



# FIRST LUTHERAN BROOKINGS

*...engaging life and the world, by and through God's grace.*

Volume 24 Issue 6 December 2023 – January 2024

Advent Greetings to you!

The time of the year is upon us where we prepare for and countdown to the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. It is Advent, the season leading us to the manger where we find God's gift to the world, our Savior Jesus.

The story of Christmas is full of many supporting characters. These characters may be grouped into two categories: Seekers and Dwellers. Many of the people in Bethlehem on the day of Jesus' arrival were Seekers who had traveled to town at the decree of a census.



They sought shelter and hospitality. They sought to reconnect with their family. They might have sought to get their business done quickly so that they could return home. They ran into the dwellers, those who lived in Bethlehem whose lives had become overwhelmed by visitors. We finally find the room Mary and Joseph were seeking in an unusual location, the dwelling place of beasts nestled around a manger. Later, those whose usual place was in the fields with their flocks would come to the manger seeking the one the angels had announced to them. And much later, seekers from

afar came to honor Jesus with gifts fit for a king. All the while, we can imagine citizens of Bethlehem who might have gone about their daily life in their dwelling place unaware that God's own Son was born next door.

The characters in our lives can be categorized by these titles as well: Seekers and Dwellers. Which are you? At times we may take each role for a season, but many of us are geared to be either more settled and rooted in our dwelling place or restless and reaching in our seeking for purpose, belonging, or love.

Seekers have a hard time settling. They are always after something they do not have yet: an experience, a place, a photograph, a feeling. Dwellers have a hard time being unsettled. They tend to be content with what they have: a comfy chair, a known friend, a familiar environment, a well-worn ritual. We disturb each other. Seekers make Dwellers wonder if they're missing something. Dwellers make Seekers suspicious that they're off track. We can learn from one another, really, and take heart in God's promise that is for those who Seek and those who Dwell.



God has come To Dwell with us. He puts on humanity and makes a permanent home among us. In Jesus, God commits to this flesh and blood life we live, and shows us that he is here to stay. Sure, Jesus found himself on the road much of his ministry, but he didn't flit off to another dimension when the day to day became boring, and he didn't retreat to heaven when things became challenging, even deadly. He dwells with us, remains...as we search and as we settle.

Whether it is your natural stance or not, this Advent you are invited to discover what it means To Dwell. To be rooted and reside. To remain and even to wait, through the mundane and the marvelous, through the murky and the malevolent. We dwell in this human experience, in this mortal existence, knowing God dwells with us, alongside us, for us. What certainties can you settle into this Christmastime? What restlessness can you set aside? What truth might bring you to a place of trust? And what striving can you discontinue at least for now, to rest in the reality that you are so beloved that God has come *to be with you*?

I hope this season of dwelling in the promises of God will bring you hope, peace, joy and love. May there be enough of these blessings to share, until everyone discovers their permanent address is in the wide circle of God's love.

Blessings on your dwelling,

Pastor Jess



notes from  
• PASTOR TREY •

## Blue Christmas: Sunday, Dec 17th, 3:30pm

For many of us, the anticipation of Christmas, the merriment of family and friends, and the cozy relaxation of winter's calm brings joy to this season. At the same time, the season can also bring grief, disillusionment, and sadness. In the joyous proclamation of the angels and in the desperate pleas of John the Baptist, the Church holds space for both delight and desperate hope. The "Blue Christmas" gathering makes room for the whole human experience during this season. We gather for song, scripture, prayer and promise, trusting God-With-Us, even when life is blue.

## A Free Daily Devotional For You (Or a Loved One)

Did you know our church provides a daily devotional booklet for you to spend time in prayer and reflection at home or on the go. These trustworthy resources are written from a Lutheran lens and will inspire, delight, and encourage your walk with God in just a few minutes each day. They are provided free of charge by the people of our congregation to help connect you with God's Word. You may pick up a pocket-sized or large print booklet at sanctuary entrances. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.



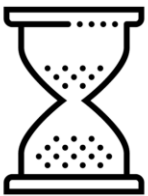
# *to dwell* Advent 2023

This Advent discover what it means *To Dwell*. To be rooted and reside.  
To remain and even to wait, through times of trouble, when we're stuck in the past, when the future is unknown, and when the Spirit is stirring something in us.  
Rest in the reality this season that you are so beloved that God has come to be with you.



Week One -December 3rd - *to dwell in times of trouble*

Mark 13:24-37 - God's promise for us brings hope



Week Two -December 10th - *to dwell in the past*

Mark 1:1-8 - God's faithfulness in the past brings peace



Week Three -December 17th - *to dwell in the unknown*

John 1:6-8, 19-28 - God's voice in the wilderness brings joy



Week Four -December 24th - *to dwell in expectation*

Luke 1:26-38 - God's presence within us brings love



Christmas -December 24th h 25th - *to dwell among us*

Luke 2:1-20 - God's arrival in Jesus brings life





JOIN US!

# CHRISTMAS

## *Worship Services*

**Dec 17    3:30pm    Blue Christmas**

**Dec 24    10:30am    Sunday Worship**  
**1:30pm    Candlelight Worship**  
**4:30pm    Candlelight Worship**  
**6:30pm    Candlelight Worship**

**Dec 25    10:30am    Christmas Worship**  
**11:15am    Christmas Meal**

**Dec 31    10:30am    Sunday Worship**





# CONNECTION CORNER

My last couple car rides before I move to St. Olaf College has brought me to my favorite places. As I drive around the town of Brookings, South Dakota I am reminded of everything I will be leaving. I go to coffee shops where I visit friends for the last time. I drive new college students downtown where I visit business for the last time. I pass by and say hello to my neighbors for the last time.

All these places and people I visit are a part of the First Lutheran Church community. My best friend I had coffee with was a new member of our youth group last year. When I gave a tour of Brookings I made sure to point out “my church”. The neighbors I greet used to greet me into church every day. These interactions connect me to God and his people. I have learned to feel connected to God through community because of the First Lutheran Church community.

I appreciate everything the FLC community has taught and given to me as I have grown older. In elementary and middle school my favorite part of the week was Wednesday Journey. I got to see friendly faces at dinner and be guided by adults that enjoyed sharing God’s word. In middle and high school I loved volunteering with Journey and sharing positive and fun music with the younger kids. When I go to church service I am greeted by positive people who know my name and enjoy conversing with me. These people have taught me how to serve others, spread love, and respect one another. I am reminded of that everyday when I see these traits in others and even objects, like my senior quilt, handmade by our very community.

My first couple car rides after I’ve moved to Northfield, Minnesota, have reminded me of home. They have coffee shops and they have friendly neighbors. Most importantly they have a community. I’m not really leaving everything in Brookings. It’s already here. Because the church is not a place it’s a people.

“Church is  
not a place  
it’s a people”  
Jenna York



**On this special Sunday,  
we were blessed to get to  
witness the baptism of  
baby Molu and the  
confirmation of 22  
students.**





I had grown up at the First Lutheran Church in my hometown of Pipestone where I volunteered at our Fair FLY stand and went on many mission trips. When I went off to college, I struggled to find a church that was meant for me. None were quite like what I had grown to love as a kid. Fast forward several years and a move to the Brookings Area, we had received an invite to VBS from daycare friends, the Beckers. That turned into an invite to help her co-teach at Wednesday night Journey. I had fully enjoyed volunteering my time each Wednesday and Savannah enjoyed learning about God and all his glory. The girls and I felt so welcome here during that time that we knew instantly, FLC of Brookings, was where we were meant to be. One thing led to another and we became members in 2022. Those connections I had made led me to join the Children, Youth, and Family Team this year. Most Wednesday's, you will find Savannah, Haven, and I enjoying the meal served each week in the Mission Coffeehouse before I teach Journey and my girls attend Journey. It is what we look forward to each week. The connections we have made here at church have brought us many friendships inside and outside of church. God has blessed my family with so many amazing people that surround us here at FLC. He knew I'd find my home, I just had to be patient. ~~~Darian Bush

Pasor Jess Leads a lesson on creation at the confirmation retreat this fall



Opportunities to connect can come in surprising forms, even as silver linings of an unfortunate situation. This weekend I had an amazing time with on our annual Confirmation Retreat at Camp NeSoDak. We played games, roasted marshmallows, watched the sunrise and the sunset, ate delicious food, and learned about God's everlasting love through the Eras of God's Promise.. When we loaded up our vehicles to make the 90 minute trek home, four girls hopped in the church van, leaving the front seat open. As we began the drive, I was a little bored to be alone up front. Then, from the backseat came the request... One of the girls was feeling car sick. We pulled over and helped her through it. I suggested she ride in the front seat so she could see the horizon. The next stretch was a little touch and go, but as we got on the interstate, she was feeling much better. Then we started to chat. And we didn't stop talking until we pulled into the church parking lot! I'm sorry that she went through feeling so sick, but I'm so grateful for the opportunity to spend quality time with this inspiring young woman. Our conversation on the way home was a surprise, a gift, and the perfect way to end a beautiful weekend connecting in God's love.

My family and I joined First Lutheran Church in 1989 just before our 3-year old daughter started Sunday School. As time went on, both of our children attended Sunday School, Preschool, Confirmation, and youth group. Naturally, I got involved in the early childhood programs and Confirmation mentoring. First Lutheran became our church home. In 2006, when the church built the addition of the coffeehouse, kitchen, and gym, I started serving Wednesday night meals and volunteering in the Mission Coffeehouse a couple of Sundays a month. Jean Engen, Paul Johnson, and I have worked together on Sundays since the beginning. As we've worked side by side, we've developed special friendships over the years with each other and other volunteers. We are currently in need of more Sunday morning baristas. Please consider this as an opportunity to connect in a new way. We will train you on the cash register and making coffee and drinks while having fun! No experience needed, and we promise it will be a valuable experience for you as it has been for us.



Kay Dahl, Jean Engen and Paul Johnson





## **"I am thankful for that weekly connection with my family"**

After our two daughters left home to start their own lives, I would go to church and find myself (as many of us do) watching all the babies and toddlers during service. I would dream about the day when, if I was lucky enough, I would have grandchildren. And maybe if I was very lucky, they would even be sitting right beside us in church.

Well, it turns out I am very lucky. My daughter Hanna and her husband Tyler live here in Brookings and attend First Lutheran with us. They have two beautiful children who we get to worship with on Sundays, and I am so thankful for that weekly connection with my family. More importantly, I get to see them on a regular basis! I am so grateful that God has blessed me with four beautiful grandchildren and so thankful to be part of their lives.

Kristi Larsen



## **"I took one step out of my comfort zone" from Ashley Becker**

Moving back to Brookings, SD in 2016 with my Husband AJ and my daughter, Kuiper, (age 1 at the time) it was important for us to find a church home/family for us to raise our current and future family. Coming from different religious backgrounds we found First Lutheran to be the blend that fit for us.

As we've lived here over the years, I was determined to find genuine connections in order to find my place within the town. As my kids grew to join Journey, I took it as my opportunity to lead by example for them to be involved with church in order to continue to learn and grow within mine and their faith. This initial step out of my comfort zone has led to connections within Journey, Bible Study and the Children Youth and Family Team. These connections have led to relationships in and outside of the church walls. Jesus shows up and proves we're where we're meant to be and sometimes that is shown to me by a 5 year old picking up a guitar and coming to our living room singing Jesus Loves Me or the numerous songs we've learned together because I took the 1 step out of my comfort zone several years ago.



## **"A few weeks ago, my family went to Family Camp. Here is one way I connected with God and others at Outlaw Ranch..." by Ruby Daum**

One of the days was Western night. There was face paint and dancing.

While we were talking about stuff, the counselor saw a piece of hail. Then we had to go inside. It was big pieces, I was scared! So, I prayed to God this: "Dear God, please keep everybody here safe and warm during the hail. Amen."

Then we got hot chocolate and went upstairs to have worship. Then it was bedtime.

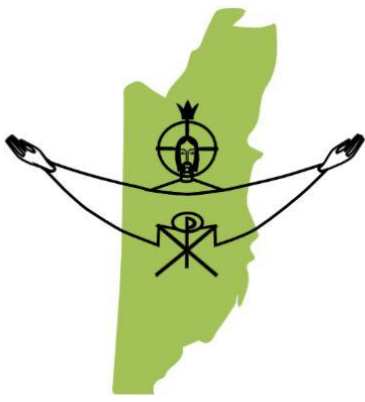
THE END

## **"FINDING A CHURCH HOME WAS SO IMPORTANT TO US"**

Wendy Flanery. Treasurer

The first time I really connected with FLC was when I sat in an interview with Pastor Dave regarding the Treasurer position. He had put out an all-call throughout the church to replace an outgoing Treasurer who needed to care for his mother. Immediately, I was struck at how easy and kind Pastor Dave was to talk to and how very much we had in common, and I fear I prattled on and on as we forged a new relationship and friendship. In my heart, I couldn't think of a better place to work because it created good habits in me and my family, attending church and then doing the Treasury work following the service. We as a family had felt just a little adrift since our relocation from the Minneapolis suburbs. Finding a church home was so important for us, and particularly an ELCA church. By accepting this position, I was able to forge new, lasting, and supportive friendships within the church with my colleagues, the pastors, and the volunteers who to this day raise me up and refresh my faith.





# belize

Celebrating FLC Connections in Belize

T<sub>1</sub>  
H<sub>4</sub>  
A<sub>1</sub>  
N<sub>1</sub>  
K<sub>5</sub>  
Y<sub>4</sub>  
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Dee Shanley, FLC Missionary, showing off the new cabinets



The new kitchen cabinets have arrived at our school! Funding and labor for this beautiful room have been provided through 2022/23 FLC support. Many thanks for helping to build this sanitary and attractive kitchen.

## Harvest Celebration in Belize Includes Praising God. Greetings from Belize:

November is a month of giving special thanks. I joined students and staff at Alvin L. Young Nazarene High School for Harvest Celebration.

We offered up fruits and vegetables from their first harvest. We offered prayers, songs, and dances of praise to our Lord for all He has provided. And we gave thanks for you. We are thankful and grateful for your generosity, prayers and support of our Mission in Belize. You have supported students with tuition, school supplies, school lunches, transportation, & more.

We give thanks!

Dee Shanley, FLC Volunteer Missionary





# FLC Festival Weekend Christmas Market

supporting global ministries:

**Belize & FLC quilters**

First Lutheran Church

337 8th Street Brookings, SD



**2023**

BELIZE Mission Partners in Service and Learning FLC

# PURSES

for a **POWERFUL PURPOSE**



## Shopping

**PURSES, JEWELRY, CHRISTMAS DECOR-**gently used  
**SILENT AUCTION** items

Beautifully decorated **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Handcrafted **Gifts & QUILTS** by **FLC Quilters**

**Friday, December 8**

**9:00am-11:30am**

**1:00pm-4:00pm**

**Saturday, December 9**

**9:00am-12:00pm**

**Sunday, December 10**

**8:00am-12:00pm**

**12:00pm Silent Auction ends**



# MISSION COFFEEHOUSE “FILL THE CUP” CAMPAIGN



The Mission Coffeehouse is a non-profit ministry of FLC dedicated to changing the world one cup of coffee at a time. It began its mission in 2006.

All money earned above expenses is used to support the many mission partners of FLC. Each month our tip jar proceeds are directed to local or global missions. Last year we were able to give over \$17,000 for mission support.

By utilizing the time and talents of volunteers the Mission Coffeehouse minimizes payroll expenses. Each week, the Mission Coffeehouse serves as a friendly, relaxing gathering place for members of FLC and the Community.

Now it is time to update the equipment in the Coffeehouse kitchen. It is time for a new sink, dish sanitizer, refrigerated sandwich preparation unit, ceiling fan, and a storage closet for coffee supplies and other items. The cost of the project is estimated at \$15,000 and we are inviting you to help support this update project.

Serving FLC and the Community at large is a Blessing! Volunteers of the Coffeehouse get to see the smiles every day of people in fellowship with each other enjoying good coffee and food. We are inviting you to help us reach our goal of raising \$15,000 to continue the mission of changing the world one cup of coffee at a time!

Donations can be made to FLC. Please specify “Fill the Cup” with your donation.

THANK YOU PATRONS FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS SUPPORT!



## **YOWZERS!!!**

## **YOU ALL BROUGHT IT!!**

You cleaned your closets and brought in 16,120 pounds of soft goods for the Savers truck. From that the youth trip'24 group was able to raise \$3,224!!

## **A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!!**



Welcome to FALL!! We have been blessed with some nice weather bringing the change of a season with beautiful fall colors and cooler weather. Having the holidays just around the corner does not seem possible yet!

Happy holiday season to you all!

Mission Coffeehouse continues to be successful in so many ways. I want to thank all the volunteers who make this possible with their dedication and being. THANK YOU to volunteers during the work week schedule, our Journey Wednesday night meals, soup ladies and all that help where needed. I couldn't be happier to have found such a great group of individuals to be working with!

Mission of the Month is heart warming and with the support and donations of all coming to the coffeehouse we raise a good portion to help the monthly cause. Thank you for your kindness and support! It is very much appreciated.

We are into the busy time of the year with First Lutheran Church activities, holiday shows, Christmas parties and gatherings throughout the weeks. We continue to bring in a great lunch crowd seeing some new faces around as well. Wonderful homemade soups are served daily thanks to our soup ladies! We do not disappoint with our amazing sandwiches, salads, and pizzas.

With Christmas approaching, the Mission Coffeehouse will be closed on December 26th and January 1st. Thank you again for all the support! Look forward to what's to come in the next couple of months.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,  
LaDeane Harrison

**Mission of the Month**  
**December: Project Joy**  
**January: Brookings**  
**Ministerial Association**



## Mission of the Month



Deb Bortnem with Maddi Nelson of "Share the Warmth" presenting a check for \$1,090.68



Deb Bortnem with Chaundra Hilleson-Gayne of "BSD Child Wellness Fund" presenting a check for \$1382.38





# PRESCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON from First Lutheran Preschool!!

The students, staff, and I are very busy preparing for the holidays. We decided we would decorate a tree again for The Festival of Trees, put on by the Brookings Arts Council. We chose one of the children's favorite books, "The Mitten" by Jan Brett, as the theme for our tree. All the children will make decorations for it, and they will get to go on a field trip to see "their tree" and all the other beautiful trees.

Miss Pat and the children have been working hard and they are excited for the upcoming Preschool Christmas Concerts. They will be performed in the church Sanctuary during regular scheduled class times. There will be three separate concerts. They will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30am and Wednesday, December 13 at 10:30am and 2:30PM. We invite everyone to attend. It is always entertaining! The performances will also be live-streamed and then available for viewing, any time on the Church's website, [firstlutheranbrookings.org/preschool](http://firstlutheranbrookings.org/preschool). Then scroll down toward the bottom of the page.

During this joyous season the staff and I are reminded of our many blessings. We are so thankful for the wonderful children and families that we get to work with every day. We also feel fortunate to be a member of and supported by the First Lutheran Church family.

Preschool will not be in session Wednesday, December 20 through Friday, January 5. Classes will resume Monday, January 8, 2024.

The staff and children from FLP wish everyone a very **BLESSED CHRISTMAS** and a **PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE GENEROSITY AND THE LOVE OF GIVING:

Saturday and Sunday mornings, Dec. 9 & 10

Children will have an opportunity to select Christmas gifts for others for 25 cents each in the gym of the Mission Coffee House. The Belize Mission Team members would love to help your child select items, package them in a little gift bag, and talk with them about the Joy of Giving! We want to share with them the happiness we experience when sharing our time and resources to help others.

### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Each one must give as they have decided in their heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

We hope to see your children on Saturday or Sunday morning between 9 and noon!





# **"SOON AND VERY SOON, WE ARE GOING TO SEE A KING"**

WOV 744

Sunday, December 17th at 3:30 there will be a Blue Christmas service, rather than the Longest Night service on Dec. 21st. This will be a meaningful, healing service in the Sanctuary for those who have experienced grief and are not feeling celebratory this Christmas.

Jesus' arrival on Christmas was a surprise to the world, even though Isaiah had foretold it. Perhaps you have been surprised and delighted, as I have been, by the prospect of Christmas Eve happening on a Sunday this year! This has been a source of discussion during Worship meetings.

We will be worshipping the fourth Sunday in Advent on December 24th, at 10:30 and our regular 1:30, 4:30 and 6:30 Christmas Eve services. The 1:30 and 6:30 services will feature Holy Communion and candlelight, as well as your favorite Christmas carols. The 10:30 and 4:30 services will not be offering Holy Communion but the 4:30 service will be a candlelight and carol service. There will be special music at all of the Christmas Eve services.

Christmas Day services will be at 10:30 followed by a community Christmas dinner in the activity center.

New Years' Eve services will be on Sunday, December 31st at 10:30 and led by Rick Jensen and the Praise band.

In January, the Sanctuary Choir will be taking some time off but will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 10th.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.  
PAT ANDERSON, 8:30 SERVICE MUSIC DIRECTOR

## **G R A T I T U D E**

A Great big **THANK YOU!** to **Ron Langner** for his service. Ron has volunteered hours of his time each week to provide years of beautiful lawn maintenance. He is handing in his keys this fall to make room for the next grass expert!



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS



**Christmas is coming**



**The Children are preparing**



**Join us**

This year's Christmas Program: "Here we come to Bethlehem" will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 am. The Children of First Lutheran Church have been working hard to present our Christmas program. Come early as seats fill quickly. Join us for cookies following the program.

## Christmas Prep Schedule

6:00 - 7:00 pm Wednesday, December 6 All Journey students encouraged to attend practice.  
9:30 - 11:00 am Saturday, December 9 All students Christmas Program Practice in Sanctuary  
10:10 Sunday, December 10 Students report to classrooms  
10:30 Sunday, December 10 Christmas Program Service  
\*Cookie reception after service.

## **LUTHERAN OUTDOOR CAMP REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN**

Some of these camps fill quickly

*(especially family camp, confirmation camp, fishing camp)*

*First Lutheran Church AND Lutheran Outdoors all offer camperships to help offset costs.*

## **JOURNEY TO DISCIPLESHIP WILL BE ON BREAK UNTIL JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup>.**

The first rotation back from break will be "the original sin"

## **GAME NIGHT**

Join us for a board game night.

We will have games or bring games to share.

5- 7:00 pm Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

Meal Provided

Nursery for children infant to 4 years old in the Nursery

**Hey 4th & 5th Graders!! There will be a semi-lock-in February 16th 6-Midnight.**





8. The new church council being installed during the service  
 L-R: Lonnie Bayer, Kelly Deckert (Vice President),  
 Ross Abraham (President), Hanna Holmquist (Secretary),  
 Michele Nielson, Diane Spencer  
 Not pictured: Keith Corbett

1. Pastors Jess & Trey celebrated Halloween in royal style
2. 10th grade Confirmation students present their projects
3. The fall cemetery clean up crew
4. These humongous gourds were grown in our raised garden bed along with many tomatoes, cucumbers and more
5. The many boxes of quilts and care kits ready to be loaded for Lutheran World Relief
6. 2023 confirmation class
7. Pastors Jess & Trey at an installation for a friend





# YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

## Howdy Pals!

What a full fall we have been able to share together at First Lutheran. Thank you all for being present in the ways you have been able to! I am so excited to dive into the season of celebration that is to come after this gorgeous autumn.

### 6th - 8th Grade Confirmation:

So much has come to pass in the last few months! During confirmation this fall we have learned about the Holy Sacraments of Communion and Baptism as a form of understanding Lutheran doctrine. We have also focused on the creation story and how faith and science support each other. This fall we have added community building nights as part of our faith curriculum. We have hosted large group games and had a night of service night! In Mid-November we led a Confirmation retreat at NeSoDak Bible Camp with 14 confirmation students. The theme was T. Swift and J. Christ: The Eras of God's Love. We reflected upon God's promises throughout the ages. The Bible in 25 minutes, friendship bracelets, games, smores, and great conversation filled our time. Thank you to Cheryl Melby, Stuie Lewis, and Cyndi Jonhson for your leadership on this big weekend!



### BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: 9TH GRADE NIGHT!

Our 9th grade confirmation students are experiencing a new curriculum aimed at the unique place they are in their journey. On the second Wednesday of the month the 9th graders will dissect and discover their faith through contextual conversation and experience. The Wellness Wheel is how we are connecting faith and life. In October we experienced and talked about intellectual wellness with a focus on how faith and science can coexist. Thank you to Ross Abraham for chatting our ears off on this great topic! In November we invited The Brookings Multi-Cultural Center to join us for an evening of sharing cultures, traditions, and faith. A tremendous thank you to Marilyn Hildreth for inviting folks to join and share.



**NOTE: THE LAST NIGHT OF CONFIRMATION IS DECEMBER 6TH.  
THE LAST NIGHT OF YOUTH GROUP IS DECEMBER 13TH.  
ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 17TH.**



### YOUTH GROUP:

This fall every week has looked a little different, we have touched on topics of social and cultural relevance such as the current happenings in the Holy Land, who is the Holy Spirit, and what do Lutherans believe about the afterlife.

On Sunday January 7th a group will be attending an event at the University Lutheran center where students get a taste of college and Campus ministry! In January we will begin with a unit on how faith and science function in our time and can be closely connected. Youth group will begin again for the semester on January 17th.



### SUMMER YOUTH TRIP 2024:

Next summer 21 of our youth will be heading to New Orleans to experience the ELCA Youth Gathering with youth and young adults from all over the country!

### UPCOMING YOUTH TRIP '24 FUNDRAISERS:

Do you have children between the ages of 0-10? Looking for a time to get some Christmas shopping done or house cleaning before the holidays? How about having someone else around to wrap gifts for you? FLC youth are hosting a Daycare fundraising even event after the Christmas program rehearsal on December 9th! There will be games, movies, crafts, and more! The event will run from 11am-3:30pm. Children may be signed up for one time frame or both, 11-1:30 and 1:30-3:30. Cost will be \$35 per child for the full time or \$20 for one time slot. Please use the QR code or the web address to sign up.



[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/10C0D44AEAE2EA3F9CF8-46244862-CHILDCARE#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44AEAE2EA3F9CF8-46244862-CHILDCARE#/)



### Poinsettias



A SMALL PORTION OF THE PRICE OF THE POINSETTIAS FOLKS PURCHASE FOR CHRISTMAS WILL GO TOWARDS OUR YOUTH TRIP. ORDER FORMS ARE IN THE OFFICE AND ALL ENTRANCES TO THE SANCTUARY. ORDERS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 10.



ROLLS WILL BE A MORE REGULAR OCCURRENCE AGAIN!

### PIE



JANUARY 27TH WILL BE PIE PICK UP DAY!  
ORDERS WILL COME OUT ON DECEMBER 17TH AND  
BE DUE ON THE 15TH OF JANUARY



IN PEACE AND PRAYER,  
MADISON MCCABE  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES





2023  
CONFIRMATION  
RETREAT  
NE-SO-DAK







The Membership Records of  
First Lutheran Church from  
September - November 2023

## *Baptisms*

**Kelton Jacob Hanson**

Child of Jake & Sarina Hanson

**Molu Moses Seth  
Zarpelah**

Child of Mole & Philimena Zarpelah

**Nora Grace Peterson**

Child of Chase & Brittany Peterson

**Audrey Marie Elliott**

**Andrew Stewart Elliott**

Children of Matthew & Lisa Peterson

**Paxton Michael Fossum**

Child of Brett Fossum & Hailey Cramer

**Grayson Adam Jongewaard**

Child of Jacob Jongewaard & Eleanor Jensen

## *New Members*

**Marlee Braun**

**Paul and Rachel Meyer and Thea**

**Tatum and Nolan Sonnenburg**

**Charlie Wilson, Makhia Wilson, Tyrone  
Carpenter & Emmitt Schmidt**

**Joel & Jodilyn Andrews**



## *Congratulations*

To Boyd Shank on being named 2023 South Dakota Centenarian of the year. Boyd is 108 years old and the oldest member of the Century Club.

# THANK YOU!

We collected 352 boxes of stuffing and \$1,238.83 from the noisy offering which was donated to Feeding Brookings for the Thanksgiving Food Box distribution.

What does 352 boxes look like?



## Brookings County Food Bank Donations

July	107 items
August	114 items
September	85 items
October	114 items

Thank you for your  
donations!





**First Lutheran Church**  
**PO Box 300**  
**Brookings, SD 57006**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Brookings, SD  
Permit No. 87

**Return Service Requested**

[www.firstlutheranbrookings.org](http://www.firstlutheranbrookings.org)  
Phone: 692-6251  
Fax: 697-2760

X

If you have an  
article or  
information  
for the February  
& March  
Newsletter,  
please have it to  
the church office  
no later than  
5:00pm Jan 9th.

If you would like  
information put  
in the Sunday  
announcements,  
please have it in  
the church office  
by noon the  
Monday before.  
Thank you!

## **Whew! God's Grace Abounds around First Lutheran!**

Look at all the ways our congregation is growing in  
faith, sharing God's love, and serving God's world!  
Every event and opportunity in this month's newsletter  
(and even the newsletter itself!) is made possible by the  
generous giving and financial support of you, the  
people of First Lutheran Church. Thank you for your  
generosity and faithfulness in our ministry together!

X

X

X





# December



Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.) HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone				1	2	
<b>3</b> 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC 2:00 pm Caroling	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm “Sew What”	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Quilters 11:30 am Quilters Luncheon 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>6</b> 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm <b>ALL JOURNEY KIDS</b> Christmas program practice 7:00 pm Confirm. 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Youth grp	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Church Council	<b>8</b> 11:30 am Purses Luncheon 9:00-11:30 am & 1:00-4:00 pm Purses Shopping Event	<b>9</b> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Purses Shopping Event 9:30 am <b>ALL JOURNEY KIDS</b> program practice 11:30am–3:00pm Babysitting and Giftwrapping
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Festival Service 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Purses Shopping Event 10:30 am Journey Christmas Program with cookie reception to follow in MCH 5:00 pm Mentor Christmas Party	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm ULC & Parkplace Communion 5:30 pm “Sew What”	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>13</b> <b>NO JOURNEY OR CONFIRMATION</b> 6:45 pm Youth Group Christmas Party 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17 NO JOURNEY</b> 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC 3:30 pm Blue Christmas Service	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm “Sew What”	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Quilters 2:00 pm Bible Study	<b>20 NO JOURNEY OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Christmas Eve <b>SEE BELOW</b>	<b>25</b> Christmas Day 10:30 am Worship Service followed by Christmas Dinner <b>MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b> <b>MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</b>	<b>27</b> <b>NO CHILDREN OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES or BELL OR CHOIR REHEARSALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31 NO JOURNEY</b> 10:30 am Worship Service	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES:</b> <b>10:30 a.m. Traditional Festival Worship Service</b> <b>1:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service with Communion</b> <b>4:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service</b> <b>6:30 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service with Communion</b>					



# January

	<b>1</b> <b>MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> <b>NO JOURNEY OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES NO BELL OR CHOIR REHEARSAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>NO JOURNEY</b> 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC 11:45am Anniv. Of Baptism 4:00 H.S. Study Night	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm ULC & Parkplace Communion 5:30 pm "Sew What"	<b>9</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 5:30 pm CYFT Team 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>10</b> <b>NO JOURNEY OR YOUTH ACTIVITIES</b> 5:00pm Family Game Night 5:45pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 6:30pm Church Council	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>NO JOURNEY</b> 8:30 am Festival Service 10:30 am Praise Service	<b>15</b> <b>MCH AND FLC OFFICES CLOSED</b> 5:30 pm "Sew What"	<b>16</b> 8:30am Quilters 9:00am Staff Meeting 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>17</b> 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 am Festival Service w/HC 9:40am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service w/ HC	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	<b>23</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>24</b> 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 am Festival Service 9:40 am Journey 10:30 am Praise Service 5:30pm 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm "Sew What"	<b>30</b> 8:30am Quilters 2:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>31</b> 5:00 pm Meal 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:00 pm Journey 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir 7:00 pm Youth Group	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Only church activities are included on this calendar. Check the on-line calendar for outside meetings and events scheduled. (Calendar subject to change.)</p> <p>HC = Holy Communion SS = SteppingStone</p> </div>		