



Moment of Contact

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



February 2021 Contact Volume 50, Issue 2

January 27, 2021

Pastor's Message

It's all about love. When asked to sum up the gospel, this is the best description I can provide. God loves us and created a cosmos and a beautiful world for us to live in, to move and have our being. God calls Sarah and Abraham to be our "parents." Numbering us among the stars of heaven. God freed us from slavery, Egypt and sin. God gathers us in, promises repentance and forgiveness in our baptism and exhorts us to live into that promise and model the love God bestows on us.

God sent his son Jesus to be our brother. Jesus reveals to us the love of God by reaching out to all, the poor, the sorrowful, the lost and the lonely. And teaches us to do the same. This kind of love is a powerful threat to the leaders in Jesus' day. So powerful it sent him to a cross, which demonstrated how much we are loved. He died for us.

The word love in the Bible encompasses so much more than a romantic movie, a puppy and a valentine's day card. God's love is unconditional. God's love is never ending. God's love is action, bringing us abundant life. God calls us to love one another as we are loved. That is not as easy as it sounds, in fact, it is very difficult! Yet, we are called to be Christians who model love every day. They will know us by our love, Paul insists.

It's all about love, because God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but will have eternal life (John 3:16). As we enter into the season of Lent, may we be reminded of the abundant love of a generous God who from the very beginning has taught us, it's all about love!

Pastor Kristine



Worship in the Time of Pandemic

After thoughtful consideration the congregation council at its January meeting discussed the resumption of in-person worship and programming activities. It was decided that we will offer in-person worship limited to 60 individuals beginning **Sunday, February 7, 2021**. On this Sunday we will also have our annual meeting of the congregation. You are encouraged to RSVP your attendance for worship and for the annual meeting, this helps us ensure we will have a quorum.

We look forward to welcoming back to the sanctuary those who feel comfortable and safe gathering in our space. We will observe safety protocols, masks are required, safe distancing is expected. Facebook Livestream and radio broadcast for 45 minutes each Sunday will continue.

Inside this issue:

Season of Lent Info

Worship and Music Info

Adult Bible Study

Council Summary

February Calendar/Food Pantry Volunteer Info

Lenten Kits

Empty Bowls Info

First Lutheran Church
3939 Cheyenne Blvd
Sioux City, IA 51104

Office Phone: 712-239-3942

Website: <https://www.firstlutheransc.org>

First Lutheran Staff

Pastor Kristine Stedje

flcpastor3939@gmail.com

612-408-6692

Carla Flores, Office Mgr.

firstlutheransecretary3939@gmail.com

Jim Larson, Custodian

First Lutheran Church Council

Alison Hertenstein, President

alison.hertenstein@hintonschool.com

712-223-1364

Lori McClaren, Vice President

lori@northeast.edu

712-253-2322

Enola Peters, Secretary

epeters@cableone.net

712-258-5210

Jen Snyder, Treasurer

jsnyder0025@yahoo.com

712-899-4429

Chris Taylor, Worship and Music

rtrtaylorview@aol.com

712-574-9111

Lee Knop, Operations

leesroofing1@hotmail.com

712-560-6265

Julie Thiele, Faith Formation

teesfive@gmail.com

712-898-0190

Jennifer Denne, Youth and Recreation

jenndenne@yahoo.com

712-239-4935, 712-251-3069

Candy Johnson, Mission

jgary706@aol.com

712-251-9411



The Season of Lent, February 17 – March 21, 2017

With the resumption of in-person worship the season of Lent will provide multiple opportunities for contemplation and returning to central things. Central things like prayer, scripture and reflection.

Not everyone will feel comfortable returning to in-person worship, yet during this season of Lent, we want to provide the opportunity for all to receive holy communion each Sunday. The Faith Formation and Worship and Music Committees have joined together to offer a “Lenten Kit.” The Lenten Kit includes items for creating a home altar: a candle and cloth, wine and wafer, devotional book, and more. We encourage you to request a Lenten Kit for use in your own home this winter, especially if you do not plan to return to in-person worship.

Families with children and confirmands will receive a Lenten Kit with additional items to help form faith during this season. We will provide a video on our website to explain the Lenten Kit and the opportunities you will have to use the materials provided to focus on the central things of Lent this year.

On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday worship will be held via Facebook livestream at **7 pm**. This service will prepare our hearts to enter into the season of Lent.

On Sunday mornings, February 21 – March 21, we will gather by way of in-person (please RSVP your attendance), Facebook livestream and radio broadcast. Holy communion will be offered in the sanctuary, and encouraged at your home altar.

On Wednesday evenings at 7 pm during Lent, February 24 – March 24, Facebook livestream will be the format we use to focus on “Becoming the Story We Tell.” This thirty minute offering will highlight stories from the Bible from well known characters who witnessed to Christ. Their witness, as they encountered Jesus, became the story they told to others. We will conclude our time with Confession and Prayer.

There are many opportunities to enter into the season of Lent as we prepare our hearts and minds for Holy Week, Jesus entry into Jerusalem, his last supper, death and resurrection. I encourage you to set aside the time to gather on Sundays and Wednesdays during this Lenten season, to grow in faith, by returning to the central things. All services, held each Sunday and Wednesday, will be streamed live and will be archived on our website, allowing you to view throughout the Lenten season as you are able.



Worship and Music

As we resume in-person worship, those who have indicated an interest in serving as a covid host, reader, or choir member will be contacted and invited to serve. Your gifts are wanted and needed during this time. If you would like to volunteer to serve, contact Pastor Kristine for more information.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

This weekly offering will take a hiatus during the Lenten Season. We will resume study in April.

FLC Finance Update

Needed weekly per budget \$5,442.31 / for the month of January \$27,211.55. As of 1/25 income is \$24,118.50.



2021 dates **available** to sponsor a radio broadcast. Please call the church office to reserve between 9 – 1 pm Monday through Friday.

First Lutheran Church Council Report, January 19, 2021

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 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, January 19, 2021**. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- One of the major points of considerable discussion was the in-person return to worship. Following a great deal of discussion, it was decided that we would return to live in-person worship on February 7th. A maximum of 60 persons will be able to attend. We will still require RSVP and the COVID hosts will return to their positions of assistance. The radio broadcast and Facebook live streaming will continue to be offered.
- The Annual meeting will be held on February 7th. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary. A quorum of forty voting members is required to fulfill the need for a quorum.
- Congregation members will be asked to pick up their copy of the Annual Report ahead of the meeting if they wish.
- The Faith Formation and Worship and Music Committees are working together on Lenten kits to be distributed those who wish to have one. The Lenten kits will be explained in the Communication Meeting on the 24th of January following Worship.
- A new Christmas Tree (12 feet tall) has been purchased for next year.
- The remainder of the meeting was spent planning on all of the material to be presented at the Annual Meeting for Congregation decision.



February 2021



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|-----------|---|
| | 1 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> | 2 5:00 First Responder Support Mtg. in CR 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH | 3 9-11:30 Food Pantry 5:45 Diablos in Gym 5:45 - Confirmation via Zoom | 4 11:00 Bible Study via Zoom 6:30 Worship & Music Mtg. in FR | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Resume In-Person 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/Radio 11:00 Annual Mtg.- In Person/Livestream | 8 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 6:00 Scouts in FH | 9 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 6:30 Exec in FR | 10 9-11:30 Food Pantry 5:45 - Confirmation via Zoom | 11 11:00 Bible Study via Zoom | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Transfiguration Sunday 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/Radio Council Installation  | 15 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH | 16 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Kaia in Comm. Rm. | 17  ASH WEDNESDAY 9-11:30 Food Pantry 7:00 Ash Wednesday Livestream Worship | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/Radio w/Holy Communion | 22 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym 7:00 Scouts in FH | 23 5:00 - 6:30 Rising Stars in Gym | 24 9-11:30 Food Pantry 7:00 Lenten Mid-Week Worship via Livestream | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:00 Worship - In Person/FB Live/Radio w/Holy Communion |  | | | | | Key FH = Fellowship Hall FR = Fireside Room YR = Youth Room SS = Sunday School Room CR = Comm. Rm |

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONFIRMATION

Confirmation continues by way of Zoom through Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Sermon notes may be sent to Pastor Kristine (flcpastor3939@gmail.com). Confirmands are required to attend Ash Wednesday worship, **February 17, 2021 at 7 pm** or when archived on our website (firstlutheransc.org). Worship notes for this service will be sent directly to parents/students prior to February 17th.



2021 giving envelopes are ready for you to pick up and there are new numbers for most. If you are unable to pick them up, please call the church office. Also, if you do not want giving envelopes any longer, please let Carla know.

Home Altar/Lenten Kits

The season of Lent is a time of reflection. A time to pause in recognition of what we have done and what we have left undone. To walk with Jesus through the days leading up to his death on Good Friday. Throughout the days and weeks of Lent, beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 17**, a Lenten Kit will be made available to set up an altar in your home. This is a joint project between the Faith Formation and Worship/Music Committees. The kits will include a charcoal pencil for ashes, a wafer and wine/juice, a candle, cloth, and a devotional book. There will be additional children's activities included in kits for families with children. The kit will offer suggestions for other items in your home to create a place set aside during the season to read scripture, pray and receive home communion. If you are not able to attend in-person worship, this home altar will enable you and your family to join holy communion each week.

To request your Lenten Kit, please contact Carla, firstlutheran-secretary3939@gmail.com, or by phone, 712-239-3942. **Kits will be available for pickup at the Annual Meeting on February 7.** If you are not able to come to the meeting, kits will be available the following week in the church office during office hours. If you are unable to pick one up, please call the church office and arrangements will be made to get a kit to you.



HELPING IN THE HOLY FAMILY FOOD PANTRY

February 2, 9, 16, 23

Cassandra & Catrina Tounjian preparing bags for Wednesday distribution.

| February 3 | February 10 | February 17 | February 24 | March 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dorothy Goettsch LaVonne Lundgren August Schenzel | Dorothy Chauncey Nadine Holst August Schenzel | Chris Taylor Ann Doellinger August Schenzel | Candy Johnson TBD August Schenzel | Dorothy Chauncey Nadine Holst August Schenzel |



First Lutheran Church
3939 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104
Return Service Requested

Food Bank of Siouxland - *Empty Bowls Event will take place on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 at 7 PM*

The virtual program will include a "Mystery Basket Cooking Competition", a tour of their facility, and words of inspiration from the community.

The program will be available on their Facebook page and the auction will take place at:

<https://one.bidpal.net/emptybowls>

The auction will open on January 27th.

Visit <https://one.bidpal.net/emptybowls> for more information!

