

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

January 2026
Volume 30, Number 1

On Sunday, December 14, the youth at First Lutheran Church presented “I Will Follow Him” directed by Gayle Bortz. The program begin with a duet singing “I Will Follow Him.” Youth and the congregation enjoyed the stories of Noah and Jonah following God. The program concluded with the story of the birth of Jesus and following him. Of course, the camel was present too!



PROGRAM CHARACTERS

Ava Krutsinger: Narrator
Morgan Peters: Narrator
Kate Krutsinger: Narrator
Connor Shore: God
Tray Brown: Jonah
Austin Cain: Noah
Aislin Carroll: Angel
Maeve Shanks: Angel
Vivie Nichols: Angel
Layton Smith: Soloist & Angel
Gwen Shanks: Mary
Chance Wilson: Joseph
Jensen Peters: Camel
Camden McCurdy: Camel
Addie Russo: Camel Leader
Courteney McCurdy: Soloist & King Gaspar
Lucy Wilson: King Melchior
Mya Krutsinger: King Balthazar
Paislee McFall: Star & Props
Colton Wilson: Shepherd and Props
Kaleb Graves: Shepherd
Zyler Davies: Shepherd
Lonna Wantland: Pianist
Mary Jo Fisher: Artist
Gayle Bortz: Director



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Discipleship Ministry

Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

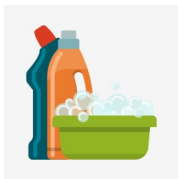
Christ the Servant
Sunday, January 12, 2025

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 19, 2025

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.

JANUARY IS LAUNDRY SUPPLIES MONTH for the Ministry Center. Examples would be detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, bleach, and stain remover. **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!!

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:

January 4: Laura Wilson for the regular listeners in Clear Lake

January 11: Susan & Mark Muehlenthaler in honor of Gert Patterson's 95th birthday

January 18: Susan & Mark Muehlenthaler in honor of Morgan Peter's 16th birthday

January 25: Friends in Des Moines area

WE ARE NOW FILLING DATES 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 one of these broadcasts, please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!

Stewardship Ministry



NOISY OFFERINGS AT FLC

Every gift makes extra noise! The Church Council will match all Noisy Offering donations—up to \$500—with funds supporting Lutheran Lakeside Camp equipment. This matching opportunity runs through March, so let's make it loud and generous!



Lutheran Lakeside Camp

ON THE VINE



FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, January 6 at 10 AM.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10 AM.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on Wednesdays, January 7, 14, and 28 at 2 PM.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA will meet on Thursday, January 8 at 1 PM at First Lutheran.

CTS ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK to be held on Sunday, January 11 right after worship.

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, January 12 beginning at 2 PM.

"SHARING THE WEIGHT" BLANKET MAKING will take place on Tuesday, January 13 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP will meet at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, January 14.

JOINT WORSHIP & POTLUCK at First Lutheran on Sunday, January 18 following worship.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, January 18 at 5 PM. Earl & Linda Comstock will host. Please bring an item to share.

ALPHA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at 2 PM.

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>

Thank you for your support!

NOISY OFFERINGS!!



Please consider bringing your loose change to church and "noisily" depositing 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

Happy New Year!

As I write this article, thinking about the New Year, I keep thinking about this question that the crowds asked Jesus: “What, then, should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” (Luke. 3:10-11)

And now, looking ahead, even beyond the Season of Christmas, I’m filled with wonder (and concern) about how we do the good work we are to do. We continue to live in times of great anxiety and marginalization, which leads us to draw in, hunker down, and protect what we have. This impulse makes sense. But Jesus’ teaching reminds us to be generous and giving of what we have.

Be good to one another. Not only in how we share our time and talents, which are gifts we must always steward well. But beyond this, can we be generously good to one another in this new year? How do we do this? How do we “be good” to one another? Well, here are a few ideas.

Be Present – First, we practice generosity by paying attention and maintaining presence wherever we are. I’m reminded of a church sign that I often pass - “The best place to be is here.” By being present, we can attend to the needs of others that God has placed in our lives. Be present.

Be Humble – This means swallowing our pride and forgoing the need to be right. This is humility. Be humble. Give others the benefit of the doubt, trusting that each person you meet is doing the very best they can with what they have. Remember when you felt like you weren’t enough, but someone helped you remember how loved you were. Be humble.

Be Kind – In polarizing times, we can still be kind. When we disagree, we can still be kind. We can treat each person we meet with dignity and respect as beloved children of God. In all things, we can have a consistent ethic of kindness, regardless of the circumstances. To be kind, even when the world tells us to be perfect, correct, or on top...well, it’s countercultural and changes lives. Be kind.

Presence, humility, and kindness change the world and transform small communities like ours. In the year ahead, we must practice these things: Be present to what God puts in your daily path. Be humble, accepting your limitations and the capacity of others. Be kind, offering respect and dignity to all people, regardless of whether you like them, agree with them, or think you know more than them.

How will we endure times of struggle, division, and the shifting sands of culture, politics, government, and public life? We will push on by modeling the way of Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbors (and our enemies) and to be generous with one another

May your New Year be filled with joy and peace!

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed January Baptismal Anniversaries



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

1/3	Karen Wilker	1/15	Becky Allen
1/7	Del Kray	1/18	Rod Bortz
1/9	Addison Peterson	1/19	Sarah Peterson
1/11	Kim McGee	1/21	Kenadee Peterson
1/13	Leanne Norton	1/21	Jackson Fisher
1/14	Lucas Harders	1/27	Karen Patterson
		1/30	Angie Wilson

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!)

Thank You

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,
Your Christmas gift to me and Carolyn was most gracious and we thank you! It is a delightful joy to serve and share ministry with all of you. Each day I look forward to our faith journey and the fantastic blessings God shares with all of us.

Thank you again, and may our gracious God continue to bless all of you!

Peace and Blessings!
Pastor Dick and Carolyn

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

CORYDON

1/7	Nathan Forbes
1/11	Grace Helbing
1/11	Josie Helbing
1/22	Jennifer Goben



CHARITON

1/1	Ruby Hanson
1/2	Jean Heston
1/7	David Oxenreider
1/10	Kim McGee
1/11	Brad Sobotta
1/12	Gert Patterson
1/12	Morgan Peters
1/14	Katie Shore
1/17	Kim Cain
1/17	Sarah Peterson
1/17	Bob Schmitt
1/19	Carson Oxenreider
1/23	Shari Farrell
1/23	Titan Reed
1/24	Kenadee Peterson
1/25	Sarah Fuhs

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON

1/18	Lucas & Alyssa Harders
1/31	Mary Ann & Paul Evitt



CHARITON

None

Dear Members of First Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank you for your generous gifts. Knowing that we have your support and appreciation means a lot to both of us.

Angie & Susan

IF YOU WISH TO PROVIDE ALTAR FLOWERS, let the office know. We will no longer have a flower chart hanging in the hallway.



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.