

First Fruits

Worship Ministry

October, 2026
Volume 31, Number 10

YOUTH SUNDAY—A special worship service featured Morgan Peters, Kate Krutsinger, and Aislin Carroll at FLC and Alice Thiel at CTS sharing their personal experiences for the sermon. Courteney McCurdy and Layton Smith sang for the congregation, and the Rainbow Ringers added their joyful bell music to the service. Thank you to all the youth for participating in services this month.



REMEMBERING ALL GOD'S SAINTS

On Sunday, November 2, we will remember all God's saints. In the prayers that day, we will remember all those who have died since All Saints Sunday 2024. If you have a family member or close friend that you would like to include in this remembrance, please notify Susan in the church office via a note, email, or call before October 28.



FIRST LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL 2026-2027

Sunday School has begun! Members are invited to sign up to teach one Sunday (or more) on the chart in the Narthex. The lessons follow the gospel reading that morning. All materials will be available for you. Very little preparation is required. Thank you in advance for sharing your faith with our youth!



ALTAR FLOWERS SIGN-UP CALENDAR

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

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY

is Back! The youth are raising money for future activities. The third Sunday of every month through May cinnamon rolls will be available after church for free will donation. Buy 1 or 2 or 6! They will be delicious! Mark your calendar for the third Sunday of the month—the youth will be happy to serve you!! Angie Wilson is setting up the rotation schedule for the parents of the youth. Thank you Angie for your service.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Congregational Birthday	2
Adult Bible Study	2
Alpha Youth Fellowship	2
Radio Broadcasts	2
Confirmation Class	3
On The Vine	3
Giving Opportunity	3
Noisy Offerings	3
Pastoral Pondering	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries ..	5
New Office Manager	5
Calendar	6

Discipleship Ministry



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21!

On Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 pm, there will be a congregational birthday dinner at First Lutheran for all members of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. Plan to attend and celebrate everyone's birthday on the same day!

Watch for registration information in September. A catered meal will be provided and birthday cake will be the dessert. **Registration deadline will be Sunday, October 4.** Plan now to attend and celebrate with your church



ALPHA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP is returning this fall! All youth in Middle and High School are invited to attend **Wednesday, October 28 at 2 PM.** Snacks and beverages will be provided. Please bring your friends—everyone is welcome!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet each Wednesday in October at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran Church. Everyone is welcome to attend for the study and the fellowship. The coffee pot will be on!! **Please note:** There will be no meeting on October 21.

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:

October 4: Dana & Connie Holland in honor of grandchildren Julius and June Murray's birthdays

October 11: Bernard & Jeanine Walters in honor of their 67th wedding anniversary

October 18: Susan & Mark Muehlenthaler

October 25: Denny & Patti Bisgard

We are now taking sponsors for 2027. With two members 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 2027, please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!

Stewardship Ministry

2026 CLUSTER 9 WELCA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE in the office. An applicant must be a female member associated with a Cluster 9 church and be accepted for enrollment at a post-secondary institution for the 2026-27 school year. Deadline is September 1, 2026. For applications and scholarship procedures, contact Susan in the office.



ON THE VINE



CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Monday, October 5 at 11 AM.

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will meet on Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 28 at 10 AM.

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

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather on Thursday, October 8, at 1 PM.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, October 12 at 6:30 PM at FLC.

BREAKFAST GALS will meet at Hardees on Tuesday, October 13 at 8 AM.

CTS BLANKET MAKING will meet on Tuesday October 13, at 9 AM.

CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, October 18.

CTS TASK FORCE will meet on Sunday, October 18 at 12 PM.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP will meet on Sunday, September 20, at 5 PM. Please bring a food item to share.

CONGREGATIONAL BIRTHDAY PARTY will be held at First Lutheran Church on Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 PM.

ALPHA YOUTH FELLOWSHIP will be on Wednesday, October 28 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](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 **August through November** at First Lutheran will go to a **needy family**. Offerings through November at Christ the Servant will go to the **Food Pantry**.



OCTOBER IS PERSONAL HYGIENE MONTH at the Ministries Center. Examples would be bath and hand soap, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, band-aids, and hand lotion. Please consider helping with this ministry!

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!!



Pastoral Pondering



The other day I was looking at Halloween costumes. With Halloween right around the corner, it was time to think about what I'd like to be this year. And the options are nearly limitless. Whatever catches your fancy, whatever inspires you to happiness or horror, the odds are good that there is an outfit, a wig, a hat, an accessory, or a mask to make it happen.

Halloween is a fun time to dress up. But the truth is that a lot of us wear masks every day. Sometimes we mask our insecurities, our fears, our hurts behind a made up confidence, as we try to present ourselves the way we think we should be. Sometimes we disguise our shame, our shortcoming, or our selfishness behind a mask and try to hide those things we fear might make others think differently of us. In our increasingly online world, it is no secret that many feel comfortable unmasking our *worst* selves when we're behind a screen, letting hatred, prejudice, and outrage have free reign while we don't have to look our sibling in the eye.

The horrors we unleash on one another each day are far worse than any goblin or ghoul we might encounter on Halloween night. There is violence in our streets and violence in our speech. We let fear motivate us to terrorize each other. We become increasingly insular, looking out for me and mine while having less and less empathy for those around us who live, look, and love differently than us. We refuse to walk the way of the cross, choosing instead to crucify others who bear the image of our Christ in their vulnerability. And all too often, we do so while wearing the mask of scripture while we pick and choose which parts to apply in our daily life, or the mask of Christianity as we behave more like the soldiers who mocked, beat, and killed Jesus.

It's time for us to think about what we want to be; about *who* we want to be. We cannot honor Christ with our lips if we will not also honor him with our lives. We cannot be the hands and feet of Christ to others if we will not see the face of Christ *in* all those around us. We cannot be known as Christians if we define ourselves by anything other than Christ's love.

What/Who do we want to be? Followers of Christ or followers of the world. To be a follower of the world is to choose to keep our masks on; to be a follower of Christ is to remove our masks and be authentic about our brokenness and our blessedness, trusting that we have been clothed with Christ's righteousness and called to be exactly who Christ has made us, just as we are. It's a choice not to be made just once; as Luther reminds us, we are daily called to remember our baptism and reaffirm our commitment to Christ.

Youth Sunday in September was a refreshing day for everyone at First Lutheran and Christ the Servant Lutheran as Aislin Carroll, Kate Krutsinger, Morgan Peters, and Alice Thiel shared the gospel in word with us in worship. What a fantastic joy to hear the gospel reaffirmed in these four wonderful servants of Christ. So as each of celebrates Halloween this year, let us lift high our gratitude celebrating with these four young ladies our commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For in Jesus the Christ we are all loved far more than we deem possible!

Blessings to all!

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed

October Baptismal Anniversaries



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

10/	Stephanie Lukavsky	10/11	Rachel Cohen
10/	Dan Morrett	10/11	Odin Luehring
10/1	Jake Mosbach	10/11	Otto Luehring
10/1	Mike Mosbach	10/12	Macy Wood
10/5	John Allen	10/13	Ben Morrett
10/6	Laura Duey	10/15	Ryan Dachenbach
10/10	John Forbes	10/18	Brynn Allen
10/10	Lonna Wantland	10/23	Linda Shriver
10/10	Tammy Mason	10/28	Sydney Cain
10/11	Chad Lukavsky	10/28	Weston Umbenhowe
		10/29	Liam Cunningham

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!)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

CORYDON

10/1	Wade Harman
10/7	Leah Goben
10/15	Mary Ann Evitt
10/19	Jackson Allen

CHARITON

10/2	Julius Murray
10/2	June Murray
10/2	Layton Smith
10/4	Raechel Comstock
10/5	Taytum Smith
10/7	Duane Bedford
10/7	Monte Brown
10/8	Paula Wright
10/9	Dennis Bisgard
10/9	Lisa Wood
10/10	Colleen Rich
10/10	Linda Shriver
10/12	Ronda Morrett
10/14	Mike Patterson
10/22	Weston Umbenhowe
10/22	Keara Storm
10/23	Gwen Shanks
10/27	Joanne Fletcher



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON

10/7 John & Emmy Forbes

CHARITON

10/1 Rusty & Julie Stansbery
10/6 Scott & Madison Morrett
10/27 Glenda & Rob Johansen



THANK YOU to those who mowed the lawn and kept it looking nice at First Lutheran this year. Your dedication is greatly appreciated!

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.

WELCOME NEW OFFICE MANAGER



We are pleased to announce that **Tracy Shanks** will be joining us as our new Office Manager. Tracy is a member of First Lutheran Church in Chariton and previously spent 18 years working at Wells Fargo. She and her husband, Casey, have two daughters, Gwen (13) and Maeve (12). Tracy is excited to begin this new season at the church and is grateful for the opportunity to serve the congregation.