



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

# The Visitor

**MAY** 20  
24

In our mission statement, “We First Evangelical Lutheran Church, proclaim the Way of Christ through our values and passions that sustain our selves and our communities,” the “values” that are referred to are five value words that arose from conversation with about 30 congregational leaders. They are values that these leaders see functioning in our congregation. Saying they are functioning means that they are not aspirations of who we think we should be but rather descriptions of who we already are. These values lead us, shape us, and quietly make First the kind of place that it is. Recognized or not, these values will also carry us into the future. These values are Service, Grace, Wisdom, Tradition, and Spirituality.

Over the next several months, it is my intention to use this space, prayer in worship, and a congregational project that you are asked to contribute to, to help bring these values into a place where we are more conscious about them. By seeing them at work, rather than having them work on us in the background, I believe we can start to make conscious decisions about them, harness the power that is in them more effectively, and use them to lead us where God is calling us in the near future rather than wondering why we are where we are and how we got there.

The value that I'd like to begin with is Service.

Service quite simply is the act of doing something for another person. As a concept, it is deeply rooted in the teachings and actions of Jesus. At the last supper, Jesus washes his disciples' feet, and tells them to do likewise. In his parables, Jesus says that he comes to us in the form of the hungry, naked, sick, and imprisoned, and tells us when we do anything to “the least of these” we do it to him. Still more when it came to the crowds, Jesus healed, and fed, and otherwise took care of the many people who came to him. Outside of scripture, but highly central to our Lutheran Tradition, Martin Luther describes us as such in his treatise, “The Freedom of a Christian.” “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to none.”

More than something we just talk about though, service is something we do. As we gather in prayer this month, I will invite you to ponder a few questions:

Where do you see scripture pointing us toward service?

Where do you serve people within the walls of First Lutheran?

Where do you serve in the community and wider world that you live in?

Who in our community is underserved?

In worship I'll ask you to write some of your answers down and post them in a central location so we can see how this value is at work in our midst. I have a suspicion we'll be surprised by how much this group of disciples does when we look at ourselves as a group, and we may find there is room to form some partnerships. I'm looking forward to this journey of discovery.

In Christ,  
Pr. Patrick

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



**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

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Birthday/Anniversary/Financials.....3	Seniors.....6/7	Announcements.....10



SUNDAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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			1 1pm Quilts 1 WELCA 6:30 Confirmation	2 7 Revelations Class	3	4
				Foster Closet-Gym		
5 9:15am Salt Mine 9:45 Coffee & Donuts 10:30 Worship Noon-Basement Reserved	6	7 5:30pm CCC 7 Boy Scouts	8 1pm Quilts 6:30 Confirmation	9	10 	11 Basement Reserved
12-Mother's Day 9:15am Salt Mine 9:45 Coffee & Donuts 10:30 Worship 11:45 W&M Meeting 5pm Youth Group	13	14 7 Boy Scouts	15 1pm Quilts 6:30 Confirmation	16 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	17 	18 Basement Reserved
19-Senior Sunday 9:45am Coffee & Donuts 10:30 Worship	20 5:30 Council	21 9:30am Adah Cir 7 Boy Scouts	22 1pm Quilts	23	24 	25
				Pastor out of the Office		
26 9:30am Eve Cir 9:45 Coffee & Donuts 10:30 Worship	27 	28 5:30pm Band 7 Boy Scouts	29 1pm Quilts	30	31 	
Pastor out of Office						



## An Invitation

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

- \* Assist at the Thrift Center (sorting, stocking shelves, etc.)
- \* Practice "5 Minute Prayer Practice" for those in need
- \* Donate hygiene supplies to the Women's Resource Center

Sponsored by CCC

## May Sunday Volunteers

Date	Reader	Worship Leader	Online W.L.	Coffee/Donuts	Acolyte	Offering Usher	Comm Assist (2)	Comm Setup/Takedown	Fill Candles	Greeters
May 5	Marlys J	Linda  L	Stacey	Finance	Trevyn	Steve Ken Mark	Hinrich's	Carla J	Liz E	
May 12	Sandy S		Stacey		Cauy		Jensen's			
May 19	Heather J		Pat	Foundation		Sandy S.	Liz E	Carla J		
May 26			Pat							

If you would like to volunteer on one of the empty Sundays, please contact the church office or sign up on the bulletin board at the back of the church.



## WELCA BOARD MEETING APRIL 3, 2024

## WELCA Report

Meeting was called to order with devotions by President Peggy Fisher

**Attendance:** Adah 2, Miriam 3 Eve 5, Pastor 0, Other 1

**Secretary Report:** Sharon read the March minutes. Tammie moved to approve; Heidi Criddle seconded. Approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Marlys Jepsen read the February and March report. After discussion Carla Jensen moved, Mary Johnson seconded. Approved.

**Bills:** Mary Johnson submitted a bill for quilt backing \$461.50. Bill was approved. Heidi gave \$40.00 donation for use of the dining area for the Petersen family lunch she served.

**Correspondence:** Peggy read a thank you from an attendee to our spring gathering.

### Reports:

\*No reports on backpacks or care kits. Carla reported 71 quilts have been completed.

\*There are seven graduating seniors that will receive a quilt this year.

### Old Business:

\*Peggy shared a map of fire extinguisher placement in the Church. She will leave the map in the mailbox in the hall way.

\*Peggy thanked all who helped clean west kitchen and label cupboards in the main kitchen. All ovens are clean.

### New Business:

\*WELCA Donut/Coffee April volunteers: Peggy 4/7, Sharon 4/14, Heidi 4/21, Jody 4/28. We need four dozen donuts each Sunday morning by 9:00 AM.

\*Mother/Daughter/Sister/Friend Meal for April 14 were finalized. Speaker will be Denise Lemke, Master Gardener. Several volunteered to decorate and set up the tables for this event after Church that day.

\*Blood Drive will be April 18 from Noon-6:00 PM. Craft Show will be April 20 from 9:00-3:00 PM. The street in front of the Church will be blocked off for food vendors.

\*Centennial Nursing Home needs volunteer groups to sponsor Bingo for the residents. Peggy will find out more information.

\*Discussion on hosting summer overnight youth visitors was held. Liz Evans moved Gail Jensen seconded to host these events. Approved.

\*Senior Sunday will be held May 19. Heidi needs help decorating on Saturday May 18 at 2:00 PM.

\*Carla is interested in having a city-wide Church retreat with each Church taking turns hosting, preparing the meal, speakers, etc.

\*Saved to Serve LFS will be having a healthy food pantry August 2-4 at Dana Village formerly Dana College. They are asking for donations to the village pantry. Registration will be in July for those planning to attend.

**Adjournment: Lord's Prayer, next board meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at 1:00 PM.  
Sharon Riley, Acting Secretary**

<i>Weekly Scripture</i>	<b>First Lesson</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>May 5</b>	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
<b>May 12</b>	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
<b>May 19</b>	Acts 2:1-21	104:24-34,35b	Romans 8:22-27	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
<b>May 26</b>	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

# Altar Flowers

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

May	X	X	19	X	
June	X	9	X	X	X
July	X	14	21	28	

### April Flowers were given by:

April 7- In Honor of Jake's Birthday  
By: The Wawrzynkiewicz Family



Check out the Learner's corner on our webpage [www.firstlutherannp.org/learners-corner](http://www.firstlutherannp.org/learners-corner)

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

John Schledewitz  
Donna Schledewitz  
Tammie Menghini-Mindee Mohr's sister  
Mary Garwood-Sandi Carland's sister  
Travis Schultz  
Tracy Vanderpool  
Chloe King  
Dick Curry  
Mark Grubbs-Jody Hill's friend  
Taylor Fecht-Friend of Alee Stout  
Sharen Andre- Jody Hill's Aunt

### *Friend and Family of*

Mary Owens-Jody Hill's Aunt  
Billy Edelman-Friend of Kathy Hinrichs



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

## LWR Kit Needs

- Twin or larger size FLAT Sheets (dark in color)
- Light weight dark colored bath size towels
- Bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping recommended ivory brand
- adult size tooth brush in original wrapping
- wide tooth combs
- nail clipper with file
- shirts (no onesies) up to 24 month
- sleepers (no feet) up to 24 month
- jacket or sweater with hood up to 24 month
- dark colored hand towel
- baby/toddler socks
- diaper pins

All items collected can be brought to the church office or to the quilters on Wednesdays between 1-3pm in the gym

**Don't forget to wear RED on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th**

**9:30am Coffee & Donuts  
10:30 Worship**

## Do You Know? **Jim Falcon**

**Service:** Council, Finance/Foundation Committee, Cook

**Profession:** Parts Manager @ AKRS Equipment

**Titles:** Son, Brother, Husband, the best one yet grandpa/Papa, EMT-Firefighter (35 years) Council President

**Favorite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7**

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Sponsored by Caring Christians Committee



**Elijah Lee Kempke**

**High School:** North Platte High School

**Activities and Awards:** Football, Basketball, Soccer, National Honor Society

**Future Plans:** Major in Education

**Family:** Keith & Becky Kempke, Ruth Kempke, Nyhlia Kempke, Ann Lamberty, Jody Lamberty

**CLASS OF  
2024**

**Eva McCreery**

**High School:** Hershey High School  
**Activities and Awards:** Golf, academic letter all 4 years, Academic All-State Quiz Bowl, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society, Health Occupations Student Association  
**Future Plans:** Attend University of Nebraska-Kearney, majoring in Psychobiology with a minor in film studies. Recipient of the KHOP scholarship

**Family:** Anthony & Emily McCreery  
**Bible Verse:** Romans 15:7

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.



**Kaylee Devin King**

**High School:** North Platte High School

**Activities and Awards:** Honor Roll

**Future Plans:** To open a dress shoppe or go to cosmetology school for hair and makeup.

**Family:** Rob & Stacey King, Karla O'Rourke

**Bible Verse:** Philippians 4:6

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.



**Brylie Sue Robinson**

**High School:** Wallace High School

**Activities and Awards:** 4-H, FFA, Student Council, National Honor Society, Unity Council, Speech, Nebraska All-State Livestock Judging Team

**Future Plans:** Attend Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, CO. Double majoring in Ag Education and Ag Business. Along with being a member of the livestock judging team.

**Parents:** Randy & Becky Robinson

**Bible Verse:** Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.'





**Allison Emile Einspahr**

**High School:** North Platte High School

**Activities and Awards:** UNK honor Choir, UNO honor Choir, Lettered in powerlifting, Volleyball (3rd-11th), Honor Roll, Mission Trip, Summer Church Camp, Youth Group, Works at Double Dips

**Future Plans:** Pursue a degree in Radiography from UNMC in Kearney

**Family:** Jim & Jessica Einspahr, Ava Einspahr, Willis & Marlys Jepsen

**Bible Verse: Proverbs 31:25**

“She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at days to come”

**Josyah Dean Lunzman**

**High School:** North Platte High School

**Activities and Awards:** 4.0 GPA all 4 years, Academic letter all 4 years, E-Sports (10th & 11th), Work full time, Youth Group, Mission trip (2022)

**Future Plans:** Attend Neumont College of Computer Science for Game and Web development

**Family:** Nick & Ambur Petersen, Landon, Brenden, & Braylee, Zak Fuller, Neal & Heidi Criddle, Mike & Amanda Connick and family, Devin & Larissa Lunzman and Family.

**Bible Verse: Matthew 28:20b**

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.



**Dakota Slagle Rhoades**

**High School:** North Platte High School

**Future Plans:** Work and take online classes

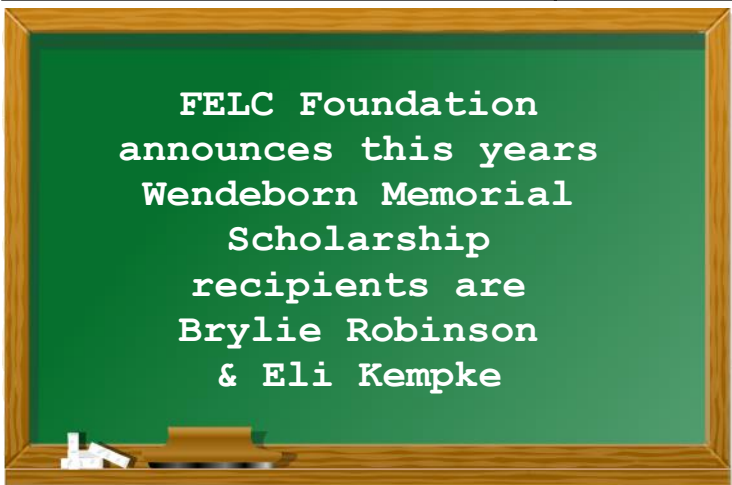
**Family:** Debbie Slagle



**A reception will be held to honor the graduates on**

**Senior Sunday, May 19, 2024**

**in the fellowship hall beginning at 9:30am. Seniors will be then receive their quilts during Worship.**



FELC Foundation announces this years Wendeborn Memorial Scholarship recipients are Brylie Robinson & Eli Kempke

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## Church Council Minutes

**Call to Order:** President Lehman called meeting to order at 5:31pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Sipes offered opening prayer.

**Approve Agenda:** Motion made by Neal Criddle and seconded by Greg Lower to approve the agenda. Approved.

**Members Present:** Linda Lehmann, Amanda Connick, Jim Falcon, Greg Lower, Sharon Riley, Jody Hill, Neal Criddle, Lowell Moore, Pr. Sipes (Keith Kempke joined via phone at 6:03pm)

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Motion made by Sharon Riley and Second by Neal Criddle to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2024, meeting. Approved.

**Correspondence:** President Lehman received information about the 50th year of ELCA World Hunger. Information was passed along to Pastor Sipes.

### Standing Committee Reports/Committee request and motions:

\*Finance/Foundation: No Update

\*Christian Ed/Youth & Family: No Meeting. Lenten meals are going well. In 2022 and 2023, the Wal-Mart Distribution donated \$400 to help purchase meal supplies. Their 2024 donation was \$500.

\*Care Committee: The CCC collected 336 pairs of socks in February and served at the Lincoln Connection on Friday, March 3rd. They are planning a Blood Drive on April 18th, a Craft Show on April 20th, and hosting the Foster Care Closet on May 3rd.

\*Mutual Ministry: No Meeting

\*Personnel: No Update

\*Property: Basement carpet has been cleaned. Greg has been in contact with Snell about FELC's chiller. The option suggested to save money would actually cost more. They are getting a new chiller in approximately 6 months that would be cheaper than buying their current option. We will touch base on Chiller information in a few months.

\*Worship & Music: Update on Lenten Services.

\*Pastor's Report: Vacation May 22-28, Time-off April 1-5

### Ongoing Items:

\*Cross-Bid \$3,670 w/o photo eye. Moving forward.

\*Sound System-Bids in folder.

\*Boiler Bid/HVAC-Addressed in committee report.

\*Venmo-No Update

\*Pastor Sipes Contract (expires Dec 2024)- With Pastors contract ending in December of 2024, Pastor has requested the congregation work on developing a Ministry Site Profile. To get as much congregational input as possible, the Council will be hosting a Congregational Meeting after church on Sunday, April 21st. Lunch will be provided.

### New Actions:

-Ambur Requesting May 9-13 off: Sharon Riley made a motion and Second by Jim Falcon to approve Ambur's request for time off from May 9-May 13, 2024. Approved.

-Overnight youth groups: Sharon Riley made a motion and Second by Neal Criddle to approve accepting overnight Youth Groups. Approved.

-Brochure: Cass is working with the Christian Care Committee to develop a Brochure. Keith and Amanda are working on a Marketing Plan that may include a brochure. Since in process.

**Approvals:** Membership Changes and Facilities request: Neal Criddle made a motion and Second by Lowell to approve the following Membership Changes and Facilities requests. Approved.

-Lori Evans and the Municipal Band would like to use the basement Tuesdays in May, June, July to practice. 5:30-9pm

-Blood Drive April 18th-CCC and Jill Falcon hosting

-Foster Closet May 3rd-CCC and Breen Sipes

-March 23rd- 9am-1pm Baby Shower in Gym area-Tracey Kearney

-March 23rd 1pm-6pm Baby Shower in Basement-Katly Barraza

### Council Member's Forum:

-Jim Falcon has signature sheets to update the signatures on Accounts:

-Keith and Amanda would like to develop a marketing plan to bring to Council: Jim Flacon made a motion and Second by Lowell to approve Keith and Amanda to start working on developing a Marketing Plan to bring to Council. Approved.

-Keith provided some articles and talking points for the Council to consider as we move forward. Discussion tabled for a later meeting date.

Next Meetings: April 15th and May 20th

Minutes prepared by Amanda Connick and presented on behalf of the Congregational Church Council



# First Ev. Lutheran Youth

## Youth Group

Youth Group is taking the summer months off from our regular meeting times, starting with May. We will have some special get togethers so watch your emails and the church FB page for updates.

Our envelope fundraiser is over halfway complete! Thank you to everyone that has contributed.  
Blessings, Heidi

Youth group activities are for all kids 6th-12th grade. If you are not already on the youth group email list and would like to be, please contact Heidi 530-3756 or email [flipgotsick@yahoo.com](mailto:flipgotsick@yahoo.com)

## First Lutheran SHIRT SALES

Watch Facebook and Sunday bulletins for more information. There will be a display in the basement starting April 28th.

All monies raised will help with costs for our youth attending mission trips this summer.



Have an  
awesome  
Summer!

## Sunday School News!

### Salt Mine and Faith Formation

End of Year Celebration May 12th!

Thank you to all of teachers and helpers during the 2023-2024 year.

Pastor and Breen Sipes  
Neal and Heidi Criddle  
Amanda Connick  
Cass Lubash  
Kim Aden  
Betty Knepke-Hamit  
Jake and Kate Wawrzynkiewicz  
Jill Hansen

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

## JOIN US FOR VBS 2024

JUNE 23RD-27TH

5:30 MEAL

6-8PM ROTATIONS

REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH  
OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBPAGE.



# 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

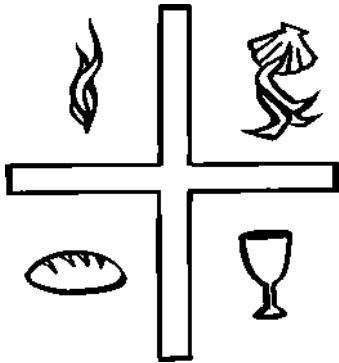
**Sunday School**

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 Requested*



May 2024



**2024 Nebraska Synod Assembly  
Voting Members representing FELC  
Jody Hill and Elyse Bohling**



**Food Drive for Grace Food Pantry**

Let us join together, by sharing our abundance, in filling the grocery cart, in the narthex, with non-perishable food items or cash donations. These items will be shared with recipients at Grace Food Pantry. The drive will continue from May 5th to May 26th .



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

