

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

December 2025
Volume 29, Number 12



HANGING OF THE GREENS at First Lutheran Church will be on Wednesday, December 3rd starting at 1 PM. All Sunday school students are invited to come after school that day to help decorate the church along with anyone else who would like to join in some decorating fellowship fun. Contact Patti Bisgard for more information or with questions.

NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN DECEMBER AT FIRST LUTHERAN. Adult bible study will resume on Wednesday, January 7.



4:30 PM—First Lutheran
6:30 PM—Christ the Servant

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES—We will have mid-week Advent services at First Lutheran on Wednesday evenings, December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 PM.



First Lutheran Christmas Program

FOLLOW ME along with 20 of our youth as we explore the history of **following** God. The youth invite you to attend their Christmas program on **December 14 at 9:00 AM**. They are anxious to share their belief that **following** God is what everyone needs in their lives. You will enjoy the enthusiasm they have as well as their acting and singing skills! Please come! You won't be disappointed! Thank you for always supporting our youth!

Gayle Bortz

YEAR-END OFFERINGS

should be in the office by
10 AM on Sunday,
December 28 to be recorded
in 2025.



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QUILT FOR THE ALTAR!

November 2 & 9 Rae & Scott Luehring provided a quilt for the altar at First Lutheran.



Discipleship Ministry

Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

Christ the Servant

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual meeting for ministry at Christ the Servant in Corydon. The meeting will begin about noon following regular Sunday worship. A potluck meal will be shared after the business portion of the meeting is concluded.

First Lutheran

Sunday, January 18, 2026

On this day, Christ the Servant and First Lutheran will gather for joint worship at Chariton beginning at 9 AM. The business meeting will follow at around 10:15 AM. Following the business items of the day, we will join in the sharing of a potluck meal in the Fireside Room. Those who are able are invited and encouraged to bring a dish to share with others.

DECEMBER IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH at the Ministries Center. Examples would be toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss, etc. **Please consider helping with this ministry!**

The Ministry Center also needs volunteers!

Ministry Center hours:

Open M/W/F 9:30-11:30 am

410 S. 7th St.—774-8146

Salvation Army Assistance available during open hours. Don't forget the blessing boxes found around town can use donations, too!!



CONFIRMATION CLASS will resume January 7.



RADIO

BROADCAST



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY!!

The radio broadcast of Pastor Hutton's sermons is an ongoing ministry of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:

KIIC Radio—96.7 FM (Albia)

kiicradio.com—website
(Click on "Listen Live")

If you miss Sunday, catch it as a podcast on church's website!

Broadcast Sponsors:

December 7: Mark & Rhonda White in honor of their December birthdays

December 14: Rod & Gayle Bortz

December 21: Rod & Gayle Bortz in honor of Rod's birthday

December 28: Denny & Patti Bisgard in memory of their parents

We are now taking sponsors for 2026. With a member and friends in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across southern Iowa. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast for 2026, please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!

Stewardship Ministry

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING OPPORTUNITY

First Lutheran will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell on Saturday, December 6, at Lockridge Lumber. The signup sheet is on the table in the Fireside Room with a few time slots still open. If that day doesn't work for you, there are plenty of more opportunities for ringing. Please contact Patti Bisgard if you are interested in helping with this ministry. Thank you!

ON THE VINE



FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet at 10 AM on Tuesday, December 2.

HANGING OF THE GREENS on Wednesday, December 3 at 1 PM. Youth are invited to come after school to help.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES AT FLC on Wednesday, December 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30 PM.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE on Sunday, December 7 during worship.

CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, December 8 at 11 AM.

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, December 8 beginning at 2 PM.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, December 8 at 6:30 PM at FLC.

BREAKFAST GALS will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday, December 9 at Hardees.

"SHARING THE WEIGHT" BLANKET MAKING will take place on Tuesday, December 9 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP will meet on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:30 PM at First Lutheran.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather on Thursday, December 11, at 1 PM.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, December 14, from 5-7 PM for a Christmas gathering. Ernie's bingo will be played. Please bring a white elephant gift and treats to share. Earl & Linda Comstock will host.

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, December 21.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE at First Lutheran at 4:30 PM and Christ the Servant at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 24.

NOW YOU CAN GIVE EASILY THROUGH ONLINE GIVING!

Be part of the amazing work God is doing in our church! Instead of writing checks, you can now give to the church's general fund easily by scanning the QR code with your smartphone's camera and following the secure link to make a quick, secure donation **OR** use the link below to reach the same secure link.



[https://
secure.myvanco.com/L-
ZXZE](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXZE)

Thank you for your support!



NOISY OFFERINGS !

Please bring your loose change to church and "noisily" deposit it in the pot!! Offerings December through March at First Lutheran will go to Lutheran Lakeside camp equipment. Offerings December through March at Christ the Servant will go to swim lessons.

Pastoral Pondering

It's that time of year again, and we have a story to tell. Christmas is our story, the church's story. Actually, it's God's story, and He has called His people in the church to tell it to the world. So, as the world decorates and celebrates this holiday season, let's join in the merriment by telling the story of Jesus' birth.

Despite declining rates of church attendance and professions of faith, nearly everyone in our culture still celebrates Christmas. They may call it the "holiday season" and not talk about baby Jesus or the manger, but we should be grateful that most of our neighbors will make the coming days special with parties and decorations. Even if they don't know the real story, Christmas is a big deal, just as the angel said, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger (Lk. 2:10-12)."

Some Christians bemoan all the money made by companies profiting from our Christmas gift-giving, but maybe we should agree with Charlie Brown's reaction to Snoopy: "This commercial dog is not going to ruin my Christmas." Gift giving is part of the story we tell. God gave the world the priceless gift of His one and only Son, and the magi brought expensive gifts to honor Jesus. Now, we give Christmas presents to family and friends as tokens of our love for them and of God's matchless love for each of us. We also share the real story of Christmas in our music. While the world grooves to Mariah Carey and croons along with Bing Crosby, we sing carols celebrating Jesus' birth:

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by,
Yet in the dark streets shineth
The ever lasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Even sappy holiday movies set against a backdrop of Christmas decorations can point people to the real story. We all long for hopeful, happy endings. We like feel-good moments of light and laughter, and we have the best story to tell, a love story with a joyful ending that offers peace on earth.

So, as your neighbors light up their homes, decorate their trees, shop for gifts and hum along with holiday tunes, be glad that Jesus' birth is still celebrated by so many and watch for opportunities to tell the real story. God sent His Son into this world, born as a little child, placed in a rough manger and greeted by shepherds, angels and wisemen from afar. Jesus brought light into this dark world, showing God's love and offering new life to all who will come to Him in faith.

Take a few moments to read the real Christmas story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Refresh the details in your mind and rejoice in your heart. Jesus' story is our story, and we get to tell it again this year with sparkling lights and colorful gifts, through cheerful songs and happy stories. We share the good news that Jesus came to save us. O come, let us adore Him!

Merry Christmas to all!

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed

December Baptismal Anniversaries



During this month, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

12/4	Alex Kuball	12/16	Angelynne Coleman
12/5	Joanne Fletcher	12/16	Callen Coleman
12/6	Arta Harman	12/18	Christine Atwell
12/6	Monte Brown	12/22	Devon Brown
12/9	Rob Johansen	12/23	Kim Francisco
12/16	Marissa Coleman	12/25	Deb Clark
12/16	Wesley Coleman		

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

CORYDON

12/8	Bill Miller
12/10	Wendy Foster
12/11	Becky Allen

CHARITON

12/1	Mark White
12/3	Devon Brown
12/5	Alena Umbenhowe
12/11	Rhonda White
12/12	Zachary Fisher
12/14	Del Kray
12/15	Tim McGee
12/16	Christina Umbenhowe
12/17	Amanda Buckalew
12/19	Rod Bortz
12/21	Tanner Duey
12/27	Bob Prather
12/28	Chris Kuball
12/31	Nicki Brown



ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UP CALENDAR

is available in the office. Please contact Susan for possible dates to provide flowers for the altar.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON

12/19	John & Arta Harman
12/31	Jean & Shorty Wilson

CHARITON

12/10	Kent & Cameron Storm
12/14	Del & Karen Kray
12/28	Dave & Lana Kuball



On behalf of all our family—thank you to Pastor Hutton for the beautiful service and constant prayers for our mom and grandma. A big thank you to the women of First Lutheran for the wonderful lunch.

And thank you to everyone for the cards, memorials, and for attending the visitation and funeral. Your thoughts and prayers have meant so much to us all.

Sincerely, LuAnn, Suellen, & Mark and families

Minutes and Reports

Copies of recent meeting minutes and financial reports are available on site at both First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. At FLC, please look on the bulletin board outside the church office. At CTS, check the table by the windows on the lower level.

FIRST LUTHERAN SNOW

SHOVELING SCHEDULE is now posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room.

Please consider helping with this ministry!

