

First Lutheran Church

3601 Dakota Ave

South Sioux City, NE 68776

www.flcssc.org

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First Lutheran Church

December 2024



God's Work. Our Hands.

INSIDE

- December 2024 calendar
- Ponderings from Pastor Patti
- Birthdays
- Anniversaries
- Food Bank
- Thank You
- Sympathy
- Faith Forward

Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



The deadline for the January Newsletter is December 19.

CHURCH COUNCIL (*Executive Council)

*President	Bart Gotch 712/259-2001
*Vice-President	Bob Barto 712/490-1676
*Treasurer	Jim Hansen 402/404-4920
*Secretary	Scott Koepp 712/389-2944
Branden Lieber	712/259-4312
Chris Lofgren	402/580-6161
Ellen Prescott	712/333-1503
Randy Rahn	928/551-2464
Terry Sorem	712/490-9271
*Pastor Patti Meyer	623/910-7859

PASTOR PATTI'S PONDERINGS

Greetings and Grace to you all.

“Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.” — Ephesians 3:17—

This past month, we gathered, opened the word in worship, and pondered on the gift of Love ... And the movement of God's love *down* upon us, *in* us, and flowing *out* of us. What we did not focus on as much is what is at the heart of love – hope. But think about what would happen to hope without God's love. Cultivating Hope is the Synod focus this month, and I want us to connect the movement of God's love with the hope that is made possible through Emanuel – God with Us. As we enter this very special season of Advent and Christmas this year, let us be mindful that this is a time of the year when many people experience more darkness (literally with the days losing daylight, and figuratively with sadness and disappointment). And let us ask the question of ourselves: “How can I be light in the darkness?” How can I be a spark of hope in this world filled with darkness and difficulty for so many?

We are grounded in this love of Christ, especially in this season of Advent and Christmas.

It's hard not to see it and feel it with all the decorations of holly bringing a sign of life into a world that is entering into hibernation, with all the decorations of lights and stars and angels to remind us of the love that carries and supports us and guides us through the busyness of this time of year.

I hope that you can find time this year to stop in the midst...and ponder on the light, and the love, and the hope that comes in the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

– Pastor Patti

FAITH FORWARD INITIATIVE

The Faith Forward initiative is about finding ways that we can share our faith stories with each other and with our families. There is an Advent calendar at the Welcome desk to use throughout the month of December with activities for you and your family.

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEDITATIONS

On Wednesday afternoons through December, I will post an Advent meditation on Facebook for you. Spend a few minutes with me (whenever you can tune in) for scripture and story readings. Take this time to notice God's love *for* you and *in* you.

GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is up in the entryway. Please help us provide Christmas gifts for others. Take as many names as you would like. There are suggestions and sizes on the tag. It is not necessary to purchase all of the items. Place the gift in a bag, attach tag and return to First Lutheran Church by December 8. The Noisy Offering that has been collected by the children this year is providing gifts as well.

FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Sunday, December 29 there will be a SOUP and PIE LUNCH after church service. A sign-up sheet to provide soup and pies will be on the Welcome Center. Friends and family are welcome.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that you all had a Happy Thanksgiving with your families!

We appreciate everyone's support and helping hands – whether you get caught or not! We have many members dedicating their time and talents towards the well-being of the church and its facilities. Keep up the good work!

One of our November Sundays, we had nearly 70 people attend. I was in awe. Please welcome and encourage them to join us each and every Sunday. Please continue to invite a past member, a friend or family member to church!

Again, the Council invites you to attend any and/or all of the Council meetings.

– Bart Gotch

LECTORS

December 1	Pam Knudsen
December 8	Justin Baker
December 15	Mary Wolf
December 22	Tristan Kinnaman
December 29	Terri Gotch

USHERS

December 1	Bev Bates Rita Legg
December 8	Lance and Linda Swanson
December 15	Randy and Theresa Grove
December 22	Corliss Bianchini Pat Brandes
December 24	Bart and Terri Gotch Jeff and Rita Todd
December 29	Marla Bianchini Mary Wolf

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

October 6	57
October 13	72
October 20	53
October 27	55

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy and heartfelt prayers to Gary Hayes on the recent passing of his grandson, Jim.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation class recently completed the sessions on the Apostles' Creed. They have had to recite (or explain) each of the three petitions and what it means (as is stated in the Small Catechism) to their parent or mentor.

We continue our study in the Small Catechism with our next few weeks focusing on the Sacraments.

POINSETTIAS

If you ordered a poinsettia for Christmas, you can pick it up following worship on Christmas Eve or the following Sunday, December 29. Any remaining poinsettias after the 29th will be disposed of.

QUILTERS

Just a reminder that there is no quilting in December. Quilting will resume in January.

REMINDER

When you or someone you know who needs prayer or when someone goes into the hospital (even if they do not wish to have Pastor visit) it would be natural and appropriate to let your Pastor as well as the Prayer Chain know. Your Pastor knows and appreciates the power of prayer and would love the honor of praying for your need. You can reach Pastor by calling the FLC office 402/494-5462 which forwards to her cell phone directly 623/910-7859.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE!

If you are responsible for an annual report, please turn it in as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ruth Ailts, who volunteers to clean the church on a regular basis, will be unavailable for a few weeks. In her absence, volunteers are needed to clean. Can you help?

*Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live
Christmas every day.* – Helen Steiner Rice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 2	Jarrod Knudsen
December 6	Carol Zastrow
December 9	Bart Gotch
December 10	Cheryl Cale
December 14	Chris Lofgren
December 14	Mary Wolf
December 15	Kris Hunter
December 17	Jerry Davis
December 24	Gary Hayes
December 24	Jeff Prescott
December 27	Jean Hedquist
December 28	Vicky Johnson
December 28	Sandy Larson

YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

December 15	Hailey Lieber
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ANNIVERSARIES

December 3	Rick and Jennifer Lieber
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If we have missed any birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

CIRCLE I met on November 18. We had a great dessert, coffee and fellowship. We had a new guest! We had a meeting at which time we decided on our Christmas donation to Cardinal Baskets. Our meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 2:00 p.m. All ladies are welcome. Our next meeting is December 16 which is our Christmas lunch. We'll meet at Dakota Perk at 11:30 a.m.

LYDIA will meet Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

WELCA

There will be a collection for food items for Cardinal Baskets.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Thank you to everyone who participated in the chili cook-off that was held November 10. First place went to Rita Todd, second place went to Sally Hansen and third place went to Pam Knudsen.

TURKEY TOM

Thank you to all for your generous donations to the Turkey Tom project. Boxes were delivered to provide a Thanksgiving meal to eight families!

FOOD PANTRY

First Lutheran Church continues to be the gathering place for the Food Bank of Siouxland. We have food pantry on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Pantry served 60 families at the November 7 pantry and 102 families at the November 21 pantry.

Thank you to the students from Gateway to Learning for the help with unloading the pallets of groceries onto the tables for distribution in the morning. Then, returning in the afternoon to help load groceries into the cars.

We invite anyone who is interested in helping, whether you can only help in the morning to set up or can only help in the afternoon to do the distribution of food to come and be a part of this ministry.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to ALL who show up to volunteer or has anything to do with supporting this ministry. This ministry would not be possible without all of your support.

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: The Breath Prayer

Find a comfortable place to sit

Take a breath in (to the count of 4)

Breathe IN the grace of God

And then let that breath out (to the count of 4)

Breathe OUT your shame.

Repeat your breaths

Breathe IN the peace of God

Breathe OUT your fear.

Breathe IN the love of God

Breathe OUT your pain.

Breathe.

Repeat until you feel the stress leaving your body and the peace settling in. I keep this prayer taped on my mirror to remind me always to stop and let God in.

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Worship Planning Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	2 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m. Fellowship Meeting 6:30 p.m.	3 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	4 Advent Meditation on Facebook (Afternoon)	5 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m.	6	7
*8 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	9 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	10 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	11 Advent Meditation on Facebook (Afternoon)	12 Lydia 6:30 p.m.	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. (Communion) Council Mtg. 10:30 a.m.	16 Circle I 11:30 a.m. (At Dakota Perk) Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	17 Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Advanced Line Dance 7:00 p.m.	18 Advent Meditation on Facebook (Afternoon)	19 Food Pantry 1:00-2:30 p.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:30 a.m.	23 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30 p.m. (Communion)	25 Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Soup and Pie Lunch 10:30 a.m.	30 Closed AA 6:00-7:00 p.m.	31			* Giving Tree gifts need to be returned by December 8.	

Christmas Scrambles Puzzle Sheet

Unscramble the letters on top of each set of boxes to form a new Christmas-related word. Then, unscramble the bonus letters (those in circles) to discover the bonus solution.

G I C T K O N S =
C A R P I F L E E =
Y I M N E C H =
S T E E M O L I T =
N A R S T O M E N =
S N E T L I =
H I G L E S =
N E S T S P E R =
L I N T K E W =

bonus letters 

The Bonus Solution is:

courtesy of <http://www.merrygames.com>

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