

News from the Church Council 8/19/25

Prior to the Council meeting, a meeting of the Call Committee, Council and Bishop Lorna Halaas was held to discuss some of our options following the departure of Pastor David Halaas after October 19, 2025.

Notes from Bishop Lorna Halaas' presentation to the Call Committee and Church Council – sharing these options for AFTER October 19:

1. **Pulpit Supply ONLY** - arrange with other neighboring pastors to serve for pastoral care emergencies and funerals (this would mean option #4 below would be important and fully developed)
2. **Pulpit Supply PLUS** (*as Pastor Halaas is doing now*) with assistance from Council leadership
3. **½ and ½ partnership** with neighboring ELCA congregation or with “full-Communion partner” congregation (UMC, PCUSA, UCC, Episcopal)
4. **“In-House” Leadership Team** (*example: First Lutheran, Algona*)
5. **Synodically Authorized Ministers** leadership team (*example: Grace Lutheran, Primghar*)
6. Conversation with **St. Mark/Sioux City** and Pastor Jessie Hodgson about partnership (*not to happen before January 2026... with possible discussions/directions at February Annual Meetings and February Council meetings*)

Pete Hawkinson presented a letter that will be going to the congregation members in the next few days, encouraging them to increase their giving to the church as we are falling behind schedule in our offering. Pete shared that our current checking account balance is \$40,034.29 with a balance for the Food Pantry included in this number of \$3,634.84. Pete has submitted all of the materials for the loan application to Mission Investment Fund and he hopes to hear back from them in the next two weeks.

Jenny Denne reported that a survey was sent out to the families that have Sunday School aged

children. Sunday School will start on September 7, 2025 for children age three to fifth graders.

The materials were found for the lessons that are adaptable to reading children or pre-readers.

Sunday School will not take place during the worship service. The possibility of a children's choir will be discussed with Yvonne Hazlett

Dave Gross reported on the work of the Congregational Life committee.

- A social event is scheduled for **August 31st** at 5:00 PM at Bob Roe's Point After.
- The Annual Picnic will be held on **September 21st** at Hillview Park near Hinton at 4:00 PM. Potluck will be requested and Pete Hawkinson will be grilling pork chops, chicken and hot dogs. Attendees are asked to bring sides to share. The decision has not been made regarding the possibility of an auction.
- God's Work, Our Hands will feature a Fall Clean Up day on **October 11th**.

Gathering meetings will be held on Sunday, **September 7th** following Worship and again on Tuesday evening, **September 9th** at 6:00 PM. The purpose of these meetings is to keep our congregation informed of the factors that must be considered regarding the future of First Lutheran Church and its staffing possibilities.

A progress bill has been received from Thompson Solutions for the work that has been completed. The bill totals \$57,106.00. This amount will be paid as soon as our loan approval is complete. We have also received two bills for the repair of two pumps. One bill is from Malloy for \$1,815.85 and the second from Novelty Machine and Supply for \$514.14. There are still two remaining pumps to be repaired at this time. The cost of the repair of the remaining two pumps is not anticipated to exceed \$3,000 per pump and this amount can also be paid from the Capital Campaign plumbing balance. It has been discovered that there is a leak in the main water line. This will need immediate attention.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:

September 16, 2025

Exec at 6:00 and Council at 6:30 PM.

UPDATE from Pastor Halaas

MY "TO DO " PRIORITIES *in preparation for ministry at First Lutheran AFTER October 19*

- ✓ Assist Call Committee to complete and submit "Ministry Site Profile" indicating congregational realities (membership, finances, building); congregational vision (food ministries and ???); and the desire for a ½ time called pastor
- ✓ Form a "Care Committee" (in addition to the existing "Prayer Group") to meet regularly, provide various forms of support and care to congregational members, and communicate with the Church Council each month
- ✓ Form an "Outreach Committee" to provide members with opportunities to serve the community and to invite community groups to utilize the church facilities (*one such opportunity is the Holy Family Food Pantry, "Coffee Forever" project for Warming Shelter, Soup Kitchen, CROP Walk.... others?*)
- ✓ Designate a Church Council member to be contact person with other ELCA clergy and Living Waters Conference Dean – to ensure that First Lutheran will be aware of and participate in cooperative activities (*example: Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Conference/Synod meetings, and in 2025: Lent Together*)
- ✓ Clarify oversight/accountability/communication between Executive Committee and church staff
- ✓ Invite Bishop Scott Dalen to have introductory meeting with Council leadership and 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...



Special September birthday greetings to:

Dorothy	Chauncey	9/2
Mavis	Schubert	9/3
Stacy	Hagan	9/3
Willoe	Chester	9/7
Enola	Peters	9/9
Dee	Nutt	9/10
Jane	Rice	9/14
Michael	Albrecht	9/14
LaVonne	Lundgren	9/16
David	Olson	9/16
Debra	Muilenburg	9/18
Augustus	Paulson	9/19
Duane	Reeder	9/22
Jack	Hatting	9/24
Hannah	Gross	9/26
Rhonda	Reeder	9/27



Western Iowa Synod ELCA news... we are "church together"

From Bishop-elect Scott Dalen



Service of Holy Communion
with
Rite of Installation
for
The Rev. Scott Dalen
as Bishop of the
Western Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
AT 2:00PM

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
633 WILLOW AVENUE
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
CLERGY OF ALL TRADITIONS ARE INVITED TO VEST & PROCESS
THE COLOR OF THE DAY IS RED
RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 10th



Who's Keeping Score??

FLC youth had a sweet treat from DQ and a round of minigolf together on August 13th.



From Bishop Lorna Halaas

Serving these past six years as bishop of the Western Iowa Synod I have written countless emails and my signature has most often been...

Walk with courage and love -
Lorna

These words speak to my understanding of the gift of baptism.

It is a courageous thing to trust in God's gifts of grace and to love like Jesus loves.

It is a bold witness to live among God's people, proclaiming Christ in word and deed.

And it is God's Love Made Real when we work for peace and justice for all creation.

So dear church...
Walk with courage and love.



**BISHOP
LORNA HALAAS**

Opportunities for serving and sharing . . .

QUILTING MINISTRY

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for a couple more people to teach Sunday School. Sunday School will take place during the worship service starting September 7. Please contact Jenny Denne (712-251-3069 or jennnenne@yahoo.com) if you are willing to assist with Sunday School. There will be a teacher meeting on Thursday, September 4th at 5:30 pm in the fireside room.

Mark your calendars!

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

Sunday, August 31 - 5pm

Fellowship @ Bob Roe's Point After

Wednesday, September 3 – 6:30pm

Choir practice begins

Sunday, September 7 – after worship

& Tuesday, September 9 – 6pm

Gathering Meetings & FLC Info

Monday, September 8 – 6:30pm

Handbell practice begins

Wednesday, September 10 - 6:30pm

Confirmation Together classes begin @
St. Mark

Sunday, September 21 – 4pm

Annual Picnic @ Hillview Park

Saturday, September 27 – 2pm

Installation of Bishop-Elect Scott Dalen at
St. John in Council Bluffs

Saturday, October 11 –

Fall Clean Up - God's Work, Our Hands

God's work. Our hands.



First Lutheran Church ELCA

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Sioux City, Iowa 51104

712- 239-3942

www.firstlutheransc.org

Transition Pastor David Halaas

david.halaas.rev@wisynod.org

701-430-3393

Office Manager: Lindsey McGinty

flc3939officemanager@gmail.com

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 www.elca.org
- **Lutheran Lakeside...** outdoor ministry/camp and retreat center in Spirit Lake, Iowa
www.lutheranlakeside.com
- **ELCA Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries**
- **Lutheran World Relief** quilt ministry
- **ELCA 'Young Adults in Global Mission'**