



PARISH PARTYLINE

Concordia Lutheran & First Lutheran

January 2024

Pastor

Pastor Deb Hammer
pastoratcandf@gmail.com
(402) 518-0423

Secretary

Bridgett Connell
secretaryatcf@gmail.com
(402) 841-3110

CLC Council Members

Doug Krie
Brandi Settje
Dan Nolte
Pam Anderson
Peg Lutt
Zach Harder

FLC Council Members

Vickie Sands
Katie Olesen
Gloria Dowling
Greg Carr
Richie Monteith
Lyle Carlson

Concordia Lutheran Church

584-2471
Facebook:
Concordia Lutheran Church, ELCA

First Lutheran Church

635-2461
Website:
www.firstlutheranallen.com
Facebook:
First Lutheran Church,
ELCA~Allen, NE

Announcements

FLC Online Giving is available at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z1PQ>

CLC E-giving option using your cell phone: Download the app "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement", search for "Concordia Lutheran Church ELCA" and set up your account. Contact Brandi Settje if you need assistance.

CLC Parsonage Driveway Repair Fund - Donations will be greatly appreciated. Please mark your offering specifically for the driveway project by writing on the memo line of your check. \$12,500 is needed for the repair.

CLC Volunteer Sign Up for teaching Children's Ministry on Wednesday nights is in the narthex on the table. Please consider signing up to teach K-6th grade from 6:30-7:30 pm.

FLC WELCA will have a meeting and Bible Study (Genesis 3:1-13) on January 10th at 2:00 p.m. Hostess: Jean Morgan

Annual Ministry Sign Up Time for 2024! Please review the sign-up sheets
FLC: On the table at the back of the sanctuary.
CLC: On the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Food Pantry Challenge –

The winner of the trophy will be announced on a Sunday morning soon. It will also be in the February newsletter.



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES! If you are a new member OR if your contact info (address/phone numbers/email) has changed, please email Bridgett Connell (secretaryatcf@gmail.com) no later than January 15th.

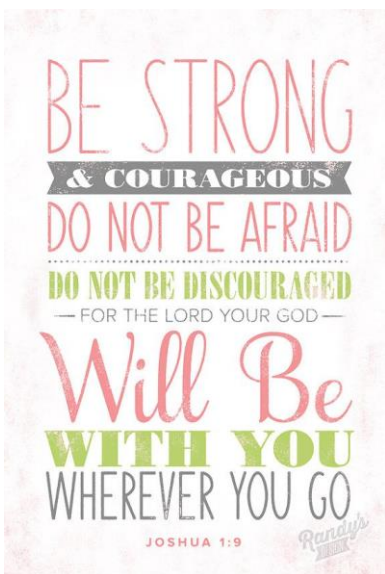
FLC Annual Reports must be to Bridgett by January 15th. Info has been emailed or placed in your church mailbox.

FLC Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting

First Lutheran Church will be having their Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting on January 21st following Worship. Please plan to attend.

Give thanks
to the LORD,
for he is good;
His love endures
forever.

PSALM 107:1



Announcements

CLC Auditor's Call: People responsible for the following reports should have their books to the church by Sunday, January 14th. Auditors will work after church that day to get final information to Bridgett by the 15th. Reports include: **Church Financial Secretary Reports, Church Treasurer Reports, WELCA Checking account, WELCA Memorial Fund, Church Bookstore, Memorial Fund, Sunshine Committee, Concordia Lutheran Endowment.**

CLC Annual Reports must be to Bridgett by January 22nd. Info has been emailed or placed in your church mailbox.

CLC Ministry Celebration/Annual Meeting

Concordia Lutheran Church will be having their Ministry Celebration/ Annual Meeting on January 28th. Please plan to attend. *Please note that worship will be at 10.15 a.m. with the Annual Meeting to follow.*

Service men and women continue to need to hear from home, friends, and family. Please consider sending a "Thinking of You", "Thank You for Your Service", or just a short personal note to our current service members:

DG Christopher Wordekemper
101B Cariaga Ct.
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613

Taylor Johnson
7541 Murray Hill, Apt 838
Columbia, MD 21046

Rise up
and
Pray

— LUKE 22:46 —



We remember in our prayers those who need our prayers.

Dwight Gotch
Paul Boyle
Court Roberts
Terry Lutt
Dustin Thompson

We remember those in care facilities or homebound.

Betty Carr (Homebound)
Bonnie Kellogg
(Wakefield Care Center)
Frieda Bowman (Hillcrest)
Lyla Swanson (Kinship Pointe)
Marilyn Wallin (CountryView)
Fern Erickson (Kinship Pointe)
Shirley Lanser (Homebound)
Elaine Lubberstedt
(Homebound)
Doris Nelson (Hillcrest)

We remember those serving in the armed forces.

Chris Wordekemper
Taylor Johnson

Concordia Members

Elaine Lubberstedt
Keith & Kathy Lubberstedt
Terry & Peg Lutt
Judy Martindale
Jackie Mitchell

First Lutheran Members

Jerry & Barb Sands
Tom & Vickie Sands
Jerry & Donna Schroeder
Jerry Smith & Karen
Claussen-Smith
Dale & Barb Strivens

If you know of any person in need of prayers, please call the church office at 635-2461 and leave a message if no one answers.

Worship Helpers & Celebrations

	First Helpers	Concordia Helpers
Ushers & Greeters	Henry & Clarice Johnson	Kenny Steinle & Hart Vollers
Acolytes		1/7 Tate Holz 1/14 Turner Thompson 1/21 Presten Wayman 1/28 Easton Nolte
Lay Readers		Dustin Thompson
Communion Steward	Clarice Johnson	Shandi Nolte
Altar Guild	Clarice Johnson	Danita Hanson
Altar Flowers		Peg Lutt
Power Point		
Coffee after Service	1/7 1/14 1/21 1/28 Olesen Family	

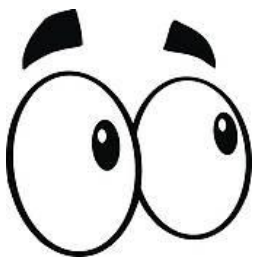


Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary Concordia

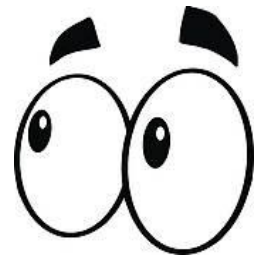
1/3 Leila Fischer
1/5 Cris Bathke
1/8 Katie Bathke
1/9 Lyla Swanson
1/11 Toni Thompson
1/13 Peg Lutt
1/15 Joyce Johnson
1/19 Ryker Settje
1/22 Presten Wayman
1/25 Kolton Fischer
1/28 Richard Fischer
1/29 Melvin Vanderheiden
1/31 Valerie Hangman

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary First

1/1 Darlene Roberts
1/13 Hunter Connell
1/16 Barb Sands
1/24 Richie Monteith
1/27 Katie Sullivan
1/30 Katie Olesen



Check out what happened at First Lutheran Church...

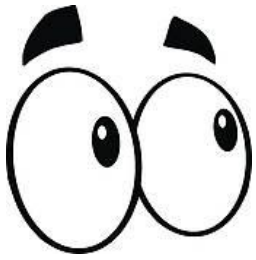


Christmas Program

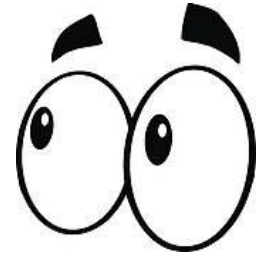


WELCA
Luncheon &
Cookie Packing





Check out what happened at Concordia Lutheran Church...



Advent Supper



Members attended the Hillcrest Christmas Party



Christmas Program





Winter Retreat 2024



“The Fire in Your Heart?”

Saturday, January 13, 2024
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
1515 South Harrison, Grand Island
Registration 9:00 a.m. — Program 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.
—Psalm 40:8 NRSV

Plans are still being developed for the day. Watch our website and Facebook page for details to be released soon. Of course, we will have Bible study, speakers, lunch, plus a few surprises.

Offering designated as follows: 60% Churchwide Women’s Organization,
20% Katie’s Fund “2122” Campaign, and 20% NSW0.

Winter Retreat 2024 Registration Form

Registration Deadline: Saturday, January 3, 2024

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State + Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Congregation/City _____ Conference _____

Special Needs _____

Send form and \$20.00 payment to: Julie Reiser, NSW0 Treasurer
Check payable to: NSW0 PO Box 64
Butte, NE 68722
nsw0.treasurer@gmail.com

Registration fee is transferable for one-year, not refundable

Ministry Opportunities

FLC Council Meeting – January 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

FLC WELCA – January 10th at 2:00 p.m.

CLC Children's Ministry – January 10, 17, 24, & 31 from 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class – January 10, 17, 24, & 31 from 6:30 -7:30 p.m.

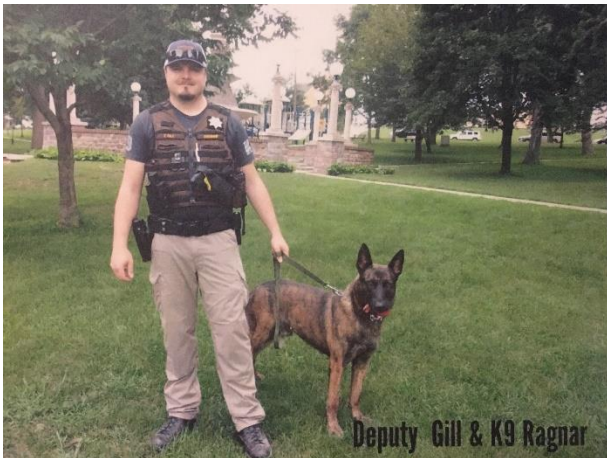
FLC Ministry Celebration – January 21st following Worship

Newsletter Deadline – January 22nd

CLC Ministry Celebration – January 28th following Worship

CLC Council Meeting - TBD

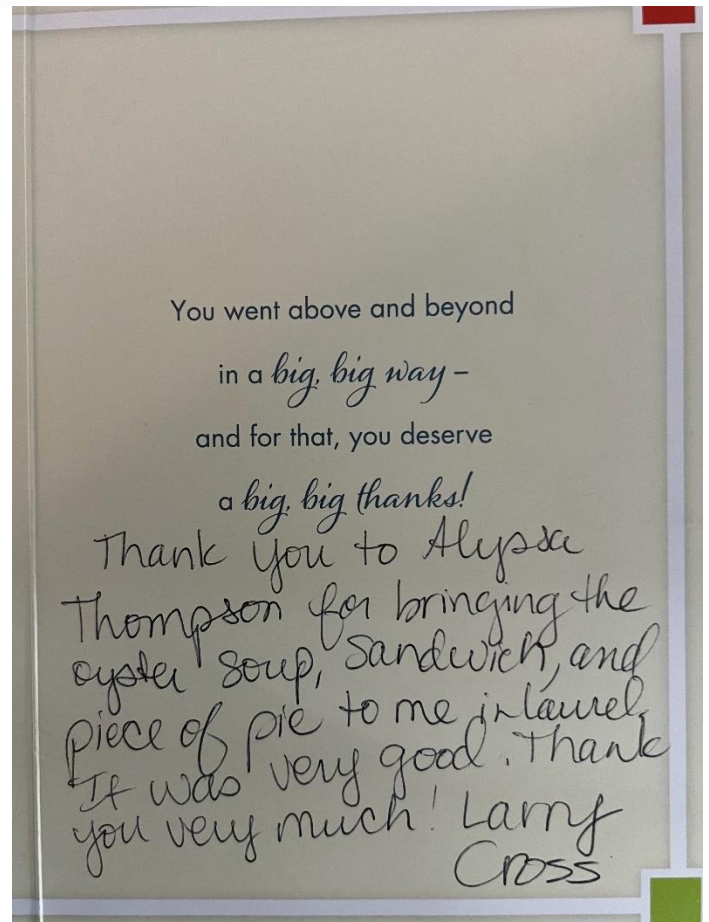
Thank You



Deputy Gill & K9 Ragnar

Thank you so much for your donation. Your generosity means everything to us and the community we serve.

Thomas Gunn



You went above and beyond

in a *big, big way* -

and for that, you deserve

a *big, big thanks!*

Thank you to Alyssa Thompson for bringing the cyster soup, sandwich, and piece of pie to me in laurel. It was very good. Thank you very much! Larry Cross

Pastor's Article

Did you know the arrival of those wise men to the cradle of Jesus comes after we celebrate Christmas day? The day that Jesus showed himself to the wisemen is the season of Epiphany, the 12 days after Christmas, the Magi make their visit. They were watchers of the heavens and they noticed that something was different, something was new and brilliant in the night sky that they had never seen before. They noticed it, the star, and they left their palaces and comforts to follow that star. Who knows how long they sat on those camels and camped in the cold. Slowly these wise men made their way, following that new and different, brilliant star.

And do you know what? They did not make it for Christmas, they were late for the big event, but they came! **It does not really matter when you get there, all that matters is that you come, that you show up!** I don't know about you, but I find the New Year overwhelming in many ways... so much pressure to set these grand plans and goals for life... a fresh start for sure, but more and more I find myself beginning each year already feeling behind and worn out.

I feel reassured by the Magi and their journey... they were not on time, they were definitely worn out by the time they got there, but their focus was fixed on the one thing that matters, seeing the special child for whom the star was shining so brightly.

Maybe the only goal one needs for the New Year is to take the time to notice and in the noticing our focus becomes set on the one that matters... Jesus.

Maybe all we need for a New Year's Resolution is to take our cue from those wise men, and just show up no matter what state we are in when we come.

The Magi, those wise, noticing men, remind me of the invitation Jesus extends to us years later as a grown man... *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28*



GO AND...

At the start of the new year, we are pushed to get organized, exercise more, and make New Year's resolutions. How do we take rest among all this? What does it mean to be like Jesus? It means taking time to pause, rest, and embrace the day. That might mean taking a nap, getting together with old friends, reading a good book, or enjoying the arts as we recognize God makes all things new.

Questions to consider:

- What brings you rest?
- What does Sabbath mean for you? What does it look like in your life?
- Let GO, what are you going to give up this year so that you can rest?

Prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All that is needed for the New Year, for every year, for each and every day is that we come, that we seek Jesus. God will provide the rest. May blessings abound this New Year!

Peace,
Pastor Deb

First Lutheran Council Meeting Highlights

One unified body of Christ, called to be agents of love and service to all!

First Lutheran Council met on December 11, 2023. Present were Pastor Deb Hammer, Katie Olesen, Gloria Dowling, Lyle Carlson, Greg Carr, and Vickie Sands.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

Old Business:

- Getting the Altar Guild Communion station upstairs will be looked at again after Christmas.
- Haven House – We were given a family of 4 to purchase gifts for.

New Business:

- Bridgett Connell has turned in her resignation as church custodian, effective at the end of December. After discussion, the council hired Katie Olesen as the new custodian.
- The Dixon County 4H Junior Leaders have been given permission to use the church basement on 1/21/24 and on 3/17/24.
- We need 2 people who would be willing to serve on the church council and 2 people to attend the Synod Assembly.
- The budget for 2024 was completed. It will be presented to and voted on by the congregation at the annual meeting on January 21, 2024.
- Reports for the annual meeting are due to Bridgett by January 15, 2024.
- We will work on council goals and calendar items for 2024 at our next meeting on January 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned,

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

Next meeting will be January 3, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Concordia Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!

The monthly meeting of the Concordia Council met December 11, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. in the church basement, following the Joint Council meeting. Present: Pastor Deb, Peg Lutt, Zach Harder, Brandi Settje, Doug Krie and Pam Anderson. Absent: Dan Nolte. Judy Martindale was present for the Financial Secretary's Report and Peg Anderson for her Treasurer's Report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the November reports for Pastor, the Financials, Minutes, and the Treasurer's December payments, including a bill for repair of the water main to the Post Office, for candy and apples from HomeTown in Laurel, and repair of a water line in the Parsonage. Motion passed.

Old Business:

The church constitution amendment was approved at the December 10 special meeting. It will be voted on at the annual meeting January 28, then sent to the Synod for final approval.

Brandi will pick up apples and candy bars for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 17. She will have HomeTown bill us for Peg A. to pay.

We are waiting for an estimate to update our church sign.

The go-ahead was given to have Stanley Steamers clean the basement carpet. Zach will set up a date and time.

Pastor is almost finished with the tax exemption application.

New Business:

Pastor put a Christmas ad in the Wayne Herald/Morning Shopper.

A motion was made and seconded to make a minor update to the RIC language in our Welcome Statement on the front page of the bulletin.

The church has capital credits from NNTC in the amount of \$1,845.65. A motion was made and seconded to deposit that amount into the building improvement fund, which raises our goal of \$12,500 to \$8,245.65.

A leak was discovered in the Parsonage basement. Repairs were to be made shortly, so we didn't have a total for that bill yet.

The 2024 Budget numbers were discussed, which included the changes to Pastor's salary/pension/retirement, etc. We will take another look at it during the January Council meeting.

Our next meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 7:00.

Meeting adjourned followed with closing Litany Prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Anderson

Concordia Lutheran Special Meeting Minutes

Reflecting God's love in service to all through our family of faith!

A special meeting was called to order by Peg Lutt, President of Concordia's Church Council, after the church service on December 10, 2023, for the business of electing two new Council members and approval of an amendment to our church's Constitution. Pastor Deb opened the meeting with prayer.

Voting members present: 29

Ballots were handed out, voting took place, and while they were tallied, Zach Harder gave an update on the parsonage garage and driveway.

Discussion was held to amend Chapter 12C of our church's Constitution to increase the \$1,500 amount to \$5,000 that the Council can work with (without bringing it to the congregation for approval). Peg Anderson submitted a letter to the Council asking for this change, and at today's meeting a majority approval accepted the amendment. We will ratify this amendment at the January 28 annual meeting, and if passed, the Council secretary will submit to the Synod for final approval.

New Council members for 2024-26 are Mandy Bruning and Dustin Thompson. Thank you to Brandi Settje and Doug Krie, who will be going off Council.

A motion to adjourn was made by Georgia Addison, seconded by Lyla Swanson.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Anderson, Secretary

Joint Council Meeting Highlights

First Lutheran Council and Concordia Lutheran Council met for a joint council meeting on December 11, 2023. Present were Vickie Sands, Pastor Deb Hammer, Gloria Dowling, Katie Olesen, Greg Carr, Pam Anderson, Peg Lutt, Doug Krie, Brandi Settje, and Zach Harder.

Opening prayer by all.

Pastor's report was discussed. Secretary's minutes from September 11, 2023 were read. Both were approved.

Old Business:

Changes to Portico were explained.

A discussion was held on possible joint meeting changes for next year. It was decided to leave the schedule for joint meetings as it is, with meetings in March, June, September, and December.

New Business:

Pastor Deb will be leading the worship service at the Dixon County Fair on July 7, 2024.

After discussion, we voted to leave the format of the calendar/yearbook as it is.

The proposed compensation increase for Pastor Deb for 2024 was approved.

Annual meetings will be held at both churches; First on January 21, 2024 and Concordia on January 28, 2024.

Each council will work on the dates for their calendars at their next council meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vickie Sands, Secretary

Next joint meeting will be March 4, 2024 at First. CLC council will meet at 6:00, joint at 7:00, and FLC council following joint.