

February 2019

2018 Faithful Giving allows for  
Generous Benevolence



Pastor Gwen Hermanson & Karen Smithers

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February is the month of love. The shelves are stocked with greeting cards, chocolates, and everything heart-shaped in preparation for Valentine's Day. As you probably know, cards and chocolates only get you so far. In the end, love requires more. It requires being put into action. One of the practical ways that First Lutheran shares God's love with the world is through generous giving of financial resources.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we want to **thank you** for your generosity in 2018. Not only did we meet our internal needs (finishing the year in the black), but we extended our impact by giving to a number of organizations through our budget and special offerings. The following is a list of our benevolence giving for 2018- totaling almost \$60,000. May these gifts be a blessing to both those who give and those who receive.



SW Minnesota Synod & ELCA	\$40,050
Missionary Sponsorship	\$2,700
Lutheran Social Services	\$2,700
Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp	\$900
VINE	\$450
The Garden	\$450
Other Gifts	\$333
World Hunger	\$4,147
Lenten Offering for Hunger	\$2,147
St. Peter Area Food Shelf	\$690
Holiday Baskets (vouchers)	\$1,530
Giving Tree/Pastors' Discretionary Fund	\$1,900
ELCA Disaster Relief/LIRS	\$473
Sunday School/Fun Run-CWFP	\$429
Souper Bowl	\$894
St. Peter Area Food Shelf	<u>\$135</u>

Total \$59,928

# Prayer Concerns

**We are called to remember one another in prayer. The list below is for recent needs:**

- Gina Evenson (friend of FLC members) •Mike Jones (uncle of Pastor Gwen)
  - Doreen Pehrson •Mike Shores (son of friends of Diane Stenson) •Rhoda Stenson
- All those we continue to include in our personal prayer petitions

**We also ask for your continued prayers for the below listed people with long-term or chronic needs:**

- Marie Benson • Forrest Chaffee •Abigail Christenson (daughter of Kathryn Christenson)
- Dorothy Eliason •George Fasnacht (father of Vicki Demers) •Betty Gustafson
- John Hall •Ruth Hall •Stephen Hilding •Mikkel Hustad (son-in-law of Paul and Helen Baumgartner) •Stuart Johnson •Wayne Johnson •Joan Kudla (sister of Sue Peterson)
- Lee Landgrebe •Elgene Lund •Tom Michels (son-in-law of Betty Gustafson) •Dick Muesing
- Tim Salmela (brother of Cheryl Kautt) •Bev Wetherill



**Family & Friends of those who have recently died:**

- Lorraine Nilsen (mother of Dawn Wenner) •Cornell Runestad (friend of Emily Bruflat) •Valeria Schroeder •Lynne Torkelson

To request being on either our current or long term prayer lists (or to be taken off), please discuss with Pastor Gwen, contact the church office at 934-3060 or [flcstpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcstpoffice@gmail.com), or go to our website at [www.flcstp.org](http://www.flcstp.org) and click on the “Request Prayer” button on the homepage.

## **Calendar Highlights for February**

### **February 3**

Souper Bowl Sunday  
(info on page 11)

### **February 6**

Holden Around the World  
As part of Wednesday Worship  
7:15 p.m.



*What's happening this  
month at First Lutheran?*

### **February 10**

Bowling with Pastor Gwen.  
Kingpins bowling 4-6p.m.

### **February 17**

Healing Service

# Youth Leadership Team

**Bowling with Pastor Gwen!** The Youth Leadership Team invites all members to join us and Pastor Gwen for bowling on Sunday, February 10 at 4:00 p.m. at Kingpins Bowling Alley in St. Peter. Sign up in the Gathering Space or call the church.

**Night at First Dinner and Show...**the annual dinner fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 30. Entertainment will be the Gospel Blue Grass Band and the menu will be homemade lasagna. Please plan on joining us for this evening of fun, food and fellowship.

**SWMN Senior High Youth Gathering:** The Senior High Youth Gathering will be held on April 5-6 in Alexandria. Cost is \$100. Registration will open in March. We would love to have you attend!

Sincerely,

*Amy Pehrson, YLT member*

## February Service List

Coordinators: Doug and Sue Peterson

Glen Anderberg  
Mark & Debbie Birr  
Mark & Laura Boomgaarden  
Eric & Michelle Borseth  
Chris Braun  
Kathryn Christenson  
Martin & Bonnie Davig  
Jim Dontje & Laura Lindell

Sara Emich  
Craig & Colleen Hanson  
Kelsie Hatlevig  
Linda Irvin  
Cliff & Brenda Isley  
Julie Johnson  
John & Marit Kvamme  
Steve & Kris Larson

Jim & Kim Neubauer  
Bonnie & Darrell Pettis  
Wesley & Karen Quick  
Joel & Heidi Rimstad  
Bernie & Lenore Schnobrich  
Tyson & Michelle Twait  
Jim & Karen Wendroth  
Merwin & Joan Williams  
Barbara Ylinen

# **Christian Education**

## **Adult Bible Study**

Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Room

We will review the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday:

**Feb 4:** Isaiah 6:1-8[9-13], Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 4:21-30

**Feb 11:** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

**Feb 18:** Genesis 45:3-11,15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

**Feb 25:** Exodus 34:29-35, Psalm 99, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]

## **Upcoming Dates to Note:**

**9:30 a.m. Sundays**

**February 10, 17, 24** - First Communion Cup-Making & Instruction

**March 3** - First Communion

## **First Forum Schedule**

**9:30 a.m. Sundays**

February 3: The Reel Hope Project by Kaycee Stanley

February 10, 17, and 24: Can We Talk? Engaging Worship and Culture Session  
(Three sessions by Emily Bruflat)

## **Wednesday Suppers - 5:30 p.m.**

**\$5/meal**

**February 6** - Pizza

**February 13** - Shredded Beef Sandwiches

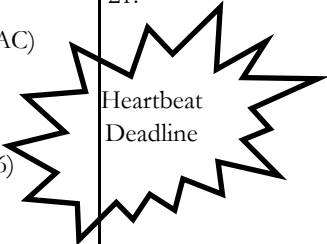
**February 20** - Tacos

**February 27** - Chicken Alfredo Lasagna

## **Service Project on Wednesday, February 20**

Youth will be assembling Personal Care Kits which will be taken to Lutheran World Relief and Birthday Party Kits that will go to the St. Peter Area Food Shelf. We ask for donations of any of the following items: cake mixes, frosting tubs, birthday candles, paper products for children's birthdays, new children's books (for any of ages 4-10), nail clippers, toothbrushes, combs, individually wrapped bar soap, light-weight dark-colored bath-size towels (20x40 and 27x52). All items can be placed in a tub in the vestibule by the canopy entrance. Thank you!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
<p>3. Fourth Sunday after Epiphany            Souper Bowl of Caring            8:15 a.m. Worship            9:15 a.m. Fellowship            9:30 a.m. Education            10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>4.            9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel            9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study            11:30 a.m. Welcoming Committee (GAC)</p>	<p>5.            1:00 p.m. Cemetery Board            6:00 p.m. Building &amp; Grounds</p>	<p>6.            7:00 a.m.            8:30 a.m.            5:30 p.m.            6:00 p.m.            6:15: p.m.            6:15 p.m.            7:15 p.m.            (Sanctua</p>
<p>10. Fifth Sunday after Epiphany            8:15 a.m. Worship with Baptism            9:15 a.m. Fellowship            9:30 a.m. Education            10:30 a.m. Worship with Baptism            11:40 a.m. Women's Choir            11:45 a.m. Youth Leadership Team            4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Bowling with the Pastor            at Kingpins Bowling Alley</p>	<p>11.            9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel            9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>12.            7:00 a.m. Executive Committee            11:30 a.m. Christian Education Committee            12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Blood Drive            1:00 p.m. Green Committee            1:00 p.m. Cemetery Board</p>	<p>13.            7:00 a.m.            8:30 a.m.            5:00 p.m.            5:30 p.m.            Sandwich            6:00 p.m.            6:15: p.m.            6:15 p.m.            7:15 p.m.</p>
<p>17. Sixth Sunday after Epiphany            8:15 a.m. Worship            9:15 a.m. Fellowship            9:30 a.m. Education            10:30 a.m. Worship            7:30 p.m. Backpack Meeting</p>	<p>18.            9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel            9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>19.            7:00 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>20.            7:00 a.m.            8:30 a.m.            5:30 p.m.            6:00 p.m.            6:15: p.m.            6:15 p.m.            7:15 p.m.             Youth</p>
<p>24. Seventh Sunday after Epiphany            8:15 a.m. Worship            9:15 a.m. Fellowship            9:30 a.m. Education            10:30 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>25.            9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer in Chapel            9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>26.            10:00 a.m. Pastor Gwen preaching in Christ            Chapel at Gustavus</p>	<p>27.            7:00 a.m.            8:30 a.m.            5:30 p.m.            Lasagna)            6:00 p.m.            6:15: p.m.            6:15 p.m.            7:15 p.m.</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1.	2.
<p>. Men's Conversation (GAC)                  . Staff Meeting                  . Supper (Pizza)                  . Handbells                  n. Faith Formation (Gr 5-6)                  . Confirmation (Gr 7-9)                  . Holden Evening Prayer                  ry</p>	7.	8.	<p>9.                  9:00 a.m. Kitchen Cleaning                  10:00 a.m. Jeremiah Rehearsal</p>
<p>. Men's Conversation (GAC)                  . Staff Meeting                  . Worship and Arts Committee                  . Supper (Shredded Beef                  hes)                  . Handbells                  n. Faith Formation (Gr 5-6)                  . Confirmation (Gr 7-9)                  . Worship (Dining Hall)</p>	<p>14.                  8:00 a.m. Finance                  9:00 a.m. Stewardship</p>	15.	16.
<p>. Men's Conversation (GAC)                  . Staff Meeting                  . Supper (Tacos)                  . Handbells                  n. Faith Formation (Gr 5-6)                  . Confirmation (Gr 7-9)                  . Worship (Dining Hall)                  a Service Project (info on page 5)</p>	<p>21.                    Heartbeat                  Deadline</p>	22.	<p>23.                  9:00 a.m. Mission Quilters                  Equipping Congregations in                  Willmar, MN (info on page 10)</p>
<p>. Men's Conversation (GAC)                  . Staff Meeting                  . Supper (Chicken Alfredo                  )                  . Handbells                  n. Faith Formation (Gr 5-6)                  . Confirmation (Gr 7-9)                  . Worship (Dining Hall)</p>	28.		

# From the Cantor

## Rocks of Ages - February Meeting!

Do you love the old hymns? Come and request your favorites with the "Rocks of Ages" group. We will meet in the choir room between services from 9:30-10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 3rd. No musical skill necessary!



## Holden Evening Prayer Around the World

Congregations across the globe are being invited to participate in a Holden Evening Prayer event on February 6th, 2019. Come for our 7:15 worship and join our brothers and sisters in Christ through this beautiful evening prayer service. Go to <https://bit.ly/2PVgGGP> for more information from the Holden Village.

## Nairobi Statement: Engaging Worship & Culture

Emily will be leading First Forum on Sundays, February 10th, 17th, and 24th in the choir room. Building on her articles from the past five newsletters, we will engage in an overview of the Nairobi Statement and apply it to three different conversations:

Week One - What Does Worship Look Like? Worship Space and the Visual Arts

Week Two - What Worship Sounds Like: Music and Proclamation of the Word

Week Three - How Does Worship Engage Mind, Body, and Spirit? Culture and Ritual Practice

## Choir for the Ladies!

Emily would like to start a girl's/women's choir at FLC! Ages 10 and up are welcome to join this fun and intergenerational opportunity. Let's have a first rehearsal on Sunday, February 10th at 11:40 for 30 minutes after the second service. We will talk about bi-monthly rehearsal times, singing opportunities, and naming our special group!

## Service of Healing

You are invited to worship on February 17th for a service of healing. Prayer stations will be available for personal prayers, and we will take time during the service to acknowledge grief. Come as you are; you are welcome.

## Wind Ensemble - Save the Date

On Transfiguration Sunday, *March* 3rd, Emily would love a balcony full of wind instruments to mark this last big celebration before Easter. Rehearsal will take place on February 24th from 9:45 - 10:15 between services. If you play a band instrument and have 2+ years of experience, you are invited!



# From the Cantor

## Sunday School Save the Date - Day of Music!

During Sunday School time on *March* 10th, the children will be gathering and spending the morning praising God by learning songs to sing and getting to play some instruments. Pre-K through 4th grade is the usual Sunday school group, but if your 5th-9th grader wants to participate, there will be plenty of instruments to go around, including a Handchime Group!

## Green Committee

Well done, members of First Lutheran Church! You deserve thanks for your growing participation in an effort to live responsibly. The Green Committee's goal is to reduce trash that ends up in landfills. After Sunday coffee hour, the compost buckets have been overflowing with the leftovers: paper plates, paper napkins, orange rinds, banana peels, and other food remnants.



In the kitchen, the Green compost containers are well used after Wednesday night suppers, funerals, and other events. The compostable remnants are taken to the compost container in our "back yard" near the sheds where they eventually turn into soil.

However, living in an environmentally friendly way comes with a few problems which we are trying to solve. We attempt to keep the Welcome Space neat and clean and are therefore looking for compost containers that are bigger or have lids. Also, these containers need to be emptied often and on a regular basis so that they do not become smelly.

We welcome your input on how to improve our composting system at First Lutheran.

The Green Committee offers these rules for living responsibly:

- Compost at home.
- Reduce, reuse, recycle.
- Walk or bike when possible.
- Turn off the lights when they are not needed.
- Use energy-efficient lightbulbs for the dark hours.
- "Buy" a solar panel (see Green article in the January Heartbeat.)
- Turn down the heat and wear a sweater.

Thank you all for helping to save our precious planet Earth.

# News and Notes

## **Intern at FLC?**

Are you interested in having a pastoral intern at First Lutheran? We've had three very successful interns in the recent past: Amy Hanson, Paul Eldred, and Caitlin Jensen. They have added their unique perspective and voice to preaching, teaching, and other pastoral responsibilities, and we know that *THEY* have also had an incredibly enriching experience as well. Hosting another intern almost seems like a no-brainer, but it all comes down to funding. The total cost of hosting an intern is about \$40,000, so can we raise enough money to support this? If you are interested in contributing to this, please contact the office.

## **Signup for Summer Camp**

FLC Week at Shetek Lutheran Ministries will be July 28-August 2 this year. 3rd-6th graders can experience a mini week at camp. 7th-9th graders can choose between 7th-9th grade camp or "Wet and Wild." You could also bring the whole family to Family Camp that week. Register before February 1 to save \$50 and before April 1 to save \$20. FLC will provide a \$70 camp scholarship to those who let us know they have registered.

## **Shower of Thanks**

You are invited to write a 'Thank You' to Barb Regner for her many years of dedicated service to First Lutheran. We have placed a basket, blank cards, and colorful writing utensils in the Gathering Space. You can either mail your card to Barb directly, or place into the basket and we'll mail for you.

## **Pastor Gwen at Christ Chapel**

Pastor Gwen will be preaching at Christ Chapel on Gustavus Adolphus College on Tuesday, February 26. Come and be a part of this mid-week service!

## **Lenten Soup Suppers**

As in previous years, we will have our soup suppers on Wednesday evenings during Lent. This starts on Ash Wednesday (March 6) this year. Every year, the committees get together to provide the soups, and the schedule this year is as below:

- March 13: Christian Education, Staff Support, and YLT
- March 20: Finance, Funds Management, and Stewardship
- March 27: Altar Guild and Worship & Arts
- April 3: Building & Grounds, Fellowship, and Welcoming
- April 10: Greens and Social Ministry

## **Equipping Congregations Day**

Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is hosting a seminar on a variety of topics to equip congregations on Saturday, February 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Willmar, MN. Pastor Gwen will attend and is hoping for a few members to accompany her! There are fliers in the Gathering Space with additional information.

# News and Notes

## Thank You!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the Kitchen Cleaning Volunteers who spent many Saturday mornings cleaning cabinets, drawers, ovens, refrigerators, and freezers. You did a spectacular job, keeping our kitchen sanitary and inviting. Thanks go to: Frani and Mark Anderson, Carla Demers, Maralyn Flinner, Sue Gray, Donna Green, Helen Ihrig, Marsha LoFaro, Mary Long, Carol Moline, Amy Pehrson, Patsy Rossow, Lee and Bernie Schnobrich, Betty Thompson, Mary Thompson, Barb Wilkinson

## Happy 90th Birthday Paul Baumgartner!

Helen Baumgartner, along with their children Tom, John, Dorothy, Carol, and Mary Lou, invite you to join them in celebrating Paul Baumgartner's 90th birthday after 10:30 am worship on Sunday, February 24 in the Gathering Space. No gifts please.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Did you know that Super Bowl Sunday is the second largest eating day of the year after Thanksgiving? Starting February 3, we will be collecting food and money to be given to the St. Peter Food Shelf for those who do not have enough to eat.

## The December Miracle Happened!

As you know, most of our income comes from generous members and friends who are committed to the good work of First Lutheran. In November, our income was about \$27,000 less than expenses. But, you came through yet again! Our December contributions allowed us to end in the black. Thanks so much for your continued support!

### Financial Notes:

Through December 31, 2018

Income \$477,824

Expenses \$474,811

Balance \$3,013



### 2019 Congregational Council

President: Shanon Nowell

Past President: Paul Haukoos

Vice President: Dave Ribar

Treasurer: Ken Westphal

Other Members:

Carla Demers, Josh Drinkall, Tyler Erickson, Mary Gaebler

Cheryl Kautt, Gordon Long, Cindy Nadeau, Mary Thompson, Carolyn Trnka

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 3  
St. Peter, MN 56082

*Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread and wine, we serve the community and the world*

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St. Peter MN 56082

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flcstpoffice@gmail.com

Address Service  
Requested



*Welcome to First Lutheran Church*

**Public Access Channel 7  
TV broadcast**  
3:00 p.m. Sunday  
6:00 p.m. Monday  
8:00 a.m. Tuesday  
11:30 a.m. Sunday

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday Worship Schedule**

8:15 a.m. Worship  
9:15 a.m. Fellowship  
9:30 a.m. Education  
10:30 a.m. Worship

### **Monday Morning Prayer**

9:15 a.m. (Chapel)

### **Wednesday Worship**

7.15 p.m. (Dining Hall)