



First Lutheran Church - ELCA

December 2024

The Voice

of the First Lutheran Congregation

First Lutheran Church
401 7th Av SW Pipestone MN 56164
Phone: 507-825-5837
Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org



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'Tis the Season to Rest, Reflect and Reignite

December is here! The days are getting shorter, the air is cold and crisp, snowflakes ride the winds at times. Thanksgiving winds up November, Black Friday kicks off the holiday shopping season, followed by Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, then Giving Tuesday. Gifts are purchased and wrapped, homes are decorated, Christmas music is heard in stores, homes, and churches, children have concerts and performances, Santa receives many wish lists, we cook and bake and clean, and we try to squeeze too many holiday events and activities into an already over-full schedule. For a season of love, peace and joy, sometimes (often?) things can seem too hectic and frazzled instead!

Sunday, December 1 is the First Sunday of Advent! This kicks off the new year for the church, and this year we will be focusing on the Gospel of Luke. This will provide us with many of the familiar stories of Christmas, including the angel's appearance to Mary, the Magnificat when Mary visits Elizabeth, the birth of John the Baptist, the birth of Jesus, the visits of the shepherds and the Magi/Wise Men. There is something comforting about hearing these familiar stories which makes the season all the more special (especially Linus's version in Charlie Brown Christmas).

Of course, the church will be decorated, we will light Advent candles during worship, and the LIFT kids will put on their Christmas Program (December 15, during worship). Kaffi-Ti provides an opportunity to pick up some baked goods that you don't bake in your own kitchen (the afternoon of Saturday, December 14). The candle-light Christmas Eve worship will be at 4 pm. The Sunday after Christmas (December 29) will be a service of lessons and carols.

I hope each of you can take some time to slow down, to rest, to reflect on what this season means. As the Grinch muses (paraphrased), maybe Christmas isn't about all the stuff – the tree, the packages and boxes and wrapping and bows, the food and Christmas cards/pictures/letters and decorations. Maybe Christmas is about something else, something that doesn't come from a store! Maybe it is spending time with family and friends, finding meaning in your faith, and seeing the holiday (and life!) through the eyes of a young one. Re-ignite your faith in God, and in humanity. Center, pray, reflect, observe, and be open to the quiet joy of the season.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Ann

Office Notes.

The 2024 year is coming to a close in a few weeks (less than 5 to be exact). If you would like to make an additional donation in 2024, please make sure to have that into the church office BEFORE Tuesday, December 31st!! THANK YOU to all you have given to First Lutheran throughout 2024. Not only by your monetary giving but just by sharing your time and your talents! The giving of your time and your talents are more valuable than you know – so THANK YOU!!!!!!

Communion Assistants, Lesson Readers and Acolytes are needed!!! If you are able to help us out, please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex OR get signed up online by using this QR code:



Wishing you all many blessings in this holiday season, Lori



Noisy Offering for November & December is being collected for:
The Kiwanis Toy Drive

The total amount collected so far: **\$183.44**

Money collected will go to purchase toys for the Kiwanis toy drive. We will also be collecting new or gently used winter hats, coats & gloves for the Bomgaar's & Dahl coat drive.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE IMPORTANT OUTREACH NEEDS.

November 2024 Offerings

Monthly Offering needed: \$21,265.00	
Weekly Offering – week 1	
Weekly Offering – week 2	
Weekly Offering – week 3 (includes Wed. night serv.)	
Weekly Offering – week 4	
MONTH-END TOTAL:	
Difference from Budget amount needed:	

Needed / week:

4-week month = \$5,316/week

5-week month = \$4,253/week

There are now THREE METHODS to use Simply Giving:

- 1) Your church offerings can be made weekly, every other week (bi-weekly) or monthly automatically through electronic funds transferred from your checking or savings accounts.
- 2) To the right is a Quick Response (QR) code. When you scan the QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of the church's Vanco/Simply Giving offering site. Just follow the directions on your screen.
- 3) Be watching of some other options as they become available.
- 4) Good ol' offering envelopes.



THANK YOU for all you give to First Lutheran and it's ministries!



Council Highlights from November 13th, 2024

- ♦ MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Thies, Pastor Ann Zastrow, Kristy Henriksen, Ingrid Wielenberg, Cristy Appel, Karen Boehm, Robert Baerenwald, Nicole Weber, Thad Reinert, Mike Straw, Marit Sterud. ABSENT: Lori Ilse
- ♦ TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill discussed: Peak Pros bill for the bell tower: \$14,900 (from designated building fund money) & \$4000 from Men's Account. Tabled \$1000 payment to the Synod.
- ♦ PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastors vacation days in December were approved.
- ♦ PRESIDENT'S REPORT: There are still leaks in the bell tower. Have contacted Peak Pros. Coffee maker is in need of parts. Cost to replace it would be \$5000.
- ♦ VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Paint color for the kitchen will be picked out. Kristy will be attending the Churchwide Council of the ELCA in Chicago.
- ♦ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: Replacing some flippers in the toilets & changing furnace filters.
 - ♦ CONGREGATIONAL LIFE: Ingrid is working on updating Time & Talent sheets. Working on possibly having a S'mores event in the Fellowship Hall.
 - ♦ SUNDAY SCHOOL: Need to work on a better way to transition from the contemporary service to LIFT. Christmas program is set for Dec. 15th.
 - ♦ ADULT ED: Robert requested to meet with Pastor to talk about ideas.
- ♦ YOUTH: Nicole is coordinating a K-5 & 6-12 shopping trip as well as a bowling Christmas party for 6-12 youth. Winter activities are being planned.

- ♦ Discussed the Wednesday night Contemporary Service. Ninety-four people attended (includes the LIFT kids). Need to have the sound louder.
- ♦ Office copier upgrade. Cost will be less than what we are currently paying.
 - ♦ Personnel committee - Pastor will have names in a week.
- ♦ New members approved: Rose Anderson, Taylor Dunn & Robin Schulte.
- ♦ Meatball Supper recap: 761 meals served, down about 100 from last year. Takeout meals were up.
- ♦ 2025 Budget discussed. Committee members Chuck S, Bob D., Nancy J. Need to be ready to review at the December 11th & January 8th meetings for Council to review. Final budget will be presented at the annual meeting on January 26th, 2025.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

Meeting Adjourned

**Do you want to be a part of what we do here at First Lutheran?
Do you want to see your church grow and thrive for years to come?
Consider being on one of our many committees or on the Church
Council! You can make a difference just by being involved.
Nominations for committees and Council spots are open now, so
contact the church office if you are interested!**

Church News, Events & Happenin's

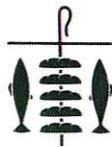
VISITATIONS

If someone is ill or in need of a Pastoral visit, please call Pastor Ann or contact the Church office @ 825-5837. Please remember the following First Lutheran Church members in your prayers, send them a card, or stop to visit them.



*Remember
Our Homebound Members*

Joyce Kunz	Good Samaritan Communities, Pipestone
Darrell Foss	Good Samaritan, Sioux Falls
Kay Dubbelde	The Lodge Assisted Living - Mankato, MN <u>Send any letters or cards to:</u> Kay Dubbelde Mankato Lodge Senior Living 1360 Adams St Rm 410 - Mankato, MN 56001
Diane Leslie	<u>Send any letters or cards to:</u> Sholom Home Bentson Bldg—Apt 414 740 Kay Av, St Paul MN 55102




THE BANQUET

The Banquet's guests are truly grateful for the support and gifts they receive through this life-changing ministry. With your financial commitment, The Banquet can serve the most vulnerable members of our community.

We are grateful for your gift of \$227.45 made on October 30, 2024 that was designated for the Food fund.

Sincerely,


Tamera Jerke-Liesinger

To: First Lutheran Church

Thank you for serving supper on October 23rd!

Your group served 137 adults and 27 children.

The guests of The Banquet are grateful for your ongoing support.

Please call Brian or go online to schedule your next date.

God Bless,

The Banquet

**Meatball Supper 2024
preparations in full swing!**



**Meals served:
Take-out meals: 530
Dine-In: 231**

**Wednesday Night Contemporary Service
w/Holy Communion
2nd Wednesday of every month from 6:15-6:40pm**



Do you wish to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund this Christmas? Donations can be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. These donations will be used to purchase an appropriate number of poinsettias to decorate the church, with the remainder of the funds to go towards other church projects. You may still bring in your own from home – just please make sure to put your name on it so you can take it home after Christmas.



If you would like to order or make a donation, please complete the following information & return this portion to the church office or the offering plate or

go online to www.firstlutheranpipestone.org to print one online or email to the church.

NO LATER than Sunday, December 15th, 2024

☐ I will bring my own from home (please bring to the church by Friday, December 20th, 2024)

☐ Here is a contribution to the Poinsettia Fund. Amount: \$_____ (include payment with this form.)

Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contribution is: ☐ in memory of ☐ in honor of
(Please print clearly)

KAFFI-TI
Saturday, December 14th, 2024
1:00 - 3:00p.m.



Join us in the afternoon!

at First Lutheran Church
401 7th Avenue SW
in Pipestone

SCANDINAVIAN SPECIALTIES:
Rosettes, Krumkaka, Fruit Suppe,
Sandbakkels and Lefse
OTHER BAKED ITEMS...
American Christmas goodies!



Check out the new items:
Quilts, Denim Rugs & Cookbooks

FEATURING Christmas cranberry cake with butter sauce!
Come to shop, sit & enjoy Scandinavian treats, coffee & conversation!



2025 RADIO SPONSORS

We have 13 open slots for the 2025 Radio sponsorships.

If you have a recurring slot,

please double-check the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hall by the office or

contact the church office. **Cost per slot: \$58**

F.L.C.W News & Activities



December 2024

Dear FLCW,

Merry Christmas!! I hope you are enjoying the activities during this special time of year.

We had a fun meeting in November with a Dessert Potluck and study of the December devotion from the Gather magazine. We were able to copy it from the website. You now have your hard copy. I suggest you read it. We learned a lot about fig trees. There is always something new to be learned during a Bible study!!

Our next FLCW meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st at 2pm. Bring a snack to share. We will be studying the January Gather Bible Study.

There is NO quilting in December. Quilting is back January 9th and 23rd at 9:30am.

Kaffi-Ti is coming up soon!! It will be held on Saturday, December 14th from 1-3pm. Sign-up sheets have been passed at worship. Many have volunteered, but we can always use more! Call me if you want to help in any way. Bring items to the church by noon on Friday, December 13th so that items can be priced and placed on the tables. Again, if you have not signed-up yet, you still can come to Kaffi-Ti or make a donation OR BOTH!!!

A letter will be sent soon with the final sign-up and the Thankoffering letter and envelope. It is to be returned to the church by Monday, January 6th, which is Epiphany.

Remember, we have quilts and rugs for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Both make wonderful gifts for Christmas or any other special occasion.

Blessings to you all during this wonderful season of Christ's birth!!

See You in Church!!

Kristy

Shetek Happenings



S H E T E K
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Scandinavian Dinner *Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 5:00 PM*

Enjoy an evening of fellowship, laughter, and delicious food. All you can eat buffet of Lutefisk, Meatballs, Lefse, and more!



\$22.50 all you can eat!

We need advanced paid registrations.

Reserve your plate by **December 2nd!**

Head over to www.shetek.org, email camp@shetek.org, or call (507)763-3567 for more information!

join us for nature-based holiday fun!

CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 22, 3PM

Shetek Lutheran Ministries
14 Keeley Island Drive Slayton, MN 56172
meet in our camp dining hall!



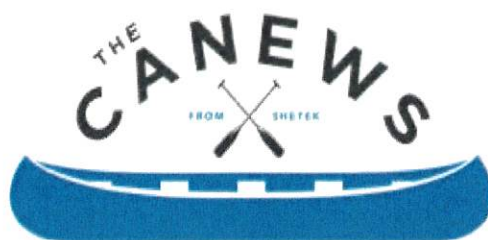
FREE WILL DONATION EVENT!

- MAKE AND TAKE NATURE CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES-
- COZY CAMPFIRE-
- COCOA & COOKIES-

ALL ARE WELCOME! PLEASE RSVP TO

[KATIE@SHETEK.ORG](mailto:katie@shetek.org) OR 507-763-3567

December 2024



14 Keeley Island Drive
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
camp@shetek.org
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Don't forget you can do your Christmas shopping at <https://shetek.org/store/>

Please join us for our upcoming events.

Wish List

- Volunteers
- New Vacuum
- Keurig
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Office Supplies – Staplers, dry erase markers, paper

Mark your Calendar

December 8 Annual Meeting 3:30 p.m.

December 8 Scandinavian Dinner 5:00 p.m.

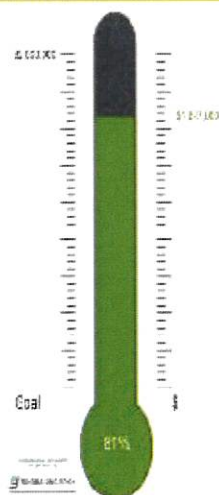
December 9 Hiking Club

December 22 Campfire Christmas

January 12 Hiking Club

January 15-19 Winter Quilt Retreat

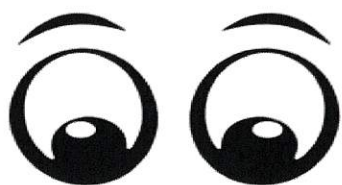
We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 in gifts and pledges! Our challenge goal is \$2,000,000 and with increased costs, our budget has changed for our different phases. More info on our website.
<https://shetek.org/sim-master-plan/>



Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!

Important Dates to mark:

- ⇒ Every Wednesday - Confirmation for grades 6-8
- ⇒ December 15th - Christmas Program (9:30am)
- ⇒ December 18th - NO Confirmation or LIFT
- ⇒ December 24th - Christmas Eve
- ⇒ December 25th - MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY! / No Confirmation or LIFT
- ⇒ January 1st - NO Confirmation or LIFT



YOUTH -

keep your eyes open for winter activities as we plan them thru the next few months. They will be posted on the website and FB page. If you have some ideas in mind, drop a note in the office mailbox!!

The REMIND app is used here at
First Lutheran for our Youth activities!

Remind

To join, send a text to 81010 with the message: @8728964

OR

Visit: <https://www.remind.com/join/8728964>

It's a GREAT way to see opportunities for First Lutheran Youth in grades 6-12! Both students & parents are welcome to join!

First Lutheran Youth took a shopping trip for Christmas Cares & the Kiwanis Club on Sunday, December 1st. Our awesome shoppers had a fun time picking out some cool toys for those kids in our area who may not be able to get much this year. A HUGE THANK YOU to Bomgaars for letting us come shopping and for the special deals. We are still collecting Noisy offering and those funds will also be going to Kiwanis to use towards purchasing any additional gifts or food item for families as needed. A special THANKS to all who have helped out during the time of year when we can take a step back and thank God for all of the gifts and blessings He has given us this past year and to share those blessings with others!








DECEMBER

Youth 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ~4:00pm - K-12 Christmas Cares shopping @Bomgaars ~5pm 6-12 Bowling party @BoleMor	2	3	4 ~6:15-7:15pm LIFT & Confirmation **School Early Out@2pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 ~6:15pm Confirmation ~LIFT begins 6:15-7:15pm ~Contemp. service **School Early Out@2pm	12	13	14
15 ~9:30am - Children's Christmas Program	16	17	18 ~NO LIFT ~6:15-7:15pm Confirmation **School Early Out@2pm	19	20	21
22	23 NO School >>	24 	25 ~NO LIFT/ Confirmation 	26	27	28
29	30 NO School >>	31 	Happy New Year 2025 			

Kidz Korner

Every Child is designed
by God to be a
leader!!

Don't forget: Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th @9:30am Service

Help the shepherds find the path to Jesus.



O COME LET
US ADORE
HIM



December 2024

Worship Assistants

Date	Worship Time	Reader	Acolytes	Communion Assistant(s)	Ushers *(captain)	Sound
12-1-2024 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Scott Barduson		Scott Barduson	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Mark Zinnel
12-8-2024 *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Dave Dulas	Bryer Evans	Dave Dulas	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Mark Zinnel
12-15-2024 Children's Christmas Program	9:30 a.m.	Cynthia Portz		—	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Neil Johnson
12-22-2024	9:30 a.m.			—	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Jason Weber
12-24-2024 Christmas Eve service	4:00 p.m.	Lori Ilse		1. 2.	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Mark Zinnel
12-29-2024	9:30 a.m.			—	**Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Jason Weber



We are in need of Readers, Communion Assistants, Usher Subs and help in the Sound Room. These are all simple jobs but we are in need of extra hands that are willing to learn a new skill! The more help we have the less work and time is needed from all who volunteer. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to give one of these things a whirl!! It may be more fun and easier than you think!

Wishing you a day of special moments for thankful remembering of all that has made your adventure of love a blessing and a joy.



<i>Dec 5th:</i>	<i>Dec. 10th:</i>	<i>Dec. 29th:</i>
Matt & Breanna McCorquodale	Eric & Kristen Brockberg	Nathan & Jacklyn Christensen



On your special day, you are wished all the very best, all the joy you can ever have and may you also be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow and the days to come!

12/1	Devon Eslick Lauren Smidt	12/18	Doug Kaffar Amelia Rohlk Ella Skyberg
12/5	Daniel Lee Morgan Guardado Chase Wilson	12/20	Ava Boucher Renae Carpenter Tyrone Carpenter
12/6	Annette Carpenter	12/21	Josh Watts
12/7	Ingrid Wielenberg	12/22	Laura Burkard Pam Schloendorf Steve Werner
12/8	Dennis Peterson	12/23	Teresa Jansen Taylor Skyberg
12/10	Rhonda Horton	12/25	Mick Hollingsworth
12/11	Brandee Hubner Tammy Oye	12/26	JoAnn Straw
12/12	Scott Barduson Janet Gustafson Connor Ilse Ray Staatz	12/28	Randy Claussen
12/14	Abigail Hollingsworth	12/30	Scott Heidebrink
12/15	Troy Heidebrink Rhylin Ilse	12/31	Alex Wilson
12/16	Krystal Berentson Trevor Chaulsett Kyleen Ilse Carol Johnson		

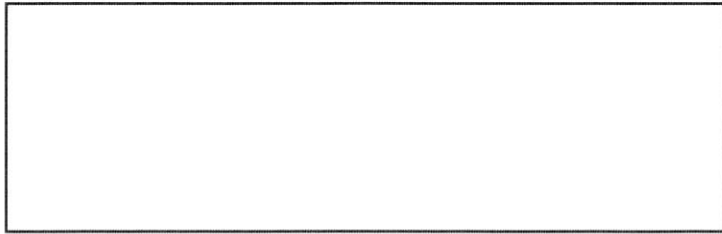
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Email: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org

The VOICE is produced monthly by First Lutheran Church - ELCA

*We are all one body, one spirit,
compelled by Christ to share His
Word and the promise of salvation.
~Matthew 28*

Worship schedule:

- ♦ 9:30am Sundays at Church & live-streamed on Facebook
- ♦ Radio Worship Broadcast: 10:30am Sundays on KLOH 1050AM
- ♦ TV Public Access: Wednesdays @12pm & 5pm on Channel 3

Our Church Staff

Ministers

Members of First Lutheran

Pastor Rev. Ann Zastrow

Email: pastor@firstlutheranpipestone.org

Admin. Asst/Office Mgr

Lori Ilse Office: 825-5837

Email: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org

Custodians: Mark Zinnel Cell :820-2676
Home 825-2953
Melissa Burnett Cell : 215-0166

Church Office Phone: (507) 825-5837

Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org

Facebook:

Google First Lutheran Church - Pipestone
FB & hit the FB link on the webpage

Congregational Contacts:

****President**

Craig Thies Ph: 605-413-7247

***Vice President**

Kristy Henriksen Ph: 507-825-3122

Secretary

Karen Boehm

Treasurer Liaison

Thad Reinert

Financial Secretary

Melissa Burnett

First Lutheran Church Women:

President Kristy Henriksen 825-3122

Treasurer Patti Peterson

Secretary Darlene Muller

First Lutheran Church Council meets on the
second Wednesday of each month
@ 7:30 p.m.