



First Lutheran Church
521 N. 8th Street
Manitowoc WI 54220 USA

Messenger

January 2023





WHO'S WHO

THE STAFF

Pastor Andy Wendle

Ron Jurgens
Church Administrator

Connie Dorner
Faith Formation Director

Stephanie Bowman
Contemp. Music Coor.

Rebecca Konik
Church Secretary

Brenda Leick
Church Secretary

Patricia Nickels
Bookkeeper

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pres.: David Bowman 629-5487

V.P.: Tyler Fellows 901-2273

Treas: Brad Oxtan 905-3824

Sec.: Yolanda VanHaren 860-5053

BOARD' REPRESENTATIVES

Christian Education
Nichole Rabitz

Christian Fellowship
Karin Jaeger

Christian Outreach/Servanthood
Patty Greene, Conrad Sonneman

Christian Stewardship
David Bowman, Karin Jaeger,
Jean Olson, Patty Greene

Congregational Care
Harry O'Connell

Finance
Nick Port, Brad Oxtan

Music & Worship
Beth Seizert, Lorene Jakel

Personnel
Tyler Fellows, Yolanda VanHaren

Property
Karyl Rommelfanger

Youth Ministries
Nichole Rabitz, Ned Jerabek



Missionaries in Japan
Rev. James & Carol Sack



Congregational Meeting

January 29, 2023 10:15 am

First Lutheran will hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday January 29th @ 10:15am (following worship). On the agenda will be the proposed 2023 budget.

In Remembrance



Dewayne Everson

INCLEMENT Weather Policy

FLC's Inclement Weather Policy

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR, again... First Lutheran will follow the Manitowoc Public School district's policy regarding closings, cancellations, etc. SO...If schools are closed.. FIRST LUTHERAN is closed (church & office) no activities, worship, etc If they dismiss classes early or cancel after school activities, FLC also cancels evening activities. (Please tune into WOMT 1240am radio for cancellations.) No need to wonder, no need to get all bundled up. Simply put- stay put!

What about Sundays?.. If the worship service needs to be cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on WOMT-1240am ASAP.



From the Pastor

January 2023

Merry Christmas! And soon, Happy Epiphany!

Yes, soon after we finish singing our “fa la la la’s” come the “we three Kings of Orient are.” How quickly the time flies!

Epiphany is the season of light, the season of the star, the season of growing and moving with Jesus as he begins to take steps toward his ministry. And it occurs to me that that is just what we are doing together, finding our way, following God’s light and love and moving out into the world. I have some updates for you about “lights” or rather the candles that adorn our wonderful sanctuary which are all various ways of celebrating God’s light in the world.

First, there is the big Paschal candle. This candle is meant to be big! It is meant to be big to remind us of God’s omnipresent love which we celebrate triumphally each Easter season when Jesus’ resurrection from the dead is once again celebrated. This candle is lit only during the season of Easter and at other times when we mark or celebrate, in a big way, God’s amazing grace that Easter morning. We light this candle during the season of Easter and when we baptize children and claim our baptismal promises in death. At all other times it stands as a symbol of longing for God to come in God’s fullest once again.

Second, there is a red candle that is (almost) always lit. This candle, our Christ light candle, has been called different things down through out time and traditions – an eternal light, a sanctuary lamp, a vigil candle. The tradition of having this candle most clearly emerges from our Catholic brothers and sisters who use this candle to celebrate Christ’s presence in the sanctuary particularly after or with the consecrated body and blood of Christ. As Lutherans, we don’t believe quite the same things about communion or about what the candle means, but we keep this candle lit to celebrate Christ’s presence with us in worship and on out into the world. Please do know, however, that if this candle should ever not be lit, Christ’s presence is still with us to its fullest!

Third, there are all sorts of other candles – candelabras, altar candles, free standing candles, etc – that adorn our altar area and help light our way. And that is just what they were meant to do. In dimly lit sanctuaries, before the modern electrical age (so quite a long time ago) these candles were meant to help the poor priests be able to read the liturgy as they conducted the service. We obviously don’t need these candles in the same way today so today their primary use is in the beauty and inspiration that they can give.

No doubt there will be other forms of light or candles that are lit from time to time – like on All Saints Day for instance when we all lit candles celebrating Christ’s light from those we’ve loved and lost. Together, the tradition and joy of our candles are meant to helpfully guide and inspire us as we ever seek to move forward into God’s world in love – just like that first star did for the wise men!

May you sense God’s abiding presence with you and with all of us as we ever seek to move forward in the world. May Christ light your way forward as we seek to follow him on his pathway in the world.

In Peace,

Pastor Andy

FAITH FORMATION UPDATE

Sunday School, Confirmation and High School Faith Formation

Connie Dorner, Faith Formation Director

First Lutheran Church 682-7742 ext:106 cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org



Matthew 6:33-34. -But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Greetings First Lutheran Family and Happy New Year!

January always leaves me with conflicting feelings; one the one hand, it's a time for a brand-new sparkly year filled with hope, excitement and – those pesky resolutions! One the other hand, one never knows what the new year will bring. Even more reason to pray to God, placing our trust in Him for His will in our lives.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter! Our big event was the cookie walk of course. Many, many thanks to all of our bakers, parents and volunteers who helped with this sale! I was so impressed with all our confirmation students who helped to bake and decorate cookies, helped to prepare, and helped on the day of the event. And more than just a fundraiser, it was a great opportunity for me to connect with our teens and have some fun in the process

And speaking of fun, some of our confirmation teens enjoyed getting together in early December for a party. We played a game called, "Grinch Grab," and the students also decorated some gingerbread houses with the help of Pastor Andy and myself. Although I'm not sure how much help we really were! (ha-ha)

As of this writing, we are in preparation for our Sunday school program which promises to be a lovely telling of the birth of Jesus. I am also excited for our Spark Christmas party, our Youth Christmas Party and Jesus' Birthday Party! Please look in our schedule section of this newsletter for more fun events planned for January.

I continue to be grateful for time spent with our youth and their families. As we enter this new year, my prayer for all of you is good and plentiful work, uplifting times with family and friends, time for relaxing and resting, and many bright tomorrows as we live as God's people.

Grace and peace,

cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org

(920) 682—7742 ext. 106

Cell phone: (920) 901-2584



HaPPy BiRtHdAy!!

Congratulations to those young people who celebrate their birthdays in January!

Ava White	Jan. 5
Kaeson Bauer	Jan. 6
Andrea Taylor	Jan. 8
Parker Valleskey	Jan. 16
Brooks Shavlik	Jan. 18
Anna Wendle	Jan. 19
Brayden White	Jan. 19
Zachary Kohler	Jan. 20
Owen Miller	Jan. 28
Logan Kranz	Jan. 29

Baptismal Anniversaries

Blessings to the following babies, Sunday School Students & Youth who are celebrating their Baptismal birthdays in January:



Evan Denk	1/10/16
Olivia Eck	1/05/16
Brody Fabian	1/07/18
Annabelle Johnson	1/16/11
Zachary Johnson	1/18/15
Jack Sweetman	1/29/12



Sunday School News

Our Sunday School will resume our Lectionary Lessons beginning on Sunday, January 8 in our classrooms from 10:15 – 10:50 a.m.

First Communion Classes

Coming soon..See info on page 6

Confirmation News

Our Confirmation classes will resume their normal lessons and schedule beginning on Wednesday, January 4 from 6:50 – 7:30 p.m.

**** A reminder that if you are in confirmation and have not yet sold donuts during fellowship hour, please sign-up ASAP.**

Youth Group/Spark Times

Now that the holidays are behind us, we will resume our normal schedule:

Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month
from 6:30 – 7:30 pm (Jan 8 & 22)

1st & 3rd Weds. of the month from
7:30 – 8:15 pm (Jan 4 & 18)

Spark Group: 2nd & 4th Weds. of the month
4 – 5:30 pm (Jan 11 & 25)

Again, please call or text if you have any questions regarding any youth meeting times.



Family Tubing/ Sledding Fun!



Join us for an afternoon of tubing at Kewaunee Winter Park (N3787 Moore Lane, Kewaunee) on Sunday January 15! The hours are from 11 – 5 p.m. Lift tickets and tube rentals are \$10 per person for 2 hours, or \$45 for a family of five. No reservations are needed but if you plan on attending, please let Connie know so we can coordinate a time for that afternoon when our FLC group will go.

What the Lock!

All students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to join us for an escape room adventure. We are planning for a Saturday evening in January. As of this writing I am still waiting to hear from families about schedules so the *date is To Be Determined*. I will notify all families when we have a concrete plan.

30 Hour Famine

Students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to participate on February 10 – 11 beginning at 4 p.m. The 30 hour famine is an advocacy campaign that gives us an opportunity to raise our voices for those living in hunger and poverty. Students will sleep overnight and will participate in making soup to sell at our fellowship hour for our "Souper Bowl Sale." All proceeds will go towards the Salvation Army and ELCA Word Hunger organizations. I hope many teens join us!

Synod Youth Gathering Opportunity

Our Youth gathering will be on February 18 and 19th at Imago Dei Village. It will now be an opportunity for all students in grade 6 – 12. Please save the dates and talk with your child(ren) and encourage attendance. There will be more information as the date approaches.

SYG!



WELCOME New Members

New members!

We're excited to launch a new members class in January. If you or your family are interested in becoming members of First Lutheran Church, please let Pastor Andy know. We will see to arrange a new member class to start sometime in January and look to welcome you, and/or your family, into membership sometime after that. Thank you for joining our mission here at First!



First Communion Classes.

Parents, are you or your child ready to receive first communion? Have you missed, during the transition of the last few years, an opportunity to have your child go through first communion classes? Then please look for a letter to families of First to come to you in January scheduling first communion classes in the new year. Pastor Andy and Connie will be putting this opportunity together and we'll be excited to celebrate this important rite with you and your family. A letter should reach you sometime during the second week of January or so. Thank you and Happy New Year!



January Scriptures

Jan. 1	First	Isaiah 63:7-9
	Psalm	148
	Second	Hebrews 2:10-18
	Gospel	Matthew 2:13-23
Jan. 8	First	Isaiah 42:1-9
	Psalm	29
	Second	Acts 10:34-43
	Gospel	Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 15	First	Isaiah 49:1-7
	Psalm	40:1-11
	Second	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
	Gospel	John 1:29-42
Jan. 22	First	Isaiah 9:1-4
	Psalm	27:1, 4-9
	Second	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
	Gospel	Matthew 4:12-23
Jan. 29	First	Micah 6:1-8
	Psalm	15
	Second	1 Corinthians 1:18-31
	Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12



THE LORD
HAS DONE IT THIS
very day;
LET US REJOICE TODAY
AND BE GLAD.

PSALM 118:24

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Donuts!

We are now serving coffee on a regular basis. Come on down and join the Fellowship hour after the service! The Confirmation students will continue to sell Kwik Trip Donuts for \$1 and the proceeds will go into the Youth fund to help supplement camp and trip expenses. So please be sure to stop down for a cup of coffee and yummy treat!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study 9:30am-11am

Everyone's invited! (non members too) to our Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 9:30am. Join us for a great morning of good news based on the upcoming week's scripture readings.



First Lutheran Prayer Chain

To join the prayer chain or leave a prayer request please call Mary Gammelin (682-2250) or email mgam-melin@sol.net. You can also leave a prayer request by emailing Betsie Auchter eauchter@comcast.net



Contact Us:

First Lutheran Church 920-682-7742
office@flcmanitowoc.org

Pastor: PastorAndy@flcmanitowoc.org
Ext.104

Pastor Andy Wendle can also be reached for Pastoral support on his cell phone # 541-490-6703.

Ron Jurgens: Church Administrator Ext. 105
rjurgens@flcmantowoc.org

Connie Dorner: Faith Formation Director
Ext. 106 cdorner@flcmanitowoc.org

Stay in Touch with us!

Give us a call or Email Office@flcmanitowoc.org so we can make sure your address, phone numbers, and Emails are up to date in our records and you won't miss any weekly Emails.

financial news

HOW CAN I GIVE?

Four (4) ways to give! We now have four (4) safe and secure options available.

- ♦ You can continue to mail your check;
- ♦ Instruct your bank to mail a check through online banking;
- ♦ Call the church office to set up electronic giving through your bank account.
- ♦ **You can now also give by credit card, if it's easier for you.**

We use tithe.ly, an ELCA-preferred and secure vendor. Just click the green "Give" button on our homepage: www.flcmanitowoc.org.

Ministry continues, and we are grateful for your generosity.



FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES*

- [] Rev. Sack Mission Fund \$40
- [] Altar Flowers \$25/vase/\$50 (2vases)
- [] Prayer Shawl Ministry \$25
- [] Radio Broadcast [Sunday on WOMT1240am] full sponsor= \$450
(1/2 sponsor= \$225)

Your gift sponsorships can be acknowledged in our weekly 'Life at First' insert- Deadline for announcements is 10 AM Tuesday prior to the Sunday of choice. Forms are also found in the 'Life at First' and in/or phone the office, 682-7742

Sunday of Sponsorship desired:

Your Message (if any):

Name & phone:

Consider a First Lutheran Church Charitable Gift Annuity

IN EXCHANGE for your gift of cash or appreciated stock, you or up to two other beneficiaries can receive a fixed, guaranteed, partially tax-free, lifetime income stream in addition to immediate tax savings.

Please compare these payout rates to the returns you are receiving from your investments and other interest bearing accounts

Sample one-life rates (lower two-life rates are available)

AGE ACTUAL PAYOUT RATE

AGE	Rate
65	4.8
70	5.3
75	6.0
80	7.0
85	8.1
90	9.1

For more information and a personal proposal, please contact a member of the FLC Endowment Trust Fund Committee.

Thrivent MEMBERS

We are looking for Thrivent members who might be willing to sponsor church activities with their Thrivent Action Team grants. Please contact the office for more info. Thank you



As of December 14, 2022

Regular Giving	\$365,780.58
Total Receipts	\$427,460.50
Total Expenses	\$357,384.42
2021	
2021 Reg Giving	\$289,890.23
2021 Total Receipts	\$346,811.53
2021 Total Expenses	\$336,711.22

-Patricia Nickels



First Sunday Food Collection for Salvation Army

Many thanks to so many who have been more than generous in donations to the Salvation Army. The donations of food and other needs have been heartwarming. The total of the offerings from First Lutheran Church have been wonderful and so appreciated. In an effort to make the donations and transport of them easier we will be providing cloth bags with longer handles for you to use. Of course, it is perfectly fine to continue to bring your donations in any manner your chose. We only hope to avoid the tearing paper bags and rolling of canned goods across the floor. I've also found some cans rolling around my a car a day or two after I took the offerings to the Salvation Army. The bags will be available in the lobby near the office and are black in color. Printed on the bags is the following (part of our mission statement) "First Lutheran Church Gather, Grow, Go..."

We have plenty of bags that were secured through a Thrivent Grant.

Please take them home and when you return them with your donation, simply take another bag with you. The Salvation Army has agreed to return the bags to us each month. Again, this is only an option but hopefully one that will make it easier to transport our offerings to the Salvation Army. And remember that if you wish to have your donations picked up, just call or leave a message for Harry O'Connell at 920-242-2489



"Salvation Army "GIVING TREE"

2022

Mission Accomplished!!!

"It is in giving that we receive."

St. Francis of Assisi

The Salvation Army team arrived with their truck on Tuesday, December 6th, to collect twenty-nine large green bags overflowing with gifts. These were the donations for the 30 individuals FLC "adopted" for their "Adopt-A-Family" Christmas mission. The names we were given this year represented 10 single moms and their children. Additionally, we helped to brighten the Christmas of nine individuals with FLC connections. Two of these were single dads and their children plus elderly community residents.



Through your generosity countless items on the wish lists of these thirty-nine individuals were donated. Children were surprised with warm clothes, pajamas, socks, board games, baby dolls, craft kits, books, art supplies, learning toys, magnetic tiles, lots of trucks, and even a Chicago Bears winter hat for a nine-year-old fan! Adults were blessed with needed household items like toasters, kitchen towels, pots and pans, coffee pots, bath towels, gift cards, and six bedding sets. Your generosity was unbelievable!!!

This year I had an awe-inspiring experience while doing the shopping for one of our members. I was at Meijer and started a conversation with another grandmother who was also in the toy section. She asked me what I was shopping for, and I shared that FLC had adopted 39 names of individuals from our community with a desire to bless their Christmas. I told her I was shopping for a church member who wished to be a part of this mission project but couldn't do the shopping. After a few minutes, she came over to me, grabbed my hand and placed a \$5 bill in it and told me to add that to this gift like FLC members were doing. She sent words of blessings to our church family for how we support our community in this way.

Thank you again for your 'servant's heart' by taking on this mission as an opportunity to bless others. The Manitowoc Salvation Army gratefully thanks you for your generosity and kindness.

Many thanks to Donna Bandt, Darlene Schmieder, Mary Gammelin, and Lorene Jakel for volunteering to assist as organizers, shoppers, and baggers with this mission.

Sandee O'Connell for the Board of Christian Outreach/Servanthood.



Play this puzzle online at: <https://www.wordsearchbattle.io/topic/winter>

BLANKET	COAT	ICE	SKIING
BLIZZARD	COLD	JANUARY	SNOWFLAKE
BOBSLEDS	DECEMBER	PENGUIN	SNOWMAN
BOOTS	FEBRUARY	SCARF	SWEATER
CHOCOLATE	HOT	SKATING	WINTER



Hope House Manitowoc County

Hope House
1000 S. 35th St.,
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920)686-1436
hopehousemc.org

**First Lutheran's Host
Week to be determined**



Generous Book Donation from the Library



The Manitowoc Public Library donated brand new books to the Hope House library. The kids love to spend time reading great stories. Thank you for your generosity!

OUR WISH LIST for our Guests...

*Our immediate needs are:

- 13 Gal. Garbage bags * Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Kwik Trip Gas Cards (\$10 or \$20 increments.)
- Floor Cleaner (Fabuloso, Pine-Sol or others for hardwood)

Thank you for the continued support of donations!

Follow us on Facebook Learn more about us at
[Hope House \(hopehousemc.org\)](http://Hope House (hopehousemc.org))



Hope House is a United Way Funds Recipient

January 2023



Sun

Mon





Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9am Worship Trad—HC [womt] FB 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 	2 Church/office closed	3 9:3 Staff Mtg 6p Bd Music/ Worship	4 9:3a Bible Study 6:3 Choirs 6:5- Confirmation Classes 7:3-Youth Grp (7-12gr)	5	6	7
8 9am Worship CC-HC [womt] FB— 10:15 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 6:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr)	9 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells 6:3 Bd Fellowship	10 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3 Snip n' Sew	11 9:3a Bible Study 4-5:30-SPARK gr5&6 6:3 Choirs 6:5- Confirmation Classes	12	13 	14
15 9am Worship Trad-HC [womt] FB 10:15 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee Family Day at Kewaunee Winter	16 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells 4:3 Bd Youth /Christian Ed Messenger Deadline	17 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3 Snip n' Sew 6p Exec. Comm. 6:3p Council	18 9:3a Bible Study 6:3 Choirs 6:5- Confirmation Classes 7:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr)	19	20	21
22 9am Worship CC—HC [womt] FB 10:15 Sunday School 10:15-Fellowship Coffee 6:3 -Youth Grp (7-12gr)	23 9a Bd of Personnel 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells	24 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3a Snip n' Sew 	25 9:3a Bible Study 4-5:30-SPARK gr5&6 6:3 Choirs 6:5- Confirmation Classes	26	27	28
29 9am Worship —HC [womt] FB 10:15 Sunday School 10:15 Congregational Meeting	30 1p Snip n'Sew 6p Handbells 	31 9:3 Staff Mtg 9:3a Snip n'Sew	<p>Key: T= Traditional CC= Cross Current Contemporary HC= Holy Communion FB= Facebook</p> <p>Please note: changes may arise after printing. Always double check the weekly "Life @ First" announcements, Emails, etc.—for updates, cancellations, etc.</p>			

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

January Messenger 2022

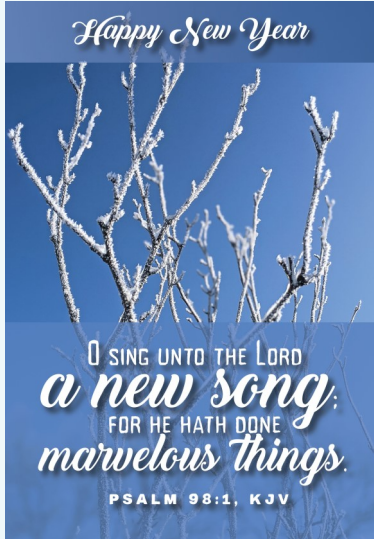
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E-Mail: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

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Manitowoc, WI 54220
Permit No. 93

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Andy Wendle



Sunday services at 9am

WOMT 1240AM/107.9FM, womtradio.com
YouTube, Facebook Live www.facebook.com/FLCManty521

Holy Communion – Every Sunday

10:15 Sunday School (Sept.-May)

Church Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 10:00-3:00

Friday: 9:00-12noon

920-682-7742

Email: Office@flcmanitowoc.org

Web: FLCmanitowoc.org

Our God-given mission is to...

Gather in the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,

Grow in faith and love,

Go out to serve and invite others to faith in Christ.