

First Edition

The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

February 2021

Issue Number: 202 Issued: Monthly

February Worship

Sunday, February 7

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Souper Bowl Sunday!

Drive Thru Holy Communion

9:00 - 11:00 am / weather permitting

8:00 am - Online service

Sunday, February 14

Transfiguration of Our Lord

8:00 am - Online service available

9:00 am - In Person Worship

Ash Wednesday, February 17

8:00 am - Online service available

Drive Thru Holy Communion

6:30 - 8:00 pm with luminaries

Crosses given to everyone!

Sunday, February 21

Virtual Holy Communion

8:00 am - Online service available

Lenten Wednesday, February 24

Sermon: D - Devil and Divine

8:00 am - Online service available

Sunday, February 28

8:00 am - Online service

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**Thank You
To Christmas Pageant and
Luminary Helpers in 2020!**

Christmas Program Readers:

Mikayla and Malia Becker
Andrea DeNure
Cate and Becca Ehle
Maren Falch
Jodi and Bryce Gray
Bella Haak
Rikki, Konnor and Lydia Klassy
Elizabeth Klitzke



Costumes:

Hannah Anderson
Camden DeNure
Gillian and Clay Falch
Parker and Crosby Gleason
Bella Haak
Jack and Garrett Hennings
Lydia and Konnor Klassy
Hunter and Harper Lee
Derin Varghese



Art:

Quinn, Savannah and Scarlett Femrite
Annika Goetz
Eli Gomez
Jack, Garrett and Ann Hennings
George and Cliff Thompson
Ava and Owen Weinand



Animals:

Brooke Iverson
Ben Klitzke
Claire Spilde

Nativity Sets:

Bishop Killeen
Ehle
Eppler
Gray
Hjortland
Iverson
Tiede
Quam/Frey



Music:

Daisy and Malia Becker
Tara and Sadie Bergeson
Erica Briski
Odin Ehrets
Rocky and Elizabeth Klitzke
Hunter and Harper Lee
Cara McElroy
Ben Moll

Lord's Prayer:

Confirmation Youth

Luminaries:

Ashtyn Anderson
Todd Fossum
Riley Hansen
Carri and Jason Case
Jodi Gray
Robert Robertson
Everyone who dropped off gallon jugs (over 200 collected!)

This was a collaboration! Many hands, working separately for a common goal.

We are grateful for everyone's help!

Your willingness to serve together for a project, even when we had to stay mostly apart, is a testament to our faith.

THANK YOU!



WE ARE *thankful.*

Council Highlights

A Word from the Pastor

One of the most respected research groups related to churches in the United States is the **Barna Group**. They have been interviewing, surveying and researching a host of issues related to US Christianity for decades.



Barna began a new *State Of The Church* project in January last year. Some of their findings were rather interesting. Here are two:

1. One in three practicing Christians has stopped attending church, either in person or online, during COVID-19.

One commentator stated that it was as if these people were simply taking COVID-19 off, kind of like vacation. Online attendance has fallen, too.

2. White Christians have become even less motivated to address racial injustice after the surge of protests last year.

It sounds like the violence and destruction associated with these protests negatively affected people who otherwise might have been more open to addressing such issues.

My college Statistics Professor used to say, "The numbers are a snapshot of a particular moment in time. They may or may not represent the overall truth about something." So, how do we interpret these findings?

Judging from other sources I have read and conversations with a variety of people near and far, my sense is that both are relatively accurate. Are they a continuation of a trend? Perhaps. Will the numbers be same following the end of the pandemic? We don't know.

I've heard many people talk about 2020 and say something like, "Good riddance! I'm glad that year is over." Given the situation, that's understandable.

On the other hand, I hope we have learned a few things in 2020. We are still alive. So are others. So is God! Hmmm, I wonder what a Christian life will be like after the pandemic, including at FLC?

Stay safe, keep the faith!

Pastor Lehman

P.S. Empty gallon jugs needed for Ash Wednesday luminaries!

At its January meeting, the Council:

- † Learned that the wiring and cameras had been installed for new **AV Upgrade** in the sanctuary. Peak Systems is still waiting for some parts to complete the project.
- † Prior to the meeting, voted via email to approve Marla Frey and Michelle Lunde as candidates for election to the **Audit Committee** at the Annual Meeting.
- † Expressed **appreciation** for all of the congregation's unexpected giving at the end of the year. **Over \$1,150** was raised through the **Christmas envelopes** to help FLC families, bringing the total to \$3,000. Total giving to the Appeals as well as other Churchwide Ministries was more than \$100,000! On behalf of all those who were blessed by your generosity, **thank you!**
- † Discussed issues associated with using **Zoom technology** during the annual meeting.
- † **Expressed special thanks** to Mary Bricco, Jodi Gray, Billy Manson and Steve Purcell for completing their terms on Council.
- † Approved a request to use FLC's facilities for a **Social Ministry Project**. (See page 5)



Reversing COVID for Lent! Wednesday Sermon Series

Traditional	Ash Wednesday	February 17
D - Devil and Divine		February 24
I - Invitation		March 3
V - Values		March 10
O - Order and Disorder		March 17
C - Compassion		March 24

Drive Thru Communion on **Ash Wednesday**
6:30 - 8:00 pm with luminaries

Online Services available
by 8:00 am each
Wednesday in Lent



Sharing and Caring

Our Sympathy to the family of...

Jill Miller
Marie Wacker, *grandma of Maria Femrite*
Jane Anderson, *mother of Sheree Anderson*

Special Prayers for COVID 19 workers including...

Essential workers
MD's, Nurses and All Healthcare personnel
Police and Firefighters, Post Office workers

Special Prayers for...

Patrick Ihm, *son of Joyce Koskelin*
Audrey Jandrey
Lani Kohrt
Jeanne Gilbertson
Marv Klitzke
Ted Olson
Rachel Stepp
Vera Thorpe



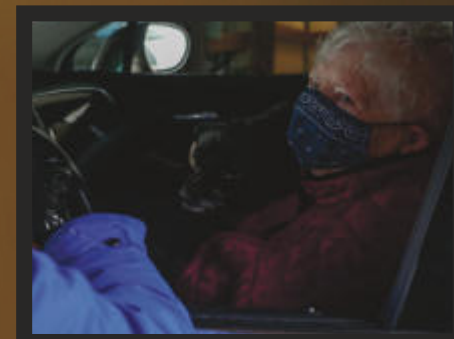
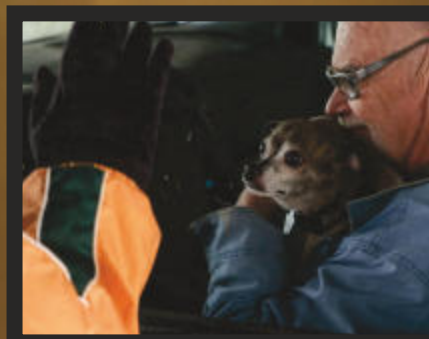
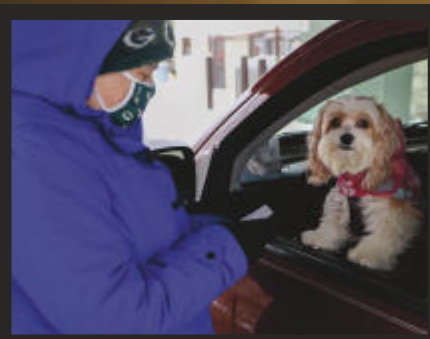
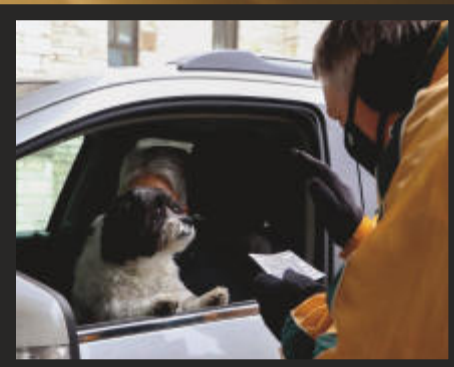
Have a prayer request or would like your loved one to be listed in this section of the newsletter? Please contact the church office or a pastor.

Blessing of the Animals

Who would have guessed that a pandemic would lead to Pastor Lehman and Pastor Sara blessing pets in Drive-Thru fashion?

Not sure, but...

the pets below are sure glad that it did!



Small Groups and Fellowship Ministries

Bibles and Brews continues to meet **every other Tuesday** in February at **7:00 pm** studying, *What Makes You Happy* by Andy Stanley.

MSG, Monday Nights, will meet at **7:00 pm each Monday** via zoom. The group will do an online study with videos on Study Gateway on the Book of Galatians. It is a passionate letter written by the apostle Paul explaining what it really looks like to be followers of Jesus Christ. This will be the first of 6 sessions. Anyone may join, to sign up contact Pastor Sara at pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com.

Phoebe Circle continues their *Journey With Angels* on February 9th, at 7:00 p.m. on zoom. Gaye Lehman will be leading the lesson this month about repentance and route-changing angels based on the Gather Magazine. Want to learn about angels? They meet once a month, the **second Tuesday evening at 7:00**, Contact Erlene for lesson materials and to receive the zoom link. Call her at 608-449-6540 or email her at killeen3@aol.com.

Soul Sisters will be gathering in February to continue a study of the series on *Heaven* by Randy Alcorn. If you are interested in visiting or joining, please contact Jeanie Geurink at jgeurink@uwec.edu for group availability since there are limited spots. Also, masks are required due to Covid.

Parents Group: Come join a group just for parents on **Thursday nights during Lent** from **6:30-7:30**. Support each other and have a time to share. We will meet on Zoom so you can be at home with your kids. We will use Rich Melheim's book *Holding Your Family Together*. 5 simple steps to help bring your family closer to God and each other for discussion. Trying to gauge interest, so please sign up today by letting Pastor Sara know you are interested at pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com.

There are several small groups within our congregation. Some are zooming, some are meeting! If you would be interested in joining a current group or starting a new group please contact Erlene at killeen3@aol.com.

Helping Others With Denim

Imagine living in a place where it is warm enough to go without shoes, but also where jiggers live. They can get under your skin, lay eggs and multiply, making it too painful to walk. So, you can't go to school or play with your friends.



An organization called **Sole Hope** is trying to help. Using denim cut to a specific pattern, shoes are made for those who have jiggers removed. The area is treated and healed, and denim shoes change a life!

Efforts to assist in the process by cutting denim for those shoes will begin at FLC on Monday, February 1st and 8th at 9:30 a.m. If you would prefer to make a donation, \$10 would help pay for the shipping.

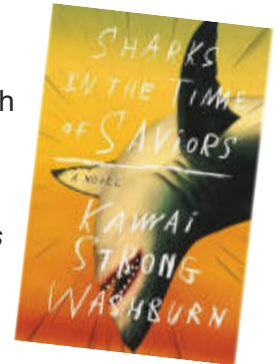
Have any questions or want to sign up? Contact Judie Lehman at 608.873.7503 or email judielehman@gmail.com.

Bring scissors to cut denim and a plastic jug to cut heel inserts. COVID protocols will be followed. If you prefer to do this at home, inform Judie and arrangements will be made so you can do that.

The children of Uganda thank you!

The **Selah (Daytime) Group** will meet on Thursday, February 18th via Zoom at 10:00 am.

This month the book discussion will be on ***Sharks in the Time of Saviors*** by Kawai Strong Washburn.



Baby Baskets

Dane County Human Services has started to deliver Baby Baskets to new moms in need once again!



FLC's Baby Basket Ministry is up and running. If you are interested in helping with sorting clothes or creating the baskets, please let Valerie know by calling the office at (608) 873-7761.



Sunday, February 7

Each year First Lutheran collects canned goods to donate to the Stoughton Food Pantry for Souper Bowl Sunday. Did you know that the 'Souper Bowl of Caring' was originally founded by a church youth group almost 30 years ago? The movement has expanded and is fueled by worshippers who share cans of soup with others in their community.

We hope that you will take some time to cheer your favorite team by **donating non-perishable food items at Drive Thru Communion on that day.**

FLC is in Need of Clean Empty Gallon Milk or Water Jugs Again!

We are going to use luminaries for Ash Wednesday!

Are you able to help?

We invite you to drop them off during office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 3:00 pm. Please bring them to the pew bench in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Preparation for First Communion

Saturday, March 27, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Students in 4th and 5th grade and their parents learn all about Holy Communion, The goal is to have the class meet in person using COVID protocols. We will keep see what county regulations are at that time and adjust as necessary. A video option will be available.

First communion for students and their parents will be at an in-person service on Maundy Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm.



If you have:
An older child who has not received instruction
or
Questions about the class,

Please contact Pastor Sara at 873-7761 or email

PastorSara@flcstoughton.com.

Letters will be sent to families with more specific information.



First Kids and IMPACT 456ers Join us - It is so much FUN!



Check out Kids e-news!

Reminder to Check out the Kids e-news, which is sent out every Friday, for faith activities that are fun for kids to do alone or with their family. There you can do a craft using supplies at home or pick up supplies at FLC, watch Bible videos, listen to music and more!

**Things to do online and off to bring a little Jesus into your life;
It will help ground every part of your day.**



Zoom links come out each Saturday for a Sunday morning Zoom Chat

Impact 456 Zoom chat at 9:15

Age 3 - 3rd Grade Zoom chat at 9:45

Teen Zoom - Pastor Sara Shares Scripture and Other Super Stuff!

Are you looking for a way to connect with God and each other?
Want a fresh focus on faith, or just want to share and have fun?
As the weather gets nicer maybe we will even be able to meet in person!

JOIN PASTOR SARA EACH WEEK IN LENT ON WEDNESDAYS AT 8PM.



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What's important to you? Let's talk.



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