

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH + SAINT PETER

FIRST OUT LOUD!

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2022



Pastor Chris Culuris: *Share God's Love!*

Siblings in Christ,

In 1 John we hear this: *“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.”*



These words are beautiful and inspiring. That is most certainly true. They also call us into action. As Christians, as members of First Lutheran Church, we are called to demonstrate our love for our neighbor by putting our faith into action helping others in tangible ways. It is important to note that, as Lutheran Christians, we love our neighbor in response to all that God has first done for us. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has shown us what real love looks like. In return, we get to be creative.

So, this month as we celebrate St. Valentine’s Day and the gift of love we have with those special people in our lives- think about what we can do to care for and serve those among our families, friends, congregation members, the community of St. Peter and beyond. Then, pass along the fruits of your prayerful discernment to the members of our Social Justice and Congregation and Community Ministry Committees. Let us share our collective wisdom, so that, we may then share God’s love with our neighbors during this month and in the year ahead!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

-Pastor Christopher Culuris

Council President Message: *A New Year Brings New Leadership*

I want to thank Bill Kautt, Harry Hunt, and Cindy Nadeau for serving as President, Treasurer, and Secretary last year. Their leadership has done much to generate the forward momentum and enthusiasm we now have.

That momentum and enthusiasm have been evident in worship. After Pastor Chris's first service, I heard someone running up behind me; it was a member of the Call Committee, who put her arm around me and said, "We made the right decision!"

Momentum and enthusiasm were also evident in the January council meeting. We face challenges this year and, in the years, to come, but we are meeting them with optimism and resolve. On 5 February the council will have a retreat, and its most important purpose is to set its goals for 2022.

I want to thank you for returning your "estimate of giving" cards, and for fulfilling your pledges for 2021. I know that some of us can give little or nothing; and some of us can give more. There is no shame attached to the former, and no glory to the latter. The church is one place where the slogan, "From each according to his/her ability, to each according to his/her need" truly applies.

The council is looking for ways to find additional sources of revenue. In the future you will hear more about the Family Fresh receipts, the Kwik Trip cards, and a new program, "Shop with Scrip"; you will also hear more about the First Lutheran Church Legacy Society, an initiative to encourage members to put First Lutheran in their wills.

One sobering note: as many of you are aware, the FBI, in light of the recent attack on a Texas synagogue, has issued a warning to all houses of worship to be on the alert. There is no need for alarm or panic, but it is still a good idea to note the location of your nearest exit in church—just as we do on airplanes. And I hope you will join me in prayer for this synagogue and for our Jewish brothers and sisters everywhere who live with the knowledge that they are always potential targets.

-Dr. Garrett Paul, Council President

Social Justice Committee: *RIC Sunday*

On February 6th, First Lutheran will celebrate 14 years as a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) congregation. Our guest preacher will be Reed Fowler. Reed Fowler (they/them/he/him) is a seminarian pursuing ordination in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and currently living in St. Paul, MN. Pastorally, Reed is invested in expansive notions of care, embracing narratives of abundance, and centering alternate and artistic expressions of faith. Artistically, they are multi-medium, working in words, clay, fabric, thread, and dirt. They have done academic work on theological support for suicide attempt survivors and are deepening their knowledge of disability justice. They spend downtime knitting, queering faith + domesticity, learning to rest, and snuggling with their ever-increasing menagerie. Reed dreams about having a garden and space to weave.

Reed served his year internship at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, NYC, after completing academic coursework for a Master of Divinity at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. They are the recipient the 2020 Joel Workin Scholarship through Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries ([ELM](#)), and are on the board of Arts, Religion, and Culture ([ARC](#)).



A Note from the Cantor: *February & Lent*



On February 6, we celebrate that we are a Reconciling in Christ church and embrace the diversity of all God's people, particularly related to sexual orientation and gender identity. There will be special songs about inclusivity led by youth (and a couple of adult helpers). There will be a guest preacher. There will be colorful paraments adorning our sanctuary. It's always been a highlight for me, and I look forward to celebrating with FLC in this special way!

On February 13, we welcome a new GAC Music Scholar, Heidi Engman! Here are some words of introduction from Heidi:

"Hello everyone! My name is Heidi Engman and I am a sophomore elementary education major at Gustavus. This is my second year taking organ lessons with Dr. Winterfeldt, but I began playing the organ my sophomore year of high school. My grandpa was the organist at my home church, so I spent almost

every Sunday listening to him when I was little. I really enjoy playing hymns, especially the old Swedish and Augustana Lutheran ones. I am so thankful for the opportunity to play at First Lutheran and am looking forward to it!"

On February 27, we conclude the Season of Epiphany with Transfiguration of Our Lord, the last festival Sunday until Holy Week (which isn't until mid-April this year).

Save the Date: Wednesday, March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and will kick off our Lenten midweek series. We will provide worship both in person and live streamed at 7:00 p.m. for these services.

Save the Date: The Midland University Choir from Fremont, Nebraska will be making a stop at First Lutheran Church on their choir tour! They will join us for worship on March 6 and sing many portions of the service to lead us into the Lenten season. You will have the option of hearing them live or through the live stream.

-Emily Bruflat, Director of Music

Lenten Devotionals: *Full to the Brim*

Our Lenten theme this year is *Full to the Brim*, and the series came with a beautiful devotional booklet. The booklet will be available electronically to all members in a color version. Please contact Angela **by Monday, February 21** if you would like a hard copy prepared for you. Due to the high cost of color printing, these hard copies will be printed in black and white.

February Forum:
Hosted by the Social Justice Committee:
Meet Pastor Reed
Feb 6, 11am

Every Member Reads:
Hosted by the Green Committee
Nature's Best Hope
book by Douglas W. Tallany
Feb 13 & Feb 20, 9am

Faithful Giving Allows for Generous Benevolence

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we want to **thank you** for your generosity in 2021. The following is a list of our benevolence giving for 2021—totaling over \$35,000. May these gifts be a blessing to both those who give and those who receive:

SW Minnesota Synod & ELCA	\$20,200
Missionary Sponsorship	\$1,000
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,000
St. Peter Free Clinic	\$500
Union Street Place/ Playground	\$500+\$400
World Hunger	\$1,700
Lenten Offering (SPAF)	\$190
St. Peter Area Food Shelf	\$1,310
Holiday Baskets (vouchers)	\$1,820
Giving Tree/Pastors' Discretionary Fund	\$3,138
MNIPL	\$500
Bread for the World	\$250
LSS Afghan Refugees	\$3,100
Total	\$35,608

12/31/21 Church Financial Summary

Income	371,631
Expense	397,002
	<25,371>

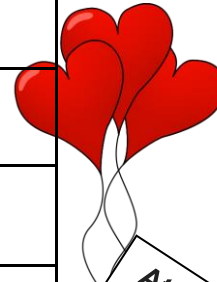
Youth & Family Faith OUT LOUD! *Looking into February & Beyond*

January came with a variety of obstacles... and our youth and families took each one in stride! Although we had some virtual programming and cancellations last month, we are excited and ready for all that February will bring! Below are updated programming schedules for this month, in addition to our upcoming summer opportunities! As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me (cc.flcstp@gmail.com)!

-Calleigh Carlson, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

February Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday, February 6th 9:15am-9:55am	<i>1st-2nd Grade First Communion Cup (Session #2); Sunday School Class!</i>
Sunday, February 13th 9:15am-9:55am	<i>Game/Craft Day!</i>
Sunday, February 20th 9:15am-9:55am	<i>Sunday School Class!</i>
Sunday, February 27th 9:15am-9:55am	<i>Game/Craft Day!</i>



Attention all Sunday Schoolers!
Mark your calendars! The Jeremiah Band is set to play on Sunday Worship Feb 6 services and have invited our Sunday Schoolers to assist with the music!

February Faith Formation/Confirmation Schedule:

Wednesday, February 2nd	6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC
Wednesday, February 9th	6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC
Wednesday, February 16th	6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC
Wednesday, February 23rd	6:30PM-7:30PM at FLC

February High School Youth Group Schedule:

Wednesday, February 2nd 7:30pm-8:30pm @ FLC	<i>Combined Youth Group God's Love Pursues!</i>
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February Youth and Family Event:

Sunday, February 27th 4:00pm-5:30pm @ FLC	<i>Youth and Family Bob Ross Painting Challenge!</i>
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2022 Summer Opportunities:

June 12th-16th	<i>Trinity Lutheran Vacation Bible School</i>
June 20th-23rd	<i>Shetek Bible Day Camp</i>
June 25th-July 2nd	<i>Trinity Lutheran Middle School Youthworks Trip</i>
July 6th-8th	<i>Mini Shetek Confirmation Camp at Lake Shetek</i>
July 24th-28th	<i>ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN</i>
TBD	<i>Weekends of Mission for Families</i>

Combined youth group ice skating.



Invite a friend to FLC's youth activities!