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First Lutheran Church
PO Box 116
Clear Lake, WI 54005

First Edition

“Growing God’s Family by Serving”



First Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ LCMC
Clear Lake, Wisconsin

Office Hours 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Monday-Friday

Phone: 263-2846

Pastor’s Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday

Parsonage: 263-2848

Email: firstluth@cltcomm.net Website: www.firstluthclearlake.com



December 2022

Keeping Christ in Christmas

The Christmas season is big business. And lots of people want a piece of the pie. That's not how it should be of course. The true meaning of Christmas is easily lost under a mountain of competing interests. We have Santa Claus, artificial trees, mistletoe, eggnog, Black Friday, Rudolph, Frosty, etc. But where is Jesus?

Christians need to return to the basics. My invitation to you is to keep things as simple as possible this year. Keep Christ in your Christmas. You have a say in this matter. You can let go of so much hassle. Do you really need that picture with Santa Claus? Does everyone have to receive a purchased gift? Why not try another way.

So what does your pastor's family do for Christmas? We try and keep things simple. We count down the day to Christmas with an Advent calendar. There is a Christmas tree with lights. Yet more important is the Nativity Creche that takes center stage in our home. Yes, we get a few gifts but not much. Our habit is one practical gift and one fun gift for the twins. We spend time with loved ones at a Christmas Eve dinner after worship. The Christmas Gospel is shared and we pray.

Often we catch a good Christmas movie as a family. A quiet night together doing the same thing with popcorn is a rare treat. Concentrate on people and not things this Christmas. Be sure to have time to get back to the basics. Kids are so confused by all the fuss and mixed messages. Find a way to center you family time on Jesus.

Some of you have shared with me a special family tradition. I understand you bake a birthday cake on Christmas. Happy Birthday to Jesus is even sung. Though we haven't done that as a family, I can see a real benefit to that tradition. It reminds everyone of the true reason for the season. Perhaps you have another tradition that does the same thing. Don't lose that with all the other stuff.

Most importantly, don't miss worship. Count down the days with Advent services. Enjoy the candlelight mass. Make sure to invite someone to join you who needs to hear about Jesus. Use Christmas to share your faith. Actions speak louder than words. Let your actions glorify Christ.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Bryan and Family



Sunday, December 18th

8:30 AM – Contemporary Worship with Communion
10:00 AM – Sunday School Christmas Program
with Communion

Wednesday, December 21st

7:00 PM - Christmas Concert
featuring First Lutheran Choir
and United Methodist Bell Choir

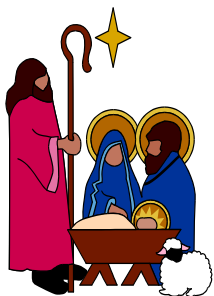
Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve Service

4:00 PM – Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day Service

10:00 AM – Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

ATTENTION SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND PARENTS



The Christmas program is scheduled for **Sunday, December 18th at the 10:00 AM worship service.** Every role is important, so please help your child memorize his/her speaking part so they can proclaim the Good News of Jesus! Also, attendance at the Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:40 AM is very important! ☺

The dress rehearsal will be **Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.** This is an important rehearsal as it will be the first time your child gets to practice with the microphone. If your child cannot attend this rehearsal or will NOT be able to be in the program this year, please contact **Theresa Anderson at 715-263-2848.**



A Birthday Party for Jesus!



Come celebrate
the real reason for the season!

There will be fun & games and of course cake!

When: Sat., Dec. 17th from 11:00 AM to Noon
(the party begins immediately after the program practice)

Where: First Lutheran Church

Questions: Call Theresa at 715-263-2848

Christmas Concert



Come and celebrate the Christmas season at First Evangelical Lutheran on Wednesday, December 21st. A concert of Christmas music will be presented featuring the United Methodist Bell Choir and the First Lutheran Choir. The concert will begin at 7:00 PM. There will be a time for fellowship at the conclusion of the concert.



- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Jim Witthoft | 19: Thomas Sloan |
| 2: Karen French | McKenna Moll |
| 3: Jared Fritz | Ricky Anderson |
| 4: Brett Magnuson | Carol Kobernick |
| Bauer McNamara | 20: Brian Wick |
| 5: Jennifer Bylander | Alexandria Anderson |
| 7: LaMoyné Emerson, Jr. | Marty Bruner |
| Trevor Gilbertson | 21: Danae Eckwall |
| 8: Matthew O'Connell | 22: Julie Barfknecht |
| Alice Sullwold | Patty Sullwold |
| 9: Mike Elwood | Wyatt Brihn |
| 10: Mitchell Paulson | Haydin Cain |
| Mitchell Anderson | 23: Ed Neitge |
| 14: Darlene Briesemeister | 26: Zach Kirk |
| 15: LaMoyné Emerson, Sr. | 27: Jennifer Strenke |
| Jessica Christensen | 30: Emma Colgrove |
| 17: Kelly Doeden | 31: Hailey Gilbertson |

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorials Given to the Memorial Garden Fund

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Wendy Kjelstad	Brian & Kathy Wick
Betty Juleff	Brian & Kathy Wick
Bob Croes	Brian & Kathy Wick
Vicki Greger	Brian & Kathy Wick
Jana Wick	Brian & Kathy Wick
DeWayne Wirth	Brian & Kathy Wick

Memorials Given to the Building Fund

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Judy Iverson	Ken Iverson
Lillian Strege	Carole Larson
Lillian Strege	Gail Clark

Memorials Given to the Sunday School Fund

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Lillian Strege	Lois Campion

Memorials Given to the Unspecified Fund

<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Given by</u>
Bob Croes	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Mike Olson	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Angie Lewis	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Ron Weiss	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Bruce Johnson	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Chad Holz	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Lillian Strege	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Ruby Luehman	Brad & Jo Nilssen
DeWayne Wirth	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Jean Mathews	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Patricia Bullock	Brad & Jo Nilssen
Ruby Luehman	Eva Wilson
DeWayne Wirth	Eva Wilson
Angie Lewis	Gloria Hedquist
Bob Croes	Gloria Hedquist
DeWayne Wirth	Gloria Hedquist
Lillian Strege	Gloria Hedquist
Ron Weiss	Gloria Hedquist

DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

ALTAR GUILD: Ashly Ninke & Richard Selvig

READERS

4 Chris Petersen
11 Nancy McQuinn
18 **Sunday School Christmas Program**
25 **Christmas**

GREETERS: Jason Solberg and Dale & Sherry Wirth

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Bill McIntire

COUNTERS

4 & 11 Tim Wyss & Jackie Goodmanson
18 & 25 Tim Wyss & TBD

USHERS

4 & 11 Dean & Jane Scholz
18 Barb Anderson & Ashly Ninke
24 (*Christmas Eve*) 4:00 PM Richard Becker
25 (*Christmas Day*) 10:00 AM Richard Selvig

FELLOWSHIP SERVERS

4 Neil & Emily Larson Family
11 (**Potluck**) Wayne & Patty Sullwold/Michelle Kuehndorf Families
18 Rachel Kaczmarek Family
25 **Christmas – No Fellowship**

Weekly Fellowship at Church

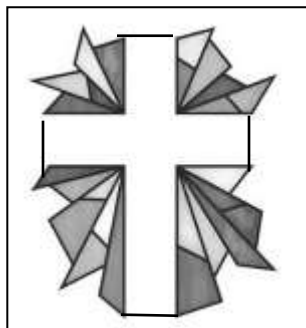
Your Council would like to start a weekly fellowship group at church. This would be a time to come in for conversation and coffee once a week in the fellowship hall. They anticipate this would be a positive bonding experience for any and all church folks and community members outside the congregation. In order to make this happen, we would need volunteers to host the weekly gathering and brew coffee. Can you help us? Would you be interested in attending? Let the church office know (715-263-2846).



Church Logo Design

Your Council has been discussing the creation of a new church logo to use on t-shirts and possibly other items. We have two main suggestions and would value your input.

Design #1 by Andy Wyss




Design #2 used before during our building campaign



Let one of the Council members know what you think.

Janette Cain	715-554-1701	jen1trees@yahoo.com
Heidi Colbeth	715-263-3904	hrcolbeth@hotmail.com
Jackie Goodmanson	715-263-3081	l80hawk2@hotmail.com
Liz Johnson	715-263-3515	pleasanthill@cltcomm.net
Rosemary Johnson	715-263-2168	marjohn@cltcomm.net
Kevin Kamm	715-222-1493	KrK86@ymail.com
Neil Larson	715-554-1774	nlarson@clwarriors.org
Dennis Luehman	715-263-2775	dnluehman@gmail.com
Bill McIntire	715-263-3945	bmcintire62@yahoo.com
Dale Wirth	715-263-3310	ddwirth@mmm.com
Tim Wyss	715-263-2118	rtwyss@gmail.com

Do you have another idea for us to consider? You are welcome to submit ideas too.

Our Membership Directory is now available online. For smartphone access, search for Instant Church Directory and download the free app  to begin. You will use your email address listed in the directory to create a login the first time you use the directory app. Those not yet in the directory are encouraged to submit pictures and updated information to the church office as soon as possible. See detailed instructions below.

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device

Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

It's Easy!

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Enter the assigned password into the app to begin syncing.



Access Our Directory Online

Now you can go to members.InstantChurchDirectory.com to access our Church Directory online!

It's Easy!

1. Create a login using your email as it's listed in our church directory and make up your own unique password.
2. Confirm your email.
3. Sign in from any web browser (using your computer or mobile device).



Instant Church Directory™ Online

CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN

The Clear Lake United Methodist Church will be sponsoring a “Christmas for Children” drive again this year to provide gifts for area children who otherwise may not receive gifts at Christmastime. “Christmas for Children” is designed to reach more needs of our local community. We are coming up on our 29th year and are so grateful for all the support that we have received from everyone.

Anyone wishing to donate items to the “Christmas for Children” drive can do so by leaving them in the container labeled “Christmas for Children” in the Church Entry, at True Value Hardware, CB Styles, Northern Roots Family Spinal Care, First Bank of Baldwin/Clear Lake, Raising the Bar or Clear Lake Physical Therapy from November 7, 2022 through December 10, 2022.

Suggestions are toys, watches, games, jewelry, videos, DVDs (nothing higher than PG-13 please) appropriate music CDs, books, etc. Please do not wrap your donated gifts. Donations of wrapping paper are also welcome. Monetary donations for the purpose of gifts should be mailed to Christmas for Children c/o Debi Ahrens, PO Box 42, Clear Lake, WI 54005. Please make checks payable to Christmas for Children.

All gifts will be given to children ages 0-18 in the Clear Lake School District area.

If you are in need of gifts for your children or if you know of other families in the Clear Lake School District who are in need of Christmas gifts for their children, we would like to hear from you. Call Debi Ahrens at 715-441-5477 or Diane Blanchard at 715-263-2690 (if no answer, please leave a message). All names will be kept strictly confidential.

We hope to make this “Christmas for Children” a great success and in order to do so, we need your help. As in the past, we thank you for your support.

Christmas for Children
United Methodist Church



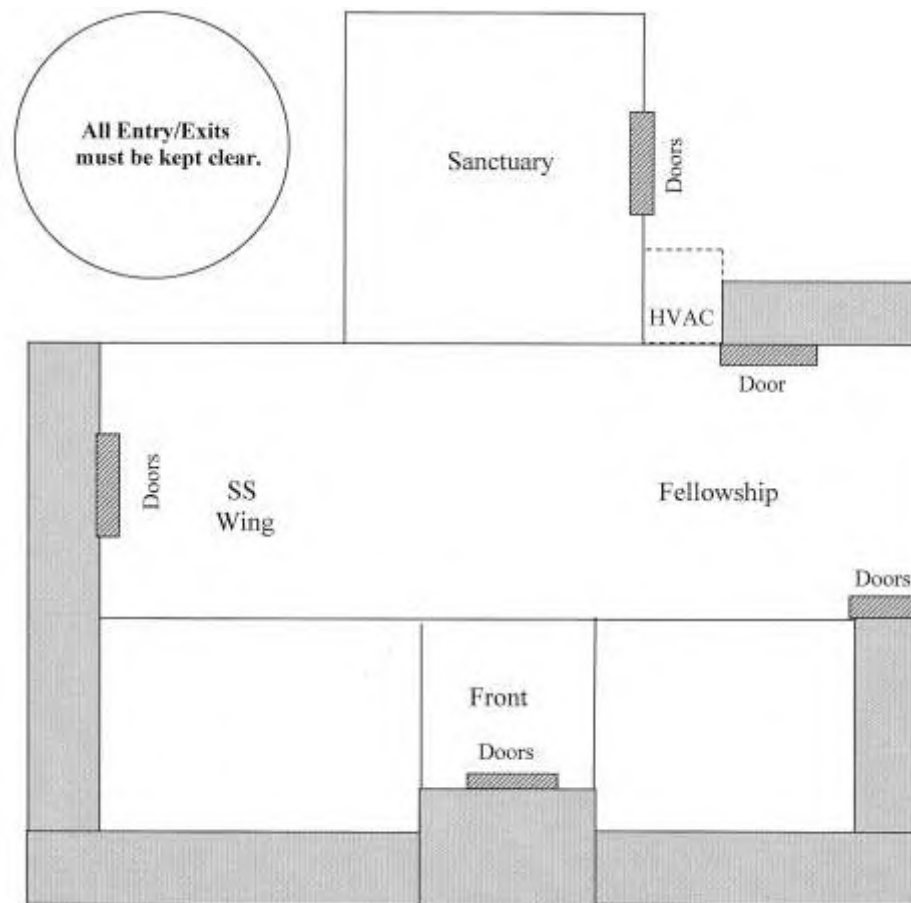
PLEASE HELP!

Snow shoveling volunteers are needed by the week throughout the winter. A sign-up sheet is posted on a clipboard at the back of worship. Thank you for your service.

Snow Shoveling Volunteer Map

Volunteers will clear all sidewalks and entrances as shaded below. All auto parking is cleared by a hired plow.

The church supplies shovels, ice chippers, salt or you may bring your own.





Seeking the story
 Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
O	T	P	I	G	T	Q	C	N	T	G	M	U	S	T
O	A	N	D	B	E	C	H	I	L	D	N	Z	F	A
A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

"Today in the town of David a _____
 has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

NEWS & NOTES



We keep the following in our prayers and acts of love: Mary Porter, Melanie Cuper & Baby Kenneth, Bruce Wagner, Bud Moe (brother of Bob Moe), Orvin Luehman (father of Dennis Luehman), Mia Porter (daughter of Mary Porter), Ed Schnell (grandfather of Ashly Ninke, great-grandfather of Brin, Ben & Bristle), Ricky & Bobby Anderson (sons of Keith & Mary Anderson), David Crosby (brother-in-law of Keith Anderson & Linda Marg), and Tex Brandt (father of Angela Brandt). *If you want to be included on the public prayer list, please notify the church office.*

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the following on the death of a loved one:

- Gail Kobernick (mother, Lillian Strege)
- Kristen Wallace (father, Roger Clark)

Thank you to all who helped with this year's Fall Dinner.

Donations \$3,185.00	Free-will Offering \$4,732.00
Basket Raffle \$3,605.00	General Raffle \$708.00
Bake Sale \$1,320.00	

We had another SUCCESSFUL basket raffle & general raffle.

162 people took chances on 98 beautiful baskets. Thank you to everyone who donated the wonderful items for the general raffle and all who made and donated baskets. There were many wonderful comments on how nice it all was. Over \$4,300.00 raised! If you would like to know who received your basket, please contact Kathy Wick (715-263-2739).

FINANCES

General Fund Update

Offering total as of Nov. 13th (\$15,554 needed monthly) \$6,241.00

Mortgage Fund Update

Offering total as of Nov. 13 th (\$4,621 needed monthly)	\$3,152.00
Bremer Mortgage Remaining Balance	\$701,870.67