

The Messenger

Volume 26 Issue 1 Office 996-7706 e-mail: luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org Fax 996-7727 January 2023

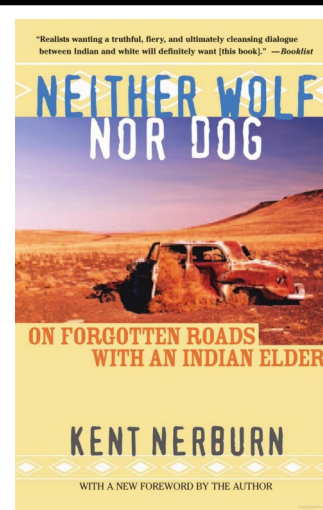
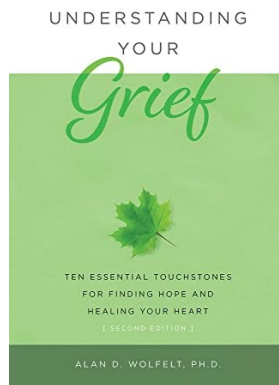
JANUARY FOCUS.....

Grief Group

beginning January 23

Grief Group is a support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one (spouse, parent, child, friend). This group of 10 will explore how to accompany grief by sharing and learning together. Grief

Group will meet Mondays at 5:15 p.m. from January 23-March 27. To learn more about Grief Group or sign up, reach out to Deacon Kris: (kris@mitchellfirstlutheran.org).



The Sisters in Faith group will be hosting a discussion on the book *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* by Kent Nerburn on February 21 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Jill Munger will be facilitating the night. Dr. Karla Abbott; an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; Associate Professor of nursing at Augustana University will be speaking to the group. Along with this our group is collecting donations for the Woyotan

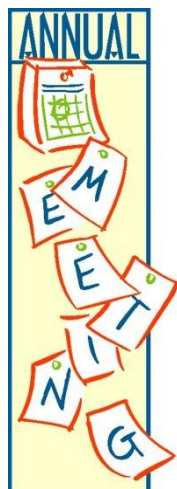
Lutheran Mobile Warming Station in Rapid City.

Please visit the following website for more information on Woyotan Lutheran Mobile Warming Station:
[https://mailchi.mp/sdsynod.org/woyotan-mobile-warming-station?](https://mailchi.mp/sdsynod.org/woyotan-mobile-warming-station?fbclid=IwAR2jSISkryGyj2BAkHfahMBKWBX7kONt1BdlFySM)

[fbclid=IwAR2jSISkryGyj2BAkHfahMBKWBX7kONt1BdlFySM](https://mailchi.mp/sdsynod.org/woyotan-mobile-warming-station?fbclid=IwAR2jSISkryGyj2BAkHfahMBKWBX7kONt1BdlFySM)
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Questions can be directed to Jill Munger, Lisa Walton and Michelle White.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 after the worship service in the Family Life Center. Reports will be available for the congregation to pick up on Sunday, January 22. More information to come.



THE BIBLE ... by the book

Bible Study with Pastor Scott
studying the book of **Matthew** (Part 2)

Sunday, Jan. 8th
@ 10:45 a.m.
following worship



Church Council Highlights

COUNCIL MINUTES — December 20, 2022

Please note: these minutes have been edited for the newsletter.
The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the office hallway

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Wrapped up first semester of confirmation. There were 28 7, 8 & 9 graders
- ◆ Working on summer camps
- ◆ Working on new outdoor sign
- ◆ January will be stewardship month
- ◆ Presented the 2023 Noisy Offering Schedule (same as 2022)

Deacon's Report:

- ◆ Shared in presiding and music for worship services
- ◆ Learning about rotation of weekly chapel at 5 care facilities
- ◆ Plans to begin Grief Group on January 23
- ◆ Installation on Sunday, February 5
- ◆ Reviewing Milestones

Ministry Reports:

- ◆ **Worship:** Worship volunteer sign-up has been good. Christmas services planned.
- ◆ **Fellowship & Caring:** Prayer and Care team met two weeks ago. Visitation list is being updated.
- ◆ **Faith Formation:** First semester of 'Journey with Jesus' is finished. 55 kids took part in the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 18. Many volunteers mad this happen. 'Journey with Jesus' will resume on January 11 with the study of Moses.
- ◆ **Stewardship:** Rick will give a temple talk on January 8 to include scholarship deadline, pitch for volunteers for the Valentine's Cookie Sale, and the upcoming Pledge Drive.
- ◆ **Property:** Water leak in the upstairs daycare bathroom. Krohmer replaced some ceiling tiles in the lower bathroom. Daycare dishwasher backed up. Benders will come to check it out. Jon showed samples of the carpet in the downstairs.
- ◆ **Memorial Committee:** John reported for Jeff Clark who will be going off the memorial committee. Barb Vandever, Ron Kogel, and Michelle White are the members of this committee. Four areas that have been contributed to: scholarships, chapel refresh, TV & tables for the youth and 3rd grade bibles. Future possibilities: carpeting in the Family Life Center, outdoor sign-age and Paul Oman's 'Drawn to the Word'.

Reception of the Treasurer's Report: November 2022 income \$28,241.87; expenses \$19,964.32. Net gain for November \$8,277.55. YTD 2022 Income \$92,431.41. Jon made a motion to receive the Treasurer's report, seconded by Scott. Motion carried.

New Business:

- ◆ **Credit Cards:** Karen made a motion, seconded by Rick to issue credit cards to Pastor Scott and Deacon Kris. Motion approved.
- ◆ **Review FLC 2023 Budget:** Eric handed out the draft of the 2023 budget and asked for questions or input. Wayne made a motion, seconded by Scott to approve the draft. Motion carried.
- ◆ **FLC 2022 Annual Report:** All reports for the annual report should be to Jodi no later than January 13. The annual meeting will be January 29, 2023.
- ◆ **Fundraising for Youth Camps:** Jon suggested possible fundraising activities for summer youth camps.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:

November 2	24	\$130.00
November 6	193/OL:90	\$9,924.62
November 9	40	\$175.00
November 13	188/OL:70	\$4,595.20
November 16	36	\$270.00
November 20	141/OL:54	\$7,939.00
November 23	43	\$560.00
November 27	157/OL:72	\$4,022.35
November 30	44	\$145.25

November 2022 Offering **\$27,761.42**

\$34,347.00 is needed per month to meet monthly budget.

PASTOR SCOTT

We Are an Offering . . .

As we turn the calendar page to a new year, we will be taking the month of January to intentionally focus on stewardship.

This year's stewardship theme comes from the offertory hymn that we sing most weeks in worship. It's hymn #692 in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal, *We Are an Offering*.

The hymn was composed by Dwight Liles, and along with the beautiful melody, are insightful lyrics about stewardship.

We tend to first think of our financial support to the church when we talk about stewardship. But the hymn never specifically mentions money. Instead it has a more comprehensive (and biblical) approach that reminds us our whole lives are about stewardship.

The hymn consists of only four lines. The first (and last) line of the hymn is about our offerings . . . specifically we lift our voices, we lift our hands, and we lift our lives up to God as an offering. In the second line we make a request of God. We request that God *use* our voices, that God *use* our hands, and that God *use* our lives.

The third line of the song is this beautiful confession of faith. Together we sing,

***All that we have, all that we are,
all they we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.***

This comprehensive approach to stewardship also aligns with our congregation's mission statement developed this past year. That statement is: ***Connecting faith and daily life***. When we live with that hope, our lives do take on greater inspiration and meaning as we love and serve our neighbors as an act of stewardship in our lives of faith.

In the first part of January, congregation members will receive a stewardship letter and commitment card in the mail. We ask that members prayerfully consider how they might support the ministry of First Lutheran in the upcoming year.

On January 29th, we will have an in-gathering of our stewardship commitment cards as part of our Celebration Sunday worship service.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported the ministry of First Lutheran Church and the work of its' staff this past year. I'm looking forward to a fruitful year of ministry with Deacon Kris joining our team and expanding our ministry work in the congregation and the community.

Blessings!

Pastor Scott



Thank you to everyone who donated every month to the 2022 Noisy Offerings. Below is a list of what was donated every month.



- * January, Weekend Snack Pack Program: \$349.88
- * February, FLC Scholarship: \$301.90
- * March, Confirmation Camp: \$453.13
- * April, Lutherans Outdoors: \$443.25
- * May, Heart & Sole Cancer Walk: \$623.46
- * June, Habitat for Humanity: \$334.34
- * July, St. Dymas Prison Ministry: \$439.09
- * August, FLC Piecemakers: \$363.35
- * September, Food Pantry: \$542.27
- * October, Lutheran Campus Ministries: \$334.04
- * November, Love Feast: \$583.40
- * December, Safe Place of Eastern SD: \$324.89

January's Noisy Offering is being collected for the Mitchell Weekend Snack Pack Program.



Weekend Snack Pack Program

Facts:

- * Feeds more than 400 Mitchell Elementary students every weekend
- Run completely by donations & volunteers
- * 100% of donations goes to the purchase of sale-priced food
- * Gives more than \$50,000 in food every year
- * Given to students who qualify for free or reduced lunches at school

Thank you, people of First Lutheran, for the welcome you have given me. I am blessed to serve alongside staff and lay volunteers, quilters and musicians, Prayer and Care and Council, Journey with Jesus Team and the Pre-school. The Spirit is alive in this place. May you experience the nearness of God in this New Year. *And-* save the date! Bishop Constanze will be here Sunday, February 5 for my installation during worship. Join in a potluck and fellowship following worship in the Family Life Center.



Upcoming Noisy Offerings:

- ⇒ **February:** FLC Scholarship Fund
- ⇒ **March:** Confirmation Camp
- ⇒ **April:** Lutherans Outdoors



Thank you very much to all the volunteers at December's Love Feast!! We had an awesome number of people who helped prepare and serve the meal. This year's Love Feast served 503 meals. We packaged a great number of meals, served some diners who came to the First United Methodist Church, and children in attendance were able to participate in a Christmas craft activity. Thanks again to the many volunteers who helped with this amazing community service! Mary Johnson



Hospitality Ministry sign up is available on the church's website:



www.mitchellfirstlutheran.org, on the homepage. Simply click the link (all Sundays are included on one sign up) and sign up. The binder will still be available on the table in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Check out the QR code on the back of the weekly bulletin! Please consider signing up to help out! **Thank you for your assistance!**

Join our team at . . .

First Lutheran Child Learning Center

We are currently looking for a full time (will consider PT)

PRESCHOOL TEACHER AIDE



Working with children ages 3 to 6



Contact Lynne at First Lutheran Child Learning Center (Mitchell, SD) at 605-996-9742 for an application or for additional information.

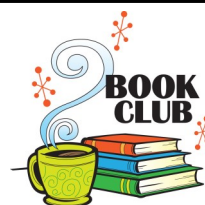
Gather Study Groups



- ◆ **Tuesday, January 3**
 - ◇ 11:30 a.m. FLCW Board Meeting, Upstairs meeting room at Bank West
- ◆ **Wednesday, January 4**
 - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Church Conference Room
- ◆ **Thursday, January 5**
 - ◇ 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, 1201 W Ash Ave. Please RSVP to Joan Anderson at 605-848-1819

All First Lutheran women are invited to be part of any of these groups which meet on a regular basis. Please join us.

Book Club will be discussing the following books:



- ⇒ *The Divorce Colony* by April White on Friday, January 20.
- ⇒ *A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabell Allende on Friday, February 17.
- ⇒ *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore on Friday, March 17.

There was a change in the books as Book Club didn't meet in December.

The book club meets at 10:00 a.m. at Fika Coffeehouse

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDERS

- High school seniors and college students the FLC Post-Secondary Scholarship application is due to the church office by March 1. Applications were mailed to the high school seniors last fall. College students may pick up a copy from the church office
- Students who are currently attending or planning to attend an ELCA college/university are encouraged to apply for the Prairie Rivers scholarship. Applications can be picked up from the church office and due to Joan Anderson by April 1.
- Students who received the FLC Post-Secondary Scholarship last year are reminded to submit the form (which you received last spring) along with proof of second semester enrollment to Jodi in the church office.



START SAVING YOUR STUFF NOW!

There will be another rummage sale this spring.

More information to come.



COMING SOON TO FIRST LUTHERAN... Valentine Cookie Sales!

More information to come!



Choir practice will resume on Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENT
2023 Women of the ELCA Synodical Meeting, Black Hills, June 22 & 23.



Chime/Bell Choir will be rehearsing Wednesdays at 6:15p.m. beginning January 11. Come join us and learn how to ring...it's fun!



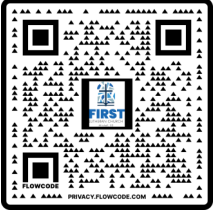
On Sunday, February 5, Deacon Kris will be installed at First Lutheran Church. Bishop Constanze will be here. A potluck will follow in the Family Life Center.

Please be on the look out in upcoming bulletins for what you can bring.

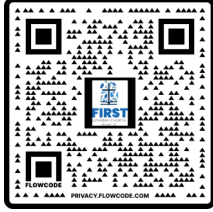


Sign up for electronic giving & Hospitality Ministry has never been easier! Simply scan either QR code. The codes will also be on the back of the weekly worship bulletin.

Giving Made Easy!



Hospitality Ministry Sign Up



Items for Personal Care Kits are always welcome!



The following items are included in each Personal Care Kit:

- ⇒ One light-weight bath-size towel (20" x 40" to 52" x 27") dark color recommended
- ⇒ Two to three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- ⇒ One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- ⇒ One sturdy comb (no picks or fine tooth combs), remove packaging
- ⇒ One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging


Pastoral Care: Hospitalized and Homebound

When you know that a church member is hospitalized, has been moved to a nursing home, or has become homebound, please contact the church.

At the hospital front desk Pastor Scott or Deacon Kris can ask for and review the Lutheran list. Our hospitalized church members are *usually* on that list. Sometimes they are not because of a mistake: the hospital forgot to ask the name of the patient's home church, or (for one reason or another) it just didn't get on the list. So we'd rather hear ten times from you about someone in need of a visit rather than to hear nothing at all. We are a church family. Your visits to members of this congregation's family are important, as well. And keeping the pastor informed is also part of your ministry as a member of the congregation. Thank you!

Un-Decorating

All hands on deck! All those who can help un-decorate the sanctuary are welcome to stay after worship on January 8. Many hands will make quick work as we pack away the ornaments, decorations and Christmas trees for another year. Thanks to all the seasonal helpers!



WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP
FAITH. FOOD. FUN.

Wednesday Nights at First Lutheran Church resume on Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

- ✝ 5:30-6:00 p.m. Supper
- ✝ 6:00-7:00 p.m. Journey With Jesus
- ✝ 6:00-7:00 p.m. Confirmation
- ✝ 6:15-7:00 p.m. Bell Practice
- ✝ 7:00-7:30 p.m. Worship

Note: The Wednesday supper is not just for families with young children. Everyone is invited! Come and enjoy a hot meal and a fun time of fellowship!

The First Lutheran Piecemakers

would like to invite anyone who is interested in quilting (no experience required) to join them on Tuesdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Various tasks that are completed are quilting, tying, cutting and ironing. Questions, contact Sharon Scott.

