

**First Lutheran Church**

**3601 Dakota Ave**

**South Sioux City, NE 68776**

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

**[www.facebook.com/  
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# **First Lutheran Church**

**January 2025**



***God's Work. Our Hands.***

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Sign up for electronic giving at:

<http://giving.flcssc.org>

Download the EasyTithe app from the app stores.

Text give at:

402-557-0882



**January**

The deadline for the February Newsletter is January 16.



## CHURCH COUNCIL (\*Executive Council)

|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| *President          | Bart Gotch<br>712/259-2001   |
| *Vice-President     | Bob Barto<br>712/490-1676    |
| *Treasurer          | Jim Hansen<br>402/404-4920   |
| *Secretary          | Scott Koeppe<br>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

*Happy New Year* ... is a wish that can mean so many things. It could be about happiness for that one day when we flip our calendars to a new year...or about happiness for the whole year represented with that calendar.

It could be about new beginnings...a time to start over. Or it could be about a wish (or blessing) for wholeness and peace throughout the year ahead.

***“And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10***

As you read this article, many of you are recovering from the wonderful celebrations to ring in a new beginning, and wondering what the new year has in store for us. You've probably taken your tree down, and all the trimmings packed away with just fading memories of the gifts and gatherings last month. And all we are left with is a new beginning, a new year...unspoiled time

and space before us. So how about we take a moment and take note of where we are right this minute and where we want to go.

Every day is a chance to begin again with the Lord. So, let's not cling to what has been (good or bad) and welcome 2025 as a chance to begin anew. Christ is here with us and everyday is a new day. A time to look in the mirror and remind us that God loves us. A time to splash water and remember that we are forgiven and fed. A time to wish for God's love to live among us and through us.

Blessings as we explore this new beginning in time and space. Walk with me as we are challenged to get to know who we are, who our neighbor is, and who God wants us to be in our community of faith and in this community in the Northeast corner of Nebraska.

– Pastor Patti Meyer

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 19 following worship. We will be voting on filling four Church Council seats. If you are interested in serving on Council, please contact Mary Wolf (712/253-7933), Jackie Gierman (712/490-3180) or Randy Rahn (928/551-2464).

The following have agreed at this time to run for Church Council: Clint Barrs, Bob Barto, Jenni Durant, Bart Gotch and Ellen Prescott.

Your voice and vote make a difference! Come and participate.

## THE GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who took part in this ministry either by purchasing a gift for a name from the tree and/or contributing to the Noisy Offering collected by the youth each Sunday. The total Noisy Offering collected as of November 30 was \$1,482.11, which was used to purchase gifts. 80 gifts were provided this year to Haven House, Lutheran Social Services, Lewis and Clark School and the Middle School. Your generosity made Christmas a little brighter for many children.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we celebrated the birth of Jesus, He continues to be ever present in our lives with love, hope and guidance.

I hope you all had a wonderful and Merry Christmas with your family.

As I reflect on 2024, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Church Council along with a great group of leaders.

As we move into 2025, I want to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

– Bart Gotch

LECTORS

|            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| January 5  | Tanner Koeppe  |
| January 12 | Katelyn Lieber |
| January 19 | Chris Lofgren  |
| January 26 | Bob Barto      |

USHERS

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 5  | Jeff Carda           |
|            | Shelly O’Brien       |
| January 12 | Adam Durant          |
|            | Jenni Durant         |
| January 19 | Ranelle De Jong      |
|            | Linda Fischer        |
| January 26 | Tom and Karen DeRoos |

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| November 3  | 53 |
| November 10 | 68 |
| November 17 | 50 |
| November 24 | 54 |

A BIG THANK YOU!! to you who organized and hosted the party to help me celebrate my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; to you who attended the party and enjoyed the coffee and cake and the fellowship shared by all. Thank you for the many birthday greetings and gifts. You have made turning 90 a really fun thing. You, together with my church, are a very important part of my life.

Thank you! – Mary Wolf

TO CHURCH FRIENDS,

Thanks for the lovely and delicious Christmas plate of fruit and chocolate kisses obviously prepared with care and love. And thanks to Jackie and Ottie for delivering it. It is undeserved, but much appreciated. Blessings to everyone and best wishes for a joyful and meaningful Christmas.

Christian love,  
Jane Krogh

THANK YOU to Marla Bianchini for taking significant time and effort to create all the beautiful decorations that were on display in the sanctuary this Christmas season.

THANK YOU for the improvement of the new bright lighting in Pastor’s office, the lounge and fellowship hall. What a difference!

GIVING STATEMENTS

Year-end Giving Statements will be available at the Welcome Center after January 12. Please pick yours up to help save on postage costs. If we have your email address on file, your statement will be emailed to you.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you wish to place flowers on the altar for Sunday service, please note the following:

We are using Bittersweet Floral, 2114 Dakota Avenue, SSC (402/404-8383). Two bouquets are required at a cost of \$50. Please sign up on the new 2025 Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the entryway. The flowers need to be ordered and paid for AT Bittersweet Floral. Let them know they are for First Lutheran Church and will be picked up on the Saturday before the Sunday needed. (They will be picked up by Altar Care.) **Let Carol Zastrow (712/281-2311) know they are ordered and paid for.** The flowers can be picked up after Sunday service.

QUILTING GROUP

Quilters will meet Saturday, January 18 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Everyone is welcome to come. No skills required.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January 1 Shirley Luehr  
January 3 Alexis Stolze  
January 7 Bob Blessing  
January 8 Joyce Williams  
January 9 Michael Morgan  
January 10 Bill Bass  
January 10 Tim Niemeyer  
January 11 Jennifer Durant  
January 14 Breck Swanson  
January 16 Melissa Baker  
January 17 Lucas Fader  
January 23 Josie Geveshausen  
January 24 Bev Bates  
January 25 Chris Reyes  
January 27 Milissa Reyes  
January 29 Billy Denker  
January 31 Ruth Weiland

### YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

January 12 Lincoln Schleusener  
January 21 Ryker Stolze

### ANNIVERSARIES

January 14 Matt and Cheryl Kinnaman  
January 17 Tom and Jennifer Durant

If we have missed any birthday or anniversary, please let us know.

CIRCLE I met for lunch together for our December meeting. We donated to the Christmas baskets in December. We delivered fruit plates to our shut-ins provided by WELCA. Our next meeting will be January 20 at 2:00 p.m. We wish all a healthy and Happy New Year.

LYDIA will meet Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

WELCA EXECUTIVE BOARD will meet Tuesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.

*The new year is our opportunity to refresh our relationship with the One who says, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV).*

### 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 70-80 families at the December pantries.

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.

This article was published on the Food Bank of Siouxland, Inc. Facebook page November 6, 2024:

### FOOD BANK VOCABULARY

? Do you know what these terms mean? In the world of food banking, we use a unique vocabulary that may be unfamiliar to some. Let's break down the difference between a Food Bank and a Food Pantry!

Food Banks and Food Pantries are distinct but work together closely. A Food Bank is a central hub that stores food supplies, which it then distributes to Food Pantries. Food Pantries, in turn, provide these items directly to individuals and families in need in the community.

### PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a concern or need for which you would like prayer, please contact Sandy Larson at 712/490-9948 or Mary Wolf at 712/253-7933 and Pastor Patti at 623/910-7859.

*The poinsettias for the Christmas season were given to the glory of God by:*

Bob and Betty Barto in honor of their children and grandchildren.

Kris Bergstrom in memory of Kathy Anders.

Kris Bergstrom in memory of Merlin Olson.

Judy Blessing in memory of Gary Blessing.

Robert and Patty Blessing in memory of Jill Rachel Blessing.

Jeff Carda and Shelly O'Brien in memory of Bonnie Weinberg O'Brien.

Elaine, Lucas and Tyler Fader in memory of Harold Fader.

Elaine, Lucas and Tyler Fader in memory of John Fader.

Ottie and Jackie Gierman in memory of Beth Koster, Daryl Austin, their parents, and for all of their blessings.

Bart and Terri Gotch in memory of Bill Gotch, loving father.

Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Myrna Gotch, loving mother.

Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Merlin Jones, loving father.

Bart and Terri Gotch in honor of Eleanor Jones, loving mother.

Lance and Jean Hedquist in memory of Gladys Hedquist.

Scott and Cindy Koeppe and family in memory of parents, grandparents and all loved ones gone before them.

Sandra Larson in memory of Wilbur Larson, Dad, Papa and husband; in honor of her 7 grandchildren.

Randy and Kerri Rahn in memory of Jo Ann Addison.

Randy and Kerri Rahn in memory of Lowell Rahn.

Randy and Kerri Rahn in memory of David Rahn.

Randy and Kerri Rahn in memory of Dick Durant.

Colleen Schleusener in memory of Ray Schleusener, Mike Hingst and Kenzie Kolleck.

Dob and Carol Zastrow in memory of all loved ones who now rest in Heaven.

### WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN

January 5      Second Sunday of Christmas  
First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14  
Gospel: John 1:1-18

January 12      Baptism of Our Lord  
First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7  
Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17  
Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19      Second Sunday after Epiphany  
First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5  
Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 12:1-11  
Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 26      Third Sunday after Epiphany  
First Lesson: Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Second Lesson: 1 Cor. 12:12-31a  
Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

### Six New Year Resolutions

1. Forget the past and honor God more.
2. Live for Christ in the world.
3. Trust God with a strong faith.
4. Remain faithful to my church.
5. Witness to the lost.
6. Cultivate the talents God has given me for His glory.

# January 2025

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed | Thu  | Fri | Sat   |
|---|--|--|-----|--|-----|---|
|   |  |  | 1   | 2<br>Food Pantry<br>1:00-2:30 p.m.<br><br>Couples' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.  | 3   | 4   |
| 5<br>Sunday School<br>9:00 a.m.<br><br>Worship<br>9:30 a.m.<br>(Communion)  | 6<br>Closed AA<br>6:00-7:00 p.m.<br><br>Fellowship Mtg./<br>Worship<br>Planning Mtg.<br>6:30 p.m.<br><br>Beginners' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m. | 7<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Advanced Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.  | 8   | 9<br>Lydia<br>6:30 p.m.<br><br>Couples' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.             | 10  | 11  |
| 12<br>Sunday School<br>9:00 a.m.<br><br>Worship<br>9:30 a.m.<br><br>Confirmation<br>Class<br>10:30 a.m.                       | 13<br>Closed AA<br>6:00-7:00 p.m.<br><br>Beginners' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.   | 14<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Advanced Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.   | 15  | 16<br>Food Pantry<br>1:00-2:30 p.m.<br><br>Couples' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m. | 17  | 18<br>Quilting<br>Group<br>9:00 a.m. to<br>Noon |
| 19<br>SS 9:00 a.m.<br><br>Worship<br>9:30 a.m.<br>(Communion)<br><br>Annual Mtg.<br>10:30 a.m.<br>Followed by<br>Council Mtg. | 20<br>Circle I<br>2:00 p.m.<br><br>Closed AA<br>6:00-7:00 p.m.<br><br>Beginners' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.                                    | 21<br>Boy Scouts<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Advanced Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.   | 22  | 23<br>Couples' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.                                      | 24  | 25  |
| 26<br>Sunday School<br>9:00 a.m.<br><br>Worship<br>9:30 a.m.<br><br>Confirmation<br>Class<br>10:30 a.m.                       | 27<br>Closed AA<br>6:00-7:00 p.m.<br><br>Beginners' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.   | 28<br>BS 7:00 p.m.<br>WELCA Exec.<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Advanced Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.<br><br>Amateur Radio<br>Club 7:00 p.m. | 29  | 30<br>Couples' Line<br>Dance<br>7:00 p.m.                                      | 31  |   |



# WINTER WORD SEARCH

ICY  
 FLEECE  
 SLED  
 PINE  
 WOODS  
 TOWEL  
 SKATE  
 COCOA  
 WOODS  
 CAMP  
 SPICE  
 FIRE  
 SMORE  
 NOEL



C F L E C R N G R E K L A W X  
 H T A B M I D E S C E R W P J  
 T E S I K A O R C P L W I P B  
 S I C Y E D R C C Q R N U M I  
 N L L W R I R G Q L E I L L  
 A L H E I O K D S T O A A W A  
 R E C O F O I C S S G Y C E S  
 V H T A P E O J B W F E K X V  
 E S C S E C L D B L E R S P E  
 R L N E O B O Y S E N O T T  
 R I V A N C I E L Q M I N C A  
 A C I O K M D E L S E P U K  
 L J A J F E I S O P R A D N S  
 A Y G M J S M R A W M P N E N  
 T W X H C I P B N O R E A E N  
 X L L Y S P I C E R O M S N A  
 U Y P A J F J L E W O T V E B  
 X J D O F N O F E L M W E T S