

## News from the Church Council 7/15/25

- Loan Application has been completed, to provide funds for the replacement of main electrical panel in the church building (as approved by the special congregational meeting on June 29).
- Treasurer Pete Hawkinson stated that the our regular “giving” is down \$30,000 as compared to this time last year. The congregation will be getting offering updates in the bulletins. This information will also include attendance numbers, expense totals, and monthly requirements for the congregation to operate on a regular basis.
- FLC will be using a separate savings account labeled “Capital Campaign” for any donations to the Capital Campaign specifically – for main electrical panel replacement. The account will earn interest and we will be able to make transfers in and out of this account.
- Following the resignation of Jim Lippke as Council President, Bill Habermann has accepted the role as Council President. Kaia Downing will serve as Vice President along with her Worship and Music responsibilities.
- Council voiced their appreciation to Jim Lippke for his dedication and service to FLC as a Council member and Council President.
- Following the recommendation of Pastor Halaas, the Call Committee is asked to pause their work for the next 90 days because the Council and the congregation are in a critical time of determining a path forward in ministry focus, building issues, and finances. Pastor Halaas will arrange for Call Committee meetings with Bishop Halaas in August and, after September 1, with Bishop-Elect Dalen.
- It is Council’s desire to establish an HVAC Committee who will report to the Council on a regular basis. Brad Heider will contact five persons to see who is willing and able to serve in this capacity. It is hoped that one of these committee members would serve as a Council

member to improve cohesiveness between the Council and the HVAC Committee. The new HVAC Committee will be asked to provide an update to the Council no later than July 29, 2025.

- Pastor Halaas will complete his work at First Lutheran on October 19<sup>th</sup> (instead of in November). His contract with FLC clearly states that a 30 day “out” is allowed by either the church or the transition pastor.
- The Annual Picnic has not yet been scheduled, but it is hopeful that it will take place at Hinton’s Hillview Park as a potluck.

## UPDATE from Pastor Halaas

- I will be attending the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix – July 24 to August 6
- **FYI** – my last day serving First Lutheran will be Sunday, October 19
- **FYI** – my last day serving at St. Mark Lutheran will be Sunday, November 23

### Important priorities during transition time:

- ✓ Review of membership - connections, concerns, updates
- ✓ Pastoral Care
- ✓ Working with the Call Committee and Church Council
- ✓ Communication/Transparency
- ✓ Significant cleaning of building
- ✓ Opportunities for ministry: “City-Wide” ELCA congregations working together
- ✓ Faith Formation ministries
- ✓ Constitution and By-Laws
- ✓ Guidance from the Bishops (Halaas and Dalen)

### Worship schedule ahead

- Sunday, July 27 – Guest speaker: Jacob Wanderscheid, Food Bank of Siouxland (no Holy Communion)
- Sunday, August 3 – retired Pastor Judith Wascher leading worship

## Opportunities for serving and sharing . . .

### Healthy Kids of Iowa

Our Holy Family Food Pantry will continue to distribute items for a children's summer food program funded by the State of Iowa for children ages 4-18. Please consider volunteering **August 6** and **August 13** during our regular pantry hours **9 am to 11:30 am** to get these additional food items to our most precious community members.



## Keep in touch!

There are several ways for you to share your prayer concerns and needs when ill, homebound, or celebrating. Please communicate your wishes to expectations by phone, text, or email to Pastor Halaas or the church office.

## People/Projects/and more...

### First Lutheran Church Tailgate Party on July 3<sup>rd</sup> was a big hit!

Thank you to all who came out for the meal and fellowship! With the generous donations of FLC members, **\$412** in contributions will go toward new carpet tiles downstairs.



### Special July birthday greetings to:

Craig	Butler	7/1
Donna	Samuelson	7/3
Isabella	Woodford	7/3
Craig	LaMaster	7/5
Gary	Troth	7/7
Sally	Keller	7/9
Elyse	Sweeney	7/10
Collin	Goosmann	7/11
Payton	Hermelbracht	7/12
Brittney	Geary	7/13
Scott	Geary	7/13
Andrew	Hagan	7/14
Zachary	Hagan	7/14
Douglas	Muilenburg	7/16
Tammy	Mahaney	7/16
Jacob	Simons	7/17
Luke	Samuelson	7/19
Douglas	Woodford	7/27
Marcia	Hopp	7/29
Larayne	Olson	7/31

### A thank you note from Nissa Downing:

"First Lutheran –

To all staff, preachers, food pantry coordinators, musical volunteers, and the entire congregation, thank you for playing such an important role in my life and making me who I am today. I appreciate the kind wishes, key chain, and all the love I have received throughout my life!

- Nissa"

## Western Iowa Synod ELCA news... we are “church together”



The Rev. Scott A. Dalen, Underwood, Iowa, was elected on June 14 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during the Synod Assembly, June 13-14, at the Nativity Parish Center in Sioux City.

Dalen was elected on the fourth ballot, with 132 votes. The Rev. Rod Hopp, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, received 53 votes. The Rev. Paige McGrath, pastor of Living Faith Lutheran Church in LeMars, received 30 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Underwood Lutheran Church in Underwood since his ordination in 2013. Dalen is from Graettinger, Iowa. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University in 2001, and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2013.

He will take office on September 1 and be installed in a Synod-wide worship service at St. John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs on September 27, 2025.



The Rev. Lorna Halaas is retiring after serving as Synod Bishop since 2019, and as Assistant to the Bishop from 2013-2019. Her service as Bishop concludes on August 31, 2025.

First Lutheran Church was represented at the Synod Assembly by Dave and Janet Gross, Jason Denne and Ellie Hertenstein.



FLC members also donated **\$555** toward the Pig Project!

## Quilting Ministry

The quilters recently visited the St. Mark Lutheran "Piecemakers" - -

If you are interested in quilting, they will resume meeting after Labor Day. Please contact Dorothy Goettsch at 712-251-6607.

## Mark your calendars!

### ***Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.***

**Thursday Bible Study will resume in August – watch for details!**

**Sunday, July 27 – guest speaker: Jacob Wanderscheid, Food Bank of Siouxland**

**Wednesday, August 13 – Confirmation Together event for middle school kids @ 6:30pm Mini-golf and DQ !**

**Sunday, August 17 – Blessing of the Backpacks in worship**

**Wednesday, September 10 - Confirmation Together classes begin: 6:30 pm at St. Mark**

**Sunday, September 14 – God's Work, Our Hands. Sunday**

**Saturday, September 27 - Installation of Bishop-Elect Scott Dalen at St. John in Council Bluffs**

## First Lutheran Church ELCA

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OFFICE HOURS:

Tues Wed Thurs 9am – 2pm

### Church Council 2025

- Bill Habermann, President
- Kaia Downing, Vice-President
- Enola Peters, Secretary
- Pete Hawkinson, Treasurer
- Jenny Denne, Dave Gross, Brad Heider, Richard Storm

### Call Committee 2025

- Sue Bowers, Cathy Habermann, Lori McClaren, Catherine Rommel, Brian Thiele, Gary Troth

## Mission and Ministry Partners

- **Western Iowa Synod ELCA** (109 neighbor congregations)  
[www.wisynod.org](http://www.wisynod.org) [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)
- **Lutheran Lakeside...** outdoor ministry/camp and retreat center in Spirit Lake, Iowa  
[www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com)
- **ELCA Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries**
  - **Lutheran World Relief** quilt ministry
  - **ELCA 'Young Adults in Global Mission'**