

# THE PARISH NEWS



January, 2024

*First Lutheran Church  
PO Box 218, 709 5th Ave  
Washburn, ND 58577-0218*

*Interim Pastor: Rev. Paul Krueger*

**Phone:**

*701-462-3775 Church  
701-462-3774 Parsonage  
701-240-4712 Cell  
701-462-3785 Fax*

*E-mail address:*

*flc@westriv.com*

*Web-site address:*

*www.flcwashburn.com*

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM and 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
Wednesday 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**OFFICE & NEWSLETTER EDITORIAL STAFF:**

Jeannette Rost, Administrative Secretary

**CUSTODIAN:**

Jeff Schmidt

**COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES:**

Melissa Rothe

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Interim Pastor, Paul Krueger  
Mac Beaudry, President  
Joe Sheldon, Vice President  
Janet Hanson, Secretary  
Aaron Solomonson, Treasurer  
Chris Albers, Property Trustee  
Jeff Schmidt, Worship Deacon  
Sarah Kadmas, Education Chair  
Kacy Hardt, Evangelism Deacon  
Julie Bentz, Stewardship Trustee

**NEWSLETTER INFORMATION/  
ARTICLES DEADLINE is 20th of each month.**

**Our Mission. . . "Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service."**

"The Parish News" a monthly publication of First Lutheran, linking Church and members' homes, is mailed from Washburn, ND 58577, Bulk Postal permit #39.



2024 – Things Will Only Get Worse!

In this morning's news "a leading economist" warned that our country is in deep trouble. "Things will definitely get worse before they get better. Expect the downward slide in the housing market, the job sector, and unemployment to continue in 2024, maybe into 2025." When viewed from this perspective, what hope can we possibly have?

That's why the Words of Jesus are so powerful for each one of us as we start the New Year. His words are spoken from an eternal perspective and fuel the heart with hope. An economist sees life through a narrow lens. The Lord Jesus sees life with an eternal perspective. An economist sees life with human strength. The Lord Jesus sees life with God's strength. An economist sees life as "the abundance of possessions." The Lord Jesus sees life as a temporary journey where both rich and poor will one day have to surrender their earthly treasures. An economist can only move forward with fear. The believer in Christ can only move forward with optimism, and confidence, because they move forward WITH God. Jesus said, "*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?*" (Matthew 6:25-27)

Things will only get worse in 2024? Not if you view 2024 with eyes focused upon your Father in Heaven! A housing slump cannot change our eternal home. A financial loss cannot change our eternal treasure. Being pushed out of a job cannot push us out of God's caring hands. The fatigue of human strength cannot change the abundance of God's strength. The hopelessness of a world without God cannot change the hope the believer in Christ has WITH God. That's why Jesus so boldly teaches us, "*Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and ALL these [other] things will be added unto you!*" (Matthew 6:33)

Things will only get worse in 2024? Never! With confidence in Christ, I can unquestionably say, that 2024 will be the best year for you yet! Hmmm.....Perhaps CNN should interview me?

A Blessed and Joy-filled New Year to you all!

Pastor Krueger





# DECEMBER 5, 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

(Please note that minutes are not approved until voted on by the council at the next meeting.)



The Church Council met on December 5, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Present were Mac Beaudry, Aaron Solomonson, Julie Bentz, Sarah Kadrmias, Joe Sheldon, Chris Albers, Jeff Schmidt, Pastor Krueger, and Janet Hanson. Absent was Kacy Hardt. Also present was Jeannette Rost.

The meeting was called to order by President Mac Beaudry. Kadrmias/Sheldon to approve the agenda. Carried.

Pastor Krueger led in devotions based on Luke 1.

Solomonson/Schmidt to approve the minutes from November 7, 2023. Carried.

Solomonson gave the treasurer's report. The following balances are on hand: CD's: \$150,000.00; Checking: \$136,313.21; Building: \$197,341.68; Cemetery: \$1,717.40; FLY: \$12,752.06; Interest: \$12,467.65; Music: \$1,413.33; Parking Lot: \$1,555.00; Super Sunday Supper: \$3,440.54; Worship: \$2,528.44; Ameriprise Financial: \$39,995.60; Morgan Stanley: \$11,992.40. Total Assets: \$571,517.31. Schmidt/Bentz to approve the report for future audit and to pay all non-budgeted bills. Carried.

Pastor's report: He has administered private communions, three confirmands were confirmed, still working with the call committee, the Endowment committee, and budget committee. He has monitored the confirmation classes, and the instruction is on schedule. He has the 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students working on things they will be helping with for the mid-week Lenten services and servant/event activities with Rothe when he is gone. He updated the council on mid-week lent worship, and upcoming travel dates.

Committee reports:

Stewardship-No report.

Worship-Schmidt talked about some people think the font on the bulletin should be larger.

Education-Kadrmias reported on the Christmas programs in December. She also mentioned the dividers they got are not doing the job they had hoped. They are a visual barrier but not a sound barrier. She mentioned the biggest problem we have is because we don't have enough teachers for Sunday School, the rooms are not big enough

for all the people who have to be in them when combining classes.

Evangelism-No report.

Property-Albers reported he will continue to work with the dividers. The water fountain by the kitchen should be removed. He thanked those who helped paint at the parsonage. The flooring is scheduled to be laid the end of the week.

Executive-No report.

Mutual Ministry-No report.

Old Business:

We have \$575.92 in Thrivent Choice Dollars.

The Endowment committee has met. Their recommendation is to work with Hahn Financial for the endowment. They have worked on a document and how the endowment would work. Solomonson/Schmidt to accept the Endowment Fund Policy as presented by the Committee. Carried.

Schmidt/Solomonson to work with Hahn Financial for the Endowment fund. Carried.

Beaudry is still looking into the plan for the cemetery fence project. May be tabled until early spring.

The call committee will be meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> to work on our congregational profiles and hopefully finalize them at that time.

We are looking for any other Architectures in the area that we could contact on looking at our building.

New Business:

The 2024 budget was reviewed. Bentz/Schmidt to approve the 2024 budget and present it at the Congregational meeting. Carried.

The Annual meeting is set for January 14, 2024, with a meal starting at 11:45 and the meeting after. All committee reports are due to Rost by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Kadrmias/Schmidt to approve the following fourth quarter benevolences: Great Plains Food Bank-\$400.00: \$275.00 from US/Local Missions and \$125.00 from World Hunger; Washburn School

*(Continued on next page)*

Imagination Library-\$100.00 from US/Local Missions; Friends of Madagascar Mission-\$375.00 from Global Mission; Our Daily Bread-\$250.00 for Relief Missions. Carried.

Sheldon/Schmidt to approve giving the FLCW \$350.00 for a decorating budget. Carried.

A request was made by Café 77 to advertise on a daily specials board. A consensus of the board was not to participate in this.

Schmidt/Hanson to approve the transfer out of Pam Hoffer to Trinity Lutheran Church in Bismarck. Carried.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting on January 14, 2024, and the February meeting will be Feb. 6 at 6:30 pm.

Schmidt/Sheldon to adjourn the meeting. Carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Paul.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Janet Hanson  
Church Council Secretary



Have you picked up your 2024 offering envelopes yet? If not, please stop in the narthex and take yours for using during the year. There should be one for all member families.

If you do not find a set for yourself and would like one, please talk to Jeannette in the church office. It makes it easier on the money counters and administrative secretary if you use your envelopes.

Remember to also check your mailbox in the narthex. **Your mailbox is the one under your name.** If you are a member of First Lutheran and do not find one for yourself, please see Jeannette in the church office.

# CALL COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 17, 2023 NOON

Present: Randy Hanson, Randy Hall, Caden Albers, Donna Sommer, Chad Hardt, Emily Retterath, Joe Sheldon, Rev. Paul Krueger, Alexis Solomonson, Melissa Rothe, Cathy Sheldon, Sarah Rosenquist, Julie Bentz

We split back into our 2 groups to finish going through the NALC and LCMC applications. We then swapped them with the groups to go over changes we may have had. We mostly added to both things we may have forgotten.

Melissa and Emily are going to get together to finish the applications for both the LCMC and NALC with our changes. They then will submit the applications and send us an email to let us know it is complete.

Joe and Emily are looking into someone to do a video for our application. Joe will check with Nolan Johnson and Emily will check with Jeremy Olson. Once Joe and Emily have quotes from Nolan and Jeremy, they will send out an email to info the committee what the quotes may be. It was suggested by Lexi that we hold off on the video until we see how our applicant turn out is and if we feel we could use a boost we can then do the video and submit it to our applications. Everyone felt this was a good idea.

Randy Hanson will type something up to have put in the annual meeting booklet to let the congregation know how this process is going. He also thanked everyone for their work and time with this process.

Next meeting will be January 7th, 2024 at Noon if we feel we need to discuss anything or maybe possibly go through some applicants.

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Submitted,  
Julie Bentz

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SELBO

Dear Pastors, Congregations, Partners in Ministry, Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—as we look forward to the celebration of our Lord’s birth at Christmas and His glorious return when the Father will call us all home to be with Him forever!

Thank you for your good and faithful ministry and for your partnership in the work of the Gospel. It is my deepest and most sincere desire and prayer that this Christmas season will be one in which the love shown to us so clearly in the birth of God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, will be at the center of the proclamation we offer and the witness we give to a world.

With every passing year, rather than the story of our Lord’s birth becoming more familiar, I find myself being struck more intensely by its significance. The divine became human. The infinite became finite. The eternal became temporal. Not only that, but our broken relationship with God was repaired. It was restored in the person and work of Jesus, put back together and made right when Jesus became one of us and walked the path of the cross.

I am not yet convinced that we can fully understand all of what that means. I am convinced that we can be assured of what has been done for us in Jesus. That’s the good news. That’s what Christmas is all about. And that’s why we need to speak with clarity and conviction of the love revealed to us in Jesus Christ, so that the world for which He gave His life might come to believe.

One of the most basic and fundamental needs we have in this life is to be loved. From the moment we are born until the day when we leave this world, to love and to be loved is central to how we were created. It’s basic to what our life on this earth is all about. It keeps us going. It tells us that we matter. It says to us that we belong and that our life on this earth really counts.

When God came into this world in the person of Jesus, it was God’s way of declaring that we are loved and will always be loved by Him. It’s the very reason Jesus was born as a baby. It’s the motivation in the heart of God behind the entire Christmas event.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.” Christmas is God’s declaration that we do matter, that our lives on this earth really do count,

and that no matter what else might happen in this life, there is always and forever a reason to live.

One of my seminary professors was Dr. Gerhard Forde. He was a good teacher. He kept the focus of his lectures on Jesus. No matter what direction the theological conversation went, he continually brought it back to Christ.

One of the books he wrote was titled, *Where God Meets Man*. The subtitle was, “A Down To Earth Approach to The Gospel.” It was a study about how the story of Jesus is the story of God coming down to earth to give us what we need. And He did it not by sending someone else on His behalf, but by becoming what we need in Himself.

I would imagine that if you were to think back on all the Christmas gifts you have received over the years, the ones that would stand out the most would be the ones with the most personal touch. Christmas is the story of God’s love for us. It’s the story of God’s individual and personal love for you and for me. And it’s not love wrapped in a package. It’s love found in a person. It’s not a gift placed under a tree, waiting to be opened when the time is right. It’s love placed in a manger, working to make right a relationship that had gone wrong.

“You will call His name Jesus,” the angel said, “for He will save His people from their sins.” And so, it was. And so, He did. And so, we celebrate that good news again this year.

Where does God meet man? He meets us in our sin. He comes to us where we are. He forgives us and He loves us, and He promises to never leave.

As I consider the turmoil in which our world is currently found, the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, the tension among nations that seems to be increasing with each passing day, as well as the division that exists within our own nations, to say nothing of the brokenness found in many homes and communities throughout North America and beyond, I cannot help but believe that the answer to this world’s turmoil was offered to us in the coming of Jesus.

Our task, as His followers, is to point the world toward Him. Beginning in our families and our churches, from there into the relationships we have with our neighbors and co-workers and in our schools, and from there into the surrounding communities and beyond. There is no better

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remedy to the troubles we face in this life than to face those troubles with the remedy given to us two thousand years ago in the person and work of Christ.

Will we ever fully comprehend what that saving event was all about? Probably not, at least not this side of the grave. But that doesn't matter, because it does not depend upon how much we understand but solely upon what He has done. God's love, down to earth. That's what you have been given. Where God meets man. In our sin. At Christmas. In Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your faithful witness. Thank you for the partnership we share in Christ. Thank you for the love you share and the witness you offer, pointing people to the love of God revealed to us in Jesus.

It continues to be a joy and an honor to serve as your bishop. Know that my prayers are with each of you. Have a blessed and a love-filled Christmas!

*In Christ,*

**Bishop Dan**

North American Lutheran Church



**JOIN US BEGINNING  
JANUARY 28, 2024  
8:30 AM**

**BIBLE STUDY LED BY  
CATHY SHELDON  
5 SESSIONS**

**THE GREAT DISAPPEARANCE  
DR. DAVID JEREMIAH**

Though we talk about the Rapture,  
we don't often know much about it.

How will it affect us? How should it motivate us in the life in which we live today? Will it happen before or after the Tribulation?

In *The Great Disappearance*, Dr. David Jeremiah presents fascinating glimpses of hope and insight into this next event on God's prophetic calendar.

From this study, you will find inspiration and motivation to live with a greater purpose as we reach the world with this urgent message.



Don't miss our  
**2024 ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

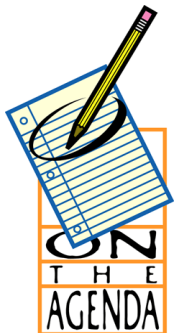
Sunday, January 14, 2024



Soup, Bread, Salad, & Dessert  
11:45 AM  
(Served by the Church Council)

Annual meeting follows the meal.

If you are giving, confirmed, receiving communion and a member of First Lutheran Church, then you are considered a voting member of First Lutheran and encouraged to attend this meeting to show your support of your church.



- We will look back at 2023 and forward into 2024
- Adopt a 2024 Budget
- Elect new representatives to serve on the council
- Thank those leaving the council
- Welcome new council members

# YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS AND CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Melissa Rothe - Coordinator of Student Ministries [fly@westriv.com](mailto:fly@westriv.com)



in Des Moines, IA on July 9-12, 2024. We will leave on the 8<sup>th</sup> and come back on the 13<sup>th</sup>. There are limited spots. If you are interested in going, please contact Melissa Rothe or Pastor Paul.

**Confirmation:** We are more than halfway through the confirmation year!!! I am so impressed by all of the students and their willingness to learn! They have grown so much this year! As we approach Lent, the students are expected to take 6 Lenten notes.

**Fleece Blankets:** The youth will be working on a service project to make tie blankets for the Children's wing of the Bismarck hospitals. The youth are looking for anyone who is willing to donate fleece. If you have any questions about the size of the fleece, please contact Melissa Rothe.

**Youth Gathering:** The youth will be going to the LCMC Youth Gathering at Grand View University

**Dates to Note:** *All other dates will be posted on Remind.*

January 3rd: Pizza Day, Confirmation and YG resumes

Every Wednesday night: 5:30-6:15 Meal, 6:15-7:45 Confirmation, 7:45-9:00 Youth Group

**Question to ask the youth in your life:** What do you want to accomplish this year? How can I pray for you to accomplish your goals? What do you think will be the biggest obstacles to your goals?

**Pray for the Youth:** Lord, please help us learn from our mistakes. Challenge us to grow with each opportunity this year. Teach us grace that we may walk with strength and help us to develop compassion to those around us! Amen!



# FLCW NEWS

JANUARY, 2024

## Executive Board:

### Co-Chairs:

Donna Gunderson  
???

### Secretary:

Marlys Knell

### Treasurer:

LeAnn Richard

### Growth (Confirmation & Graduation Tea and 3rd Grade Bibles):

Janet Hanson  
Joan Holznagel

### Committees:

#### Action (Quilts, LWR Kits):

Marlys Knell  
LeAnn Richard  
Gwen DeMontigny

#### Community:

Kathy Keller  
Meals on Wheels  
Lions Bake Sale  
Alli Sheldon  
Goodies From the Heart

#### Altar Guild:

Theresa Petersen

#### Audit:

Mary Ann Beeks

#### Camp of the Cross:

Peggy Moran

#### Decorating, Receptions/ Bulletin Board Decorating:

Donna Gunderson

#### Good Cheer:

Mary Ann Beeks

#### Kitchen:

Arlene Schwarz  
Kathy Keller  
Linda Zeller

#### Library:

Sharon Chrest  
Sande Wagner  
Norma Petersen  
Arlene Schwarz

#### Prayer Chain:

First Lutheran Church  
Jeannette Rost

#### Service Secretary:

Sharon Chrest  
Donna Gunderson

Happy New Year!!!

The Advent breakfast was a wonderful way to start the Christmas season! Thanks to the executive board for planning the event. Thank you Marlys and Janet for the readings and LeAnn for leading the singing. Also thanks to Janet and LeAnn for making the angel favors! Thank you to work group 3 for serving a wonderful breakfast.

Thank you to Work Group 4 for serving the Choir Cantata coffee time after church.

Thanks to all the FLCW women this past year for all your work baking, serving, quilting and all you have done to make our church run smoothly. Thank you to Leilani Olafson for co-chairing the past two years! We are looking for a co-chair for 2024-2025. Thanks to Joan Holznagel for agreeing to work with Janet on the growth committee. We are also looking for two more co-chairs for work group 1.

If anyone has any questions about our plans for 2024 please call any of the executive board members.

### January Events:

Meals on Wheels - Call Kathy Keller if you are able to help.

25 - Quilting

26 - Quilting

Please consider helping with quilting even if you can't sew! Lots of jobs for everyone!

### February Events:

4 - Lions Bake sale

12 - Executive Board Meeting

18 - Secret Prayer Partner Tea 2:00 pm

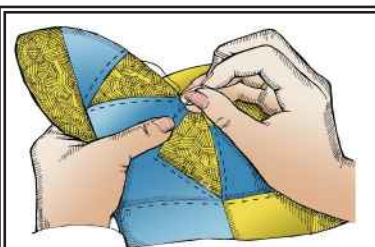
21 - Lenten Meal. All work groups serve

22 and 23 - Quilting

More details on February events later.

Please check your mailboxes at church for your 2024 FLCW books.

Donna Gunderson, FLCW Co- Chair



QUILTING GROUP

January 25 & 26  
9:00 AM

## Women's Bible Study



Please let your hostess know whether or not you will be attending each month.

Study is Tender Warrior - Lesson 1

### Deborah Bible Study

January 18

9:30 AM

at the church

Arlene Schwarz &

Ivadell Larson host



# ADVENT BREAKFAST - DECEMBER 2, 2023





# Education Report

Sarah Kadrmias



Welcome 2024! It's nice to meet you!

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

The Lord has a plan for each of us. Knowing that He has a greater plan can help carry us into the new year. This plan fills us with hope for the future and an opportunity to focus our lives on God and his promises. Have HOPE!



*Hope...*

- Brings joy and peace in times of trouble
- Replaces our fears with courage and strength
- Replaces our doubt with confidence and assurance
- Gives us patience during seasons of uncertainty
- Increases our desire to endure rather than to quit
- Motivates us to do the work God has called us to do

ALL THINGS LIFE  
with Hope, Love  
allthingslife.org

A LOUD and sincere “THANK YOU” to the volunteers that helped us this last month with Sunday school. Our wonderful teachers and volunteers each Sunday while preparing for our programs; Stacy, Sadie, Kacy and Melissa for going the extra mile! Our high school volunteers, for your patience, energy, and consistently showing up for the kids. Brent and Theresa for helping with *everything* involved with the Christmas goodies, Jeff and Amanda Schmidt and family for helping clean up after the program, Mac and Judy Beaudry for always pitching in where needed. Kellie, Kacy and Chad Hart for the set up and decorating. Pastor Paul for his generous heart and ideas, and everyone else we may have missed! It truly takes a village and ours is the best!

Parents, please consider signing up as helpers on our list downstairs on the Sunday school bulletin board. ☺ Happy New Year! I pray your year is full of unexpected blessings and lots of HOPE.





**PIZZA DAY - December 6, 2023 - 86 YOUTH SERVED**  
**Thank you to our volunteers!**



## THANKSGIVING MEAL PREP AND SERVING

Thank you to everyone that helped in one way or another to make this another successful meal. Helping with donating food, prep work, serving, delivering, cleanup, etc. We couldn't do it without you!



## JANUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### SUNDAY USHERS/GREETERS - 9:30 AM

7 - Willie & Janell Ziemann  
14 - Gwen DeMontigny  
21 - Julie Bentz Family  
28 - Brad & Cathy Sheldon

### ACOLYTES

7 - Keaton Kadrmass & McKayde Baumann  
14 - Noah Holznagel & Jaxon Solomonson  
21 - Kesia Boeshans & Rebecca Scheresky  
28 - Bodie Winter & Brianna Torres

### SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READERS

7 - Joe Sheldon  
14 - Alli Sheldon  
21 - Randy Hanson  
28 - Kollins Albers

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

7 - Joe Sheldon, Randy & Gwen Hall

### ALTAR CARE

Cindy Thiel & Donna Kroll

### VIRTUAL SERVICE TECHS

7 - Melissa Rothe  
14 - Wade & Stacy Boeshans  
21 - Melissa Rothe  
28 - DJ Winter

### COFFEE HOUR SERVERS

7 - Dick & Carla Bickert  
14 - Dick & Carla Bickert  
21 - Evangelism Committee  
28 - Evangelism Committee

### SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS

Dick & Carla Bickert  
Evangelism Committee

## WORSHIP REPORT

Jeff Schmidt - 701-202-1211

When a scheduled swap is made and it is one or more months out, contact Jeff or Jeannette to insure the newsletter and bulletin are accurate. **DO NOT** call about swap until the month prior to service date. I am always willing to fill in when in a difficult position, as are a host of others.

If you alone are positioned on a first or third Sunday, both duties are assigned to you.

R = Reader; C = Communion Assistant

### **February**

4 Alexis Solomonson (R)  
11 Donna Sommer (R & C)  
Melanie Beckman & Jeff Schmidt (C)  
14 Ash Wednesday  
Peggy Wollmuth (R & C)  
Val Swanson & Emily Retterath (C)  
18 Drew Peterson (R)  
21 Jeff Schmidt (R)  
25 Sunday School (R)  
28 Rick Richard (R)



## Altar Flowers

A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex for altar flowers from January 7 thru May 26.

Sign up for the Sunday you wish for before it is taken.

Remember, you furnish the flowers and make sure they get to the church.

## CONFIRMATION CAFÉ SERVERS

### JANUARY

3 - Kim & Brenda Ankenbauer  
10 - Diane Blumhagen, Brenda Suckow  
Claudette Ness  
17 - Steve & Peggy Wollmuth  
24 - Mac & Judy Beaudry  
31 - Jim & Kathy Kaiser

### FEBRUARY

7 - Brent & Theresa Petersen



# EVANGELISM



**Evangelism**  
OPPORTUNITIES

**The lists for ushers has been updated.** There were nine groups and now there are six, so each group will be responsible for two months out of the year with the months rotating each year. The reason for the change was to provide more choices for the coordinators when looking for ushers. There are also two coordinators for each group. My goal was to have all our local members in a group. If you have been missed, I sincerely apologize. Please let the office know, and you will be assigned to

a group. Also, if you have an updated phone number, please let the office know so our records can be updated. Thank you all for your willingness to say yes when called by the coordinators to assist with the church service. **Also, please call the coordinator ahead of time and volunteer for a Sunday that works for you.**

GROUPS	Year 2023	Year 2024	Year 2025	Year 2026
1	Jan./July	Feb./Aug.	March/Sept.	April/Oct.
2	Feb./Aug.	March/Sept.	April/Oct.	May/Nov.
3	March/Sept.	April/Oct.	May/Nov.	June/Dec.
4	April/Oct.	May/Nov.	June/Dec.	Jan./July
5	May/Nov.	June/Dec.	Jan./July	Feb./Aug.
6	June/Dec.	Jan./July	Feb./Aug.	March/Sept.

## GROUP 1 - February

Coordinators:

Terry & Donna Gunderson  
Dwight & Margaret Rasmussen

Mary Ann Beeks  
David Beckman  
Nadine Berger  
Delwin & Diane Blumhagen  
Kevin & Brenda Borner  
Dick Brewster  
Dan Chrest  
Sharon Chrest  
Don Ellwein  
Kathy Farstad  
Stephanie Gieser  
Terry & Donna Gunderson  
Joan Holznagel  
Steven & Sylvia Kalliokoski  
Cindy Kuntz  
Clint & Heidi Marshall  
Bonnie Placek  
Dwight & Margaret Rasmussen  
Wes Sauer/Audrey Pauling  
Kris Schmidt  
Elmer & Arlene Schwarz  
Tammy Sheldon  
George & Val Swanson  
Tim & Sue Thiel  
Mike Thyberg  
Candace Wieger  
Bill & Besi Wilson  
Don & Sue Winter  
Virgil & Deb Wisdom  
Willie & Janell Ziemann

## GROUP 2 - MARCH

Coordinators:

Emily Retterath, Suzie Jacobson, Beth Knutson

Mike Aull  
Brian & Sandi Erber  
Adam & Laura Flegel  
Hank Helm  
Dwayne & Jenny Helmers  
Erin Holznagel  
Lauren & Lavonne Hunze  
Keith & Suzie Jacobson  
Rhonda Johnson  
Kathy Key  
Jacob & Rani Knecht  
Aaron & Beth Knutson  
Sharon Kornack  
Cody & Brittany Kroll  
Tana Larsen  
Orlin & Ivadell Larson  
Robert & Cindy Leidholm  
Jeneen Loe  
Mark & Denise Loutzenhiser  
Jackie Olson  
Kristi Olson  
Wayne & Julie Peterson  
Chris Pfeiger & Andrea Sumner  
Owen & Kim Price  
Luke & Emily Retterath  
AJ & Kara Richards  
Melissa Rothe  
Glenda & Sarah Scholl  
George & Laurie Sheldon  
Justin Sheldon  
Alyson Teigen  
Arden & Sande Wagner  
Craig & Patty Winn

# THANK YOU

- ☺ Thank you Sharon Chrest and Peggy Wollmuth for helping tape the December newsletter for mailing.
- ☺ Thank you Nate Fiedler, DJ Winter, Kyle Albers, Dwight Rasmussen and Melissa Rothe for taking on the responsibility of making sure we had YouTube Live this past month.
- ☺ Thank you to the following for so graciously serving a meal to our confirmation youth and helpers: Cathy Sheldon, Maybell Job, Dick & Carla Bickert and George, Val and Jordan Swanson.
- ☺ Thank you Brent Petersen for filling in for Pastor Paul Krueger on Sunday's when he could not be here.
- ☺ Thank you to Judy Beaudry and all the people that made the great Thanksgiving dinner and delivered it to our house. My husband was very surprised and loved the great dinner.

Bless you all!  
Roger & Sharon Kornack

- ☺ In the passing of brother Mike, we thank you all for the kind words, prayers, cards and memorials given in his name. They are very much appreciated.

God Bless,  
Wes & Audrey Sauer

- ☺ Ardee Kurle would like to thank the following for helping her with the Christmas decorating this year: Brenda Suckow, Elmer & Arlene Schwarz and Mac & Judy Beaudry.
- ☺ "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). The advent of Christ transformed the world for eternity. And because of you, people can hear His message of grace and truth. Your partnership enables Faith Comes By Hearing to record and freely provide God's Word in the world's languages.

Your congregations gift of \$255.00 to Vision 2033 helped end the Audio Bible to a newly established church in the Kelim Kateta Serere district of Africa. More than 20 people received

Christ, and a children's minity launched. Believers of today and tomorrow are discipled through the Audio Bible.

Gifts to Vision 2033 ensure the spread of God's Word to individuals, families, congregations, and entire communities still waiting for Scripture in a comprehensible language and format. Thank you for the sacrifices you make so all may hear and know God speaks their language.

Your Servant in Christ,

Morgan Jackson  
Senior Vice President  
Faith Comes By Hearing

- ☺ Thank you First Lutheran for the gift card for Christmas. I am blessed to be working with such wonderful people.

Jeannette Rost

- ☺ Thank you to everyone that bought a poinsettia for the tree or brought one of their own. Also to those that donated money for the outdoor greenery. Also to Theresa Petersen for taking care of the tree.



*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

- ☺ Thank you to the Men's Bible Study for setting up the nativity in front of the church.

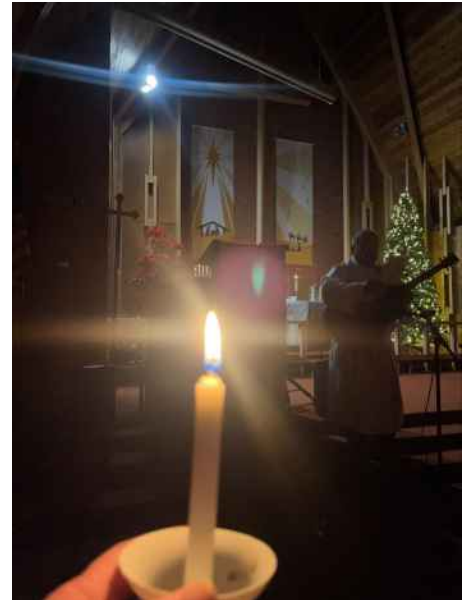


- ☺ Thank you Jeff Schmidt for making sure the Christmas tree was up and decorated.
- ☺ Thank you Ardee Kurle for decorating the church throughout the year and all the years you did. For those that don't know, Ardee will be done decorating the end of 2023.
- ☺ Thank you First Lutheran Choir for your performance of "The Song Heard 'Round the World" at the December 10th worship service. Another excellent job well done. Also for all your special music throughout the year. Also to Randy Hall for directing the choir.
- ☺ Thank you bell choir for your special music throughout the year and to Gwen Hall for directing them.
- ☺ Thank you Sunday School grades pre-k through 6 for your wonderful presentation of the birth of Jesus on December 17th.
- ☺ Thank you Pastor Chuck & Steph Mann for everything you did at First Lutheran while you were here and to Pastor Paul Krueger for stepping in to be our Interim Pastor.
- ☺ Thank you Melissa Rothe for all you do for our youth.
- ☺ Thank you Donna Gunderson for decorating for special events for the FLCW and the fellowship hall.
- ☺ Thank you everyone that provided special music throughout the year.
- ☺ Thank you Jeff Schmidt and family for all the work you do at the church.

- ☺ Thank you church council for all you do to lead the church.
- ☺ Thank you Cathy Sheldon and Alexis Solomonson for leading the Sunday morning bible studies and Arden Wagner for leading the Men's Bible Study.
- ☺ Thank you Donna Gunderson for heading up the planting and care of the outside flowers and those who helped with the watering.
- ☺ Thank you everyone that served coffee, was a communion assistant, read scriptures, ushered, acolytes, help with altar care, and also to everyone that was or is in charge of finding these people.
- ☺ Thank you Sunday school teachers, subs, music people, and those that helped with VBS.
- ☺ Thank you FLCW that served funerals, pot-lucks, etc.
- ☺ Thank you women that served on FLCW committees.
- ☺ Thank you FLCW quilters.
- ☺ Thank you everyone that supplied flowers for the altar throughout the year.
- ☺ Thank you to our organists: LeAnn Richard and Theresa Petersen.
- ☺ Thank you money counters: Arden Wagner, Deb Wisdom, Sharon Chrest, Mary Ann Beeks, Arlene Schwarz and Wes Sauer.
- ☺ Thank you to everyone that has helped out with pizza day.
- ☺ Thank you call committee for all your time trying to find a pastor for First Lutheran.
- ☺ Thank you everyone that helped Jeannette out in one way or another this past year.
- ☺ Thank you to anyone that was missed or does not want to be recognized for their services at First Lutheran. If someone was missed that should be listed, please let Jeannette know.
- ☺ Thank you everyone that helped with the Thanksgiving meal and Super Sunday Suppers. We couldn't do it without your help! Thanks to Judy Beaudry for heading this up.

# CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE





The following people were prayed for by request at worship from Sunday, November 26 - Sunday, December 24. If we missed you or your loved ones, or your prayer requests, please accept our apologies.

***Please let the church office know before you enter the hospital for planned surgeries, during any hospitalization, or about your illnesses and any special needs that we may pray for you.***

- ◆ Kyleah Vassar
- ◆ Family of Wilma Wiedrich on her death
- ◆ Family of Norma Fried on her death
- ◆ Tom Neary
- ◆ Judy Beaudry
- ◆ Don Brewster
- ◆ Brian Lazier
- ◆ Family of Robert Ellwein on his death
- ◆ Family of Mike Morris on his death
- ◆ Family of Ron Greenup on his death
- ◆ Ken Koble
- ◆ Mike Morris - Brother to Wes Sauer
- ◆ Ron Greenup, Father to Teri Brewster
- ◆ Joyce Salisbury - Sister to Jean Braun
- ◆ Harvey Goldade
- ◆ Tyrell Engesser
- ◆ Alton Krebsbach
- ◆ Melisa Chrest

- ◆ Howard Johnson
- ◆ Karen Goehring

#### **Military Prayer and Card List**

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

#### ***Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in The Military and the National Guard:***

- ◆ SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard
- ◆ SPC Olivia Retterath - National Guard - Deployed
- ◆ SPC Christian Gardner - Army National Guard
- ◆ SPC Cassidy Sommer - National Guard
- ◆ SPC Jonathan Melvard - Army National Guard

#### ***Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:***

- ◆ SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard
- ◆ Emily Johnson - Air Force
- ◆ Bryar Anderson - Marines
- ◆ 1SGT Jordan Ternes - Army National Guard
- ◆ TECH SGT Andre Austin
- ◆ Hunter Feigum - National Guard
- ◆ Morris Duffy - Medical Air Guard
- ◆ Brandon Searcy - Navy - Deployed
- ◆ Adam Walsvik - National Guard

# CAMP OF THE CROSS NEWS

January 26-28	Men's Retreat: Just Like Jesus
February 17	POP-UP Bible Journaling Class
February 21-25	Crafting Retreat
March 8-10	Being & Becoming: Exploring the Enneagram
March 13-17	Crafting Retreat
April 5-7	Youth Spring Mega Bash – 4 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Grades
April 17-21	Crafting Retreat
June 15	Prairie Lake Festival

- CRAFTING RETREATS – Join scrapbookers, stampers, quilters, cardmakers, etc. for this fun event! Share projects, ideas, devotions, and lots of FUN! The food is homemade and delicious, and great memories are created each day!
- POP-UP BIBLE JOURNALING CLASS – led by Gracia Johnson
- MEN'S RETREAT: Just Like Jesus – Enjoy a time of fellowship and great conversation with friends new and old. Learn from a guest speaker and enjoy an awesome retreat together!
- BEING & BECOMING: EXPLORING THE ENNEAGRAM – Personality influences our perspectives, decisions & behaviors and how we “show up” in the world. This weekend retreat will introduce you to the Enneagram, a tool which helps us understand personality through the lens of 9 different types/styles. The Enneagram brings to light the gifts and limitations of each style and illustrates how these styles interact to create our unique personality. Through interactive activities, learning & conversation, we'll explore why we think like we do, act like we do & what motivates each style as we deepen our self-understanding and self-awareness, which in turn leads to greater compassion, authenticity and empowerment.

- TWICED BLESSED CAMPAIGN – It's a blessing when you give a gift to others. Thank you to those who participated in the Twice Blessed Campaign.

CCM will be celebrating 70 years in 2024 – watch for any special events honoring that! Let the staff know if you have any special memories of the camp.

On the website, [www.campofthecross.com](http://www.campofthecross.com) there is a six-minute video that shows what is going at the camp and you can see first hand what Janie, the Camp Director, is anxious to show you.

In February there will be a GIVING HEARTS DAY as has been done for several years. The 2024 Giving Hearts Day Project is new cement floors for the Hill Cabins. Current floors have cracked and are in need of replacement.

CCM ANNUAL MEETING – stay tuned for more information as that is usually held in February.

SUMMER 2024 Registration is OPEN to explore who we are “CREATED TO BE”! Start planning for Summer 2024!

SUMMER 2024 STAFF NEEDED – If you know of anyone – please let CCM know so they can be in contact with them. Staffing is one of the factors that helps determine the number of campers Camp of the Cross can accommodate at each session.

Thank you to EVERYONE for continuing to support OUR camp of the Cross, whether it be through a special appeal or on a regular basis!

Call 701-337-2246, Camp of the Cross office, for questions. Go to [www.campofthecross.com](http://www.campofthecross.com) to register or for more information.

Thank You  
Peggy Moran





As of December 24, 2023:

Our envelope giving is \$266,477.12 with a yearly budget of \$215,000.00.  
\$55,522.83 ahead of budget.

The plate giving is \$14,531.13 with a yearly budget of \$8,500.00.  
\$6,191.08 ahead of budget.

Thank you for your giving.



Our sympathy goes out to:

- ⇒ Don & Teri Brewster and family on the death of Teri's father, Ron Greenup
- ⇒ Don & Joyce Ellwein and family on the death of Don's brother, Robert Ellwein
- ⇒ Wes & Audrey Sauer and family on the death of Wes' brother, Mike Morris
- ⇒ Terry & Donna Gunderson and family on the death of Donna's sister, Norma Fried
- ⇒ Howard & Elda Johnson and family on the death of Elda's sister, Wilma Wiedrich

May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

## First Lutheran January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following First Lutheran members who have birthdays in January. We are sorry if we missed anyone this month. If your name has been missed, kindly report it to the church office so we can get your birth date for our records. Likewise, if we have printed your birthday and you do not wish to have it published in the newsletter, please let Jeannette know in the church office. We will remove it for next year. Thank you!



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Kara Richards Ashlyn Schmitz	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Michael Fee Wayne Leidholm Eli Schmidt	<b>4</b> Sharon Hoff Sherry Kinnischtzke Tanner Lundby Karen Roper Bryan Thiel	<b>5</b> Tanner Fiedler Brittany Hoffert Alyson Knox Nikki Sackman	<b>6</b> Noah Holznagel Alyssa Kadmas Emily Scheresky
<b>7</b> Erik Johnson	<b>8</b> Preston Hinson Rhonda Johnson Hollyn Murrey	<b>9</b> Shannon Helm Alex Retterath	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Candace Wieger	<b>13</b> Jaemeson Havig Jill Senftner
<b>14</b> Gene Rost Jason Ziemann	<b>15</b> Braden Ficklin Cameron Hall Karly Smith	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Bowen Gutknecht Arianne Salaj	<b>18</b> Mike Aull	<b>19</b> Sonja Bergstedt Sue Thiel	<b>20</b> Alexis Rosenquist
<b>21</b> Drew Petersen	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Mavrey Carlson Ryan Dockter Shane Joersz Kithe Malsam	<b>24</b> Kim Price	<b>25</b> Claudette Ness Rylen Sheldon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Cameron Albers Elise Rosenquist
<b>28</b> Devin Retterath	<b>29</b> Jordan Waldren	<b>30</b> Bradley Hanson Lukas Smith	<b>31</b> Tana Larsen Ryan Leidholm			



# Memorial Gifts Given to Special Funds (Sunday, November 26 to Sunday, December 24)



**Fund given to & by whom ..... In Memory of**

**Building Fund ..... **\$75.00****

Rick & LeAnn Richard ..... Ron Greenup  
 Elmer & Arlene Schwarz..... Arlo Omoth  
 Elmer & Arlene Schwarz..... Donna Hardt  
 Elmer & Arlene Schwarz..... Ron Greenup  
 Rick & LeAnn Richard ..... Mike Morris

**Camp of the Cross ..... **\$0.00****

**Cemetery..... **\$1,000.00****

Al Bergland..... Elmer & Nona Johnson

**Decorating ..... **\$15.00****

Mary Ann Beeks ..... Norma Fried

**General Fund ..... **\$4,050.00****

Wes Sauer ..... Evie Schwarz  
 Wes Sauer ..... Donna Hardt  
 Brad & Cathy Sheldon ..... Bob Landgren  
 Brad & Cathy Sheldon ..... Weldon Wagner  
 Brad & Cathy Sheldon ..... Donna Hardt  
 Brad & Cathy Sheldon ..... Evie Schwarz  
 Rick & Laura Tweeten ..... Bob Landgren  
 Rick & Laura Tweeten ..... Earl Cottingham  
 Jeneen Loe ..... David Loe  
 Elray & Lynette Sondrol..... Ruth Lund  
 Dale Kuball ..... Carol Kuball  
 AJ & Doddie Kuntz ..... Ruth Lund  
 Elaine Carr ..... Clay Carr  
 Elaine Carr ..... Ken Carr  
 Elaine Carr ..... Bob Landgren  
 Sharon Chrest ..... Norma Fried  
 Mary Ann Beeks ..... Bill Beeks  
 John & Helen Samuelson ..... Robert Ellwein  
 Alton & Brenda Krebsbach ..... Don Gehring  
 Sharon Chrest ..... Floyd Chrest  
 Larry & Kathy Keller ..... Norma Fried  
 Leif & Rosalind Ravnass ..... Steve Scholl,  
 Gordon Rothmann & Gladys Freidig

The following are all in memory of Ron Greenup:

Brad & Cathy Sheldon  
 Mac & Judy Beaudry  
 Wes Sauer  
 Orlin & Ivadell Larson  
 Dick & Carla Bickert  
 John & Helen Samuelson  
 Toby & Bonnie Placek

The following are all in memory of Arlo Omoth:

Wes Sauer  
 Brad & Cathy Sheldon  
 Mac & Judy Beaudry  
 Jeneen Loe  
 Elaine Carr  
 Howard & Elda Johnson

**Fund given to & by whom..... In Memory of  
(General Fund cont.)**

The following are all in memory of Mike Morris:

Wes Sauer  
 Arden & Sande Wagner  
 Don & Teri Brewster  
 Larry & Kathy Keller

The following are all in memory of

Wilma Wiedrich:  
 Steve & Peggy Wollmuth  
 Jeneen Loe  
 Sharon Chrest  
 Wes Sauer

**Global Missions ..... **\$0.00****

**LWR ..... **\$60.00****

Sharon Chrest..... Ron Greenup  
 Dewey & Wanda Oster..... Robert Ellwein  
 Dewey & Wanda Oster..... Mike Morris

**Music ..... **\$175.00****

Virgil & Deb Wisdom ..... Evie Schwarz  
 Mary Ann Beeks..... In Honor of Marlene Slagg's  
 90th Birthday  
 Duane & Marlys Knell..... Robert Ellwein  
 Duane & Marlys Knell..... Mike Morris  
 Virgil & Deb Wisdom ..... Wilma Wiedrich  
 Virgil & Deb Wisdom ..... Norma Fried

The following are all in memory of Ron Greenup:

Virgil & Deb Wisdom  
 Duane & Marlys Knell  
 Terry & Norma Petersen  
 Arden & Sande Wagner

**Parking Lot Fund ..... **\$15.00****

AJ & Doddie Kuntz ..... Keith Kuntz

**Pizza Day ..... **\$0.00****

**Relief Missions ..... **\$0.00****

**Sunday School ..... **\$65.00****

Mary Ann Beeks..... Wilma Wiedrich  
 AJ & Doddie Kuntz (2 times) ..... Keith Kuntz

**Super Sunday Supper..... **\$0.00****

**US/Local Missions ..... **\$0.00****

**VBS ..... **\$0.00****

**World Hunger ..... **0.00****

**Worship ..... **\$55.00****

George & Val Swanson..... Arlene Bender  
 John & Helen Samuelson..... Mike Morris  
 Rick & LeAnn Richard ..... Norma Fried

# JANUARY

# 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> Noon Committee Reports Due For Annual Report	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Noon - Pizza Day 5:30 - 6:15 PM Confirmation Meal 6:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Choir 7:45 PM FLY	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>Holy Communion</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School Fireside Bible Reading Noon Call Committee Meeting 7:00 PM AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Chat & Sew Quilting	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 5:30 - 6:15 PM Confirmation Meal 6:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Choir 7:45 PM FLY	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Second Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School Fireside Bible Reading <b>11:45 AM Soup, Salad &amp; Bread Meal served by the council followed by Annual Meeting</b> 7:00 PM AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting	<b>15</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 5:30 - 6:15 PM Confirmation Meal 6:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Choir 7:45 PM FLY	<b>18</b> 9:30 AM Deborah Bible Study at the Church	<b>19</b> Noon Newsletter Deadline	<b>20</b> 4:00 PM Car Club Party
<b>21</b> <b>Third Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School Fireside Bible Reading 7:00 PM AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 5:30 - 6:15 PM Confirmation Meal 6:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Choir 7:45 PM FLY	<b>25</b> 9:00 AM Quilting	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Quilting	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30 AM Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour 10:45 AM Sunday School Fireside Bible Reading 7:00 PM AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Mommy's Group	<b>31</b> 9:30 AM Friendship Bible Study 5:30 - 6:15 PM Confirmation Meal 6:15 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Bell Choir 7:45 PM Choir 7:45 PM FLY			

First Lutheran Church  
709 5th Ave.  
P.O. Box 218  
Washburn, ND 58577-0218

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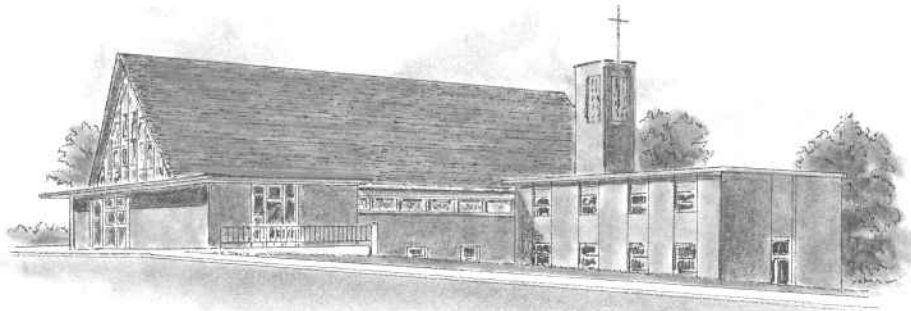
Phone: 701-462-3775  
Fax: 701-462-3785  
Email: flc@westriv.com  
Website: www.flcwashburn.com

Address Service Requested

*“Working hand in hand to  
know Christ and make  
Christ known through  
Worship, Christian  
Education, Evangelism,  
Caring Ministries, and  
Service.”*

Happy New Year to:

January 2024 Newsletter



## **SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**Bible Study - (Led by Cathy Sheldon) - 8:30 AM**

**Worship Service - 9:30 AM**

**Coffee/Fellowship Hour - 10:30 AM**

**Sunday School - 10:45 AM**

**Fireside Bible Reading -**

**(Led by Alexis Solomonson) - 10:45 AM**

**AA Meeting - 7:00 PM**

**Al-Anon Meeting - 7:00 PM**