

**FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

526 South Olive Avenue
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-263-2048

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

January 2024

Messenger

NEWSLETTER

Praising God | Nurturing Faith | Serving All

INTERIM PASTORS

Barbara Rolph
David Walker

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:30 AM – 4:30 PM
Lynne Campbell

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9 AM in the Sanctuary
Online via YouTube by the next day

COMMUNION

Served first and third Sundays

COFFEE HOUR

Following Sunday worship

YOUTUBE

First Lutheran Church, Sandpoint ID

NEWSLETTER

Lynne Campbell

Office@FirstLutheranSandpoint.org

- Deadline is the 5th of the month
- Submit articles, ads, photos, and information via email
- In the Subj line, use “Messenger”

PASTOR DAVE’S MESSAGE

Greetings friends,

Despite the fact that we are currently in the liturgical season of Epiphany, the specter of Lent is on the horizon. Depending on the date of Easter, the season of Epiphany is between four and nine weeks in length.

This year there are six weeks. I have always felt that the season of Epiphany gets short shrift in the church, partly because many are exhausted due to all the activities surrounding Christmas, but also because clergy are so busy getting ready for the seasons of Lent and Easter.

Hopefully, you will hear sermons and pray prayers during worship that reflect this season of ‘epiphanies,’ or ‘manifestations’ of Jesus’ divinity that expand your knowledge of the reasons behind why the gospels tell stories of miracles and healings that point to Jesus’ divine nature as part of the Trinity.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Pastor Barbara and I have been talking about potential Lenten offerings that we hope will better prepare us for the reflective and sober season of Lent as we anticipate the glory and splendor of Easter.

Some of this reflective work will be done individually, some of it hopefully, done together within the wider community. The spiritual work we all do during Epiphany and Lent will allow us to more fully embrace the awesomeness of Easter and the empty tomb.

Stay tuned for more details!!

Blessings,

Dave+

STAFF & CONTACT US

Pastor

Barbara Rolph
208-597-5422

David Walker
509-995-6582

Church Office

Lynne Campbell
Administrative Assistant
208-263-2048

CHURCH COUNCIL

Executive Committee

Ray Yaw *President*
208-290-3880

Walter Ebel *Vice President*
509-951-4182

Sharon Roget *Treasurer*
208-263-2610

Trish Thurston *Secretary*
208-255-6885

Members at Large

Sharon McCormick
208-290-4555

KarenMarie Moran
503-522-1599

Lila Petersen
208-263-2058

Linda Lacy
208-290-8884

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THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY



COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, 1-10-24

Old Business:

Ash Wednesday service will be at 4 PM on February 14, 2024.

The Annual Meeting will be on February 4 following the worship service and Brunch. Members are encouraged to bring potluck items for the brunch. It will be noticed in the bulletin accordingly.

The Parsonage rental will not be happening.

The wetlands issue concerns are in progress.

Lila Petersen reported on issues with the Music Conservatory. Discussion followed with changes that will be made to the FLC Facility Use Form.

The Music Together class will start on January 16 in the nursery. Lynne will be asked to contact Selkirk Brass(Mark Coburn) about their use of the room.

Pastor Duane Fister is interested in a site visit ASAP since he will be traveling with his wife twice during February.

It was decided we need a website manager, due to a donation issue. Trish will talk to Scott Youngren.

Luther Park Update: There have been some bumps, but Senior Services of America has set up a website that is much better. They have hired 5 new RA's in 2 weeks. Johnson Controls will install fire exit lighting, with strobes, at a cost of \$64,000 which is payable over 60 months. FLC now owns LP. Laura Irwin resigned as Office Manager and Rachel Campbell was hired. She is well liked.

New Business:

Food Truck distribution will be Sept 23, 2024.

The 2024 budget was discussed and will be adjusted accordingly when we get a new Pastor.

We need to order more candle holders for the Christmas Eve Service. Trish will talk to Lynne.

Pr. Phil Misner asked if each congregation in our Synod would contribute \$410 per month to support the Synod. This was approved.

The Nominating Committee will be contacted by Ray Yaw.

The next Council meeting will be February 4, 2024 after Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Trish Thurston

SUNDAY READINGS FOR JAN/FEB

Jan 14...2 Epiphany
1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]
Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Cor 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Jan 21..3 Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Ps 62:5-12
1 Cor 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Jan 28...4 Epiphany
Deut 18:15-20
Ps 111
1 Cor 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Feb 4 ..5 Epiphany
Isa 40:21-31
Ps 147:1-11, 20c
1 Cor 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

**Feb 11..Transfiguration
of Our Lord**
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ps 50:1-6
2 Cor 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Feb 14...Ash Wed.
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or
Isa 58:1-12
Ps 51:1-17
2 Cor 5:20b-6:10
Matt 6:1-6,16-21

Year B 2024

Church Year Calendar





YOUR STORY HERE

Just a note from the editor of the Messenger:

I am privileged to prepare this publication every month, which is shared with the members of First Lutheran and residents of Luther Park.

I hope you find the messages from Pastor Misner, Bishop Manlove and from the ELCA valuable and uplifting.

But, honestly, I LONG for YOUR stories.

I am grateful to Diana Carlson for sharing a profile of one of your newest members, Bruce Johnson, a profile I know you'll find interesting.

What other stories, bits of news, special poems or humorous anecdotes are out there among you all just waiting to be published and enjoyed? I'm here and at your service—I'll even write your story for you, if you wish, as long as you'll share it with me.

Please do!

Lynne

FROM THE BISHOP...



"... anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest." ELW 310

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise has always been a favorite hymn of mine, ever since I had to memorize it for a Concordia College Christmas Concert. Epiphany and the Sundays that follow make up a season with stories which show forth who Jesus Christ truly is. The magi's visit, Jesus' baptism, the call of disciples, casting out demons, healing, and the transfiguration are all epiphanies, moments in which God in Jesus Christ is made manifest.

It always struck me as an interesting coincidence that Time after Epiphany overlaps with at least the beginning of the state legislative sessions. In the first few weeks of the session (both Washington and Idaho's sessions begin Jan. 8 this year), citizens get manifestations of the legislative bodies, through bills, speeches, meetings, and local reporting. We talk often in the church about how Jesus made sure people on the margins were brought into the main story; these individuals often take primary space in the pages of the four gospels. As people following Jesus, our eyes and ears should be attuned to what space the marginalized today have in legislative bills and at their hearings.

As we collectively prepare for the legislative season, I think we also do well to borrow the language Franciscan Father Richard Rohr used when naming his Center for Action and Contemplation. Jesus himself modeled both of these—casting out demons, feeding, and healing and then stepping away to pray. We are called to both advocacy and prayer, always both. Some of us are more gifted or our natural charisms may lean into one or the other, but as communities of faith we should hold these two together and probably in conversation.

Our new worship resource, All Creation Sings, has an abundance of prayers for the individual and assembly. I love the first two in the Faithful Living section, the first for each of us and the second for public servants (p. 50). The ELCA has a plethora of resources for advocating on a variety of issues. Our synod supports the Faith Action Network in Washington and in Idaho I found many active coalitions that are issue specific.

The ELCA recently posted the DRAFT ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith. The Introduction begins, “Daily we are to pray as Jesus taught: ‘Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.’ These words teach us that God’s will seeks the well-being of creation and all aspects of human life, including civil society (Micah 6:8) and the blessing of the gospel to join God’s work in society....” I encourage you to read the draft and comment. The Civic Life and Faith study is also still available and very well done.

But also stay informed about the state legislatures, your local city council and school board, and planning and zoning commissions. Write emails expressing why your faith compels you to speak for those whose voices are hushed or silenced. And pray for public servants, those in your congregation, those you agree with, and those you disagree with. Pray for your own neighborhood.

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We are also called to listen. Listening is crucial to both prayer and advocacy. It is a huge part of Christian discipleship, to listen—to the Word of God through scripture, to neighbors and strangers and friends, to the stirrings in our own souls, to other followers of Jesus, to people who society tries to mute, and to the Holy Spirit.

German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote this about listening, “The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God’s love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear,” Life Together.

God be with you as you pray, advocate, and listen in this Time after Epiphany.

Bishop Meggan Manlove

A NOTE FROM PASTOR BARBARA

A short thank you for all who have wished me well while I’ve been battling bronchitis. Also thanks to Pastor Dave for covering. Thanks to Walt Ebel for helping me undecorate from Christmas.

Believe it or not, Lent will begin in February and Pastor Dave and I will plan the services. Devotionals will be ordered. Details to follow.

Pastor Barbara

FIRST LUTHERAN WELCOMES MUSIC TOGETHER

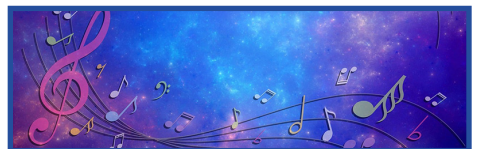
Toward the end of last year, a woman named Emily Bond approached FLC about holding Music Together classes at the church. The council said “yes,” and Emily’s classes began on Tuesday, January 16.

Music Together, its website explains, “is an early childhood music and movement program for children from birth through age eight—and the grownups who love them! First offered in 1987, our music classes help little ones develop their innate musicality—and much, much more.”

Backed by decades of research in music education and child development, the program recognizes that “children learn through play” so the curriculum is both “engaging and fun.” And because “children learn best from the powerful role models in their lives,” Music Together’s “family music classes show parents, teachers, and caregivers how to help their children become confident music-makers just by having fun making music themselves.”

Emily has transformed the FLC nursery into what will be the Music Together space.

Welcome, Emily!



FOOD BANK DONATIONS

In December, FLC members donated 23 pounds of food and \$120 in cash.

January's contributions will be collected on the 28th. Please give cash donations to Marianne Foster or to Lynne Campbell in the church office, and thank you for your participation.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree was once again a huge success in 2023. We had 22 tags on the tree and all were filled by our community at First Lutheran Church. They appreciated the gifts very much.

We do our very best to find those most in need of assistance and have them benefit the most during the Christmas season. Our goal is to spread God's love and to give them a joyful Holiday season.

For many years First Lutheran has provided the many children and sometimes their parents from Blue Haven with a nice Christmas. Please continue to hold these families in your prayers.

-Hali Jacobs

Tiffany Kurwicky



WELCOME 1-YEAR FLC MEMBER BRUCE JOHNSON

Meet and greet our newest one-year FLC member, Bruce Johnson. He has volunteered to run as a candidate for the Luther Park Board of Directors.

Education and Business Background:

Bruce has excellent business qualifications to serve on the board of directors. He worked in various managerial roles in engineering, operations, supply chain, and procurement. He still works part-time.

His career includes a degree in chemical engineering from Washington State University in Pullman, WA, and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle, WA. He spent most of his career working for Hexion, producing various resins and formaldehyde products that are used worldwide in the building industry. He relocated ten times (Moses, Seattle; La Grande, OR; Fayetteville, NC; Eugene, OR; Edmonton, AB (3 times); and Columbus, OH (two times)). He traveled almost full-time. Bruce worked in various leadership roles and will bring his talent to First Lutheran.

Family:

Bruce grew up in Colfax in a close family and has always been a member of the Lutheran Church. His parents, Lloyd and Joyce Johnson, owned the pharmacy there. His parents purchased land in Sandpoint in 1957, and the family spent summers here. In 1988, his parents retired to Sandpoint and were members of FLC. Recently, his brothers and sister all retired here. His family has dubbed him "Favorite Uncle" to ten nieces and nephews and sixteen great-nieces/nephews.

Hobbies:

Bruce is a devoted WSU Cougar fan. He and his 20-member Cougar family attend most games. His active lifestyle includes skiing, fishing, golfing, and walking. He spends most of his time remodeling or repairing family houses.

Welcome Bruce during coffee hour and take a moment to chat with him. Thank you, Bruce, for volunteering your time and talent.

ELCA STORY OF FAITH: A Ministry Sprung to Life

by Cody Boteler

COVID-19 has meant many changes for many people: online school and worship, families balancing work with child care and, in too many instances, saying goodbye to loved ones.

For one ELCA community in Baltimore, though, there has been growth—and hope—during uncertain times.

In early 2020, after being called by the Delaware-Maryland Synod to be a street minister in Baltimore's Station North neighborhood, Elazar Atticus Schoch Zavaletta began spending time and engaging with people on and around North Avenue. *That street ministry, with the help of your Mission Support shared with the Delaware-Maryland Synod and the churchwide office, evolved into North Ave Mission (NAM).*

"Everything that has sprung to life at North Ave Mission is a vision of the early community," Zavaletta said. "We're a mix of worshiping community, mutual aid organization, harm reduction, housing, leadership development, even advocacy. But Family Life is our center and our locus. It is what everything else that NAM is doing has grown out of."

Keia McCray is a community coordinator with NAM, a job she started in mid-2021. McCray, who grew up a few blocks from where NAM gathers each week, said the ministry has changed the neighborhood and there's even less crime.

"You've got to see it to believe it," she said. "The community is getting strong with each other."

McCray said NAM is also changing what church can look

and comes from a mixed-race background that includes Indigenous, Basque, Mexican and Swiss ancestors.

"I came to the ELCA because grace was embodied for me and to me," Zavaletta said. "I came to the ELCA because when people looked at me, they saw possibility and they saw potential, and they put my love of God and my call in front of all of the other ways the world might have disqualified me."

William Gohl Jr., bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod, said he sees signs of vitality in NAM, including adult baptisms, donations from other congregations and worship attendance—both at weekly gatherings and in smaller groups. "It's been marvelous to watch."

Looking ahead, Zavaletta hopes NAM will continue to follow the



North Ave Mission (NAM) in Baltimore, the only synodically authorized worshipping community in the Delaware-Maryland Synod to launch during the pandemic, gathers outdoors for worship each week.

The NAM community gathers each week at Ynot Lot, an outdoor event space, for "Family Life" (part worship service, part resource connection) and the Farm-to-Stoop Free Market, where anyone can stop by, pick up a hot meal, leave with clothes and groceries, and visit a mobile community health clinic.

like in at least two significant ways. First, and perhaps most visibly, the worshipping community gathers outdoors each week. Second is that Zavaletta identifies as a nonbinary Latiné transguy, making them the first known transmasculine and nonbinary person of color to be ordained in the ELCA. Zavaletta is Tejano

vision of those in the community it serves. "The most important thing about NAM is that we center the leadership and visions of those who are most impacted by systemic oppression. I am here as a gatherer and a nurturer, and to empower people and recognize their gifts, but not necessarily to determine the vision."



Yoga Ministry

Classes designed for “Late Bloomers” are held weekly in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:15 to 9:15 AM. Contact Judy Payne at 208-263-3564.

At FLC: Community Organizations

Panhandle Piecemakers Quilt Guild (non-profit)

Second Tuesday each month, Fellowship Hall. Providing education, enjoyment and social exchange for those who enjoy the art of quilting. For questions or more information...

Contact: Linda Oldridge
208-597-1598

Teen Center

Teens will be using the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and game room on schooldays from 2:30 to 5:30 PM (1:30 to 5:30 on Fridays).

Contact: Joan Avery
208-946-1087

Music Together

Music classes in the nursery for families with children, newborns to 8 years old.

9 AM, Tuesdays
Contact: Emily Bond
262-402-8295

Quilting Groups

Bosom Buddies

Third Monday each month
9:30AM-12PM, Fellowship Hall.

Contact: Linda Aavedal
208-610-6565

Lutheran World Relief

Wednesdays, 1:00 PM,
Sunday School Quilting Room.

Contact: Sharon Roget
208-610-9005

Stitches of Love

Currently on hiatus

Contact: Brigette Sanborn.
If you know of someone in the FLC congregation who would benefit from a tangible gift of love and caring through a handmade quilt, please contact Brigette at 208-263-8120.

Women’s Circles

Phoebe / Faith Bible Study

Fourth Tuesday each month,
1:00 PM, Conference Room.

The Phoebe and Faith Bible Study groups have combined and are studying the Book of Ruth. *Gather Magazine* may be used.

For more information, contact:
Judy Payne at 208-263-3564 or
Sharon Roget at 208-610-9005

Mary’s Circle

Each meeting arranged

Contact: Jean Cafferty
208-263-4942