

The First Messenger



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Children's Christmas Program.....	December	10 th
Christmas Cantata	December	17 th
WFLC Treat Sale	December	17 th

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December 2023

Issue 12



NOISY OFFERING TOTALS

In October, the total Noisy Offering collected was \$701.53 and was donated to the "Hope for the Holidays" program, led by the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. WOW and THANK YOU, FLC.

Check back next month for total from the November Noisy Offering going to Feed My Starving Children.

In the month of December FLC will collect noisy offering for the FLC Agape Fund. This fund is used to help our homeless guests who come into the church with needs including rental assistance, short term hotel stays, bus tickets, food vouchers, clothing vouchers and more!

What's Inside?

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Eve Services

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

All worship services will also be available online via live stream.
There will be NO Sunday morning worship services on Christmas Eve.
There will be NO worship service on Christmas Day.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, December 25
Tuesday, December 26
Wednesday, December 27
Monday, January 1

PASTOR JOE'S UPDATE

Update from Lead Pastor Joe Skogmo

Call Committee Update:

As was mentioned in the November Newsletter, our Call Committee – which is a team that does the work of finding our next Associate Pastor – has been established and authorized by the Vision Council as of the end of October!

The Committee is made up of 10 members (9 voting, and the chair is *ex officio*/non-voting). These 10 members are well representative of our various ministries, worshipping communities, and intergenerational makeup. The committee had their first meeting on Sunday, November 12th with a staff member from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod to offer them orientation on the road ahead.

Furthermore, the Call Committee has now also worked with the FLC Vision Council to discern what type of Associate Pastor we are looking for (skillset, job description, experience, etc.) and they are now prepared to begin drafting FLC's *Ministry Site Profile (MSP)*– which is effectively our resume for prospective pastors to gain understanding on who FLC is and where we think God is calling us. Once that *MSP* is completed and submitted to the synod, the committee will wait to start receiving candidates to consider for interviewing.

Please keep the Call Committee and Vision Council in your prayers as they endeavor in such critical work on behalf of our community. On ahead we go!

Vice Pastor Update:

Also mentioned in our November Newsletter: in the immediate interim before we call our next Associate Pastor, we were seeking what is called a 'Vice Pastor.' A Vice Pastor contracts for specific pastoral services. In our case, we were looking for someone to provide occasional preaching supply and worship leadership, someone to provide supplemental and backup pastor care, as well as emergency backup for funeral presiding should I be unable due to illness or travel.

I am delighted to announce that we have found our Vice Pastor! Our very own FLC member, Dr. Roy Hammerling has agreed to vice pastoral services here at FLC. So, in these months ahead Pastor Roy will provide occasional preaching and worship leadership, pastoral care, and possibly preside at funerals in my absence.

I am profoundly thankful for Pr. Roy's willingness to help us out in this way. He has a wealth of pastoral and congregational experience, and he is such a warm and compassionate presence for us. Please check out his bio in this newsletter! We are enormously blessed to receive him as our Vice Pastor in this interim period.



Greetings. For the past thirty years I've had the pleasure of being a member of the Concordia College Religion Department. My area of specialty is the History of Spirituality. I received my PhD from the University of Notre Dame. Before that I was an ELCA pastor in Williston North Dakota. My MDiv is from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. I grew up the son of Volga-German (German-Russian) immigrants spending my youth in a small farming community called Odessa, Washington, not too far from Holden Village and Pacific Lutheran University where I earned my undergraduate degree and met my wife, Peggy. We have three children Jeremiah (a filmmaker in LA); Rachel (a nurse in Portland, Oregon – she is the mother of our three grandsons); and Josh (a winemaker in Berkeley). Our rescue dog, Mona, is a new addition to our family. We recently joined FLC Detroit Lakes after we moved here permanently following my retirement from Concordia. We've really enjoyed being a part of FLC and I look forward to getting to know you all better.

With all that, a final note: I am so grateful to now enter the Advent and Christmas seasons with you all. This is such an emotional time of year – both highs and lows – and that is what makes gatherings for worship and festivities during this time so sacred and meaningful, especially as we wait expectantly to celebrate the birth of the Light of the World. I am looking forward to ushering it all in with all of you.

Advent blessings and Christmas peace to you and yours, and God bless you all. – Pr. Joe

PRESIDENT'S POST

Update from Vision Council President Gail Colby



Merry Christmas First Lutheran Church!

The busy holiday season is underway! Along with all our regular business we have all the Christmas activities, concerts, serving and celebrating. I would like to give you quick update on the Call Committee: By the time you read this, they are either in the process of finishing their orientation from the Synod, or have finished it and are in the process of accepting candidates. It is moving along and I ask that you continue your prayers for this process.

Christmas is full of so many things that seem like they don't have anything to do with Christmas that it can be hard to maintain our focus on celebrating the birth of our Savior. There are a lot of non-Christians that celebrate Christmas also. Pew Research Center's new survey reports that two thirds of Christians say Christmas is a religious holiday while non-Christians say it is a "cultural event". So what are the non-Christian's doing to celebrate Christmas? Well, it turns out they decorate a Christmas tree, give gifts, spend time with family and eat big meals together. They sing Christmas carols, read holiday books, do holiday baking, give charitable donations and do volunteering. So they do a lot of the same things I do. I'm not sure if they read the story of Jesus. I'm not sure if they sing Christmas carols about Jesus or if it's just "Grandma got run over by a reindeer." The main difference is no nativity scene and they don't go to a worship service.

So what are we going to do with all these non-Christians celebrating Christmas? Is this okay?!

Well, we might follow the example of Muhammad, a Muslim teacher that Dr. Roy Hammerling met in Pakistan in the Wasir Kahn Mosque. Dr. Hammerling describes in his book, *Speaking of Religion*, how he found himself in a very uncomfortable situation being the only English-speaking American Christian there amongst all the Muslims that had come to pray at the mosque. Muhammad embraced him, called him a brother and invited him to pray along side him as a Christian because they were both believers. He taught him the ritual washing and showed him inclusiveness, grace and love. He introduced him to his students and wanted them to get to know him.

I hate to admit it but Muhammad has made me feel a little bit ashamed of myself. Instead of wondering why someone doesn't worship at a Christmas service, I think this year I will make a legitimate effort to actually invite someone. They might decline. They might change their mind later. If not, keep celebrating our Christian Christmas with the non-Christians in whichever way we can. The Holy Spirit works in amazing ways and I think Muhammad showed us that. Let's focus on inclusiveness and love. Love can break down so many walls no matter how different we may be. I'm going to put out my Nativity Scene. I'm going to eat some Lefse and maybe some Spritz cookies. I'm going to hug and kiss my grandkids, which is easy! But I challenge you all to show some love this Christmas season to someone who needs it. Merry Christmas!

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

Thank You, Thank You, THANK YOU!



- We had 56 unique donors.
- The median donation was \$100.
- We won 1 golden ticket worth \$500.
- Our online campaign raised \$4,780.

The total amount we raised was \$16,536!



The WFLC are collecting items to make blessing bags for the homeless. A list of needed items can be found on the volunteer table. Any donations can be placed in the designated collection bin.



Parish Health

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

Give The Gift of Life!

FLC Blood Drive December 27, 2023

7:30AM to 1:00PM

FLC Dining Room

Did you know someone in the U.S. needs blood every 2 seconds?! Blood is only useable for 42 days, so a constant supply is always needed, no matter the season. Currently, we are in an **URGENT NEED** for all blood types. Each donation can help multiple patients such as preemies, surgery patients, and cancer patients. Just think it could be someone you know and love. Please consider donating to help these patients in need. To schedule an appointment, go to donors.vitalant.org and use the blood drive code: detroitlakes or call Denise at 218-847-5656.

Hearing Loss

Do you have difficulty hearing during worship services? First Lutheran Church now offers wireless connections for people who use Phonak or Starkey brand hearing aids with Bluetooth capability. This will allow you to hear the service right in your hearing aids with no additional equipment. Requires a simple one-time activation. Please contact Denise or Cory at the church office for details

Did you know over 360 million people live with hearing loss?

We can keep our ears healthy. Following are some dos and don'ts.

Dos:

- In noisy places, make sure you are wearing hearing protection.
- Go to the doctor regularly and check your hearing.
- If you have prescribed hearing aids, make sure you are wearing them.
- See your doctor if you are having problems hearing.

Don'ts:

- Put cotton balls, sticks, pencils, or pens inside your ears.
- Swim or wash in dirty water.
- Listen to music too loudly.
- Share your earbuds or earphones with others.





Youth & Family Ministry

By Olivia Sauer, Youth & Family Ministry Director

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

3rd Grade Service Project

Last month our 3rd graders participated in a service project creating “Warm Heart Kits” with cold weather gear and specially mixed snacks for those experiencing homelessness in our community.



Turkey Bingo

For the past few years our YFM program has put on a turkey bingo fundraiser. This year we raised \$1,693.56 for the YFM program. Thank you to all who came out to support our youth ministries, and to my youth volunteers, we couldn't do it without you. I know that I personally had an amazing first experience and cannot wait till next year.



DECEMBER NEWS

Christmas Program

Combined Sunday/Wednesday kids last practice Dec 9th at 1 PM in the sanctuary
I want to extend a huge thank you to Kathy and Chelsea Larson who took on the challenge of directing our Christmas program this year. Please join us on Sunday, December 10th at 10:45 in the sanctuary to see all the hard work these kids have put in and to help celebrate this holiday season.

Birthday Boxes

On December 13th our Wednesday school kids will be making birthday boxes for Becker County Food Pantry in the fellowship hall. We are looking for donations of cake mix, frosting, cake pan, balloons, candles, streamers, a small toy, and wrapping paper. Donations for this service project can be brought to the church office and are due by Monday, December 11th.

LOOKING AHEAD

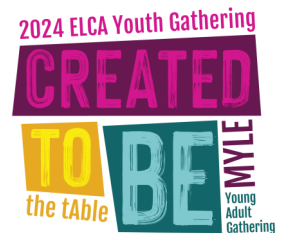
Service Project for 4th grade is January 17th who will be helping the elderly. For this project we will be making fleece tie blankets to be donated to local nursing homes.

Youth Gathering

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

This will be the first time since the pandemic that the gathering has been held. This also means that all the youth attending have never had the opportunity to go before. This year it is being held in New Orleans, July 16-20th. We have decided to partner with Trinity Lutheran and go as one group from Detroit Lakes. This helps cut down on cost and makes travel easier. On that note we currently have six wonderful youth from FLC signed up to go.

If you are currently in 9-12th grade and are interested in attending the gathering, please let Olivia know as we need registration in before December 1st.



There is no Sunday/Wednesday School starting December 17th and December 20th.
Classes will resume on January 7th and Jan 10th.

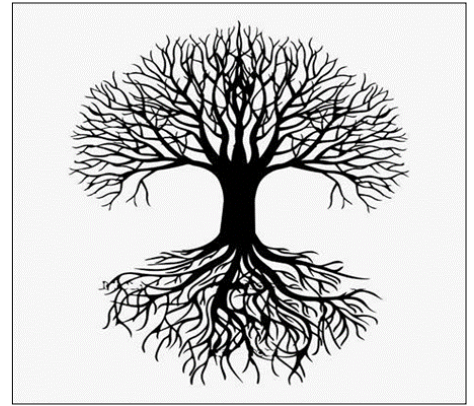
If you have any questions or concerns, or want more information feel free to contact Olivia

Email: olivia@firstlutheranchurch.com or Cell: 218-325-3953

Typically in Office M-Th 8:30 AM to 4 PM

What First Lutheran Church Has in Common with a Bur Oak Tree

When you get a chance, while walking in the woods sit down for a rest and consider a large Bur oak tree. Generally, the larger the trunk, the older the tree. Bur oaks commonly grow to be 200 to 300 years old, and may live up to 400 years. Even without all the leaves and acorns, the majestic structure of the trunk and branches is a wonder to behold. Consider that this amazing living thing has much in common with First Lutheran Church.



Just like a Bur oak, FLC has deep roots. The visible and living church we are today is supported by a firm and extensive foundation of shepherds and saints that have gone on before us. On All Saints Sunday, we remember a few of the many to which we are indebted. Just like the majestic old oak, the deep root system of First Lutheran Church allows us to survive the stresses of high temperatures, humidity, and subzero winters the world brings to bear.

Above ground, the thick bark of the oak trunk allows the tree to be fire-tolerant. The same can be said of FLC. Our liturgy of word and sacrament, tradition, teaching, and faith experiences allow us to endure the fires of the secular world raging around us. Without this thick, fire-tolerant exterior, we would be consumed by the outside influences trying to engulf us.

At the very center of our tree/church is Christ. Through Him all things grow and live.

The extensive branch system of the tree reminds us of the many and varied ministries contributing to the health of the living church. The major branches of our faith community include Adult Faith Formation Team; Altar Guild; AV Technology; Building and Grounds Team; Call Committee; Children's Advisory Team; Children's, Youth & Family Ministry; Christmas Store Volunteers; Counters; Creation Care Team; Decorating/Flower Team/Grounds Beautification Group; Homeless Ministry; Hospitality Team; Leadership Development; Library Organization & Care; LSS Respite Care; Music Ministries; Office Cover; Personnel Team; Prayer Team; Quilters, Sunday/Wednesday School Education Teams; Stewardship Team; Vacation Bible School Volunteers; Vision Council; Visitation Team; Wedding Coordinators; Women's Circles; Worship Assistants; and Youth Ministry Team.

Some may say all "the action" takes place via the smaller branches connected to the major branches. The upward growth, the leaf development, and the fruit production all occur because of the smaller branches. In our comparison, the smaller branches are the individuals (like YOU) who are connected to each of the ministries listed above. None of the larger branches would be able to support the life of the organism without the action of the smaller branches. None of the ministries of First Lutheran would be able to function without the individual volunteers stepping forward, taking initiative, and taking action.

Thank you to the many volunteers who contribute their talents and countless hours to the ministries at First Lutheran. Without you, our faith community would not be a healthy, living, amazing organism. You enable all "the action" to take place and the production of good fruit.

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (John 15:5-8)

FLC Stewardship Team



October 2023 Financial Snapshot

Actual Revenue*, Year to Date: \$211,310.53

Budget Revenue, Year to Date: \$222,571.00

Favorable/(Unfavorable): \$(11,260.47)

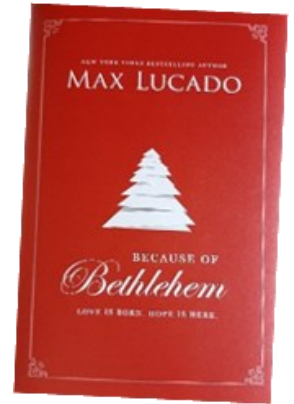
*unaudited

For more detailed information on expenses, we invite you to view our latest Vision Council meeting minutes on the church website, and/or talk to the church office about receiving a latest treasurer's report.

Join us for Advent Devotional Hour!

Maybe you could set aside that Christmas to-do list and relax at an Advent devotional hour during the three Wednesdays before Christmas. In conjunction with the Advent Mini-Concerts in December, the FLC Adult Faith Formation team invites you to participate in an Advent devotional hour at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 in the FLC library. The mini concerts start at 12:05 with a soup and sandwich luncheon following the concert.

Max Lucado's book, *Because of Bethlehem*, will be the focal point of each devotional hour. This book is an easy read and includes 136 pages that should help you "rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers lasting hope". The book is available in the church office for \$5 on a first come, first serve basis. At the end of the book, you will find a devotional guide for the four weeks of Advent as well as for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This guide can be easily adapted for your family's use and focuses on hope, peace, joy, and love as well as related scripture and questions for reflection.



Please join us during the Advent season as we prepare to remember and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Advent Mini-Concerts 2023

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.

Mini-Concert Lineup

WEDNESDAYS

December 6

Peggy Hammerling—Flute Soloist
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

Kathryn Larson – Vocal Soloist
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

December 13

Rich Johnson—Saxophone
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

Emma Duncan—Vocal Soloist
Karen Bimberg—Accompanist

December 20

Tim Eggebraaten
Soloist & Inspirational Speaker



WFLC Christmas Treat Sale Sunday, December 17



The Women of First Lutheran are again inviting your participation in this major event. There were so many wonderful treats shared last year! It funds many of the efforts we make, with our hands, hearts, and dollars, to stand with those in need in our community and the world. You can contribute by baking and sharing cherished family recipes, or by choosing to purchase your favorites for a free-will offering. The Sweet Sale will take place from 9:30 AM until noon on Sunday, December 17, just in time to stock up for holiday gatherings with friends and family. Items can be dropped off at the church from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, Saturday, December 16th. If you are unable to drop them off Saturday, you can bring them before the sale starts on Sunday morning. Thank you so much!



FLC ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree Project provides Christmas gifts for needy families to help them know the joy that the season brings. The tree is now up in the downstairs commons area. Take an angel from the tree, and make sure to note the angel you have in the registration book. Return the wrapped gifts under the tree with the angel attached by, Wednesday, December 20. Thank you to all who participate in the wonderful ministry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



WRAPPED SHOEBOXES NEEDED

We are looking for donations of shoeboxes (preferably pre-wrapped) for this year's Christmas Angel Tree Ministry. If you have any boxes to donate, please drop them off in the office by December, 20.



BENEFITS OF FUNERAL PREPLANNING SEMINAR

Sunday, December 3—9:30 AM and Noon
In the FLC Library

Denise Fett, Advance Funeral Planner for David-Donohewer and West-Kjos Funeral Home and Cremation Services, will be speaking on the benefits of advance planning. "Planning and funding your funeral may be one of the most considerate and caring things you can do for your family.



JUBILATE CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 17
at 8:30 and 10:45 Worship Services



Educational Historical Forum
Emmy Award Winning Documentary
“The Road to Little Rock”
Sunday, January 21
9:30 AM in the FLC Library

In recognition of Martin Luther King Day, Social Justice, and Social Injustice, the FLC Adult Faith Formation Team has invited Carl Oberholtzer to present an “Educational Historical Forum” in the FLC Library at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, January 21. Plan to attend this informative documentary – coffee and pastries will be provided!

Oberholtzer’s documentary, which he co-wrote and co-produced, is based on a Civil Rights Story, “The Road to Little Rock”, which tells of nine teenagers and one judge who demonstrated enduring positive human qualities of courage, honor, determination, and responsibility. The story begins in 1957 as nine African-American teenagers sought enrollment at an all-white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. In 1957 many school districts continued to ignore the 1954 US Supreme Court ruling of Brown vs Board of Education, which declared that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Viewers will witness the courage and determination demonstrated by the “Little Rock Nine” who sought to attend the high school of their choice.

Social Justice refers to the fair and equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society – fairness in healthcare, employment, housing, and more. In a Socially-Just society, human rights are respected, and discrimination is not allowed to flourish. Social Justice is also about ensuring that everyone has equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities.

Join Carl as he presents this Emmy Award Winning Documentary followed by a discussion linking the events which unfolded in 1957 with contemporary issues and challenges.

Educational Historical Forum
Award Winning Documentary
“The MISSION of Herman Stern”
Sunday, January 28
9:30 AM in the FLC Library



Come to the FLC Library Sunday, January 28 at 9:30 AM and join Carl Oberholtzer as he presents the documentary, “The MISSION of Herman Stern”. Coffee and pastries will be provide

“The MISSION of Herman Stern” tells the story of an amazing individual who, from his clothing store in Valley City, North Dakota, saved the lives of 125 German Jews. These individuals would have faced persecution and death at the hands of the Nazi government in Germany if they had not found refuge in the United States.

Many of us have heroes in our lives: family members, mentors, teachers, coaches, neighbors, sports figures . . . each of us has our own criteria for what constitutes heroic action. “The MISSION of Howard Stern” provides a glimpse into what the activities of a true hero from North Dakota look like.

Join Carl as he presents this Award Winning Documentary followed by a discussion linking the events which unfolded during the 1930s with contemporary issues and challenges.

PIECEMAKERS

Submitted by Deb Ormseth

The featured quilt this month is a scrap quilt which measures 60"x80". As you can see, the squares are set in an alternate light and dark pattern. Many different lights and many different darks are used appearing to be this quilters way to use the last bits and pieces of various fabrics. Waste not – want not!

Each time the quilt top was out for the next step in its making, someone would ask: "How many pieces do you think are in this quilt?" Here's the answer: There are 35 rows of 48 squares which equals 1,680 pieces. That's a lot of work and a lot of scraps. As any avid quilter knows, scraps like dust bunnies, multiply in the dark. The person who pieced the quilt top probably has a more.

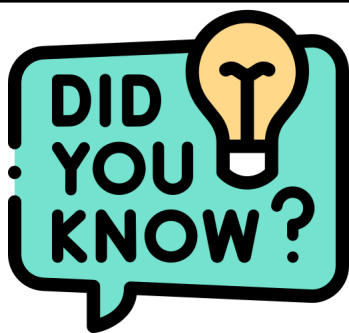
One photo shows the whole quilt. The second is a closeup which shows a few squares and a portion of the border and binding. The black edge to the right is the binding. The white strip between the binding and the reddish border is called a flange. It adds a nice pop to the edge of the quilt. Although the squares appear crooked in the photo, it is the way the quilt was held, and the angle at which the photo was taken.



As always, if you'd like a closer look, the quilt is on the railing at the top of the steps, and is for sale for \$75.00. The funds from any purchased quilts are used to buy batting and thread to make the quilts that go to Lutheran World Relief. (Another group of quilts will be shipped in December.) Funds may also be used to meet various requests within the church. Thank you to all who've made donations of any kind (time, fabric, notions, batting, purchase of quilts, setting up and taking down tables, and more) in 2023.

END OF YEAR GIVING STATEMENTS

Annual Generosity Statements will be processed the week of January 22. A paper version will be sent to all donors in 2023. If you have not received your statement by January 31, please contact Paul in the church office.



If you are about to or currently are taking distributions from your IRA, you can directly give your offering from your retirement account and possibly receive a tax benefit. Talk to your financial advisor about sending FLC a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA. This amount counts towards your RMD but you are not taxed on it! Discuss this with your tax and/or finance professional and then talk to Paul in the office about how to get started.

Mark your
Calendar!

End-of-year gifts must be received at the church office by Wednesday, December 27 to be recorded in your 2023 generosity statement. Online gifts may be made until December 31. If you have questions, please contact Paul at the church office.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE

Saturday, December 9
Time slots from 9 AM to 2:30 PM

During the Christmas season, there are families in our community for whom gift giving is a luxury. Parents may be able to provide a gift for their children, but also buying gifts for their children to **give** really adds up! The Children's Christmas Store provides the opportunity for kids to 'shop' for their family members at a price they *can* afford! At the Children's Christmas Store, all gifts are priced and sold for \$1.00. Each shopper will have a one-hour time slot to pick out, wrap and label their gifts. Shopping times run from 9 AM to 2:30 PM. You can go to firstlutheranchurch.com to sign up!



*Volunteers
Needed!*

We need MANY volunteers to help this ministry run smoothly. Volunteers are needed to help with setup, greeting, shopping (helping the kids pick out gifts), gift wrappers and then also a cleanup crew. Last year we were able to help 97 children shop and buy over 700 gifts! If you are able to help with this special ministry or have any questions, please sign up at the volunteer table at church or contact the church office!

LUNCH BREAK—Submitted by Patti Cummins

This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

I finally got to have my very social Oaklyn for the first time since she started kindergarten. She was telling me all about school, including lunch.

"We don't get to pick what we eat." Then her voice became very serious and emphatic. "And there's a problem. I think the teachers need help. They keep telling us to be quiet so they can hear the kids. Grandma - they need hearing aids just like you."

My little sweetheart misconstrued the teachers' messages. She retrieves my hearing aids for me when I've neglected to put them in and have trouble hearing her, so she naturally assumed that was the issue for the teachers as well. But the issue for the teachers was sorting through the chaff to hear the essential messages above all the din caused by many voices bouncing off the cafeteria walls.

I feel a little like the teachers during the run up to Christmas, which tries to break records for the earliest start each year. Black Friday is supposed to connote when retailers turn their red bottom line to black, but when I was young black meant something else, and I could not understand why people got up so early for a color that clearly signaled "mourning" to me.

Then came Small Business Saturday, stirring up compassion for individuals trying to make it on their own, and offering us the prospect of giving a highly "personalized" gift.

Finally (for now), Cyber Monday, offering the best deals and widest selections for that hard-to-buy-for person or anyone else we might have overlooked.

My inundated email box overflows with exciting offers from vendors known and unknown (and sometimes very questionable). There are so many holiday events inviting us to gather in celebration and community. And I need ask myself, do any of these clamoring voices draw me to that Silent Night when angels proclaimed the birth of God's son? When God poured out love beyond measure for all His people, giving us the ultimate gift who would show us how to truly love others?

This Christmas season will again be busy. But I am trying to be more discerning, choosing what will draw me, on bended knee, to the manger, and ultimately, to the cross.



Making Connections

The Sliper Family



Merry Christmas FLC! We are the Sliper family: Jeff, Michele, Jaycie, Justin and Jordyn. We started attending church at FLC in 2013 after moving to Detroit Lakes in the fall of 2012. We visited a few churches in town but chose FLC because after experiencing a few services FLC just felt like “home”. That’s probably the best way that I can describe the feeling I had when we attended a service here. It just felt comfortable and really reminded me of my church growing up in West Fargo, ND. Michele and I met at UND in 1999 and were married in 2005. We lived in Plymouth, MN until 2010 and then in Aitkin, MN from 2010-2012. After we moved into our house in DL I said, “that’s our last move until the kids are out of the house”. Eleven years later both Michele and I absolutely love our community. I definitely believe that it was God’s plan for us to go to church at FLC and raise our kids in Detroit Lakes.

I recently celebrated my 45th birthday (uffda!). I am a CRNA at Essentia health St. Mary’s. Outside of work I really enjoy coaching any sport that my kids are involved in. I am a member of the Rossman elementary PTO, serving as the PTO treasurer. I have also really come to enjoy leading the sixth-grade level of Wednesday School here at FLC for the last few years.

Michele is significantly younger than I am. She is a Grand Forks Red River high school and UND accounting alumna. After putting me through anesthesia school she decided to take some time off from work to relax and raise three children who were less than 4 years apart in age. Currently she works in the corporate headquarters for Lakelife Hospitality (aka Zorbaz).

Jaycie is our oldest child. She is currently a freshman at the high school. She has always liked to be busy. Sitting still is not something we see her do much. She participates in tennis, basketball, and golf throughout the school year. Prior to this year she was also a member of the Center Stage Dance Academy here in town. She also squeezed in 5 years of piano lessons throughout elementary school and early middle school.

Justin is our middle child and only son. He is in the eighth grade at the Middle School in DL. We love his sense of humor. From the time he was 18 months old he has constantly made Michele and I laugh out loud. He also a very active young man. He participates in football, basketball and golf. He also sings in the choir for the DL middle school and has 6 years of piano lessons under his belt.

Jordyn is our youngest child. She is in the fifth grade at Rossman elementary. As you might guess she is also very busy. She enjoys anything that she can compete in. She is always interested in racing anyone at anything ie. Running, biking, skiing. She also plays basketball and golf.

When we aren’t at a sporting event for our kids we enjoy traveling with friends, and throughout the summer head South to Otter Tail lake whenever we can fit it into our schedule. We love all the fantastic fellowship that we receive at FLC. We look forward to meeting many more of you.



**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 6th. We will begin at 9:00 AM. If you have a little time to spare that morning, we’d love to see you.



MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

AGAPE FUND

In Memory of: Doris Alverson
Given by: Tom & Phyllis Neuenfeldt

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of: Carolynn Blanding
Given by: Grace Dunham

FOUNDATION FUND

In Memory of: Jim Buchholz
Given by: Michael & Dianne Fillmore

In Memory of: Jack Waryan

Given by: Dolly Tovson

In Memory of: Marlene Brainard
Given by: Mary Lou Ladeen Anderson

In Honor of: Pr. Lauryl Ivers
Given by: Jean & Wayne Benson

GENERAL FUND

In Honor of: Pr. Lauryl Ivers
Given by: Dean & Sue Berg

In Memory of: Alton Johnson
Given by: Hazel Risberg

GIVE TO THE MAX FUND

In Memory of: Ann Skogmo Otteson
Given by: Anonymous

KITCHEN FUND

In Memory of: Tom Fritz
Given by: Pat Zurn

In Memory of: Doug Coen
Given by: Duane & Claudia Arne

MUSIC FUND

In Memory of: Jim Buchholz
Given by: Carol & David Moe
Given by: Darlene Olson

QUILTING FUND

In Memory of: Char Bergeron
Given by: Judy & John Gildersleeve
Given by: Bonnie Mohs

SOUND & TECH FUND

In Honor of: Pr. Lauryl Ivers
Given by: Delyle & Sandra Willprecht

UNDESIGNATED FUND

In Memory of: Jim Buchholz
Given by: Nora & Jenelle Johnson
Given by: Gene & Patricia Benson
Given by: David & Claudia Welte

Friendly reminder: when giving memorials to the FLC Foundation or FLC Quilters, please make separate checks.



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 15. 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.

'Action Corp' Monthly Hospitality Teams

December

Leader: Sue Harper

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 Linqvist
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
Theresa & Gary Thunstrom
Lorraine Tyberg
Jay & Erin Volden
William Wegscheid
Cheri Willette
Kent & Kellie Wolf

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: Joyce Klyve

Trent Bartells
Wayne & Jean Benson
Melissa & Ryan Brodsho
Jim & Cindy Brufloft
Cathy Buchholz
Charlie Cooper
Ronnie Dahlsad
Jeffrey Ehnert & Jessica Leu
Michael & Dianne Fillmore
Eugene & Eloyce Gaffney
Jaime & Steve Gunderson
Dan & Irene Hagen
James & LeeAnn Hagle

Howard & Carla Hansen
Lynne Hanson
Bruce & Jean Hein
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

Stanley & Jodi Ouren
Gene & Margaret Prechel
Lynnae Salvesson
Darcy & Jennifer Savig
David & Janine Schneider
Sandra Smith
Shanda Smith
Adam Steward
Melissa Halverson
Steven & Emma Swenson
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.

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Sunday Schedule <i>Healing Sunday</i> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30a Traditional Worship 10:45a Contemporary Worship 12:00p FLC Xmas Decorating	27 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	28 8:30a Quilters, Rec Rm 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec. Rm. 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm	29 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	30 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec Rm.	1 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	2
3 Sunday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Funeral Pre Plan, Library 10:45a Contemporary Worship	4 11:30a FLY Team Mtg, Lakeside 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	5 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec. Rm. 2:00p Rachel Circle, Con. Rm. 7:00p Theology on Tap	6 Wednesday Schedule <i>Communion</i> 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Advent Book Stdy, Library 12:05p Advent Mini Concert 12:35p Advent Lunch 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	7 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:00p Tai Ji Quan, Rec Rm	8 12:00p AA, Library 1:30p Xmas Store Setup 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	9 8:00a Christmas Store 1:00p Xmas Prog. Prac
10 Sunday Schedule <i>Children's Christmas Program</i> 8:30a Traditional Worship 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Dream Big Com. Mtg. CR 10:45a Contemporary Worship 4:00p Community Band Con	11 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	12 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 9:00a Rebekah Cir., Conf Rm 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 1:00p Tai Ji Quan 4:00p Sons of Norway, Din Rm	13 Wednesday Schedule 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Advent Book Stdy, Library 12:05p Advent Mini Concert 12:35p Advent Lunch 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 5:00p Oasis Meal 6:00p Worship 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 6:30p Wednesday School 6:30p Confirmation 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	14 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 11:30a Ruth Circle, Din Rm 1:00p Tai Ji Quan	15 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	16
17 Sunday Schedule <i>Christmas Cantata</i> <i>Communion</i> <i>Baptism: Jett Mollberg</i> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 8:30a Traditional Worship 8:30a WFLC Xmas Treat Sale 10:45a Contemporary Worship	18 5:00p Al Anon, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	19 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 1:00p Tai Ji Quan 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm 7:00p Creation Care Team Mtg 7:00p Theology on Tap	20 NO WORSHIP NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NO CONFIRMATION 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 11:00a YFM Meeting 11:00a Advent Book Stdy, Library 12:05p Advent Mini Concert 12:35p Advent Lunch 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	21 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg. 1:00p Tai Ji Quan	22 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE <i>NO Morning Services</i> <i>No Sunday School</i> 3:30p Contemporary Service 5:00p Contemporary Service 7:00p Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:30a Quilters, Rec Room 9:00a Office Staff Mtg 10:00a LSS Morning Out, Lib 5:30p Vision Council, Din Rm	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED NO OASIS NO WORSHIP NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL NO CONFIRMATION 6:30a Men's Bible Stdy, Hol. In. 7:30a Vitaliant Blood Drive 4:00p Father's Project 5:00p Worship Tm Reh. 6:15p Alleluia Ringers Prac. 7:15p Jubilate Choir Prac.	28 8:00a Women's Bible St, Lib 10:30a Business Manag. Mtg.	29 12:00p AA, Library 5:30p Tae Kwon Do, Rec Rm	30



The First Messenger

First Lutheran Church
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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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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.**