

FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2022

Pastor Chris

Siblings in Christ, Greetings!

First, I want to say, "Thank You!" Our Soup & Chili Cookoff and Dessert Auction was a very enjoyable experience! The soups and chili were tasty. The auction was filled with good fun. The fellowship was amazing! Especially for this being the first time we have ever tried an event like this, I think it went wonderfully well! Thank You to Nancy Timm, Michelle Doose and everyone who helped to organize this event. Thank You to everyone who made and donated a soup, chili, and a dessert. Congratulations to Pat Pehrson for winning the coveted, Golden Ladle Award for his delicious chili! Thank You to everyone for your generosity- we raised over \$1,200 for First Lutheran Church! I'm already looking forward to next year's event!

Second, amidst all the busy-ness of this time of year, let's not forget what lies at the heart of Christmas: the good news of great joy for all the people which angels delivered to shepherds watching their flocks by night. As Luke records, "In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:8-14) This good news of great joy is God's gift to all of us this Christmas time and always! Let's celebrate our Savior's birth and share this good news with those we meet!

Christmas blessings to you all!

Holiday Hours

FLC offices will be closed December 26-30 with the exception of Karen who will be here 9am-12pm December 27-30 to receive offerings and giving cards.



Closing Report from Our 2022 Council President

Please remember the congregational meeting on December 4, immediately after worship (location is not yet determined). There is much that is important to discuss. The Finance Committee will submit for discussion a budget with more than a \$60,000 deficit. There are also elections for council and other offices, a vote on proposed by-law changes, and presentation of proposed changes to the constitution for a January vote. These are not yet on the website, but we hope to add them soon.

The past month has been a busy one at First. We celebrated Dedication Sunday (for which I was unfortunately out of town). We are most grateful to all of you who have submitted estimate of giving cards, no matter the amount. We have also seen the beginning of confirmation, Sunday School, and adult forums. We also had a successful—and warm—Trunk or Treat. Thanks to all who take part in these! And, as usual, thanks to all council members and committee chairs, worship assistants and ushers, the staff, and, of course, Pastor Chris. And, most of all, thanks to you for your presence at worship and support of our church.

I also preached on Reformation Sunday. Thanks to Pastor Ted Kunze for preaching on October 23.

We also signed a one-year agreement with Ecumen Pathstone to lease our basement for an adult day care facility.

I am glad that so many of you took the time to look at our displays of images and artifacts from the history of First Lutheran Church. They give us an idea of the varied and colorful history of our congregation, with everything from the fire to the tornado to First Lutheran Catholic Church to our new addition. They also gave those of us who were not here when the remodeling, many improvements, and additions to the church building were done; you can get an idea of what our mortgage is paying for! Thanks to David Fienen, our archivist, and Dave Pehrson, who knew where the “First Lutheran Catholic Church” sign was after David Fienen and I failed to find it!

I hope that you will prayerfully consider serving on a committee if you are not already on one. You can mark your interest in the Time and Talent form. There is a great deal of work done by the committees that is not always visible, or simply taken for granted. Serving on a committee is a time commitment, but it is also a great way to support the church, to get important work done, and get to know other members.

Once more, thank you to you all!

Garrett Paul, PhD

Christmas Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps off your Christmas Cards benefit our Veterans! Please remember that any stamps you receive during the Holiday Season (or otherwise) can be used by our veterans! Carefully cut stamps off envelopes leaving a 1/4-inch border and bring to the collection box near the usher's stand. Entire picture postcards are also accepted! Thank you from our Veterans and the CCM committee.

The National Lutheran Choir- Christmas Festival

Christmas Festival at the Basilica of Saint Mary

Live Concerts

- Friday, Dec. 9th - 4:30pm and 8pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- Saturday, Dec. 10th - 8pm @ The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- Adults and seniors: \$33 | Students: Pay what you can | 18 and Under: Free

Livestream

Friday, Dec. 9th - 8pm

Free to all | Visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) to watch. For tickets and more information, visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) or call 612-722-2301.

Youth & Family – December Events

Hope ❄️ Peace ❄️ Joy ❄️ Love

Here's what's going on in December:

Christmas Cookie Decorating: December 11th from 9:15am-9:55am

Attention all youth! Join us on December 11th for Advent Education Crafts and Christmas Cookie Decorations!

December Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday, December 4th 9:15am-9:55am	Sunday School Class and Christmas Program Practice!
Sunday, December 11th 9:15am-9:55am	Christmas Program Practice; Advent Education Crafts/Christmas Cookie Decorating!
Sunday, December 18th 9:00am-9:55am	Children's Christmas Program - No Stress, No Fuss Program!
Friday, December 25th	NO CLASS!

December Faith Formation/Confirmation Schedule:

Wednesday, December 7th	Class, followed by our Advent Worship Service!
Wednesday, December 14th	Class, followed by our Advent Worship Service!
Wednesday, December 21st	NO CLASS!
Wednesday, December 28th	NO CLASS!

December High School Youth Group Schedule:

Wednesday, December 7th 7:30pm-8:30pm	Our combined High School Youth Group will be gathering at First Lutheran Church this month! Join us for games, smores, devos and more! Be sure to wear your Christmas sweater!
---	---

Worship Notes

Advent & Christmas 2022: *What Can't Wait?*

Our Advent series this year is entitled *What Can't Wait*, and it will take us on a journey through Advent and Christmas.

Digital devotional booklets are available. Make sure you are getting the Weekly Heartbeat - the link to the devotions will be available each week now through the end of the year. Please contact Angela if you would like a black and white version printed for you.

Wednesdays: Advent Midweek

On December 7, 14, and 21, there will be a midweek Advent service featuring the tried-and-true Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen each week at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. You are invited to make this a part of your Advent spiritual journey.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Saturday, December 24, you are invited to worship at 4:00 p.m. and/or 10:00 p.m. What Can't Wait is the Christmas Eve theme, and join us again Christmas morning at 10:00 a.m. A special thank you to David Fienen for leading our music during the holidays!

At our latest Worship and Arts meeting, Cheryl Kautt volunteered to reach out to members to find helpers during worship - especially for communion prep. If you're willing, please consider helping. It's always nice to have people assist with the various roles that we need with worship. Thank you to all of you who have volunteered! There has been a request to bring back the Lenten Soup Suppers. We'll keep you posted.

Submitted by Michelle Doose

Building & Grounds Committee – Update on Fall Efforts

The Building and Grounds Committee has had a busy fall. Thanks to the efforts of Dave Pehrson and Pat and Patricia Duenwald, two more pine trees on the north side of the church were removed. I also would like to thank Mike and Diane Stewart, Larry Kiewell, Joe Frank, Cheryl Kautt, Aileen Bipes, Dave Pehrson, Steve Erickson, and Dave Kennedy for their help with the clean-up of the church grounds on Saturday, October 29. Countless loads of leaves and brush were taken to the city during the two-hour period. Thanks also go to Jaydon Thompson, Jim and Kim Neubauer, the Boy Scouts of Troop 58, and their parents for clearing out the underbrush and leaves in the row of pines along the east side of the parking lot. This was part of Jaydon's Eagle Scout Service Project. Additionally, the committee hosted fellowship Sunday, November 13th.

Finally, committee members have been working with representatives of Ecumen Pathstone Living preparing the space in the basement as a site for their Adult Day Program. The hope is that this program will begin providing services at the start of the New Year.

Bill Kautt -- Chair

Up-Coming Meetings - All Congregation Members

- December 4, 2022
- January 29, 2023

During the December meeting we will be voting for new council members and officers. Representatives for GACAC and Synod Assembly Voting Members will be voted on in January.

The January meeting will serve as a time to review the annual report and receive a printed copy. Annual reports will not be mailed except to those homebound members who request a copy. The report will also be available on the church website, flcstp.org

Financials – as of 11/7/22

Income \$320,298

Expense 350,840

= Net Loss -30,543

End of Year Giving – Still Opportunities in 2022

It is our hope that you will be able to complete any 2022 offering envelope pledge and any Building Renovation 2020-2023 pledges before the end of the calendar year. Checks that are dated no later than December 31, 2022, will be gratefully received through January 4, 2023. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the mission of First Lutheran Church. Karen will be in the office mornings December 27-30.

IRAs

Are You at Least 72 Years Old? Don't forget about the IRA Charitable Rollover. You can donate up to \$100,000 to charitable organizations directly from your IRA without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. Talk about a tax break! Check with your financial advisor on how to make this type of donation.

Legacy Society

Become a member of the First Lutheran Legacy Society There are many options to provide estate gifts to First Lutheran Church. The simplest means of supporting the ongoing work of First Lutheran Church in your estate plans is by including the church in your will. However, there are a variety of other means of doing so including:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Naming First Lutheran Church as a beneficiary of your retirement plan life insurance policy, bank or brokerage account, donor advised fund, or other financial asset plans.

Contact the church office for more information on becoming a member of the Legacy Society and find out how gifts can be earmarked.

Food Shelf

Holiday Vouchers! The St. Peter Area Food shelf and the St. Peter Area Ministerial Association provides grocery vouchers to needy families. FLC is still accepting donations through 12/31 for this program.



New Trees at Resurrection Cemetery

Nine new trees have been planted in section D at the cemetery this fall. Members and volunteers watered them in the hope that they will flourish and prosper. Thanks to all the tireless volunteers who make the cemetery a place of beauty!

Soup/Chili Cook-Off

And the winner of the 1st Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off is... Pat Pehrson! Pat's Chili collected the most monetary donations, earning him the "Golden Ladle" trophy. Thank you to all who entered: Aileen Bipes, Judy Chaffee, Sarah Chambers, Michelle Doose, Betty Thompson, Nancy Timm and Michelle Twait. Thank you also to the Fellowship Committee and other volunteers that helped with set up, serving and clean up.

Our Dessert Auction was a great success too! Thank you to Pastor Chris, as our wonderful auctioneer. We gratefully thank those that donated desserts: Michelle Doose, Judy Fienen, Martijn Hajos, Liz P. Hawkinson, Jean Hayer, Onie Isenberg, Cheryl Kautt, Marcia Kunze, Karen Smithers, Diane Stewart, Grace Timm and Nancy Timm. Thank you also to the anonymous donor of the Sour Cream Raisin Pie, whoever you are.

Thank you to all who joined us for the great food and fellowship. With your generous voting and bidding, we raised \$1,220.00 for First Lutheran Church and made the 1st Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction a huge success. We look forward to doing this again next fall. Start thinking about your soup/chili entries for the 2nd Annual Soup/Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction!

Submitted by Nancy Timm

Ecumen Pathstone Day Living is coming to First Lutheran!

Ecumen Pathstone Day Living is an Adult Day Service that has been serving individuals at the Mankato location since 1982. Their program was housed in Christ the King Church in Mankato for 20+ years until it moved onto the main Ecumen Pathstone Campus across from Sibley Park in 2021.

With our aging population's growing needs for healthcare services and a growing desire to live in their homes for as long as safely possible, Ecumen's Adult Day Service in Mankato has reached its capacity. Ecumen Pathstone Day Living has served many St Peter community members over the years, transporting 2-5 participants daily to their Mankato site. Transportation routes go out to some of St Peter's more rural neighbors including Kasota, Cleveland, and Le Center. All of this and the successful history of this program created an easy decision for Ecumen to expand their program and open an additional Adult Day Service in St Peter.

Adult Day Service is a unique program that serves individuals with a variety of diagnoses and needs. Most commonly the service is for individuals living with Dementia, Parkinsons, and developmental disabilities. The program can meet the physical, social, and medical needs of individuals. One of the more special aspects to Adult Day Services is how it serves the at home caregiver. Adult Day Services can provide much needed respite to those that are taking care of an ill parent or spouse. Self-Care is important and caregiver burnout is a real thing that no caregiver should feel ashamed of. Ecumen Pathstone Day Living, Adult Day Service will take care of your loved one in a safe environment while caregivers can have time to themselves.

Trained Adult Day Assistants can aid with activities of daily living, administer daily medications, and facilitate meaningful programming for the mind and the body. Ecumen Pathstone Day Living has daily exercise, adaptable games and activities, musical guests, intergenerational programming, field trips, and more.

Ecumen Pathstone Day Living is excited to bring their faith-based program back to a religious setting. Ecumen has provided a variety of quality healthcare services in our area for many years. Opening this additional program and partnering with First Lutheran will help both your congregation and Ecumen to serve the St Peter and neighboring community members. We are excited for this opportunity and hope to be operating out of this space by early 2023. We are grateful and thankful for this partnership.

Submitted by Rachael Evers, MSN, LNHA

The FLC Giving Tree



The Altar Guild invites you to contribute to the Giving Tree. This money will be directed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This is a congregational fund that supports people in need. The Giving Tree is located in the Gathering Space during the Advent Season.

To donate take an envelope off the Giving Tree. Fill out the enclosed card indicating the person or persons you are honoring or remembering with your contribution. Place the card and your donation in the envelope. Place the envelope in the offering plate or take it to the church office. Lastly, place a star on the tree to indicate your donation.

Thank you for your contributions.

FLC

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Women's Mini-Retreat: February 4, 2023 (Back up winter weather date, February 25)

Theme: RENEW

Times: 9:00am to 12:30 (Feel free to start arriving anytime after 8:30)

Who can attend: Women of First, in High School and Older, and their friends or family

Join us for worship, learning, and fellowship with other women of faith as we renew ourselves and learn about women renewers of the church from history.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1114 Traverse Road
Saint Peter, MN 56082

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #3

Saint Peter, MN 56082

Phone: 507-934-3060

Email: flcstpoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.flcstp.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FLCSTP

