



The First Messenger

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

All Saint's Sunday	November 7th
3rd Grade Bible Distribution	November 7th & 10th
Youth Turkey Dinner & Bingo	November 17th
Advent Begins	November 28th

Volume 30

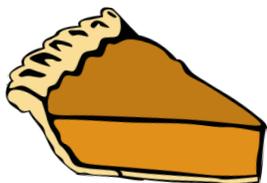
November 2021

Issue 11



No Oasis
Wednesday, November 24th
No Sunday School
Sunday, November 28th

Thanksgiving Worship Services
Tuesday, November 23rd
6:00 PM



FLC OFFICE CLOSED
November 25th & 26th
For the Thanksgiving Holiday

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PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Hey, everyone.

I am not always sure what to write about month after month in these newsletter articles, and I hate forcing things because it feels insincere and disingenuous writing something to you all just for the sake of writing. That's why I took last month off. No hard feelings. I had nothing to say when the deadline came around (shocking, I know, that I had nothing to say...at least that would be shocking to Margaret and my family. I am sure they would appreciate if I had nothing to say more often).

Anyway, the deadline for the November newsletter is upon me. This time around, I thought, how about some Bible fun-facts that are completely random. If you find yourselves playing a biblical version of *Trivial Pursuit* someday, you're welcome:

- The Bible has 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament
- The Old Testament's original language is Hebrew.
- The New Testament's original language is Greek (*Koine* Greek, in fact, which is a language no longer spoken).
- The Bible is not just broken down into Old and New Testaments. We can categorize its books further:
 - Genesis through Deuteronomy is known as: ***The Torah, The Law, The Pentateuch, or The Books of Moses.***
 - Joshua through Esther: ***The Historical Books of Israel.***
 - Isaiah through Malachi: ***The Prophets.***
 - Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon: ***Wisdom Literature.***
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John: ***The Gospels***
 - * Matthew, Mark, and Luke – ***The Synoptic Gospels.*** The communities that produced these gospel accounts likely shared some of the same sources. They each have their different slants and idiosyncrasies but are mainly biographical in nature and share a lot of exact stories and lessons. John, on the other hand, is unique in comparison, and a more 'hippy mystic' approach to telling Jesus' story. I imagine the author of the Gospel of John saying, "Dude..." a lot.
 - The Book of Acts: ***its own category.***
 - * After the gospels tell the story of Jesus, Acts tells the story of how the 'Jesus Movement' grew and spread into a more global church.
 - Romans through Philemon: ***The Letters of Paul***
 - * Most of these are truly written by the Apostle Paul himself, but some of these letters are written by either Paul's followers or in the tradition and honor of Paul. One way to frame Paul's writings: the Gospels mainly tell the story of Jesus; Paul is mainly telling churches what Jesus' story *means*. Paul is also very expressive. Most of his writings, as I read them, I can either feel Paul tenderly proclaiming the love of Jesus with tears in his eyes, or I feel like Paul is yelling at me.
 - Hebrews through Jude: ***The Epistles.*** These spell out early church rules, societal order, and doctrine. Outside of 1st-3rd John (which are, like, deeply amazing) and some of Hebrews, I find a lot of these to be boring and mildly important. Don't be offended. Jesus outright spoke against parts of the Old Testament and Luther hated the Book of James. He called it a 'straw epistle', meaning it is hollow and flimsy. You are under no obligation to have a love affair with every part of the Bible.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

○ The Book Revelation: *its own category*.

- * Contrary to popular belief, The Book of Revelation is much less a *future-telling* or *pre-dicting* book, than it is a poetic political statement against the Roman Empire (which, at the time of the book's writing, was brutally persecuting Christians).
- The Bible is not one book written during one period of time but a library of books written in many different time periods. For example, Joshua (a history-type book about the Israelites entering the Holy Land after 40 years of wilderness wandering) was probably written in the 600s B.C.E.; whereas, Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians was likely written around 49 C.E. (nearly 700 years later!).
- Parts of Exodus and Leviticus might be the oldest texts recorded in our Bible (ca. 1200s B.C.E.).
- The Letters of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John are probably the most recently written texts within our Bible (ca. 100-110 C.E.).
- "Before the Bible became a single volume, its...books underwent a process called 'canonization.'...A canon is a list of writings considered to be the standard for a community," and developing the *standard* books for the Bible was a long and complicated process."¹ Different parts of the Bible were *canonized* at different moments in history. For instance, the New Testament as we know it was *canonized* in 367 C.E. "at an important church council meeting at Nicaea;" the books were chosen because they seemed to be the most widely used by churches at the time and also seemed to represent the faith most accurately.²
- Martin Luther was the first person to translate the Bible into German. Luther did this in the early-mid 1500s. This was a landmark moment in history and was really a democratization of the Bible in Germany... which is a fancy way of saying that the Bible was finally put into the language of the people, not just scholars of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.
- Before Luther translated the Bible into German, a man named John Wycliffe was the first to translate the Bible into English (ca. 1380s). "Copies [of the Wycliffe] Bible were written by hand in secret and distributed by Wycliffe's followers, known as Lollards. Because Latin was considered the true language of the church and its Scriptures, Wycliffe was condemned as a heretic...Some people were burned at the stake for just reading or listening to Wycliffe's translation."³ Now, think about THAT every time you hear or read the Bible in English! Hard to believe something we do daily or weekly would have had us killed six/seven hundred years ago.
- Jesus and his disciples had no concept of the New Testament. The New Testament books and letters wouldn't be written for another few decades or more, and were not gathered together for another few hundred years after Jesus. So, if they could read at all, since literacy was not a widely achieved skill in the ancient world, they would have read parts of the Old Testament. Jesus' Bible, in other words, was the Old Testament.
- On that point, an interesting thing to always remember is that there was Christianity before there was the Bible as we know it.
- And, on that point, worshipping the Bible is actually a form of idolatry (*Bibliolatry*: book worship). The Bible is not God. We do not worship the Bible, we worship the One the Bible proclaims: the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I hope you have a great day. You are lovable, and you are loved.

Peace,

Pr. Joe



¹Hans Dahl, *Lutheran Study Bible* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 22.

²*Ibid.*, 23, 27.

³Rolf Aaseng, *Study Bible: The New Student Bible* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1990), 4.

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

Dear First Lutheran family,

This Fall I flew to Washington, DC to attend a Memorial Service for one of my best friends in High School, who died of ALS. Her service was a loving tribute to her faithful care for her family, her friends and her country. Since we were in such an important place, my friends and I also took time to visit the Washington Mall. I walked in awe, with people from around our nation and our world, to see the magnificent and poignant Memorials to those who have given their lives in wars and leadership, and shared their wisdom and love, to give our United States of America the inspiration to continue our dream of freedom and democracy. As Abraham Lincoln wrote, displayed in his Memorial: *“with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in - to bind up the nation’s wounds.... To do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace amongst ourselves and with all nations.”*

In the new Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, his quotes surrounded him. Here are a few:

If we are to have peace on earth, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional, our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class and our nation, and this means we must develop a world perspective.

Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

On the Mall I noticed thousands of little white flags - with more being added every minute – memorializing the deaths of around 700,000 Americans from the Covid virus. Some of the flags have names on them and tender messages from those who loved them.

The Washington Mall is a sacred place for all people to grieve, and it is also a place of remarkable beauty and hope. My friends and I sat on a bench by the Reflecting Pool, read aloud a devotion and offered prayer - giving thanks for our fragile, resilient democracy, for the people who’ve cared so much to make and preserve the freedom and justice we have, and for the responsibility we have now to carry on that vision of love, that light of justice and truth, and that hope of peace for all.



In this month of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to God for Jesus Christ, who is our light and truth and love... whose peace is beyond our understanding, but never beyond our hope.

And I give God thanks for all of you,

With love,

Pastor Lauryl

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Steve Schantzen



October was clergy appreciation month, and if you haven't taken a chance to show your appreciation to the amazing pastoral leadership and staff First Lutheran has, I'm sure they would still appreciate a thank you. Although, I don't ever think we need to slim that down to a single month out of the year.

A quick briefing on what is new or going on in Council this last month. I shared last month on the availability of childcare, and the crisis our region has been experiencing with finding appropriate providers. Laker Prep had to shift resources and momentarily pause providing services at First Lutheran, but they have met this challenge quickly and will be back and running Kids First likely by the time you

read this update. It brings some relief this was only a momentary pause, but the childcare challenge will continue and solutions along with your prayers are needed.

Thanks again to everyone who lent a hand in getting our dining room updated. The last series of this effort was the installation of carpet tiles. Between the help with paint, flooring removal, and carpet tile installation, the coordination with Buildings and Grounds, Susie, and your help were able to save First Lutheran around \$10,000. Thank you again for your time and effort.

First Lutheran is again preparing to provide much needed homeless shelter solutions this winter. The Homeless Solution Team Ministry is applying for grants, meeting with local churches and organizations within the region, and working to address the needs within our community. It is a very heavy thought to imagine what some of our neighbors have to endure, but the thought of having a family and a safe place to come home to every day may seem like an impossibility to those we are providing for. The work this group is doing, and the steps First Lutheran has taken to start to address these needs reminds me of why we are all here.

In conclusion for this month, I appreciate feedback or questions you may have with what Vision Council is up to or maybe something we should be doing.

Thank you!
Steve



FINANCIAL REPORT

July, Aug. Sept. Income	\$140,130.74
July, Aug., Sept. Expenses	<u>\$157,864.91</u>
	\$-17,734.17

Monthly Expense Total

July	\$53,558.83
Aug.	\$44,526.26
Sept.	\$59,779.82

Monthly Income Total

July	\$50,832.91
Aug.	\$43,536.84
Sept.	\$45,760.99

Pillars

*Ministries that support our pastors and one another
in faith growth through worship and fellowship.*



By, Mackenzie Hamm

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU & SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE!

Now don't worry, nothing is wrong with me that I know of!

I had a man come in for assistance the other day and I had some great conversations with him. He has had some great years in his life being a professional basketball player in Europe and then now he is experiencing some very low times not having a safe place to live. But the thing that inspired me was how positive and thankful he was of God's love and guidance for him! He forgot his coffee in the office so I drove over to the bus station and handed him his coffee. As he was walking to the bus he said to me, "I hope to see you again, but for sure I will **see you on the other side!**" That gave me all the feels! I rolled up my window and shed some tears. Not sad tears, but happy tears; as isn't that the greatest thing in life. No matter what life is like right now we get to look forward to Heaven and know that we are all loved the same no matter how life is going at the moment.

This also brought back many thoughts I have had about funerals. When you go to a funeral many wonderful things are being said about the person who has passed away. But have you sat and thought about funerals you might be attending in the future, have you taken the time to tell them now while they are alive how much they have meant to you?

I had the privilege of having my Grandma Gert live with me for the last 10 years of her life and I had so many opportunities to tell her thank you for the wonderful life she provided for me and my family. But life can be super short and sadly many of us have experienced tragic loss where maybe you have felt robbed of your time and didn't get the chance to talk to them before they passed. I lost a daughter shortly after birth which hurt me to the core and made me realize you don't even get anytime to tell someone you love them. I lost a friend who suddenly passed away after high school and I didn't get a chance to tell him how important our friendship was.

Those losses made me live a bit differently I believe. I now take pictures thinking I might need these as memories to remember people after they pass. I make sure I talk to my family and friends about my death so they are prepared and know that they are loved so deeply and appreciated so they have no doubts in their minds they meant the world to me. I know I haven't told everyone who has made an impact on my life yet but I sure hope that I have the chance before either they pass away or I do. But if we don't get that chance be kind to yourself! Your loved one knew it even if you didn't say it! And, the best thing is you will get to **See Them on the Other Side!**

So, to you who are reading this; Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. You are part of this wonderful congregation who has made this job of mine so fulfilling and enjoyable to be here and work with you all! Now go out in the world and tell those friends and families of yours how much you love them! It will bring you and them a smile that they may need at this time in their life!

Food Shelf Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to help at the Becker County Food Shelf on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:30-3pm in November. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Volunteer Table at church.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers: We are looking for Bell Ringers to ring the bell at Central Market on **Saturday November 27th**. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Volunteer Table at church.

Ushers/Greeters/Readers: Please keep checking the sign-up sheet on the Volunteer Table at church as we are always looking for Ushers/Greeters & Readers.

Oasis Meal Preppers: We are looking for a few people to prepare a meal prior to Oasis at 5:15. The church will pay for the food if you have the time to prepare it in our kitchen we would greatly appreciate it. This could be as easy as arriving at 4:15 and cooking Papa Murphy Pizzas. Or you can make soup, hot dish, sandwiches during the day anytime. If this is a ministry you would like to participate in please let me know! Even if it is once a month that would be greatly appreciated.

Oasis Meal Servers: We are looking for help on Wednesday evenings from 5 pm to 6 pm to serve and clean-up the Oasis Meal. You can rotate and do this once a month if that works or as much as you would like!

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

November Leader: Tanzy Haisley

Evangeline Barnack
Dawn Barnack
Terry & Linda Beilke
Ryan & Susan Bjorklund
Brent & Jodi Blake
Richard & Linda Branden
Ardith Carlson
Lenora Dire
Jim & Beverly Elletson
Marlys Engebretson
Leif & Deb Erickson
Sara & Zackary Erickson
Betty Fischer
Steve & Rhonda Fode

Benjamin & Kristi Fradenburgh
Kim Fuhs
Brent & Sarah Fulton
Keith & Virginia Gilbertson
Steven & Rita Glunberg
Gary & Tanzy Haisley
Virginia & Justin Hanson
David & Elaine Hedman
Amanda Heisserer
Ted & Hollice Heisserer
Jody & Julie Hibma
Jeana Ketter
Josh & Tiffany Krieg
Sonja Lillquist

Robert Lund
Paul & Brenda Muckenhirn
Jeff & Lori Nustad
Charlotte Olson
Paul & Pamela Orth
Roger & Arlene Reiersen
Rodney & Susan Schaffer
Kristie Shaffer
Frank & Joleen Skolte
LeRoy & Mathilde Svenby
Edward & Anne Trost
Gary Tunheim
Jeff & Barbara Wilson
Gary & Patti Ziebell
Patricia Zurn

Action Corps serves the Coffee Fellowship time on Sunday mornings, provides desserts for funerals and serves other congregational events.

The month you are on Action Corps, you will be called by your Action Corps leader to see when and how you would like to participate. For Sunday mornings: You **can serve** (set-up, serving and/or clean up). You **can donate food** items or you **can donate money** to purchase food items. You will only be called as the need arises for funerals & other events.

We accomplish big things when everybody does a little bit! Thank You!!



December Leader: Terry & Sandi Kemmer

Trent Bartells
Wayne & Jean Benson
James & Cynthia Brufloth
James & Catherine Buchholz
Charlie Cooper
Ronnie Dahlsad
Jeffrey Ehnert & Jessica Leu
Michael & Dianne Fillmore
Eugene & Eloyce Gaffney
Dan & Irene Hagen
James & LeeAnn Hagle
Howard & Carla Hansen
Lynne Hanson
Bruce & Jean Hein

Louise Heino
John & Judith Hoeglund
Lynn & Beverly Hummel
Anne Jorgenson
Terry & Sandra Kemmer
Corrine Leu
Jared & Jessi Lotzer
Jeremiah & Kelsey McBroom
Sylvia McCurdy
Daniel & Erica McDougall
Jeff & Collette Murphy
Jaime Omberg
Stanley & Jodi Ouren
Gene & Margaret Prechel

Bob & Patricia Rheault
Arlene Rishovd
Lynnae Salvesson
Darcy & Jennifer Savig
David & Janine Schneider
Sandra Smith
Shanda Smith
Adam Steward
Melissa Halverson
Steven & Emma Swenson
Anthony & Melissa Varno
Paul & Lisa Weber
Sharon Wesbrook
Ryan & Cheryl Weum

Each family/person has a 3-month quarter in which they will be called upon for serving. If you know which Sunday you would prefer to help serve during Sunday Coffee Fellowship time, please contact your leader and let them know! Call the office, 847-5656, if you would like to change the season in which you serve.



A THANK YOU FROM THE QUILTERS

Thank you to the anonymous donors for the donation of material to the FLC quilters. We'd be happy to have more quilters. If you don't know how to sew there are various jobs to do. Come enjoy great company.



THANK YOU

Thank you to Paul Weber, Jeff Murphy, Joe Bergquist, Scott Sonstegard, Terry & Sandi Kemmer, Don Busker, Nate Olson, Rich Johnson, Karla Peterick, Rod Boyer, Barry Fewson, & Joe Pihlaja for their hard work helping to remove and/or install the new dining room carpet. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out. It looks great!



FLC would like to give a huge thank you to Angie Sonstegard for her years of service as CPA to First Lutheran. We hope you enjoy your retirement!



WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT CONCERT SERIES IS BACK

First Lutheran will host the Wednesdays in Advent series of mini-concerts for the season of Advent. Concert dates and times are December 1, 8, and 15, from 12:05 PM to 12:30 PM each week. Musical performances will be given by a variety of area Musicians. Concerts will be offered both in person, and online through live streaming. Masks will be required until further notice for in person concerts. These concerts are free and open to the public! All are welcome to attend!



Parish Health

Denise Gaard ♦ 218-847-5656 ♦ denise@firstlutheranchurch.com



FLC Blood Drive December 5, 2021

There currently is a **critical blood shortage**. Blood is only useable for 42 days, so a constant supply is always needed, no matter the season. Each day in this region to keep up with patient needs including premature babies, surgery patients, accident victims and those battling cancer, 250 volunteer blood donors are needed daily! The Bloodmobile will be at FLC from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM December 5th. **To schedule an appointment, go online to vitalant.org and use blood drive code dlfirst or call Denise at 218-847-5656.**

COVID-19 UPDATE

Breakthrough Cases and Vaccinations

The information being reported on COVID-19 breakthrough cases may have you worried about your risk of acquiring the disease if you have been fully vaccinated. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines were first administered in December 2020. The virus has changed since that time. The Delta variant is highly transmissible. Scientists monitoring the efficacy of the vaccines over

time report that there have been breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated individuals. But what the science continues to confirm is that those vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to suffer from severe illness or be admitted to the hospital. Vaccination against COVID-19 continues to prove the safest path to ending this pandemic. https://www.consumerreports.org/covid-19/questions-about-covid-19-breakthrough-infections-answered-a8995775819/?EXTKEY=NH18HTHP4&utm_source=acxion



COVID-19 vaccine booster shots now available for certain people.

The CDC recommends that certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster shot. This includes the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For more information go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html> or call Denise at; 218-847-5656. Call your provider or pharmacy to schedule your booster shot.

Seasonal Flu Vaccine

FLC will not hold a Flu Shot Clinic this year. Flu vaccines are available at Thrifty White Drug, CVS, Essentia Clinic and Sanford Clinic. Everyone, ages 6 months and older, are eligible for a flu vaccine.



Lutheran Social Service
of Minnesota

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is seeking volunteers to meet with older adults for friendly visits a few hours each week. Our AmeriCorps caregiver volunteers meet at the homes of older adults and out in the community. This gives family caregivers a break to run errands, rest and recharge.

Everyone is invited to volunteer! Volunteers receive training and no prior experience is required. To qualify, you will need some availability each week and a reliable vehicle. You also must be 17 years or older and pass a standard background check.

For more information contact Debi Retzlaff at 218.220.7517 or debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org



Youth & Family Ministry

By, Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director



Congrats to our Confirmands who were confirmed on October 17th!



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 — For all middle schoolers interested in going on our middle school mission trip, there will be an informational meeting at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary.



NOVEMBER 7th & 10th — 3rd Grade Bible Distribution at any of the 3 services.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17th — Gobble Up Turkey Dinner & Bingo during Oasis!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24th AND SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28
NO WEDNESDAY OR SUNDAY SCHOOL DUE TO THANKSGIVING BREAK

KINDERGARTEN



SERVICE PROJECT

PRESCHOOL



SERVICE PROJECT

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE



The Christmas Store is restructured and ready, but first... we need to know if we can staff it!

The pandemic has affected us all in a myriad of ways, and the Christmas Store is no exception. As a church called to be good stewards of public health, the Christmas Store has undergone modifications to reduce both the large gathering of families in the dining room and the extended wait time many of them experience. There will be a pre-registration process so the number of children shopping at any one time can be managed, and families can plan when to drop off and pick up their children. Shopping and wrapping will take place in larger more ventilated areas (the rec room and dining rooms respectively), hands will be sanitized and masks encouraged, or required if necessary.

Changes can be made to the process, but it still takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen. It is understandable that a number of individuals, some who have been integral to this ministry in the past, are not yet comfortable participating in certain situations. In order to determine if the Christmas Store is to be held this year (there was no Store last year in 2020) there will be preliminary volunteer sign-up opportunities to determine if enough volunteers feel comfortable serving in this ministry. Here are some details:

- tentative date: Saturday, December 11th from 9:00am to 3:00pm
- 2 shifts: 9:00am to noon and noon to 3:00pm
- Volunteers needed:
 - 16 shopper helpers and 8 people to help wrap **EACH SHIFT** (this is a great youth fundraiser! All youth are welcome & encouraged to help kids shop!)
 - Set up gift room and wrapping room on Friday
 - Clean up help on Saturday to be ready for worship and Sunday School

An overview of the CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE...!

During the Christmas season, there are families in our community for whom gift giving is a luxury they cannot easily afford. Parents may be able to provide a gift for their children, but also buying gifts for their children to *give* really adds up! Here is how we get to bless them! The Children's Christmas Store provides the children in these families the opportunity to 'shop' for their family members at a price they *can* afford! Through the generosity of others, these children get to experience the joy of giving to their parents, siblings and grandparents.

All of the gifts for sale at the Christmas Store are provided by donations. Whether you are cleaning out your closets, recycling your own children's toys, re-gifting gifts you received from Auntie Ethel or donating a gift purchased just for this event, each 'gift' is priceless to the child that will get to buy it and give it.

All gifts are priced and sold for \$1.00. Imagine a family with 3 children. If each child bought a \$10 gift just for Mom, Dad and each of their siblings, it would cost \$120. Shopping at the Children's Christmas Store, each child can pick out their own gift to give each of their siblings and each of their parents for a cost to the family of only \$12 dollars! Each child can even add two Grandmas & Grandpas for only \$4 more!

Who is invited? - If you are reading this, you are invited! Otherwise, we only advertise to organizations in our community that can best identify and invite families who would be the most blessed by this ministry. If you know of a family that would benefit from the Children's Christmas Store, invite them to come with you!

How many children shop at the Christmas Store? - an average of 160 kids buy 1,340 gifts!

How can I help? - this ministry relies entirely on volunteers to run the store and donations to create it!

What kind of donations are needed?

Gifts - Any item, new or gently used, that a child could give as a gift to a family member. No clothing, since a child would not likely know what size to get. Socks, hats, gloves and that sort of *generally* sized items are fine. The store is always especially in need of gifts for teens and men.

Supplies - small/medium gift bags, tissue paper, bows, gift tags, boxes to wrap gifts in, batteries, \$ for supplies

When and where can I donate gift items? - the church office any time, we accept & store gifts all year.





Here for Every Neighbor

Announcements and Information for Churches United

Churches United is proud to be the only place in the Fargo-Moorhead region to shelter families with a male head of household or near adult male member. We believe that families experiencing a crisis need to stay together. The children need the stability and comfort of their parents. Right now, we need your financial support. We are experiencing an unprecedented need for family shelter. At Micah's Mission, we have eight family rooms, which are almost always occupied. In the past, we often have two or three families in overflow any given time. Currently, we have as many as 11 families in overflow and are providing service to over 70 kids every single day.

All housing has been in overflow status since October 2019. In 2021, Micah's Mission has already served 50 more people than all of 2020. There are currently 4-5 families in overflow shelter. Due to COVID, shelters from other organizations have closed, cut back, or tried to use area hotels (which is costly). In order to make more space for families, Churches United:

- Opened up "Safe Haven" to accommodate 27 females without children.
- Increased Dorothy Day housing for men to 15 beds, 2 of them medical respite beds.
- Currently remodeling the basement at Micah's Mission to add 8 more family rooms, 3 more bathrooms, and a laundry room.

Bright Sky apartments for families have been an enormous financial gift to the area, saving about \$1 million a year in housing, food, medical care costs.

Silver Linings apartments for those 55 and older should break ground early 2022

Shelter nurses delivered care through 492 medical appointments.

Activities have been cut back due to COVID, but more volunteer opportunities are opening up. Filled backpacks were donated so 70 children could go to school prepared. The Knights of Columbus provided warmth to kids through their coat drive. Atonement Lutheran is doing a toy drive for Christmas.

The Gourmet Soup Kitchen fundraiser was postponed to March 14, 2022 due to COVID. It will be at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. Other upcoming fundraising opportunities include "Give to the Max" day 11/18/2021, the Caring Catalog 11/29-12/13/2021, and Churches United Sundays with matching funds up to \$30,000.

Current needs:

- Coats, hats, mittens
- Handwarmers
- Twin and Queen bedding sets, blankets, pillows
- Bath towels
- Personal hygiene items

Pastor Grant Vanderford, Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Olivet Lutheran Church. Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, will lead a shelter theology study Thursdays at noon in January. For more information, contact him at pastorgrantv@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, out of abundant concern for all our communities due to the uptick in COVID cases, we are postponing the Soup Bowl fundraiser. Thank you for your support.

The Link

Update from the Women of First Lutheran Church—Written by Norma Smith

Recently we went for a drive to view the fall leaves, ending up at a quaint little cafe. It was decorated so creatively. Written on one wall was this saying: **“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s learning to dance in the rain.”** My lunch was chicken salad served on a lettuce leaf with wild rice cranberry bread. One of the things I am thankful for is creative people who like to decorate or cook. I am also thankful for family, beautiful sunny days, but also rain to keep things green. All the promises from God to always be with us and eternal life.

Thank you to all who donated to the No bake – Bake Sale! We will be reviewing our budget and pay what we can.

You will find a box by the office for clean, used blankets which will be distributed to several places. There is also a box for new standard size pillows which will be given to Churches United in Fargo.

Co-council has decided not to plan any activities through the rest of the year. However, Thank Offering can be given in the office. That offering is sent to churchwide in Chicago to support the educational materials like the Gather Magazine which contains the Bible Study for Circles.

Congratulations to Glenette Olson for being the 2021 Mary Magdalene Award winner! →

Wishing each of you a Blessed Thanksgiving!

- Norma Smith

Upcoming Events

- Thank Offering Collection through November 30th
- Spring Gathering in Wadena
- Fall Gathering in Cormorant
- NWMN Synod Convention in Alexandria in September.
- Next Co-council meeting is November 17 in the Conference Room at 9:30 AM.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Churches United for the Homeless—Sunday, November 14: JoRelle Grover, from Churches United, Moorhead will offer a Temple Talk at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Sunday worship services November 14 PLUS she will present during the 9:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Hour.

Churches United is a vital partner of First Lutheran’s Homeless Solutions endeavor. Their annual fundraiser was cancelled due to the pandemic and they are reaching out to churches for support of their new Food Pantry. JoRelle will provide information to our congregation concerning Churches United’s ongoing work and the increasing needs of our neighbors.

Creation Care Update—Sunday, November 21: On Sunday, November 21, representatives of the FLC Creation Care Team will share an update on the team’s work and projects during the Adult Faith Formation time (9:30 to 10:30 AM) between services. Please watch for additional information on this opportunity.

Book Study: A book study during the Advent Season to encourage focus, rest, and spiritual renewal with emphasis on anticipation, hope, Patience, and obedience. **Sundays at 9:30 AM beginning November 28 & Wednesdays at 11 AM beginning December 1**



MEMORIAL GIFTS

FLC acknowledges with grateful appreciation these memorials which have been received this past month.

AGAPE FUND

In Honor of: Arv Halvorson's 90th Birthday

Given by: Ardys Horner

In Memory of: Arv Bakken

Given by: Ardys Horner

QUILTERS FUND

In Memory of: Charlotte Hoeglund

Given by: Fern Brown

Given by: Henrietta Malchow

SOUND & TECH FUND

In Memory of: Charlotte Hoeglund

Given by: Sandy & Delyle Willprecht

UNSPECIFIED FUND

In Memory of: Dennis Anderson

Given by: Margaret Weller

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Dennis Anderson

Given by: Dolly Tovson

Given by: Pat Zurn

In Memory of: Jerry Price

Given by: Pat Zurn

In Memory of: Ole Olson

Given by: Pat Zurn

In Memory of: Jim Hunnel

Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Charlotte Hoeglund

Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Kathy Hoghaug

Given by: Randahl Hoghaug

In Memory of: Virginia Earley

Given by: Ruth Circle

In Memory of: Evelyn Rusten

Given by: Ruth Circle



Christmas Poinsettias

The Advent and Christmas season is made more beautiful when the church is filled with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to share flowers please complete this form and return it to the church office by Tuesday, December 14. Cost is \$12.00 per plant.

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Attached is \$_____ for the total order above. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Flower Fund.

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00p Al Anon, Library	2 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:30a Rebekah Cir, Dining Rm 2:00p Rachel Cir, Library 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	3 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	4 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning Com 4:00p Personnel Team Mtg	5 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	6
7 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 3rd Grade Bible Distribution All Saint's Sunday 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	8 5:00p Al Anon, Library	9 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	10 Wednesday Schedule <i>3rd Grade Bible Distribution</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh. 7:30p 6th Grade Mission Trip	11 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning Com 1:30p Ruth Circle	12 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	13
14 Sunday Schedule 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Forum: Chu. United 10:45a Contemporary Worship	15 5:00p Al Anon, Library	16 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	17 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	18 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	19 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	20
21 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Forum: Creati Care 10:45a Contemporary Worship	22 5:00p Al Anon, Library	23 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p Thanksgiving Worship Svc 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	24 NO FAITH FORMATION THANKSGIVING BREAK 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	25 THANKSGIVING DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00p AA, Library	27
28 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service No Faith Formation</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship Serv. 10:45a Contemporary Worship	29 5:00p Al Anon, Library	30 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din. Rm 7:30p Young Men's Bible Study	1 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 12:00p Advent Concert 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Team Reh 5:15p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship Service 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Reh. 6:30p Faith Formation Hour 7:15p Jubilate Choir Reh.	2 8:00a Women's Bible Sty, Lib 11:00a Worship Planning	3 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team	4



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
912 Lake Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Volume 30 Issue 3
Non-Profit Organization

The First Messenger is published monthly and mailed to the members and friends of First Lutheran Church. The purpose of this publication is to inform the congregation of church activities and upcoming events. Articles for publication are to be submitted to the church office by the 20th of each month.

Office Hours:

Winter Hours

(Labor Day to Memorial Day)
Monday—Friday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)
Monday—Thursday
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM
Fridays
8:30 AM to Noon

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Vice-Chairman: Nathan Olson
Secretary: Deanne Udby
Treasurer: Chad Carlblom

Chris Malecka, Scott Sonstegard,
Tanner Duncan, Carla Solem, Carol Lee,
& Kari Stattelmann

Foundation Board

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President-Elect: Steve Glunberg
Secretary: Patti Cummins
Treasurer: Susan Schaffer

Shar Arvig, Dan Berg, Ryan Manke,
Les Perry & Adrienne Buboltz

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Bell Choir Director:

Carla Hansen Hansencarla62@gmail.com

Missionary Pastor:

Rev. Chandran Paul Martin

**Worship is broadcast on KDLM-1340 AM and on
93.1 FM Radio each
Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM.**

**Worship is also webcasted on the church website
www.firstlutheranchurch.com.**

**Worship is also broadcast on T.V. on Saturdays at 9:00 AM
on Arvig Cable channel 14.**