



# Moment of Contact

First Lutheran Church  
3939 Cheyenne Blvd.  
Sioux City, IA 51104  
(712-239-3942)



September 2020 Contact

Volume 49, Issue 4

September 8, 2020

## Pastor's Message

As we enter month six of the coronavirus pandemic...."thank yous" abound.

The congregation council members have faithfully, carefully, thoughtfully made difficult decisions about the worship life of the congregation during this time.

They are to be commended for ensuring that we are safe, able to listen by way of radio and livestream, and now beginning this past month, resume in-person worship.

The decision to return to in-person worship was made deliberately. By limiting the number of worshippers to 60, we are able to safely distance ourselves throughout the sanctuary. By refraining from singing in the sanctuary, we are caring for our neighbors as we know that our voice, the very aerosols from our breath, can infect others. The care taken to ensure we are able to worship, meet in the building and resume some of the activities which make our lives better, has been at the forefront of the council's decisions.

The council appointed a task force to assist them in making these decisions. A recommendation task force made up of volunteers, studied the materials provided by the CDC, state and local governments, and the ELCA on safely returning to in-person worship. They split into teams of communication, hospitality and fellowship to determine our best options. They presented their findings to the council at their meeting in July.

Based on the task force's findings, the implementation task force, picked up the duties of resuming in-person worship effective Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, limited to

60 worshippers. The task force, made up of another group of volunteers, invited your input through means of a survey. They arranged for "covid hosts," a group of greeter/usher volunteers who are willing to ensure when we return to worship, we return safely. And they held a social gathering on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, to kick off our return and invite others to learn how to safely re-enter the building. Thank you to all of the members who volunteered to serve on these task forces to help us resume worship on Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

So what is next? Your involvement. Our radio broadcast continues as usual on Sunday mornings on iHeart radio 620 at 10 am. If this way of worshipping works for you, that's great! Sincere thanks and appreciation to all who sponsor a radio broadcast throughout the year.

If you like livestream, that's terrific! Ben Hertenstein has been hired to ensure our broadcast runs smoothly and edits the production, which allows you to watch again via you tube.

If you long to return to worship in the sanctuary, know that you are welcome. You will need to wear your mask from the parking lot to the pew. It will look and feel different to be back. We ask that you refrain from singing, sit physically distanced from others, and respect the rules established for your, and others, safety.

However you decide to gather, sheltered in place, live at 10 am, later on Sunday, or back in a pew, we are thankful for your presence, as we gather to thank and praise the God who loves us in these extraordinary times.

*Pastor Kristine*

## Homecoming, September 13

On Sunday, September 13, 2020, we invite you to RSVP to attend worship as we gather together and begin our fall programming year. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, we will gather following worship on the sanctuary lawn for a time to safely socially engage with one another.

Fellowship, a time to visit, catch up and support one another, is difficult when you must stand six feet apart with a mask on! Yet, it is important to stay safe and it is important to care for one another. We hope you will join us on the lawn for a time of fellowship and a treat following worship.

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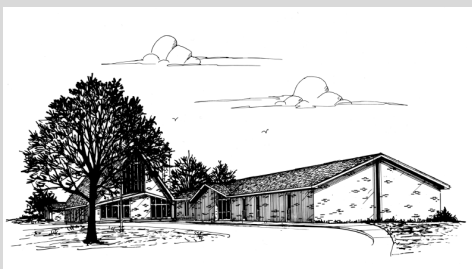
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**Faith Formation on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings**

On **Sunday, September 20, 2020**, children and youth will return to Sunday School and a time to learn about God's love for all children. Parents of children and youth will be contacted directly with more information about signing up your child/children for Sunday and Wednesday faith forming opportunities.

**Seasonal Worship in September**

The time after Pentecost continues, as does worship by way of radio, livestream and in-person. No matter how you gather for worship, with a bulletin in hand or without, gathered with others in your family unit or alone, God is with us.

While the season of autumn typically brings us back to what we might consider "normal," living in the time of the pandemic is anything but normal. We are as vulnerable to contracting Covid-19 as we were in March. We may be wiser, more aware or more alert to how to be careful, yet we shelter in place or gather with safety as our priority in these autumn days.

Jesus gathers his disciples around him for a series of three different parables, all about vineyards. Jesus seems particularly intentional about teaching about God's generosity. He challenges the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserved. During this season of the church year we will be reminded, God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES THIS FALL**

Beginning on **Thursday, September 24, at 11 am**, we will gather on Zoom to begin our fall **Bible Study** class. If you are interested in being part of the class please let Pastor Kristine know, she will provide you with call-in information.

**YVONNE HAZLETT, ORGANIST**

Yvonne Hazlett, currently serving at Morningside Lutheran as their 8 am organist, will be joining us at 10 am to play the organ for our worship services for the next few months.

Yvonne has lived in Sioux City for several years. She is a private music instructor, specializing in woodwinds. She has taught music at the Siouxland Community Christian School. She has served as organist to several churches in Sioux City.

Yvonne played for us this summer, and we are delighted she has agreed to continue playing each week for the foreseeable future. In this time of coronavirus, we are thankful for Yvonne's willingness to share her musical gifts to the glory of God, along with us. Welcome, Yvonne!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL GIVING

Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, members of the congregation have faithfully and generously supported the congregation ministries through your financial gifts. Thank you.

During this time worship by way of radio and livestream has allowed us to continue to hear God's word. The staff continues its work of ministry and support, the building remains in good repair, the council meets to make safe decisions for all members of the congregation.

Thank you for financial support through:

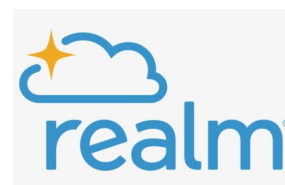
- Faithful and generous offering gifts
- Simply Giving
- Drop off envelop in office or Sunday morning worship

When you are unable to attend worship, or if you prefer to give to the ministries of this congregation on line, you have the opportunity to do so by completing the information requested. Click on Realm via FLC's website, enter your email address and password you chose and enter your payment information, which is very safe and secure. Realm is linked with Simply Giving (Vanco).

Provide the information requested including the amount you wish to give and the category you wish to give to, for example: general fund (supporting the overall ministries of this congregation), ELCA Good Gifts (church wide synod), the Food Pantry (food for distribution), radio (donation to radio ministry).

Next provide your bank information router and account number and the amount you wish to give. At this time we do not provide the ability to give by way of credit card. If you are willing to give a few cents more to defray the cost of administration click on the appropriate button. You can sign up to give once or to give multiple times. A receipt of your contribution will be sent to the email you provide.

Thank you for your financial contribution to the ministries of First Lutheran Church.



## First Lutheran Church Council Report, August 18, 2020

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

The Council of First Lutheran Church met **Tuesday, August 18, 2020**. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- At this time, the status of the SBA loan is still pending. The decision has not been made by the Senate as to whether all loans under \$100,000 will be forgiven. More information to follow on that when available.
- On August 23rd, we will return to in person worship. RSVP will be needed by either calling the church office or through the Realm program. Email instructions have been sent out to the congregation. Masks will be required.
- St. Mark's and Immanuel will continue to share services with First Lutheran through September 13th.
- The Nominating Committee will begin their work between now and the next Council meeting.
- First Lutheran Church has received the Rudy Oudhusen Award due to the fact that we provide a location for the AA meetings.
- On Friday, August 21st at 7:00 PM, everyone is invited to gather on the front lawn. Explanations will be given at that time regarding how the process will work for in-person worship. All attendees will be asked to bring a lawn chair and wear a mask.
- First Lutheran is scheduled to help at the Soup Kitchen on October 23rd.
- Jenny Denne reported that the Youth Gathering has been postponed until the summer of 2022.

### FLC Finance Update

Needed weekly per  
budget \$5,442.31 /  
for the month of  
August \$27,211.55.  
Actual income for  
August \$18,527.20.



### SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

Over the summer many hands made light work. Thank you to Ken Carlson and Ethan Moore for mowing the lawn and caring for the property. Thank you to the First Blooms gardening corp, especially Frannie and Terry Krommenhoek who have cared for our flower gardens. Thank you to the Holy Family Food Pantry volunteers who serve those who come seeking a bag of groceries and fresh, delicious fruits and vegetables, ably led by Randy Burnight. Your efforts are much appreciated by the congregation and to those you serve.

### BAKELESS BAKE SALE

**Sponsored by First Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**

'Twas the night before Bake Sale and all through the house  
not a creature was "stirring" not even a spouse.  
The kitchen was tidied, the counters were bare  
in hopes that no baking would transpire there.  
The First Lutheran cooks were all snug in their beds,  
but visions of sugarplums weren't in their heads.  
Instead they were dreaming of something mind easing.  
A BAKELESS BAKE SALE, would could be more pleasing?  
No mixing, no stirring, no rush to the store  
for sugar and chocolate and who knows what more?  
No measuring, beating and stirring up cookies.  
(We know they're fine cooks though, and shouldn't be called rookies!)  
No looking for recipes – now where IS that card?  
No taking from ovens, the cakes that are charred.  
They dream of their checkbooks, a smile on each face:  
how simple to open and feel no disgrace  
at generously writing a nice hefty sum,  
and closing it quickly – the day's work is done!  
They dream of these funds making someone's day bright,  
and they settle in happy, for it all seems just right.



**HAPPY BAKELESS BAKE SALE TO ALL AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!  
SO.....FORGET LOOKING FOR A RECIPE, FORGET SHOPPING,  
FOREGO BAKING!**

Please consider giving a generous gift to First Lutheran Church Women for worthwhile projects such as quilts for Lutheran World Relief, which will distribute them to needy children, women, and men throughout the world. We also contribute quilts to an auction which provides funds for Lakeside Bible Camp and ELCA Malaria campaign. The Gospel Mission, Shepherd's Gift, Lutheran Services of Iowa, Human Trafficking and radio broadcasts, ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Tansania Water project are other projects which benefit from our Bakeless Bake Sale. The funds collected will also help First Lutheran Food Pantry, the Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and the Soup Kitchen.

**Your contributions will be accepted anytime in the next several weeks at the church office or by mail. If you find it most convenient to mail in your donation, please send your check made out to WELCA to Marlus Mammen, 3015 Pierce St., Sioux City, IA 51104.**



## FAITH FORMATION

Learning to know and love God for all ages!

Whether you are young or not so young, we are continually in the process of forming our faith as we gather to worship, gather to learn about God, or find time within our day to pray for our needs and the needs of others. God is present to us at every age, encouraging, inspiring and nurturing our faith!

The Faith Formation Committee including Julie Thiele, council representative, Janet Gross, Cathy Birkhofer and Jenny Denne, youth council representative, have meet to plan a program for children, youth and adults for the coming program year.

There will be a meeting at **9:00 am on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**, in Fellowship Hall for parents, children and youth. Pastor Kristine will lead a conversation on how we can support parents as they nurture their children in faith. Children and confirmands will receive their Bibles at this time and during worship we will have a Blessing of the Bibles.

Whole Group Sunday School will be offered again this year for preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will gather in Fellowship Hall. The Middle School and High School students will continue to meet as a group for Sunday School in the Community Room.

On **Wednesday evenings, beginning October 7<sup>th</sup>** Confirmation Class for 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Life Long Confirmation for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders, will be held from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. The Wednesday evening program will be 1 and a half hours long and would include a pizza meal. This would be an intergenerational event for students in 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades and include parents/grandparents.

Parental guidance will be an important part of our faith programs this year. Parent/Grandparents of children and youth are included in the invitation to come and learn together. In light of the pandemic this year, we do not want faith programming to be a source of stress or a burden, but we want to partner with families to support faith development. For more information please join us on **September 20<sup>th</sup>**!



### Wanted: Sunday School/LLC Teachers



The Faith Formation Committee is looking for adults who are eager and willing to assist with Sunday School and/or LLC on Wednesday evenings this year. We hope to have enough teachers and group leaders that this would not be a weekly commitment, but could be a shared position.

We are also looking for adults who would be willing to be substitutes for the teachers who have already committed to teaching our youth. If you feel that this would be a good way for you to share your time and talents with First Lutheran, please contact Julie Thiele, 898-0190, or Pastor Kristine.



# September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  6:30 Implementation Task Force - FH  Orlando on Vacation all week	2 9-11:30 Food Pantry  1:00 WELCA in FH  6:30 Faith Formation Mtg. in FH	3  6:30 Worship & Music Mtg. in FR	4	5
6 10:00 Worship -FB Live/Radio/In Person	7 Labor Day - Office Closed   Labor Day	8 Pastor's Day Off	9 9-11:30 Food Pantry	10 10:00 Employee Handbook Mtg. in FR  1:00 Siouxland Forum via Zoom	11	12
13 Homecoming Sunday 10:00 Worship -FB Live/Radio/In Person	14 Pastor's Day Off	15  5:00 First Responder Support Mtg. in Comm. Rm. 6:00 Exec in FR 6:30 Council Mtg. in FH	16 9-11:30 Food Pantry	17	18	19  2:00 John Jorgenson Ordination at St. Mark
20 9:00 Parents/Kids SS Kickoff in FH 10:00 Worship/ Blessing of Bibles - FB Live/Radio/In Person	21 Pastor's Day Off	22	23 9-11:30 Food Pantry	24 11:00 Bible Study via Zoom	25	26
27 9:00 CE 10:00 Worship - FB Live/Radio/In Person  Pastor's Fall Convocation	28  Pastor's Fall Convocation	29  Pastor's Fall Convocation	30 9-11:30 Food Pantry  6:30 Faith Formation Mtg. in FH			<b>Key</b> FH = Fellowship Hall FR = Fireside Room YR = Youth Room CR = Choir Room SS = Sunday School Room Comm. Rm = Community Room

## ASSISTING ON SUNDAY MORNING

	September 13	September 20	September 27	October 4
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Bruce Miller	Dan Moore	TBD	Bruce Miller
<b>Reader</b>	Lori McClaren	Enola Peters	August Schenzel	Kaia & Shae Downing
<b>Radio</b>	Craig and Sandie LaMaster	Doug, Jane and Hilary Rice	Tim and Sheila Geary	Craig and Sandie LaMaster
<b>Covid Hosts:</b>				
<b>Lead</b>	Gary Johnson	Kaia Downing	Jay Schenzel	Gary Johnson
<b>Parking Lot</b>	Kaia Downing	Jen Snyder	Jenny Denne	
<b>Narthex Door</b>	Enola Peters	Lori McClaren	Chris Taylor	Candy Noonan Johnson
<b>Seating</b>	Gary Troth	Gary Johnson	David Gross	Ken Carlson

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a replacement and let Carla know ASAP so the weekly bulletin is correct. Thank you.



### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

As we resume in-person worship we invite you to consider serving as a worship leader. If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Kristine.



## FOOD PANTRY

## HELPING IN THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY

September 9	September 16	September 23	September 30	October 7
Pam Richards Ann Doellinger	Katherine Henshaw Nadine Holst	Dorothy Goettsch LaVonne Lundgren	Dorothy Chauncey Mary McCoy	Mary McCoy Karen Tagatz



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**Sioux City, IA 51104**  
**Return Service Requested**

**Communication is important....**

Please continue to keep us informed on how you would like to receive communication from us, U.S. Mail, Email or pickup at the office.

**RUDY OUDHEUSDEN AWARD**

We have learned that First Lutheran has received the Rudy Oudheusden Award for our work with Recovery Ministries. Dr. David Paulsrud, provided the following information,

"The Social Concerns Committee of First Lutheran, chaired by Marge Baldus and Paul Doohan, founded Sioux City's first non-smoking AA meeting at First Lutheran forty years ago. For the first fifteen years, meetings were in the Fireside Room until the meeting grew so large it was necessary to move it to a larger space, our Fellowship Hall, where it continues to this day. At that time, we had as many as 120 members attending.

First Lutheran has been very active in addiction and recovery. We provided a Halfway House for recovering women. We used our facilities for many years to provide Christmas, Thanksgiving and birthday parties for the boys and girls from the Jackson adolescent units. First Lutheran provided loans for people to go to treatment over a period of several years. This was made possible through a \$10,000 revolving loan fund. The AA community used our facilities for the Saturday night community dinners."

The AA Community at First Lutheran will be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January of 2021. We are grateful to receive this award in recognition of the recovery ministry work which continues to this day.