



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3939 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104
Office Phone: (712) 239-3942
Website: firstlutheransc.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Grow, Hold, Fold... I have used these three words to help congregations make decisions about what is important to them. Shall we **grow** our faith formation program to include a range of education opportunities? Shall we **hold** on purchasing a large amount item until further reflection or notice? Shall we **fold** or no longer go about holding a worship service which for some is the preferred time to gather? Throughout First Lutheran's long history decisions have been made to **grow, hold and fold** ministry areas.

We are again in a place where we must decide what is important for us and for the ministry of the congregation. Last October we gathered and named those things which defined us. The congregation council, at their August meeting, determined the three words we will use to define our ministry going forward. They are: Welcome. Worship. Service. We are a welcoming congregation where worship and service are an

Grow
Hold
Fold

integral part of who we are. In the days and weeks to come how might we continue and become a welcoming congregation who worships and serves the God we love?

With these three words to guide us what shall we grow, what shall we hold or what shall we fold? The congregation council determined we would grow our communication information on a weekly, monthly or seasonal basis. Each week when you receive the church Email which includes the bulletin, you will find a paragraph on the Sunday's focus, three highlights for your consideration, which may include the Sunday events you can participate in, upcoming events to prepare for, life passages when members of the congregation are baptized, have died or receiving communion for the first time. The weekly focus will be "just in time" information to keep you informed and easy to locate in the body of the weekly email.

On a monthly basis we will provide a condensed newsletter with information about our life together as a congregation. Included in this emailing we will feature upcoming events scheduled for congregation life. This might include God's Work. Our Hands. service activities and tasks. It might include service opportunities for you to consider, perhaps you would like to participate in something new! Each month service opportunities will offer ways to be involved in the life of the congregation for the good of all. To be a welcoming congregation who worship and serves God, we will **grow** our opportunities for you to become more involved by worshipping and serving, using your God given gifts.

Finally, we will offer a seasonal publication which will highlight a theme or time of year with essays and topics of interest and learning. During the month of October we will focus on Stewardship. In January you will receive all the information you need to participate in the Annual Meeting in early February. The seasonal publication will keep you informed as we **welcome, worship and serve** the God we love.

Your ideas and input on this new form of communication are welcome. Let us know what you think and what you appreciate about it!

Pastor Kristine

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST 2023

The council wanted to highlight some of our summer successes...

1. The annual picnic was great fun. The auction was a success with much generosity through donations of items and bids, over \$2,000 was raised for our Holy Family Food Pantry.
2. First Lutheran hosted a bike blessing for the Iowa Bishops who were riding in RAGBRAI, raising

- awareness and money for the fight against hunger. Several were in attendance for the blessing and as a congregation we were able to raise over \$1,000 for World Hunger.
3. The council is excited for upcoming events in the Fall including God's Work. Our Hands. On September 10th. Stay tuned for other events!

HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

2023 is our 25th year, silver anniversary of operating as an agency affiliated with the Foodbank of Siouxland. Through the years we have distributed thousands of pounds of fresh produce, baked items, canned goods, dairy products, and frozen meat.

Our opportunities for volunteering include: transporting driver of product from the Food Bank to our church pantry; setting up, distributing, and cleaning up on distribution day; growing produce to share with the pantry; collecting plastic bags (we especially like Fareway bags); and doing other small tasks as needed. We appreciate financial donations and Thriven Action Team cards that increase our food buying potential.

Thank you to all who attended the church picnic at Izaak Walton on August 13. We had a great time with good food, folks, and fun! The auction proceeds, which were designated to the pantry, were close to \$2,000 with some extra monetary donations added in. Our weekly guests will benefit from your kind and giving hearts!

Please watch for upcoming events this fall, and onward, that will celebrate our pantry. This ministry is a wonderful example of God at work through our giving!

Cheers for 25 years!

Warmly,
Janet Gross

LIFE PASSAGES

If we live, we live to the Lord...



Connie Irwin
August 26, 2023

SOUP KITCHEN



On Monday, August 21st, our First Lutheran group volunteered at the **Soup Kitchen** for the serving/cleaning shift! It was very busy (192 plates served), rewarding and fun! The crew that night included Becki McGlaufflin, Janet Gross, Lori and Doug Webb, Lisa Schenzel and Candy Noonan-Johnson. Many thanks for this important service!! On that note, the next date for an opportunity to volunteer will be September 18th, from 4:00 - 6:00. They are in need of five more helpers. Please call Candy @ 251- 9411 if you are willing to serve.