



Moment of Contact

First Lutheran Church
3939 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104
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February 2022 Contact

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January 26, 2022

Pastor's Message

Every congregation in the ELCA gathers in the new year to reflect on the past and to plan for the future. As we gather this month for our annual meeting on February 6th following worship, we will give thanks for another year of grace. Difficult as the past year has been for our congregation, gathering as we are able and as we feel comfortable, God continues to bless us with word and meal. Feeding us in body and soul during a time of unknowns.

Unknowns seem to be our a constant these days. Like the weather systems which look like rain and bring snow, or promise wind and instead it is still. Living with the unknowns of a pandemic which is ever changing, we continue to be unsettled. We long for consistency and normal, whatever that is in these challenging days.

The psalmist understood what it means to be fully human in the midst of the unknown. To wonder and watch, to wait and to hope. Whether lamenting or rejoicing, the psalmist cries out to God for comfort, help and light in our darkest days. What will the future hold, we do not know. What we do know is what the psalmist

knew, God is present with us in all times and in all circumstances. Being present to another is a gift beyond measure, a comfort in times of trouble, a solace in days of isolation and hardness, a beacon in the darkness.

It is so difficult to plan in these kinds of days. Shall we wait and see or shall we move forward. That is what we will discuss and envision as we meet and plan for our future. God allows us the freedom to envision our lives lived within his grace in this time and place. Sometimes that seems like a great burden, but what if instead we think of it as a tremendous opportunity for doing good. What would God have us do to serve our neighbor in need? What would God have us do to sing his praises? What would God have us do to gather in his name to care for one another? What would God have us do? Together we will pray, ask for wisdom and discernment for the coming of this hour. For all things are possible with the God whom we love and who loves us.

Pastor Kristine

COUNCIL ACTIONS

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, February 6, 2022**, following worship. All active members are encouraged to attend to hear from council representatives reports of the past year's programs and ministries.

The newly elected council which will begin their terms at the annual meeting on February 6th, will gather for a council retreat on **Friday, February 25 and Saturday, February 26**. The council will be installed during our worship service one Sunday in March.

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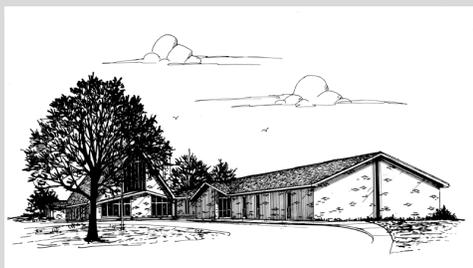
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SEASONAL WORSHIP: EPIPHANY

We continue with the season of Epiphany throughout February. Jesus is revealed as a leader when he calls his disciples to follow, leaving everything behind. Jesus is revealed as he teaches a multitude about discipleship in the beatitudes. Jesus is revealed when he addresses a crowd and invites his followers to a radical love. Who is this Jesus? On the last Sunday of February Jesus will be transfigured before three of his closest followers and what they witness and what we will witness will change our lives. Jesus is revealed and we are changed forever.

FAITH FORMATION CONFIRMATION

Our Wednesday evening programming continues in February as children, confirmands and their parents gather to study God's word. This winter we will look closely at the stories of Jesus. Who was he, what did he do, why did he do what he did! Jesus and his disciples provide us with stories of how to live as faithful people of God.

Our programming is on **Wednesday's at 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will continue to mask as we gather in order to keep safe all who wish to attend. As always, if Sioux City schools close due to bad weather, so do we!

Join us for stories, crafts and worship on Wednesdays this winter.

ADULT EDUCATION: Lectio Divina

On **Thursday afternoons at 1 pm**, join other inquiring minds as we study scripture together utilizing *Lectio Divina*. *Lectio Divina* is a traditional practice of reading scripture which includes reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. We will study a different passage from the Bible each week. There is no prior reading, you can join any week, consider joining us this winter, the coffee pot is on!



150 Acts of Kindness in 150 Days

On April 12, First Lutheran will be observing its 150th anniversary. As a part of this celebration, the Anniversary Committee is inviting the First Lutheran congregation to collectively, as a group, perform 150 Acts of Kindness in the next 150 days. Write a thank you note, take some cookies to someone who needs some cheering, lend a listening ear to someone who needs it, volunteer at the Food Pantry. Then write about your act of kindness (paper will be available in the pews and on the bulletin board that will be in the hallway across from the Fireside Room) and deposit the paper in the receptacle in the narthex. Some Acts of Kindness will be shared with the congregation. Let's leave a legacy of kindness as First Lutheran moves on to the next 150 years.

FLC Finance Update

Needed weekly per budget
\$5,442.31/for the month of
January \$27,211.55. As of
Jan. 26 income is \$34,394.60.



THANK YOU: Congregation Council 2021

To those who have faithfully served on the congregation council this year, we give thanks for your dedicated service to this congregation. Your willingness to make difficult decisions, to discern what would be best for this congregation and its ministries, to give of your time and your talent to share these gifts with us....we thank you. On behalf of a grateful congregation, you have made a significant difference in our lives.



First Lutheran Church Council Report, January 18, 2022

President:	Alison Hertenstein	Vice President:	Lori McClaren
Secretary:	Enola Peters	Worship & Music:	Chris Taylor
Faith Formation:	Julie Thiele	Youth:	Jenny Denne
Mission:	Candy Johnson	Pastor Kristine	
Operations:	Lee Knop		

The Council of First Lutheran Church met **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

The budget for 2022 was discussed and approved by the Council. The new budget included an increase in staffing expenses in anticipation of adding staff position(s). Budgets for Western Iowa Synod Benevolence, technology, maintenance, and utilities were also increased. The overall budget reflects anticipation of increased giving. Lori will present the budget at the annual meeting in February.

Recommendations from the Task Force regarding the Food Pantry were discussed. Decision was made to table plans to move the pantry to the current garage until people who work the pantry can be consulted. The 150th Anniversary Committee report was discussed.

Plans for the annual meeting, which will be held on Sunday, February 6, were discussed. It was decided that the meeting will be held following worship in the sanctuary due to Covid concerns. Meeting will also be live-streamed. A quorum of 40 participants is needed. Attendees will be offered lunch boxes from Jimmy John's as they leave the meeting. Congregants who plan to attend will be asked to RSVP in order to assure a quorum and to plan for the box lunches. Pastor will announce the need to RSVP during worship and in the Contact; several methods for responding will be available.



February 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Text Study 5:00-6:00 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	2 9-11:30 Food Pantry 1:00 WELCA in FR 5:45 FFC (Faithful Family Confirmation) in FH/CR	3 1:00 Bible Study in FR 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball	4 9:00 Quilters in FH 7:00 AA in FH	5 9:00 - 11:00 Pickleball in Gym
6 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/ Radio w/Holy Communion After Worship - Annual Mtg. in Sanctuary	7 Pastor on Vacation all Week Office Closed 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH	8 10:00 Text Study 5:00-6:00 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	9 9-11:30 Food Pantry 5:45 FFC (Faithful Family Confirmation) in FH/CR	10 1:00 Bible Study in FR 5:00 - 8:30 Joe & Enola Peters in FR 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	11 9:00 Quilters in FH 7:00 AA in FH	12 9:00 - 11:00 Pickleball in Gym
13 9:15 Choir in CR 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/ Radio w/Holy Communion	14  Pastor's Day Off Office Closed 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH	15 10:00 Text Study 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Kaia in Comm. Rm. 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	16 9-11:30 Food Pantry 5:45 FFC (Faithful Family Confirmation) in FH/CR	17 12:30 Rachel Circle 1:00 Bible Study in FR 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	18 9:00 Quilters in FH 7:00 AA in FH	19 9:00 - 11:00 Pickleball in Gym
20 9:15 Choir in CR 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/ Radio w/Holy Communion	21 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed Contact Deadline 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 6:30 Mary Circle in FR 7:00 Scouts in FH	22 10:00 Text Study 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	23 9-11:30 Food Pantry 5:45 FFC (Faithful Family Confirmation) in FH/CR 7:00 Faith Formation Comm. Mtg. in FH	24 1:00 Bible Study in FR 7:00 - 9:00 Pickleball in Gym	25 9:00 Quilters in FH 5:00 - 8:00 Council Retreat in FR 7:00 AA in FH	26 9:00 - 12:00 Council Retreat in FR 9:00 - 11:00 Pickleball in Gym
27 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/ Radio w/Holy Communion	28 Pastor's Day Off Office Closed 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH				Key CR = Community Rm FH = Fellowship Hall FR = Fireside Room SS = Sunday School Room YR = Youth Room	

ASSISTING ON SUNDAY MORNING

	February 6 Annual Meeting	February 13	February 20	February 27 Transfiguration
Assisting Minister	Bruce Miller	Alison Hertenstein	Janet Gross	Dan Moore
Sacristan	David Gross	Chris Taylor	Julie Thiele	Kaia Downing
Reader	Lori McClaren	Jim Lippke	Mike Mahaney	Bruce Miller
Communion Minister	August Schenzel	Kaia Downing	Ian Hertenstein	Jami Denne
Hosts/Greeters	Jay and August Schenzel Emma Gross	Jay and August Schenzel LaVonne Lundgren	Jay and August Schenzel Jenny Denne Jacob Simons	Jay and August Schenzel Gary and Candy Johnson
Acolytes	Ian Hertenstein Zach Hagan	Ian Hertenstein Logan Hebert	Ian Hertenstein Ethan Walz	Ian Hertenstein Karsen Maynard

Empty Bowls on February 4, 2022 has been postponed, date is TBD.



There are still dates left to sponsor a radio broadcast and or a livestream broadcast. Signup sheets are in the Narthex. Radio Broadcast is \$100 and Livestream Broadcast is any amount up to \$50.

LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA

This month you will be invited to help a new neighbor. Lutheran Services of Iowa will be assisting fourteen individuals as they relocate to the Sioux City area. We have the opportunity to help them transition into their new surroundings by providing household items. Stay tuned for more information on how to support new members of our Siouxland community.



HELPING IN THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY

February 1, 8, 15 & 22 Janet Gross & Shae Downing preparing bags for Wednesday distribution.

February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23	March 2
Dorothy Goetsch LaVonne Lundgren	Sue Mullin Nadine Holst	Chris Taylor Ann Doellinger	Candy Johnson Katherine Henshaw	Dorothy Chauncey Nadine Holst



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Return Service Requested

150th Anniversary Task Force



The 150th Task Force began offering Anniversary T-Shirts for sale this week after church, 3 colors are available in long sleeve and short sleeve options. This a great way to promote First Lutheran in the community as well as among our own church in celebration of our 150 years of faith. Orders will be taken the next several Sundays and at the annual meeting on Feb 6. Prices are \$15 for a Short Sleeve and \$20 for a Long Sleeve shirt. There will also be online ordering available. Please contact Kaia Downing with any questions.

Please mark your calendars now for the main anniversary celebration on **Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10**. On Saturday a Banquet Dinner is planned at the Delta Hotel in South Sioux City. Reservations will be needed, a sign up sheet will be available at the Annual Meeting in order to get an idea of numbers that would attend. Former pastors, staff, and past members, sons and daughters of the congregation will be invited guests. If you know of anyone that would like an invitation, please contact Carole Heider or Dave Gross as soon as possible.

On **Sunday, April 10th** (Palm Sunday), we will gather for Festival Worship Service with Bishop Lorna Halaas of the Western Iowa Synod as our guest preacher, Pastor Kristine will preside at Holy Communion. There will be special music and former choir members will be invited to participate with our current choir members. A coffee hour reception will be held following the service downstairs in Fellowship Hall to welcome all those in attendance.

Please continue to do Acts of Kindness. Recently we heard from Task Force member Chris Taylor whom read a few of the "Acts" during a temple talk. Remember, no act is too small to show kindness to a friend, neighbors, or even someone you don't know.

Mange Tusen Takk (Many Thousand Thanks in Norwegian) to all the Task Force members for all of their work behind the scenes and who continue to work diligently on our celebration plans.