



The First Messenger



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Tea	December 3 rd
Children's Christmas Store	December 10 th
Christmas Cantata	December 11 th
Children's Christmas Program	December 18 th
WFLC Treat Sale	December 18 th

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Issue 12



NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

Noisy offering donated in November to Fuller House of DL is \$431.33.

In the month of December Noisy Offering collected will be going towards the FLC Agape Fund. The word "Agape" in biblical Greek refers to a highest form of love - a love that transcends feeling or attraction, a love that is an unconditional love for the healing God's people. The FLC Agape Fund is used to serve our most vulnerable neighbors right here in our local community, particularly those experiencing food and housing insecurity.

What's Inside?

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Eve Services

- 3:30 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 5:00 PM Contemporary Christmas Eve Worship Service
- 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Radio Broadcast Service
- 7:00 PM 'Candlelight' Worship Service

Christmas Day Service

- 10:45 AM Christmas Day Worship Service

*All worship services will also be available online via live stream.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, December 26
Tuesday, December 27

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo



Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas!

There are so many opportunities to ring in the Advent and Christmas seasons this December that it can be difficult to keep it all straight!

So, I am going to take this opportunity to lay out in one place a few of our core congregational activities this December:

- **Christmas Tea:**
 - When: December 3rd @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Where: FLC Dining Room
 - What: A fellowship opportunity with a catered brunch (free will) and a musical program
- **Nativity Stories Bible Study:**
 - When: December 7th, 14th, & 21st @ 11:00 a.m.
 - Where: FLC Library
 - What: Diving into Jesus' birth narratives in Matthew & Luke, and proclamation in John
- **Advent Concerts:**
 - When: (November 30th), December 7th, 14th, & 21st @ 12:05 p.m.
 - Where: FLC Sanctuary
 - What: Half-hour concerts with seasonal music performed by some of our community's most talented musicians (with meals to follow!)
- **The Christmas Store:**
 - When: December 10th, 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (*December 8th & 9th for setup)
 - Where: FLC Dining Room and Rec Room
 - What: A ministry event for families in need that provides low-cost Christmas gifts for children to buy their family members
- **Christmas Cantata:**
 - When: December 11th @ 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
 - Where: FLC Sanctuary
 - What: A Christmas proclamation and worship from our outstanding Jubilate Choir
- **Children's Christmas Program:**
 - When: December 18th @ 10:45
 - Where: FLC Sanctuary
 - What: A Christmas proclamation and worship from the wonderful children of FLC
- **Christmas Fellowship Night:**
 - When: December 21st, 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 - Where: FLC
 - What: Fellowship, food, and fun!
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(Continues on page 13)

LAURYL'S WORD

Update from Pastor Lauryl Ivers, Associate Pastor

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. (Luke 1:26-31).

Dear First Lutheran Church Family,

A very Blessed Christmas Season to you all! I pray that you are finding time in this busy Season to "ponder" as Jesus mother, Mary, did, what this all means. While I was in the Holy Land last month, we visited Nazareth, Mary and Joseph's village, and Mary's cousin, Elizabeth's, village where Mary stayed with her cousin in the first few months of her pregnancy. We also visited the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the site where it was thought Jesus was born.

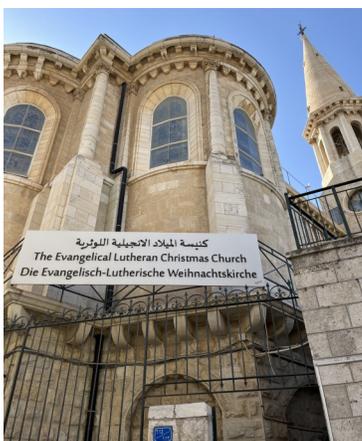
I learned from our tour instructor, Dr. Karoline Lewis, that the Biblical word, "ponder" isn't a sentimental action – it is better interpreted as "trying to figure out the meaning of everything that is being thrown at you"! I can only imagine how Mary felt about what was being told to her! As I visited the many sacred sites in the Holy Land, I was "pondering" all the sights and sounds and people and deep spiritual meanings along with the undercurrent of tension and fear and oppression and violence...that were coming at me so fast in this beautiful, terrible world where our Savior Jesus came to show us God's love.

I've included pictures of the wonderful Christmas Lutheran Church where we worshipped in Bethlehem; a sculpture with Mary and Elizabeth with versions of Mary's Magnificat in several languages; the place of Jesus' birth with the Bethlehem Cross shining over it; artwork depicting Mary smiling as she holds Jesus; and finally a shocking painting commenting on the tensions today for the people Jesus came, long ago at Christmas time, to save.

I hope this Christmas you will ponder with me the wonder of God's love for us, and what it means in our world today, that God sent Jesus to be the Savior of us all.

With hope for peace,

Pastor Lauryl



PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Nathan Olson



As I sat in the deer stand, boy was I cold. It had been a slow morning, with only a glimpse of a deer through the woods about two hours ago. "Why do I enjoy this sport?" --I wondered to myself. Get up two hours before daylight, trudge through the snow, only to sit out in the cold and stare blankly into the woods.

Suddenly, I caught movement to my left. Then I heard the crunch of leaves and snow, the tell-tale signs of deer moving through the woods. "This is it! Get ready!", I told myself. Finally my buck of a lifetime is going to appear! I slowly got into position, pointing the gun in the direction of where I was certain the deer would appear. The sound was getting closer and louder! Oh boy, I can taste the venison jerky and picture exactly where I can hang this deer on my wall in my basement. Any second now and it will be appearing right in that opening, just like I planned! The sound was almost deafening on this calm morning in the woods. Oh, I think I see it! Just as my heart was beating at full pace, I saw the flicker of its tail—a squirrel tail. Darn it! Those things fool me every time! Once again, I thought to myself "why do I enjoy doing this?"

While I was deep in thought questioning my life decisions, I watched as this squirrel went about its business. Looking for acorns, burying acorns, and doing other squirrel things. I then caught a glimpse of a pileated woodpecker going from dead tree to dead tree looking for a meal of bugs. I also saw swans fly overhead and chickadees bounce from one tree branch to another. Before I knew it, I think 45 minutes had passed watching all these creatures go about their lives.

And suddenly I realized why I am drawn to this crazy sport of hunting. Yes, it can be long days with no sight of a deer while I test my ability to withstand freezing temperatures. Or you finally do see a deer, but it stays just out of sight enough that you can't get a clear shot. But I find that when I am hunting, I am fully present in that moment. I'm not thinking about what I have to do tomorrow or the next day—I am totally focused on outwitting my prey or watching nature do its thing like I don't even exist.

This reflection also made me thankful that I even have the opportunity to be out hunting. Thankful that my friend invited me to join him on his hunting land. Thankful to all our veterans who have helped keep our country free so I can do the things I love. But most of all, thankful to my wife who allowed me to do nothing but deer hunt for five straight days!

I am also thankful for everyone in our church—members, staff, volunteers, and our pastors. I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and I pray we have a great December. This is one of the busiest months of the church year and there is something for everyone. So check out our activities calendar and get ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior!



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 Friday, 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.

Pillars

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



By, Mackenzie Hamm

I hope November brought you much joy with the coming of winter & time spent with family and friends during Thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who signed up to help with the Food Pantry & for those who rang the bell for Salvation Army. Your volunteerism is a great gift to so many!

It is hard to believe we are now onto December! December marks the beginning of the church calendar and it starts with Advent! The Season of Advent is the time of preparation for the coming of Christ. There are many traditions during Advent that help Christians prepare for His coming at this time. Thank you to Shan Manke & Jeannie Gilbertson and those who signed up to help decorate the church for Christmas. It sure puts everyone in a cheerful mood when walking into the church so beautifully decorated.

Below are all the opportunities you are able to be a part of this December! **Sign up online or at the Volunteer Table.**

- **Christmas Eve & Christmas Worship Assistants:** Assistants help with ushering, Communion, reading and greeting. Dates available are: **Christmas Eve at 3:30 PM, 5:00 PM, and 7:00 PM & Christmas Day at 10:45 AM.**
- **Advent Mini Concerts with Soup & Salads:** Come enjoy the celebration of Advent through Music! Each Wednesday of Advent starting November 30 at 12:05 PM. Enjoy the half hour of music and fellowship with Soup & Salad. Dates available are: **November 30, December 7, 14, and 21. Prepare at 10 AM and Clean-up at 1:00 PM**
- **Christmas Store! Store Hours are December 10 from 10 AM to 3PM.** This is a wonderful ministry where we bless families by providing donated gift items that children can “buy” (everything \$1) for family members. You can get involved in many different ways by bringing your donations in to the office, baking Christmas cookies, help get the “store” ready, help children shop & wrap gifts, and help with clean-up afterwards. Dates available to help: **December 8 & 9 with set-up & Saturday, December 10 from 9:30 AM until finished.**
- **Angel Tree:** Each Angel represents a person in our Community who has had a tough time this year and isn’t likely to have much to celebrate with. These individuals do not receive other government or community assistance and would be blessed to receive some gifts! When you pick up the Angel, please write your information in the book next to the tree and bring the presents back wrapped by **Friday, December 23.**
- **Christmas At Our House:** Another wonderful ministry to be a part of to help share a warm Christmas meal. This is a free meal for those who might not have someone to spend Christmas with, who may be unable to leave their homes, or who maybe working on Christmas to help serve our community so those of us can be home with our families. Please join this wonderful service by either helping set-up, clean-up, cook, serve food and deliver food. Dinner is served from NOON to 2 PM. Dates available to help: **December 25 from 11 AM until clean-up is finished.**
- **Sound & Tech:** We would like to say a big thank you to Jim McCormack for helping with Sound on Sunday Mornings. He will now be enjoying winter in a warmer state. If you would like to help with Sound once a month, we would love to train you in and help with this very vital ministry. If I can do it, you can do it better. **Needed as Soon as possible!**
- **New Member Welcome:** We are excited to have had a few parishioners become members in the last few months. We would like to welcome them to the congregation on **Sunday, January 29 or Wednesday February 1.** If you would like to become a member of First Lutheran Church, please complete the Parishioners Information Update Form located on our website. Please note if you are unable to make those new member dates, you can still become a member at any time! Please call the office for more information!

May you find your spiritual and divine gifts given to you and bless the with the world with them,

Mackenzie Hamm
Support Ministries Coordinator



Parish Health

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

FLC Blood Drive December 28th

7:30 AM to 1:00 PM

FLC Dining Room

To make an appointment to donate go to vitalant.org and enter the drive code: detroit lakes

Give the gift of life this Christmas and donate blood! Thank you!



Reducing Falls in Winter

It's winter in Minnesota and that means snow, ice and often an increased concern and risk for falling.

Falling is a common problem as people age. 1 in 3 adults over the age of 65 fall each year and that number increases to 1 in 2 adults over the age of 80. Approximately 3 million injuries related to falls are treated in emergency rooms each year with over 800,000 hospitalizations.

Falling is not an inevitable part of aging, however. By planning ahead and using a few strategies and resources, the risk for falls and subsequent injury and/or loss of independence can be avoided.

Below are some tips for staying safe when walking on snow or ice.

- ✦ **Plan ahead.** Give yourself sufficient time and plan your route.
- ✦ **Wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice.** Avoid smooth plastic and leather soles. Footwear should have visible treads and a flat bottom. Consider adding an abrasive sole or cleats to your shoes for added traction when walking on snow and ice—but remember to remove the cleats when entering buildings.
- ✦ **Walk on designated walkways as much as possible.** Avoid taking shortcuts over snowbanks.
- ✦ **Use special care when entering or exiting vehicles or buildings,** or when climbing up or downstairs. Move slowly, use guardrails when available, and shake off excess water or snow from shoes when entering buildings.
- ✦ **Anticipate ice.** Be aware of thin sheets of ice that may appear as wet pavement.
- ✦ **Walk safely.** To walk on ice, you need to shift your center of gravity over your front leg. Bend slightly forward and walk flat-footed. Keep your hands out of your pockets and take short steps or shuffle for stability. An animal that has figured this out is a penguin. So think: Walk like a penguin!

Information from Juniper



Christmas At Our House

For most of us, the Christmas Holiday is something we look forward to with great anticipation. A time to be with loved ones. A time to exchange gifts. A time to sing carols. A time to give thanks.

For some, however, Christmas may represent an entirely different picture.

A time of hopelessness. A time of loneliness. A time of despair.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful Christmas gift to be able to ease such burdens?

This is why First Lutheran has decided to have CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE. Indeed, on Christmas Day, we will invite the lonely & less fortunate members of our community to our church for Christmas Dinner.

For the LORD has said that he who serves the least of these, serves me.

In order to host this event, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

If you are willing to participate, please complete the following & place in the offering plate or send to the church office.



YES!! I want to make CHRISTMAS AT OUR HOUSE a reality.

I will do the following (check all that apply):

_____ Participate on the planning committee

_____ Contribute a cash gift of \$ _____

_____ Participate in serving on Christmas Day – please sign up at Volunteer Table

NAME _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

Help us reach beyond our walls.

THANK YOU!!!



JUBILATE CHOIR
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 11
at 8:30 and 10:45 Worship Services



Youth & Family Ministry

By Emma Duncan, Youth & Family Ministry Director

Important Dates and INFORMATION

- * **December 17th** Christmas Program Rehearsal from 9 AM to 11 AM
- * **December 18th** Christmas Program at 10:45 Service. Have the kids to the Rec Room at 9:30 AM
- * **December 21st** Family Holly Jolly Holiday Party from 5 PM to 7 PM! We will have food, games, contests and all sorts of Christmas Fun!

****Christmas Break****

Starts December 19, but we encourage families to attend worship services and our Holiday Party offered during break.

- * **January 11th** First Wednesday School, Confirmation Class, Oasis and Wednesday Worship after Break
- * **January 15th** First Sunday School after Break



I will be starting Maternity Leave in early January, and I plan to be gone until mid-March. During this time, the staff at FLC will be able to answer questions about Youth and Family Ministry on my behalf. Any teachers, small group leaders and members of the youth or children's teams should also be great resources for any questions you may have. If there are questions you have for me specifically, please reach out to me by the end of the calendar year. Once baby has arrived, I will not be answering texts or emails that are work related. Thank you for your understanding.

CHRISTMAS DECOR TAKE-DOWN

A huge thank you to everyone who showed up to help make our church ready to celebrate the Advent season. We were truly thankful for the great turn out.

We will enjoy the decorations thru Advent and the 12 days of Christmas and then take them down on Saturday, January 7th. We will begin at 9:00 AM. If you have a little time to spare that morning, we'd love to see you.

-Jeannie and Shan

TURKEY BINGO 2022

Thank you for all who attended! It was very successful and fun!





Advent Mini-Concerts 2022

First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN

Concerts are Wednesdays from 12:05 PM to 12:35 PM

Concerts are free of charge and open to the public.

Soup & sandwich lunch with free will offering is available following each concert.

Concerts can also be watched via the live stream at www.firstlutheranchurch.com.

Mini-Concert Lineup

Wednesday, November 30

Tim Eggebraaten

Music & Inspiration

Wednesday, December 7

Rich Johnson—Saxophone Soloist

Emma Duncan—Vocal Soloist

Both accompanied by Karen Bimberg

Wednesday, December 14

Alleluia Ringers

First Lutheran Church Bell Choir

Directed by Carla Hanson

Flute Soloist—Peggy Hammerling

Wednesday, December 21

Heart O' Lakes Barbershop Chorus

Flutes and Keys

Dotz Johnson, Carol Turner, & Connie Wood

(continued from page 2)

- **Christmas Eve Services—December 24th**
 - 3:30 p.m. | Contemporary Service for the Nativity of Our Lord
 - 5:00 p.m. | Contemporary Service for the Nativity of Our Lord
 - 7:00 p.m. | Traditional Christmas Eve Service (**candlelight**)
- **Christmas Day ALL-CHURCH Worship Service:**
 - When: December 25th @ 10:45 a.m.
 - Where: FLC Sanctuary
 - What: A single Christmas Day service for all our various worshipping communities to attend together
- **Christmas At Our House:**
 - When: December 25th @ 11:00 a.m.
 - Where: FLC Dining Room (**meals also available for delivery**)
 - What: A ministry event that provides a warm Christmas meal for folks who may be alone, in need, or for folks who have to work Christmas Day

Be easy on yourselves this season - you can't do it all! – but, hopefully there is something on the list above that can help you connect faithfully to the Advent season and the Christmas story. Fellowship, meals, service, music, and worship opportunities abound. It wasn't so long ago that we were unable to gather to do any of the above. I do not take that list above for granted, and I give thanks for the congregational life we have this December.

Come, let us adore Him, Pastor Joe

The Link

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

The Christmas Tea is December 3 at 10 AM. I hope many of you have signed up to attend. It will be a program of fellowship, singing and a catered breakfast brunch. All are welcome.

Thank you to all who donated blankets! What a great response! They were given to the Crisis Center, Becker County Food Pantry, the fire victim advocate, and some were kept at First Lutheran Church for homeless if needed.

Thank Offering for 2022 was \$535.00 and sent to Churchwide in Chicago.

Circle books for 2023 will be available at the December Circle Meetings. We thank Ardys Horner for all her hard work to put these together.

The Christmas Sweets Sale is December 18 between services. Come see what “sweets” will be available for free will offering. This event is WELCA Fund Raises for the year. Thank you to everyone who donates goodies and those who buy items to sell.

LWR Kits are scheduled to be in Wadena the first week in December to be put on a Polman truck which will transport them to the warehouse in Minneapolis. Quilts, 64 school kits and 10 baby care kits are being sent. Thank you to Wayne Benson for delivering them.

Thinking of joining a circle? A new Bible Study will be starting expanding on the 10 Commandments.

Upcoming Events:

- Christmas Tea—December 3 at 10 AM in the Church Dining Room
- Ruth Circle Potluck (including Rachel & Rebekah Circles) - December 8 at 11:30 AM
- Co-Council Meeting—December 9 at 10:00 AM

This is my last Link as I have resigned as of December 31. It has been a privilege to serve for many years, the support from the women. We have had interesting programs and bus trips, but it is time for new leadership with younger people who have new ideas.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday.

Peace and Love,
Norma Smith



SWEET TREATS!

First Lutheran Women are holding the 2nd annual SWEET TREAT event between services on Sunday, December 18th. Just in time for holiday get-togethers! If you cook or bake, please consider making a little extra to share for this event. You can also purchase some of your favorite treats for you, your family and friends. Bring plates or containers of goodies by 8:30 AM the day of the event. They can also be dropped off Saturday, December 17th between 10:00 AM and noon (call 218-234-1451 Saturday morning if you need the door opened). Thank you to all! This event benefits several local program supported by the WFLC.

mark  your **Calendar**

**Ruth Circle will meet
Thursday, December 8 at
11:30 a.m. in the FLC
Dining Room – this will
be a potluck event.**



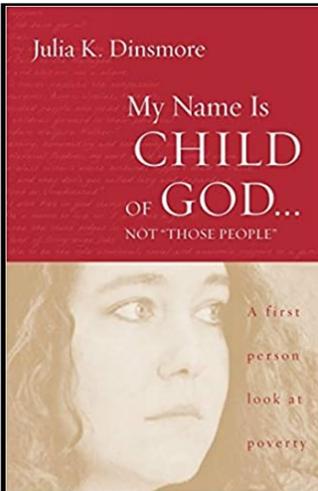
WFLC CHRISTMAS TEA

We are happy to announce that the Christmas Tea is coming back to FLC!

This fun event will be held on Saturday, December 3 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a catered brunch served, this will be a free will offering meal and there will be a sign up sheet in the office.

Our entertainment will be a musical program by Curt Erickson & Kim Softing followed by them leading us in Christmas Carols accompanied by guitar and keyboard.

All are invited for fun, food and fellowship! Men are welcome also!



FLC LIBRARY UPDATE

This personal and provocative look at poverty in America is shaped around the author's own engaging stories, song lyrics, and poems, including the well-known "Call Me Child of God ... Not Those People." The story of her growing up in a large Irish Catholic working-class family in Minneapolis, Minnesota, draws together the experiences of living in poverty, the role of the church and music in her life, and the many remarkable people who populated her life and the lives of her family. The author describes economic hardship and social challenges as being as "regular as the turning seasons in my coming up years," and refers to her life in poverty as the "soil of my art." Through her stories and reflections, Julia Dinsmore puts a face on poverty and challenges readers to answer God's call to respond to poverty and its effects.



End-of-year gifts must be received at the church office by Wednesday, December 28 to be recorded in your 2022 generosity statement. Online gifts may be made until December 31. If you have questions, please contact Paul at the church office.



For Give to the Max Day we raised \$375 for the Agape Fund.

To put that into perspective, we raised enough money to provide

- 4 nights of emergency shelter
- 20 people with driver's licenses so they can get jobs or cash checks
- 75 warm meals to our hungry neighbors
- 15 gas cards to help folks get to jobs or appointments
- 19 bus tickets to get folks into supportive services at Churches United

Thank you to the generous and loving folks of FLC!



Nativity Stories: A Bible Study

Pastor Joe will be leading an Advent Bible Study at 11 AM Wednesdays, December 7, 14, and 21. The study will focus on the three Christmas proclamations from the Gospels . . . Matthew's nativity accounts, Luke's nativity accounts, and John's proclamation of the "word made flesh". Important differences and similarities between the three proclamations will be explored. Perfect timing . . . attend the Bible study at 11 AM, the Advent Mini-Concerts at 12 noon, and enjoy fellowship around the soup and sandwich lunch at 12:30 PM. Please contact the church office to sign up or for additional information.



A note written by FLC member Tom Harper.

On Thanksgiving someone is bound to ask you what you are thankful for. In the past I always had trouble thinking of anything past good health and good friends. While this year I am still thankful for them, I am also thankful for a dead pickup battery and snow. Now a dead battery and snow is not that unusual in Minnesota. Being thankful for them is. Everybody in Minnesota has seen snow and almost everybody who drives a car here has either had a dead battery, seen one, or knows someone who has had one. Why would someone be thankful for a dead battery and snow?

Late last spring I started a part time job working for the county highway department for the county our cabin is in and moved to the cabin for the summer. I did some spring cleaning, rearranged some furniture so I could set up my computer as I need that for work, and generally put winter things away and got ready for summer. The snow shovel went back to the shed, the sorrel boots went up on the shelf in the entry, the dock got rolled in and other preparations for summer were made.

That evening I noticed that I couldn't find my hearing aids. I knew that they were in their case but couldn't remember where I had set them. I looked in the drawer where I used to place them. I looked in the new drawer that I planned to place them in. I looked in other places then decided that maybe I left them at home and would look for them there. They weren't there.

I made it through the season by turning the volume up on the TV or radio when I was alone and by saying "What?" a lot. This fall my wife had enough of it and told me I needed to buy another pair or find mine. I tore out magazine ads for some of the new cheaper hearing assist devices. Our health insurance pays nothing toward hearing aids, and I didn't feel like paying thousands of dollars again. I started looking up the different brands on the internet. I almost decided on what to order earlier this week, but I procrastinate a bit.

I went to the cabin on Wednesday as I had a dental appointment nearby on Thursday morning. I looked everywhere for those hearing aids. I opened every drawer; I looked under any clothes or blankets anywhere. I looked through the kitchen junk drawer and found some stuff I wasn't looking for. But no luck finding the hearing aids. This is worse than the spring when I couldn't find the canoe that I'd forgotten we had stored in the neighbor's garage. Might as well start the pickup and take it for a drive to keep it running. The ignition didn't even click when I turned it. Right then I wished that I had put a battery tender on it before I left in September and I didn't feel very thankful.

I woke up in the middle of the night and remembered that we had a battery charger in the shed. Of course, after that I didn't sleep well the rest of the night. Once it got light and after breakfast, I got ready to go to the shed to get the charger. The snow was deep enough that I decided to get my boots down from the shelf and wear them. I couldn't get one foot in as there was a little box in the boot blocking my foot. I reached in and lo and behold. My hearing aids!

Suddenly, I was thankful for a dead battery and Minnesota snow. Without a dead battery I would not have needed the charger. Without the snow I wouldn't have gotten my boots. Without the boots I would have purchased some new, certainly lesser quality hearing aids, and without the charger the pickup wouldn't have started after I returned from the dentist.

Now I am not a biblical scholar, but my shortened and paraphrased memory reminded me that we are told to give thanks in all things. Sounds like something Paul would say in one of his letters. So I looked it up and Paul did write that in his first letter to the Thessalonians, chapter 5, verses 16-18. He wrote "¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray continually, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This showed me that although I wasn't thankful for the dead battery at first, in the end it turned out good and I was thankful for a dead battery and snow.

Things will confront us in life that at first appear to be a barrier, and there are those among us who don't have a battery charger in the shed ready to go. Those of us with more than others are put here on earth to support them with our battery chargers or jumper cables, and when they feel run down and need recharging, be there to recharge them, support them and give them the power, strength, and faith to go on. Happy Thanksgiving.



A family-related question: Who will you ask when there are no family members left to ask?

Adults have stories to tell and pictures to share . . . why not capture those in hard copy and then be able to hand them down from generation to generation. Let's play with this idea and discuss some strategies for capturing "their" stories and pictures. This might be a perfect legacy gift

idea for that older generation. Session scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 9:30 to 10:30 AM. Discussion facilitated by Terry Kemmer.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE

Save the date... Saturday, December 10th!



This is a super FUN and REWARDING ministry that provides a perfect way to show love to children from our church & community AND to interact and get to know one another better!

The revamped, post-pandemic Christmas Store served our community well last year so we're moving ahead with a 'new normal'! Two new procedures that will continue to be implemented this year are:

- 1) **Children will pre-register** for a specific one-hour shopping time; ten children at a time with time slots overlapping by a half hour, i.e. (10 children 9:00 - 10:00, 10 children 9:30 - 10:30, 10 children 10:00 - 11:00 and so on. The last time slot is 2:30 - 3:30 unless we find we need to add more).
- 2) **Locations** - gifts will be in the Rec Room, wrapping happens in the Dining Room and the Youth Room will be set up to accommodate families who stay while children shop.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE by helping with:

Nurturing the joy of giving!

- Set up - Thursday evening and/or Friday, during the day;
- Greeting - welcome and coordinate families and children as they arrive;
- Shopping - take a 3 hour shift, helping 3 children (1 in each one-hour time slot) do their shopping,
For example, the 9:00 to 12:00 shift would assist one child from 9:00 to 10:00, another from 10:00 to 11:00 and another from 11:00 to 12:00 and then be done. Someone else then takes over with the 12:00 to 3:00 shift and helps the next 3 children from 12:00 to 1:00, 1:00 to 2:00 and 2:00 to 3:00)
- Wrapping - it takes a while to wrap & bag all those gifts! Extra help is needed to get it done in their hour;
- Reset - return the church to it's original glory, ready for worship on Sunday. 😊

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? - last year 97 children shopped and bought over 700 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.





MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: Mavis Bakken

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

In Memory of: Sherman Johnson

Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

Given by: Don & Norma Smith

Given by: Duane & Connie Galbreath

Given by: Terry & Sandi Kemmer

Given by: Barb Johnson

In Memory of: A.G. "Mike" Mickelson

Given by: Robert & Patricia Rheault

In Honor of: Susie Reitmeier

Given by: Lynn & Beve Hummel

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Dewey Fingalson

Given by: Carl & Janice Fingalson

Given by: Fern Brown

Given by: Dolly Tovson

Given by: Karen Bimberg

Given by: Matthew Carrier

Given by: Donna & Kaj Moenck

Given by: Dan & Sue Berg

Given by: Donley & Barbara Fingalson

Given by: Lynn & Bev Hummel

LIBRARY FUND

In Memory of: Sherman Johnson

Given by: Jonna & Gary Goreham

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: Steve Suter

Given by: Fern Brown

In Memory of: Undesignated

Given by: Elyda Handegard

In Memory of: Pat Magnusson

Given by: Sonja Lillquist

In Memory of: Susan Malone

Given by: Laurie Fong

RADIO FUND

In Memory of: John Hoeglund

Given by: Judith Hoeglund

In Memory of: Delroy "Pete" Magnusson

Given by: Fern Brown

In Memory of: Patsy Lee Sumner

Given by: Debbie Disse

Given by: Doris Lehmann

Given by: Janice Mickelson

Given by: Hazel Riseberg

Given by: Judie Risberg

Given by: Dorothy Haverkamp

Given by: Natalie Bellefeuille

Given by: Ingrid Hegg

Given by: Fred & Palma Wright

Given by: Maxine Ballard

Given by: Kevin & Janna Ballard

Given by: Everett & Deb Ballard

Given by: Douglas Sumner

Given by: Tim & Pamela Sumner

Given by: Beverly Olander

Given by: Vicky Haverkamp

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: Pete Mathison

Given by: Henrietta Malchow

In Memory of: Mary Nordmark

Given by: Harriet Barrett

WFLC FUND

In Memory of: Mary Nordmark

Given by: Fern Brown

WORLD HUNGER FUND

In Memory of: Arvin Halvorson

Given by: Janet & Jef Legro

YOUTH FUND

In Memory of: Dewey Fingalson

Given by: Dan & Sue Berg

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

December Leader: Joyce Klyve

Benjamin Aastuen
Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson
Robert & Bonnie Bekkerus
Cheryl Brehm
Brady & Jennifer Burnside
Chad & Kristen Carlblom
Susan Christensen
Michael & Gayle Damlo
Dana & Julie Fagerlie
Nathan & Joy Fetting
Frederick Floan
Sally Ziegler-Sletto
Eric (Rick) & Barbara Floding

Jon & Belinda Freeman
Dick & Barb Groth
Chad Hagen
Haley & Mel Johnson
Tallack & Janice Johnson
Thomas & Joyce Klyve
Michael & Diane Kuehne
Brooks & Lisa Larson
Mark & RoxAnn Lindquist
Gayle Mostad
Mary Nordmark
Benjamin & Heidi Olson

Mason & Sara Pender
Susan & Steven Quam
Debra Rethwisch
Paul & Jill Schramel
Amanda Schrupp
Brian & Sara Shepard
Trevor & Gretchen Thilmony
Mary Waalen
Lowell Wenberg
Joy Wheeler
William & Holly Wheeler
Warren & Kristen Whitworth

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!!



January Leader: **NEEDED**

Kurt & Debra Anderson
Linda Atkins
Daniel & Sandra Berg
Rodney & Carolyn Boyer
Marlys Brahmer
Delores Buck
Gail Colby
David & Doreen Faller
Robb & Laura Flint
Connie Goff
Naomi Goral
Gary & Jonna Goreham
Connie Graber
Terry & Lisa Hamar
Thomas & Susan Harper
Dorothy Haverkamp
Mark & Linda Haverkamp

Ardis Hegna
Dan & Donna Holm
Matthew & Angela Horner
Janice Jarboe
Jessica Jensen
Mark Jensen
Wayne & Candace Johnson
Matt & Jodie Johnson
Michael & Darcy Johnson
Richard Johnson
Jodi Thompson
Paul Kellerhuis
Bradley & Virginia Klein
Lynnea Linquist
Donna Miller
Nathan & Alissa Mork

Edward & Amanda Musielewicz
Nathan & McKenzie Olson
Darrell Bauder & Ruth Olson
Judy Risberg
Sharon Schanilec
Jeffrey & Michele Sliper
Madalyn Sukke
Amanda Swanson
Kristin Swenson
Judd Syverson
Terri & Gary Thunstrom
Lorraine Tyberg
Jay & Erin Volden
William Wegscheid
Cheri Willette
Kent & Kellie Wolf

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.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Service</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship	28 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare, Library	29 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	30 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 12:30p Advent Concert & Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	1 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	2 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	3 10:00a WFLC Christmas Tea
4 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Adult Faith Form, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh.	5 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare Group, Library	6 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan 2:00p Rachel Circle, Lounge 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	7 Wednesday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Oak Crossing Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Nativity Bible Study 12:00p Advent Concerts & Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Building & Grounds Mtg 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	8 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 1:30p Ruth Circle, Din Rm 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	9 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	10 <i>Children's Christmas Store 10a to 3p sign up online</i>
11 Sunday Schedule <i>Christmas Cantata</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh 4:00p Community Band Concert	12 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare Group, Library	13 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Cir, CR 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan 2:00p Linc Park/Winchester Wor. 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	14 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:30a Pelican Landing Devos 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Nativity Bible Study 12:00a Advent Concerts & Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	15 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	16 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	17 9:00a Children's Xmas Program Rehearsal
18 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> WFLC Xmas Treat Sale Children's Xmas Program 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:30p Lakes Area Chorale Reh 4:00p Holly Jolly Holiday Con.	19 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare, Library	20 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 6:00p NA Meeting, Library 6:30p Creation Care Team Mtg	21 NO OASIS or WORSHIP 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 10:00a Ecumen Worship 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Nativity Bible Study 12:00a Advent Concerts & Meal 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	22 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	23 12:00p AA, Library 12:00p Prayer Team, Chapel 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	24 Christmas Eve 3:30p Contemporary Service 5:00p Contemporary Service 7:00p Candlelight Service
25 Christmas Day 10:45a Christmas Day Worship	26 Church Office Closed 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm 6:30p GriefShare, Library	27 Church Office Closed 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan 5:00p Crisis Center Mtg, Zoom 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 6:00p NA Meeting, Library	28 No Oasis or Worship Instead, join us for the Family Holiday Party 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 2:00p Office Staff Mtg 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Family Holiday Party 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Practice 7:15p Jubilate Choir Practice	29 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 2:00p Tai Ji Quan	30 Church Office Closed 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	31



The First Messenger

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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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Secretary: Deanne Udby
Treasurer: Tom Neuenfeldt

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Todd Gaard, Cathy Weisenburger, & Tanner Duncan

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President-Elect: Les Perry
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Don Busker, Ted Heisserer & Pam Orth

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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.**