

First Evangelical Lutheran Church 305 West 5th Street North Platte, Nebraska 69101

#### Office Hours Mon - Thurs 9:00 - 2:00 Friday 9:00-12:00 Sunday School 9:15am Coffee & Donuts Sundays 9:45am Worship indays 10:30

Sundays



#### **CONTACT NUMBERS:**

#### Pastor:

Pastor Patrick Sipes 402-200-0446 sgtmuddy@gmail.com

Church Council, President:

Linda Lehmann

Office Manager:

Ambur Petersen

**Financial Secretary:** 

Claudette Nelson

Music Director:

Gail Jensen

Contact Us...

Phone: 308-532-0250 firstlutheran.np@gmail.com www.firstlutherannp.org

#### **Inside The Issue**

**AP** | 120 24

Dear Members of First Lutheran,

Typically, I use this space to talk about the things that I am up to or preparing for; this month I wanted to point you toward some of the activities that are going on that are being driven by our members. I wanted to do this because I think all of these events offer an opportunity to explore our mission statement's dual track of "sustaining ourselves and our communities." I believe each of these events provides the opportunity to help and participate at varying levels of commitment while they are providing something meaningful and needful to our community. By finding a level of commitment that is possible, even enjoyable to you, you can sustain, yourself, the event, and your community simultaneously.

The first event that is coming up is the Blood Drive, April 18th. Please thank Jill Falcon for her organization of this event and contact her if you would like to help. For those who might like to support this event with a few minutes of your time, there are slots available for making donations of blood. The North Platte, Red Cross Blood Bank serves a wide regional area. Glenn Johnson who worked as a driver for them can tell you how far and wide he has delivered blood and other necessities. We are also looking for a few donations of fruit. Giving blood literally takes a bit out of you. Fruit and other snacks are helpful in replenishing blood sugar after a donation. If you have a little more time (2) -3) hours we can use hosts to work shifts at the hospitality table, as greeters, and to help with distributing and collecting forms. If you are someone who is looking to get involved to an even greater extent, please consider if you might have the gifts to organize such an event in the future, or to apprentice yourself to learn the ropes of doing so. Following closely on the heals of the Blood Drive, we are hosting a craft show on April 20<sup>th</sup>. This event is an opportunity for us to offer hospitality to a large number of people from our area. As this event approaches, we will need some short-term volunteers (1-2 hours) to assist with moving tables and chairs throughout the building. If you are a crafter, you might want to consider purchasing a booth space for this event and selling your wares. The conversations you'll have with customers through the day will surely present opportunities to talk up your church. Perhaps the best opportunity of all for supporting this event is simply marking your calendars and coming to see what is being offered by the vendors. Not all the work of sustaining has to be difficult. Please see Alee Stout or Jill Falcon for more information.

Finally coming up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> we are hosting a "shopping day" for Foster Care Closet, a ministry whose mission is to provide 5 outfits per season for children in foster care. The clothing for this day is provided by the organization and they will be bringing it with them from a central storage facility, but there are still many opportunities for helping out. Through the season of Lent our Wednesday Evening offerings have been given as a donation that will be used by Foster Care Closet to help purchase clothes and defray other costs of operation. There is still an opportunity to give in this way as a means of supporting this event. Donations are also needed for supper to serve Foster Care Closet volunteers. If you want to help out for an hour or two we will need help with table set up the night before and clean up after the event the evening of May 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you want to help for 2-3 hours consider helping unload and unpack clothes for display. You could also help for a few hours by helping shoppers find that clothes that they Continued on page 3

Message from Pastor Sipes......1 WELCA Minutes/Scripture.....4 Calendar/Volunteers.....2 Youth Page.....5 Birthday/Anniversary/Financials......3 Council Minutes.....6 Geraniums/Blood Drive......10



SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
	CLOSED	2 5:30pm CCC 7pm Boy Scouts	3 lpm Quilting lpm WELCA	4 5:30pm Bells	5	6	
7 9:15am Salt Mine 9:45am Coffee/Donuts 10:30am Worship	8	9 7pm Boy Scouts	10 Ipm Quilting 6:30pm Confirma- tion Class	11 5:30pm Bells	12	13 8am Card Show	
14 9:15am Salt Mine 9:45am Coffee/Donuts 10:30am Worship	15 5:30pm Council Meeting	16 9:30am Adah Cir 3pm FCE event 7pm Boy Scouts	17 lpm Quilting 6:30pm Confirma- tion Class	18 Noon-Blood Drive 5:30pm Bells Newsletter Deadline	19 llam Funeral 4pm Craft Show Set up	20 8am Craft Show	
9:15am Salt Mine 9:45am Coffee/Donuts 10:30am Worship	22	7pm Boy Scouts	24 Ipm Quilting 6:30pm Confirmation Class	25 5:30pm Bells	26	27	
28 9:15am Salt Mine 9:45am Coffee/Donuts 10:30am Worship	29	30 7pm Boy Scouts		The calendar is always changing. If an event is changed/added after the newsletter is sent out there is a calendar on the Church website that will be more current. If you have questions, feel free to contact the office.			

#### Interested in the book of Revelation?

Sign up now for a class led by Pastor Steve Berke. "Revelation: God's Vision of Life for a Troubled World" will be offered by Rev. Steven Berke on Zoom Thursdays, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2. 7:00-8:45PM

Registration deadline April 8. No refunds after April 8, 2024.

Texts: Participants are asked to order and read one of these two books as background before the course:

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation, by Barbara R. Rossing, paperback, 2005.

Reading Revelation Responsibly, by Michael J. Gorman, paperback, 2010.

This class has a \$25 fee because it is sponsored by the synod's Emmaus Lifelong Learning program. Register online at the Nebraska Synod ELCA website, nebraskasynod.org.

	April Sunday Volunteers									
Date	Reader	Worship Leader	Online W.L.	Coffee/ Donuts	Acolyte	Offering Usher	Comm Assist (2)	Comm Setup/ Takedown	Fill Candles	Greeters
April 7			Stacey		Cauy		Alee S/Arta S			Betty H
April 14		Alee	Stacey	WELCA	Landon	Greg Jerry		Kathy H	Pat O	
April 21		Stout	Pat		Lake	Bob		Pat O	Kathy	
April 28			Pat		Cauy		Sharon R/			Sharon R



Aubyrne Greene April 3 Jake Wawrzynkiewicz April 3 Nick Petersen April 6 Eric Hansen April 7 April 8 Patty Birch Andrew Peters April 8 Emily Hansen April 11 April 13 Jeremy Stoll **Breen Sipes** Dakota Slagle April 17 Jimmy Falcon Jr April 18 Sharon Riley April 18

Sean Dawson	April 20
Georgia Nelms	April 20
Danaka Jedrzejczyk	April 21
Sandra Lundeen	April 22
Patricia Obermeier	April 24
Peggy Fisher	April 25
Krista Uehling	April 25
Maurine Cofer	April 27
Kari Grigg	April 27
Zachariah Saathoff	April 27
Scott Beck	April 28
Tara Peters	April 28

Please advise the church office of any errors/omissions on the Birthday & Anniversary Calendar.

April 29

Joel & Sandi Jensen Apr 2
Nathan & Betsy Jurgensen Apr 2
Steve & Beth Clair Apr 6
Jerry & Mary Johnson
Apr 14 61 years!
Richard & Connie Springer Apr 16
Willis & Marlys Jepsen Apr 19

Brian & Heidi Smyth



Apr 25



Continued: Breen Sipes is the coordinator for this event, please see her for more information or sign up on the table in the narthex at the back of the church. As more events come I encourage you to consider how you can be involved at a level you find sustainable and I encourage leaders and organizers to break things down a bit into Low, Medium, and High levels of commitment in order to help all of us sustain ourselves while we sustain our community.

In Christ,

Pr. Patrick.

Year 2024	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Income	\$19,747	\$25,038											\$44,785
Expenses	\$17,232	\$24,214											\$41,446
Surplus (Shortfall)	Surplus \$2,515	Surplus \$824											<u>Surplus</u> \$3,339
Average Attendance	82/18	81/19											

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Thank you for your gifts to God through First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

#### AMOUNTS ARE ACTUAL INCOME RECEIVED AND EXPENSES PAID.

- + Higher income levels around Easter/Christmas. Lower income levels typically received in the summer.
- + Income is considered any monetary gifts given to the Church but excludes any donations received for "designated gifts".
- † The expenses vary month to month, depending on the spending requests by the ministry leaders and committees.
- + Detailed financial reports are available in Narthex and office.

#### Meeting was called to order with devotions by President, Peggy Fisher

WELCA Report

Attendance: Adah 2; Miriam 2; Eve 5; Pastor 1; Other 0

Secretary Report: Jill read the February minutes completed by Sharon. Jill moved to approve,

Claudette seconded. All in favor. **Treasurer Report:** No report this month.

**Bills:** Bills were presented and approved for payment. (Ideal Linen \$33.07)

Correspondence: Peggy read Thank You notes received. Information was shared on the Camp Carol Joy Holling Quilt

Auction – July 27, 2024. Discussion on possibly being able to donate a guilt.

**Backpacks:** nothing to report. **Care Kits:** nothing to report.

Quilts: Carla reported 50 quilts completed.

#### **Old Business:**

\*The contract for kitchen floor mats has been completed and mats delivered. They will be replaced monthly during office hours.

\*Discussion on the 9 fire extinguishers that are within the church and knowing where they all are. Will review next meeting the locations. Pastor talked about the safety features above the doors in the boiler room and if a fire the buttons should be pushed to turn off the boilers.

\*WELCA potluck – Eve circle hosted and approximately 22 in attendance.

\*Spring Gathering – was held March 2 with 50+ in attendance. Kudos were given to all involved in such a successful event. Carla shared a few of the comments from the surveys.

#### **New Business:**

\*Ongoing Lenten meals are being coordinated between each of the circles and Heidi.

\*Cleaning the west kitchen is set for April 2 at 9:00am. The ovens in the main kitchen will also be cleaned.

\*Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend banquet is April 14th at 6:00. This event is hosted by the WELCA board. Jill will coordinate the food and volunteers to assist. Cost was discussed and it was decided to keep free will offering.

\*Peggy will contact a possible program speaker (green house person). Peggy will get the information to Mary for getting the poster ready and to Ambur ASAP.

\*Tammy shared the NWSO "Understanding and Responding to Human Trafficking" pamphlet.

\*Blood drive was discussed, and Jill is adding volunteers to the list to assist throughout the day. Thank You all for your service!! Jill will call others from the WELCA book to get more involved.

\*Heidi is looking for help to decorate on Saturday, May 18th @ 2pm for Senior Sunday the following day. Please reach out to her if you are able to assist.

# Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer Next meeting April 3, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Weekly Scripture	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel	
April 7	Acts 4:32-35	133	1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31	
April 14	Acts 3:12-19	4	1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36b-48	
April 21	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18	
April 28	Acts 8:26-40	22:25-31	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8	

# First Ev. Lutheran Youth Sunday School News! Salt Mine and Faith Formation Youth Group

April Theme: Mary and Martha

Pre-K to 5th graders are welcome. Opening starts at 9:15am in the Education Unit.

Sunday School Teaching Schedule							
	Workshop 1	Workshop 2					
April 7	Kim A	Breen					
April 14	Amanda C	Pr. Sipes					
April 21	Jill H						
April 28							

End of Year Celebration May 12th!

If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact the office or Pr. Sipes.

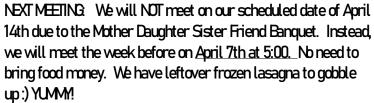
On Palm Sunday we celebrated with these young members as they took part in their 1st Communion.

As you can see, we have been BUSY BUSY with Lenten meals this past few weeks. Thank you so very much for supporting YOUR youth in their fundraising efforts. As of now we have 9 youth and 3 sponsors heading off to mission work this summer!

Please join us for Easter Breakfast 9:15-10:15 Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Fruit, Muffins, Yogurt and Drinks

Keep a watch out for First Lutheran shirts!!! Order sheets will be posted on the bulletin board or with Heidi





Call to Order: President Lehmann called meeting to order at 6:10pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Sipes offered opening prayer.

Approve Agenda: Motion made by Neal Criddle and seconded by Jim Falcon to approve the

agenda. Agenda approved.

Members Present: Linda Lehmann, Keith Kempke, Amanda Connick, Jim Falcon, Greg Lower, Sharon Riley, Jody Hill, Neal

Criddle, Pr. Sipes

Members Absent: Lowell Moore Others present: Ambur Petersen

Minutes of previous meeting: Motion made by Sharon Riley and Second by Neal Criddle to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2024, meeting and congregational meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

Standing Committee Reports/Committee request and motions:

Finance/Foundation: Jim Falcon is working with Alee Stout to get him a signing card. No meeting. Motion made by Jim Falcon and Second by Keith Kempke to create a Venmo Account to accept donations through another platform. Action approved.

Christian Ed/Youth & Family: No meeting.

Care Committee: Trying to do something monthly. Currently they are hosting a sock drive. They are also gathering baby stuff for Levi Lunzman (Devin and Larissa Lunzman's son). Working on serving a meal at the Lincoln Connection, hosting a Blood Drive, and hosting a Craft Fair.

Mutual Ministry: No Meeting.

**Personnel:** Keith Kempke is working to get more congregation members to be on the personnel committee. No Meeting.

**Property:** Property committee received three (3) bids for the indoor backflow to be repaired. Because it is within the Property Committee's budget, no formal action was taken. Greg Lower said they would go with the \$1,100 bid from Aupperle's. Discussion of cross repair. There is currently \$64,059.17 in the boiler fund.

Worship & Music: No Meeting Pastor's Report: See Attachment.

#### Ongoing Items:

\*Cross - Bid in folder (\$3,670). Motion made by Jim Falcon and Second by Sharon Riley to approve the bid to repair the cross with adding photo eye using Memorial Funds. Discussion: It was requested to get a replacement cost, but we never received one. We think adding a photo eye will be cost effective. Action approved.

\*Sound System –Demonstration at meeting. A demonstration was open to all members of First Lutheran to show the updates in technology and to allow for the church to be prepared if the current system breaks. Tabled until next meeting.

\*Boiler Bid/HVAC-Boilers are done. By law, it is required to have a back-up option. The Property Committee is looking into options.

#### **New Actions:**

-Pastor Sipes Contract (expires Dec 2024): Pastor Sipes is currently on a Term Call that expires in December. If it is determined to renew Pastor Sipes contract, it will be an open-ended call. To determine this, Pastors would like the congregation to complete a Ministry Site Profile and he will fill out a Roster Leader Profile. This will allow both the congregation and Pastor to see if the needs of the church are the gifts that Pastor can offer. More information in the coming months.

-Office Hours: Motion made by Sharon Riley and Second by Greg Lower to approve Ambur's request to update her hours to: Monday-Thursday 9-2 and Friday 9-12 during the school year and Monday-Thursday 9-2 during the summer with the understanding that if she is needed longer, she will stay longer. Discussion: 20 hours is the minimum hours she needs. The Council reminded Ambur that she needs to count the time outside office hours that she is working to get paid for. Action approved. Neal Criddle and Amanda Connick abstained from voting.

-Mike's Contract (put on payroll or continue subcontract): Motion made by Sharon Riley and Second by Jim Falcon to approve putting Mike Connick on the payroll instead of a contractual agreement. Action approved. Neal Criddle and Amanda Connick abstained from voting.

-Council Communion Helpers: Council members signed up for a month to be the communion helpers.

-A/V Demonstration: Keith Kempke will get actual numbers. Conversation tabled to next month.

#### Committees:

Finance/Foundation: Jim Falcon, Christian Ed/Youth & Family: Neal Criddle, Care Committee: Sharon Riley, Mutual Ministry: Linda Lehmann, Personnel: Keith Kempke, Property: Greg Lower, Worship & Music: Jody Hill Budget correction: Motion made by Keith Kempke and Second by Neal Criddle to approve removing \$2,400 from Pastor's Salary and adding \$2,400 to Pastor's Flexible Spending Account. Action approved.

Adjournment: Moved by Jim Flacon and Second by Greg Lower at 7:45pm.

Next meeting: March 18th and April 15th

Church Council Minutes

#### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS.

Tracy Vanderpool Chloe King Dick Curry Sheryl Bauer-Relative of Heidi Criddle Mark Grubbs-Jody Hill's friend Taylor Fecht-Friend of Alee Stout Sharen Andre— Jody Hill's Aunt

#### Friend and Family of

Arlene Jepsen Rudy Campos Dave Rasmussen

Please let the office (308-532-0250) know if you have anyone you would like to include in our prayers. We will continue to pray for four weeks. If more time is needed, please inform Pastor Sipes (402)200-0446



Thank you for the cup of lovely flowers for my birthday and thanks to Ken for the delivery.

-Carol Ludemann



If you would like to provide flowers for a "special occasion" Glory to God' 'in honor of", "in memory of" please pick up a form in the office.

The cost is \$40.00 for one pair of bouquets.

#### **2024 Available Sundays**

1	April	X	14	21	28	
	May	X	X	19	X	
1	June	X	9	16	X	X

#### March Flowers were given by:

March 3-In Honor of Marion's Birthday

By: The Effenbeck Family

March 17– In Loving Memory of Michael Scott Johnson.

By: Jerry & Mary Johnson, Eric, Jill Hansen and

Family

# **Do You Know?**

Service: Church Council

**Profession:** Attorney

Titles: President of NP Ambassadors

President of Nebraskaland Day Board.

Favorite Bible Verse: Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of

sin and of death.

Sponsored by Caring Christians Committee

# tlutheran aft Show Sat April 20th, 9:00 to 3:00 or n**f**ore info contact lee Stout 530-6174 or Jill Falcon 520-5131

#### March Council Meeting Highlights

- The Wal-Mart DC increased their donation to help with the cost of supplies for the Youth Lenten meals to \$500.
- There will be a Congregational Dinner held after church on Sunday, April 21st. Lunch will be provided. The Dinner will be used to help gather information to create a Ministry Site Profile.
  - The Congregation donated over 300 pairs of socks during the month of February.



## **Sock Success**

The February sock drive was a HUGE success. Total pairs of socks collected for those in need was 324. This footwear was distributed to The Connection and the Women's Resource Center. What a generous congregation at First Lutheran Church! Thank you for sharing with others.

(Sponsored by the Caring Christians Committee)



#### An Invitation

Join members of FELC in making "God's Work, Our Hands" an outreach mission all year. You are invited to volunteer in the following activities:

- ☐ Help with Blood Drive, April 18, 2024 (Contact Jill Falcon 308-520-5131)
- ☐ Donate soft-cover devotional books/booklets to the Lincoln County Jail Ministry.

(Contact Cassandra Lubash 308-520-8420)

- ☐ Lead a spiritual study at The Connection
- ☐ Donate to the Community Closet (Contact Cassandra Lubash 308-520-8420)
- ☐ Visit members of FELC in care facilities
  P.S. Remember to check the list of opportunities printed in the March Visitor

Sponsored by Caring Christians Committee

#### Honoring Ambur Petersen, Administrative Assistant

Administrative Professional Day is Wednesday, April 24th. We encourage members of FELC to show their appreciation to Ambur Petersen for serving as the administrative assistant in the church office.

Starting on April 7th through April 25th, a basket will be placed in the narthex of the church to collect cards and special notes of appreciation for her. Cards will be given to Ambur after April 25th. If you are unable to bring the card to church, please send to:

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Attn: Ambur Petersen, Administrative Assistant 305 West 5th,

North Platte, NE 69101.

Thank you for considering participating in this event.



Check out the Learner's corner on our webpage www.firstlutherannp.org/learners-corner

# "God's Work, Our Hands" in action at The Connection

A meal was prepared by the Falcons and served by members of FELC on March 15, 2024. Deserts were furnished by volunteers.



# Thank you for sharing your 2024 Easter Mums

To the Glory of God...

Lowell and Frankie Moore Marion and Donna Effenbeck Greg and Libby Lower

#### In Loving Memory of...

**Dave Schuett** 

**Dorathy Schwieger** 

By: Don and Jan Sears

Gordon, Sandy, and Mary Gosnell

Alfred & Maria Gosnell and Palmer & Neola Einspahr

By: Darrell & Rojean Einspahr and Family

Larry L. Allen

By: Baleigh, Quincy, and Jane Ann

Randy, Helen, and Gretchen Witt

By: Christa, Terry, and Ruth

Our deceased loved ones

By: Marion and Donna Effenbeck

Bruce Jensen

By: His Family

Arlene Jepsen and Reinhard & Lana Aden

By: Willis and Marlys Jepsen

Hilda Tesar, W.D. and Frances Newberry

By: Gary and Eloise Tesar

Mel & Peg Lacy

Dale & Shirley Obermeier

By: Mark and Pat Obermeier

Pat Glass

By: Ken Glass

Bill & Georgia Lerner

By: The Lerner Family

Cliff & Lora Hiltabidel

Cliff & Eunice Stoll

Kenna Quinn

Ron Rains

By: Jerry and Sandy Stoll

#### In Honor of ...

Our 10 grands

By: Papa Neal and Gram Heidi

AHUGE thank you to all who helped, served, and attended the WELCA Spring Gathering. All the help was appreciated!

-Carla and Liz



#### FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: "We, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, proclaim, the Way of Christ through our values and passions that sustain ourselves and our communities"

**Worship Services** Sundays: 10:30 AM

Both online and in person

**Sunday School** Sundays: 9:15am

**Wednesday Confirmation** 6:30-7th,8th,9th grades



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 305 WEST 5TH STREET **NORTH PLATTE NE 69101-3830** Address Service Reauested

## **RED GERANIUM PLANTS for** PENTECOST May 19, 2024

I wish to donate \_\_\_\_\_ plants at \$10 each

Bulletin information as follows: to the Glory of God. \_\_\_in Memory of... \_\_\_in Honor of...

From:

The Sanctuary will be decorated with red geraniums as a symbol of the coming of the Holy Spirit, as it did that first Pentecost in the form of flames. These flowers will be planted on the church grounds after Pentecost as a summer-long reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

### Deadline is May 16, 2024

Contact Information: Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_





#### First Lutheran Blood Drive

Thursday, April 18th 12:00pm-6:00pm

First Ev. Lutheran Church 305 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., North Platte

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

> Please call Jill F (308)520-5131 or the church office (308)532-0250 with any questions.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App