

The Messenger

Volume 28 Issue 1 Office 996-7706 e-mail: luther@mitchellfirstlutheran.org Fax 996-7727 January 2025

JANUARY FOCUS.....

2024 Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 15



2024 Christmas Eve Worship



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

COUNCIL MINUTES — December 17, 2024

*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:

- ◆ Confirmation has completed the New Testament
- ◆ Camp dates are set for 2025.
- ◆ Performed Dennis Hauge's funeral. The church received a memorial gift in memory of Dennis & Corrine Hauge.
- ◆ We had some sound issues with the Children's program online probably due to the extra mics that aren't used very often.

Deacon's Report:

- ◆ Attended Gather study meetings and have continued plans for a women's study.
- ◆ Attended the Mitchell Area Inclusion Coalition.
- ◆ Looking ahead to Pastor Chris Matson from Church on the Street in Sioux Falls as guest preacher on February 2.
- ◆ Will attend the Prairie Rivers Conference meeting January.
- ◆ Performed the funeral for Linda Jirsa.

Ministry Reports:

- ◆ Worship: (given by Deacon Kris) - Advent worships are underway. Mid-week worship in the Family Life Center for a new experience. Christmas Eve service at 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. The children's program went very well.
- ◆ Fellowship & Caring: Doing home visits. January through June retirement care center worship schedule is set.
- ◆ Faith Formation: (given by Deacon Kris) - Faith Formation calendar for next year is set.
- ◆ Stewardship: (given by Pastor Scott) - Letter and pledge cards to go out in January. Expenses are expected to be up 35% next year so we need new ideas to promote giving increase.
- ◆ Property: The batteries in the emergency and exit lights have been changed out. The tiles in the shower room in the basement got very wet and aren't sure why. Will keep an eye on it. Will reseal the sanctuary floor on Friday morning. The communion railing was refinished. The bid for the tuck point on the bell tower was given by Mid Continental Restoration for \$63,791 if the screens are removed and replaced by us (for a savings of \$10,000). They wouldn't be able to do the work until next fall or winter. Russ is looking for another bid from Joel Williams. We will just ask for tuck pointing on the window frames.
- ◆ Evangelism: mailers went out today to advertise the Christmas services with information on our church.

DOLLAR\$&CENTS

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS:

November 3	181/OL:64	\$14,532.17
November 6	27	\$50.00
November 10	160/OL:42	\$4,263.60
November 13	38	\$270.00
November 17	166/OL: 74	\$7,309.95
November 20	27	\$20.00
November 24	162/OL: 72	\$6,387.37
November 27	75	\$675.00

November 2024 Offering \$33,508.09

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

Reception of the Treasurer's Report: November income \$44,032.98; expenses \$33,447.61. Net ordinary income for November was \$10,585.37. Year to Date net ordinary income is \$-5,714.06. Steve made a motion to receive the Treasurer's report, seconded by Jon. Motion carried.



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First Lutheran through**

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FIRST
LUTHERAN CHURCH



January Prayer and Care Worshipships

Each month First Lutheran leads worship at Mitchell retirement and care centers.

All are welcome to attend.

*2:00 p.m. January 9 at Firesteel

*2:00 p.m. January 21 at Brady

*11:00 a.m. January 22 at Edgewood South

*7:00 p.m. January 28 Wesley Acres



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



The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 after the worship service in the Family Life Center.

Reports will be available for the congregation to pick up on Sunday, January 19. More information to come.



Dennis Hauge died

December 5, 2024. Funeral services were

Friday, December 13, 2024 at Will Funeral Chapel with burial at Graceland Cemetery, Mitchell, SD.



Thank you very much to all the FLC volunteers for December's Love Feast!! We had a great showing of volunteers to prepare and serve the meals. This year's Love Feast was

amazing, we served around 525 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 worthwhile community service!
Mary and Russ Johnson

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated every month to the 2024 Noisy Offerings. Below

is a list of what was donated every month.

- * January, Weekend Snack Pack Program: \$584.82
- * February, FLC Scholarship: \$444.94
- * March, Confirmation Camp: \$412.56
- * April, Lutherans Outdoors: \$431.06
- * May, Heart & Sole Cancer Walk: \$522.28
- * June, Habitat for Humanity: \$404.71
- * July, St. Dysmas Prison Ministry: \$416.87
- * August, FLC Piecemakers: \$459.42
- * September, Food Pantry: \$570.64
- * October, Lutheran Campus Ministries: \$392.71
- * November, Love Feast: \$812.65
- * December, Safe Place of Eastern SD: TBD!

Un-Decorating

All hands on deck! All those who can help un-decorate the sanctuary are welcome to stay after worship on January 5. 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!



Gather Study Group Dates & Times

♦ **Tuesday, January 7 (Note change in date)**

- ◇ 11:30 a.m. WELCA/FLCW
Board Meeting, First Lutheran Church Library

♦ **Wednesday, January 8 (Note change in date)**

- ◇ 9:30 a.m. Lydia Group, Countryside Game Room

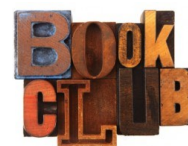
♦ **Thursday, January 9 (Note change in date & location)**

- ◇ 9:30 a.m. Sarah Group, 1201 W Ash St.



Book Club

Here is a list of upcoming titles
for book club



📖 January 20: *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

📖 February 24: *Stolen Innocence* by Elissa Wall and Lisa Pulitzer

📖 March 24: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummings

Book Club meets on the 4th Monday of each month.
Location to be announced.
(Note change in date)



First Lutheran Post-Secondary Scholarship

Scholarship applications were mailed to First Lutheran high school seniors.

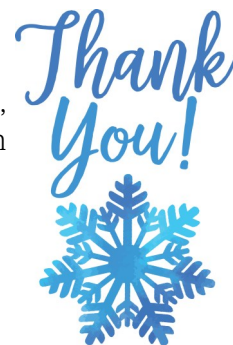
College students may pick up an application in the church office. Applications are due March 1.

Prairie Rivers Scholarship

The Prairie Rivers Scholarship is for students planning to attend, or presently enrolled in an ELCA college (Augustana, Concordia, St. Olaf, Gustavus, etc.) Applications can be picked up in the church office. Applications are due April 1.

Students who were 2024 scholarship recipients are asked to get their required paperwork to Jodi in the office so she can issue the checks.

Thank you Thrivent Members and Associate Members. The Thrivent Cards are very helpful, and so appreciated. Using them for church projects enables activities to happen without using money from the church funds. This list includes may Thrivent members and associate members who have used their Thrivent cards for First Lutheran, but unintentionally is missing some names.



Amy Christopherson	Jim Anderson
Barb Selland	Joan Anderson
Barb Vandever	Judy Lofgren
Bill Mulder	Keith Thompson
Bob Scott	Marilyn Forst
Brenda Mayer	Marti Eilts
Daryl Heckenlaible	Matt Christopherson
Gary Mayer	Nancy Kogel
Gladys Bassett	Ruby Pattison
Gloria Thompson	Sharon Scott
Janet Heckenlaible	Scott Munger
Jill Munger	And those who used cards for Mutziger benefit

Due to the support of First Lutheran members and community members at the annual Fall Lunch/Bake Sale, WELCA/FLCW was able to "Christmas gift" a total of \$2,000 to the following:

- ELCA World Hunger
- Lutheran Social Services
- Salvation Army
- St. Dysmas
- Lutheran World Relief
- Lutheran Campus Ministries
- ELCA Good Gifts
- Lutherans Outdoors
- Global Health Ministries



Sunday, December 1 Worship and Christmas Decorating



Children's Good News Time



Sunday, December 8 Worship



Additional Pictures from the Children's Christmas Program, Sunday, December 15



Lighting of the Advent Candles



First Lutheran gingerbread creation, by Mitchell resident artist Barb Feilmeier, is on display in the Family Life Center. Barb and her First Lutheran creation were featured on Dakota News Now TV and the Mitchell Republic. Barb has been making gingerbread creations for over 50 years and each year she selects a different project to create.



Thank you on behalf of recipients of "Thanksgiving Baskets" 2024. Prayers and generous donations: money, food, materials, time, talent, caring, were very appreciated. A lot of thoughtful sharing was given in so many ways.

Workers included: Mike and Michelle White, Mary Ann Hetland, Larry and Roxy Jensen, Kathie Freeman, Nancy Schley, Val and Carson Ferry, Pam and Kris Moke. Jodi Zastrow-Rasmussen in the office fielding donations and questions daily.



Your generosity truly helped people. They graciously, humbly and gratefully accepted it- in their great need at this time! Christ's love went with every box, cooler, bit of food, smiles, hugs, devotional material and prayers that were offered. Groceries were provided for 9 families. Jayne Scott Ruhland

First Lutheran serving the Love Feast at the First United Methodist Church on December 5.



Sunday, December 22 Worship

