



First Lutheran Church

The Voice of First Lutheran First Lutheran

January 2021 Edition

From Pastor's Desk- Happy New Year!

Dear friends in Christ:

I bring you greetings of HOPE for the New Year of 2021.

In some ways it seems like the horrendous year of the 2020 Pandemic would never end, yet in another way, it seems the months have flown by so quickly.

With that being said, I am reminded of my sermon for Christmas Eve where I stated that "One of the things of which I have become more and more aware is that Christmas happens amidst the ordinary circumstances of life."

Year after year we listen to the Christmas story where Mary has given birth to a Son, who is the Savior of the world. We want to know year after year that despite our changing story and despite what has happened over the past year, Christmas is still true and still happening.

We are reminded that the light of Christ is still shining in the darkness, that good news is still being announced, that the child is still being born anew, and that God is still with us...every minute of every day! How amazing it is!

Yes, it is still true! The same Christmas Story that we have heard year after year, is the same story which brings us hope each Christmas and for the New Year to follow.

May you continue to seek the light of Hope in whatever you do. Read anew the Christmas Story as if you were reading it for the very first time. Behold the beauty of the words of the Christmas story as you experience God's presence in the difficult and painful times of life as well as in the joyful and exciting times.

The reality of Christmas, God with us, Emmanuel is always happening!

Blessings to you in the New Year!

Pastor Nord

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Annual Meeting January

First Lutheran will be holding our Annual Meeting on January 17, 2021. More information on how this will be set up is to come. Keep your eyes on your email and mail box for more information at the beginning of January.



Community Service— Pecatonica Food Pantry

The Pecatonica Food Pantry is preparing to service several families this holiday season. In preparation for nothing only the holidays but also for remote learning; the Food Pantry is looking to increase their supply of snacks for kids. So for the month of January we will be focusing on apple sauce and trail mix.

Please leave all donations in the basket by the church doors.

To learn more about the Pecatonica Food Pantry check out their website:

www.pecatonicacommunityfoodpantry.com/



Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Nord is interested in leading a Lenten Bible Study during the Lent Season. We have two choices on how to provide this service for our members: in –person and virtually. The format will depend on current State COVID Guidelines at the time.

If you are interested in participating in a Lenten Bible Study, please contact Pastor Nord at 815-520-5026 or nordswanstrom@aol.com

More details to come!



Church Council News!

The Church Council meets on Tuesday, January 5, 2020 at 6:30 pm

November Minutes were approved at the December meeting. You can find a copy of the October Minutes on our website: [Church Council](#) or you can request a copy from the Church Office.

If you wish to have a paper copy mailed to you, please let Jen Camplain know at any time.

Church Council Members

President-Dr. Bob Ebbesmeyer
815-541-2182

Vice President-David Zumdahl
815-988-7959

Secretary-Janis DeWall
815-703-1772

Treasurer-Sallie Morgensen
815-222-2638

Pastor Nord Swanstrom -
815-520-5026

Jen Camplain—815-871-1329

Judy Clark-815-742-2628

Dorene Lagerstam-815-232-6753

Bob Morgensen-815-222-5285



In our Prayers



- | | |
|---|---|
| † <i>Beverly Banks</i>
(friend of Kathy Dougherty) | † <i>Raelynn Merrick</i> (<i>Taylor Merrick's daughter</i>) |
| † <i>Sarah Banks and Family</i>
(Daughter of Kathy Dougherty) | † <i>Alan Olson</i>
(former head custodian at Pec CUSD) |
| † <i>Stacey Beyer</i> (member) | † <i>Audra (Carlson) Smith</i>
(member) |
| † <i>Carrie Brockway</i>
(Pec Elementary Principal) | |
| † <i>McKenzie Camp</i>
(Craig's grand-daughter) | |
| † <i>Aiden Doner</i>
(Pec MS 7th grader) | |
| † <i>Kathy Dougherty</i> (member) | |
| † <i>Bryan Durand</i> (member) | |
| † <i>Martha Ebbesmeyer</i>
(member) | |
| † <i>Laura Gram</i>
(Janet Anderson's niece) | |
| † <i>Dee Hickman</i>
(Pec Elementary School Librarian) | |
| † <i>Stephanie Klinger</i> (Grand-Daughter of David and Linda Book) | |

We Continue To Pray for Those In Care Facilities or Homebound

- † Margaret Stahl

And For Those Serving Away From Home

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| † Addison Hass | † Jason Hoover |
| † Jake Jenkins | † Jacob McGrew |
-

Birthdays and Anniversary Celebrations!

January Birthdays

2 Zachary Camplain
 Leona Greene
 7 Jennifer Dougherty
 John Dearmin
 16 Benjamin Wurster
 20 Larry Lilja
 22 Erin
 25 Holly Joy Daly
 Julie Clark
 26 Bret Morgensen
 27 Susan Zumdahl
 28 Brett Zimmerman



December Anniversaries

14 David & Audra Smith



Stewardship

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God has skillfully created us and blessed us with more than we could ever imagine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made! God knows us deeply and has created each of us uniquely. God has entrusted us with an abundance of tangible and intangible resources—time, talents, treasure and so much more. While our gifts may seem meager, put in the hands of God, these gifts can become so much more. In Mark 6:30-44, Jesus takes a little boy's lunch and blesses it to feed thousands. Even in the midst of scarcity, God provides in abundance.

God gives in abundance that we might share in abundance. The apostle Paul writes, "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8). When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us. We give joyfully, graciously and sacrificially because we know that our resources are not ours to keep but are God's to share.

As we start 2021, reflect on how God's blessings in your life has allow you to share your time and talents with others in Christ's name.

Credit: ELCA's Stewards of God's Love: a year round guide to stewardship in your congregations. Copyright 2013. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

First Lutheran Church

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Upcoming Dates!

Mark your calendars!

February 17, 2021—Ash Wednesday

February 21, 2021—First Sunday of
Lent.

March 28, 2021—Palm Sunday

April 2, 2021—Good Friday

April 4, 2021—Easter

