm so is unable to play piano. Leila and Brenda will help fill in until she returns.

There will be a polka service in November. Pastor will be finalizing the details with Lois Hogan this week. Plan is to send out advertisements to area churches, WCTA, and create Facebook events.

Inspire - Nikkole and Pastor Becky

Attendance has been low. Keep getting the word out.

Stewardship - Connie

Nothing

Youth - Nikkole from info from Weston

Senior High Youth took a trip to Valleyscare and the Mall of America on September 28th 2024. Senior high attendance has been remaining strong but junior high still has been low. What are ways we can encourage the youth to come to youth?

Education - Mariah

Hot cocoa Bar is planned for after the Christmas Program on December 15th. There is a Halloween party planned for October 27th and kids will sing in church again on November 10th. Anneke has been messaging the group of parents who have signed up to teach when a fill in is needed or no one has signed up. They are good through Christmas but then will need some help. Attendance has been low.

Pastor Becky -

The Confirmation class has added two more kids making the group 25. There will also be several baptism's with the addition. Pastor feels like the flow of teaching is better this year with the change in time and rotations.

Pastor Becky and Gina -

Prayer Partner letters have been created and sent out to members we thought would be great for the start of this new endeavor. The confirmation kids have all filled out questionnaires about themselves to help their Partners make it more personalized. Hoping to get a response from members so kids can get paired up and get this rolling.

Property - Kris

Committee met on September 23rd. They talked about the bulletin boards that will be hung in the entrance of the church and Troy will start working on this. Pastor will get the committee a copy of Troy's job description so they can review and edit as needed before we start advertising.

Donations - While we don't want to turn useful things away, we also don't want to take everyone's "stuff." Sometimes things turn up and don't know where it has come from. Talked about different ideas about how to handle donations.

Judy will get information from Pastor Linda in Manly about their electronic sign out front. She would like to get one purchased for us to use as another way to showcase events and schedule of activities happening at the church. Troy felt like this should be an easy transition to switch the signs as there is already electricity there.

Mission - Gina

Blessing of the quilts was on October 6th. The quilters sent 75 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. The confirmation kids help load the quilts into the church van and Mark delivered to the designated pick up location to be shipped off.

Fellowship - Judy

Council will serve breakfast to the four Confirmands and their families prior to the church service on October 27th. Members of the council will donate and serve breakfast. Judy will make two egg bakes, Connie will donate butterbraids, Mariah will bring yogurt and fruit and Gina will bring milk and OJ.

We will start thinking of ideas for the anniversary celebration in the Spring.

Judy will talk with Carpenter Coffee Company to see if they would be willing to have the coffee truck in the parking lot on the morning of the polka service.

We will meet after the next council meeting on November 19th for those who would like to stay and join us.

Concerns for the Present

Pastor Becky asked for approval of Hallie Hanson, Aydan Schutz, Maci Smith and Ivy Toresdahl, the four confirmands, for full membership into the church.

Motion/Vote to approve membership - Judy and 2nd Mariah. Approved.

Pastor would like the annual meeting to be set for January 26th 2025 at 9:00 am as part of regular worship.

Motion/Vote to set meeting as stated - Connie and 2nd Kris. Approved.

New Members/Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals

Funerals: September 28 - Arnold Griffith - Sion Lutheran Church, Lake Mills

October 5 - Donald Harang

Weddings: October 5 - Michael & Addison
Waller

Communion Servers

October 20 - Kim, Kris, Connie

November 3 - Mariah, Gina, Kevin

November 17 - Kim, Gina, Maria

Bread - "The body of Christ given for you."

Wine - "The blood of Christ shed for you."

What to say to Children (hand on head) - "Jesus Loves You!"

We go out in God's Name

**Motion to adjourn meeting - Connie and 2nd Kim.
Approved**

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting November 19th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Devotion: Kim

First Lutheran Missions

October 2024

Riverside Bible Camp	\$
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 171.51
Lutheran World Relief & World Hunger	\$ 149.59
Bremwood - LSI	\$ 326.39
Operation Christmas Child	\$
Education Fund	\$ 200.00
Youth Fund	\$ 156.99
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
TOTAL	\$ 1,420.20

Building Christmas- Lego theme

Sunday School Christmas program rehearsal schedule

December 8th – 10:10-11:30 AM

December 15th – Christmas Program during worship

Follow us on Facebook for all the news and announcements happening in the church.

"First Lutheran Church and Sunday School"





1. Kase Bachtle, Andrew Houg, Marlee Rasmusson, Mark Senne
2. Cole Eilertson, Jackson Foss, Jenna Bauers, Truman Hengesteg, Teresa Johnson, Bryce Ogea
3. Jacob Loken
- 4.
5. Austin Morris, Emily Tufte, Jeff Vansteenburgh
6. Ashley Leegaard, Suzanne Olson, Rylee Watts
7. Debra Brockman, Natalee Lohmann, Max Rugland, Evelyn Ralston
- 8.
9. Kory Olson, Kathleen Thrond
10. Joseph Bedford, Jessica Berry, Justin Senne
11. Tiffany Berg, Sue Bestul, Jacob Krull
12. Tony Fredericks, Addie Rugland, Hudson Haxton
13. Gary Hanson, Bret Johnson, Carter Thofson, Patricia Trenhaile
14. Linda Christianson, Daryl Love, Madelyn Midtgaard
15. Chelsea Boyden, Judith Jorgensen, Bryan Sime
16. Tom Hakes, Jesse Harang, Tyler Hillman, Barbara Trenhaile
17. Jason Adams, Holly Hankins, Bonnie Hengesteg, Frances Olson, Austin Schutz, Joclyn Shackleton
18. Troy Einertson, Kristine Gordon, Mark Skellenger
19. Callan Brunsvold, Nalda Zipse
20. Elexis Carrison, Mary Hanson, Candee Hunchis, Katelyn Thofson, Russell Knudson
- 21.
22. Wade Flattum, Ronald Hengesteg, Janelle Johnson, Mason Thofson, Avery Nielsen
23. Rhonda Taylor, O'Brian Tyrrell
- 24.
25. Mary Bachtle, Michael Lee, Carol Van Veldhuizen
26. Stephanie Hengesteg, Calli O'Neill, Hunter Ralston
27. David Borcharding, Larry Roerish, Samantha Zipse
28. Jan Mielke, Grayson Pangburn, Megan Avila
29. Larry Foley, Sawyer Hulshizer, Lauren Welty, Gina Solberg
30. Jonathan Berry, Jordan Helgeson, Arlys Reeder
31. Darin Dahlby, Olivia Gentz, Brandon Knutson, Lauren Petznick, Blythe Vandell

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <u>Advent 1</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. No Sunday School 10:30am: DCV with H.C. 6:30pm: JH. Youth	2	3 Manna Truck 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	4 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	5 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo	6 Rehearsal 5:00pm	7 Wedding 4:00pm
8 <u>Advent 2</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:10am: Sunday School 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	9	10 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	11 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	12 Pastor's Conf. Mtng. 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	13	14
15 <u>Advent 3</u> 9:00am: Service with H.C. and Sunday School Program with Fellowship 10:30am: DCV 3:00pm: LRH 6:30pm: JH. Youth	16 Caring Tree Distribution from 5-7pm	17 Manna Truck 6:00pm: Council Mtng. 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon	18 2:00pm: M. Court Chapel 4:00pm: Confirmation 6:15pm: Inspire 7:00pm: Choir 7:00pm: SH Youth	19 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo Trust Fund Grants Due	20	21
22 <u>Advent 4</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. 10:30am: DCV 7:00pm: Choir Candlelight	23	24 4:30pm: Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm: DCV	25 10:00am: Joint service Christmas with DCV. Dinner to follow. <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 8:30am: Quilting 9:00am: Prayer Gr. 6:30pm: Taekwondo 7:00pm: Pub Theology	27	28
29 <u>Christmas 1</u> 9:00am: Service with N.O. Hymns and Carols 10:30am: DCV 6:30pm: JH. Youth	30 4:00pm: Trust Fund Mtng.	31 7:00pm: AA–Al-Anon Senior High Lock-In				