



# First Edition

The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church

## January 2024

Issue Number: 237 Issued: Monthly



### *January Worship*

**Sunday, January 7**

**Holy Communion**

**Baptism of Jesus**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

**Sunday, January 14**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

**Sunday, January 21**

**Holy Communion**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

**Sunday, January 28**

**Sweater and Sweatshirt Sunday**

8:30 am - Spirited Traditional

10:00 am - Celebration

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# 2024

*"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## *Happy New Year!*



## FLC Photos

Thank you to  
Carri Case for  
putting  
decorations on  
the trees for  
Christmas.



Mentor Project:  
Dozens of  
cookies were made  
and shared with  
FLC homebound  
members.



Members of Alleluia Bells spent  
the day on Friday, December 8,  
sharing Christmas joy through music.





# A Word from the Pastor

As Christmas celebrations have become recent memories, it's time to get out our new calendars, write the year 2024 on our checks and get ready for a new year. Here are a few quotes to get us started...



***"The best New Year's resolution is a determination not to give up, but to live - and to do it with joy."***

~ Malcomb Boyd

***"I have the opportunity once more to right some wrongs, to pray for peace, to plant some trees and sing more joyful songs."***

~ William Arthur Ward

***"To leave the old with a burst of song.  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the thing that binds you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the not-worthwhile of the days grown old;  
To date go forth with a purpose true  
To the unknown task of the world that's new;  
To help your siblings along the road  
To do their work and lift their loads;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
To have and to give a Happy New Year."***

~ Robert Brewster Beattie

***"May Jesus keep you young, full of life, laughter and love."***

~ Irish Toast

***"We must live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools."***

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

***"Many people make it impossible for themselves to find happiness in the present moment by choosing to focus their attention on the past. Their depression, resentment, hostility or guilt pangs are all kept alive by their mentally dwelling in the past, a past that no longer exists."***

~ Father James Gill, S.J.

***"Smile at or hug a grouch on New Year's Day!"***

~ Anonymous

Just a few thoughts to start 2024.  
Happy New Year!

Pastor Lehman

## Council Highlights

At its November and December meetings, FLC's Council:

- \* Expressed appreciation for everyone who made a **financial promise** to fund Christ's ministries through FLC in 2024.
- \* Approved a **proposed 2024 budget** for the congregation's consideration at the annual meeting.
- \* Voted to have the annual meeting on **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, between services.
- \* Learned that...

**Missionaries Dr. Steve and Jodi Swanson** received the \$5,000 donation from FLC to help support a Pediatrics Conference in Arusha, Tanzania.

The **lighting project** in the sanctuary would be completed before Thanksgiving.

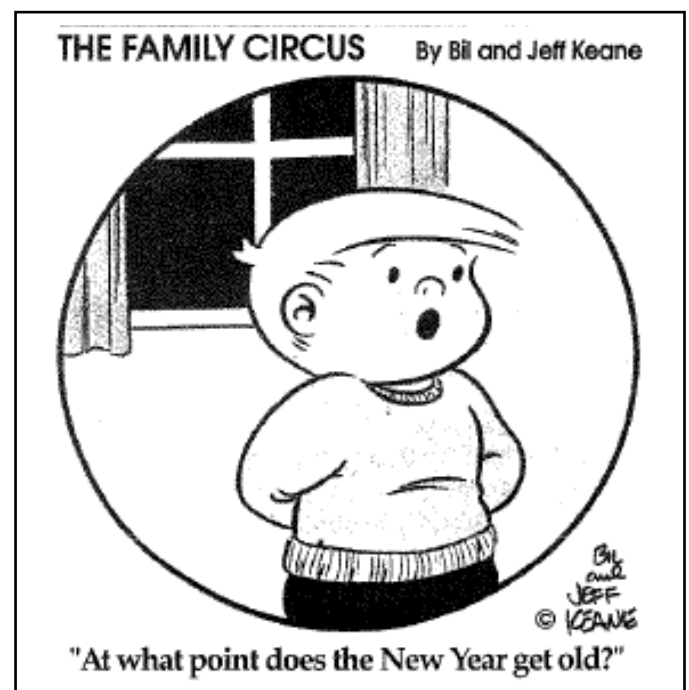
**84 Baby Baskets** had been made over the year for unwed mothers.

**Over 50 turkeys** were distributed to families in November.

FLC exceeded the goal of 300 items that were donated to the **Stoughton Food Pantry**.

Over \$1,100 was donated to provide **Humanitarian Aid** for the Holy Land through Lutheran World Relief.

**60 Nativity Sets** were purchased to give to FLC families with children age 4 through 6th grade on Christmas Eve.



## Sharing and Caring



### *Our Condolences to the family & friends of...*

Juanita Gorden (mother of Daryl Gorden)  
Heidi Hubing  
Bob Kleven  
Judy Johnson (friend of Teresa Sylte)

### *Special Prayers for...*

Judy Casey  
Patricia Green (mother of Mary Bricco)  
Gene Heise  
Roseanne Knutson (mother of Lori Moll)  
Lani Kohrt  
Joyce Koskelin  
Paul Krueger  
Peggy Maveus  
Jean Peterson  
Ron Pieper  
Ted Sehmer (father of Mark Sehmer)  
Don Steele (brother of Ron Steele)  
Ron Steele  
Scott Steele (son of Ron Steele)  
Tom Thorpe  
Vera Thorpe  
Judy Zillmer (mother of Kendra Eppler)

Do you 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 one of the pastors.

## MEETING

### **Annual Meeting**

FLC's Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, February 4**, at **9:20 am** between the first and second services.

At this meeting the congregation will have an opportunity to approve the 2024 budget and approve candidates for the Church Council, Audit Committee, First Lutheran Fund Committee and Endowment Committee. The meeting will also include reports of all of our ministries that were conducted at FLC in the prior year.

We hope to see you there!  
Thank you for participating in the work of our Lord's church!

### **Phoebe Circle**

**Tuesday, January 9  
6:30 pm at Deak's**

It's our New Year's dinner!

If you are interested contact  
Jeanne Gilbertson at 608-692-3452.

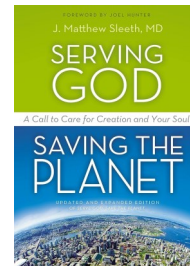


### **Serving God, Saving the Planet**

**Mondays at 6:00 pm  
Starting January 8  
Fireside Room**

Through this study  
discover scriptural  
lessons of personal  
responsibility, simplicity  
and stewardship to apply  
to your life.

Contact Kendra Eppler at (608-219-5525)  
for more information!



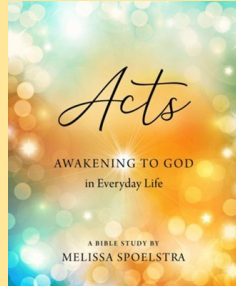


## Small Group Ministries

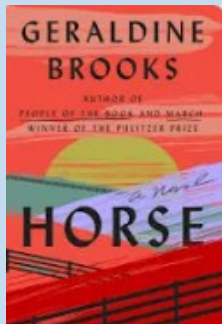
### Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters will meet on  
**Monday, January 8 from  
10:00 -11:45 a.m** in the  
Fireside Room.

We welcome guests and new  
members to join us in the  
January study of *Acts*:  
*Awakening to God's Grace.*



### Selah Book Club



The **Selah Book Club** will be  
meeting on Thursday,  
**January 18 at 10:00 am**  
in the Church Library.

The book for this month is  
***Horse*** by Geraldine Brooks.

If you have questions about this  
book club or would like to join  
please contact Marcia Seybold  
at (608) 333-7326.

### Circle 3 Meeting

**Tuesday January 9  
11:00 am at Deak's**

If you are interested contact  
Jeanne Gilbertson at 608-692-3452.



### Bibles and Brews

**Location:** John and Darlene Arnesons'  
2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton

**What to bring:** Yourself and a snack and  
beverages to share

Contact John or Darlene Arneson for questions:  
[arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com) or 608-873-7209

In January, we will start the Andy Stanley series,  
**Under the Circumstances: Holding On to God  
When It.** When life doesn't turn out the way we  
hope, it can cause us to doubt God's goodness.  
But many times, it's in the midst of our  
circumstances that we better understand God's  
presence. Videos can be watched ahead on  
YouTube.

**Thursdays, January 11 and 25, at 7:00 pm**  
Under the Circumstances, Parts 1 and 2:  
When Life Happens and Better Promises

*Different Brews*  *Different Views*  
**BIBLE & BREW**  
BEER, CONVERSATION, & GOD

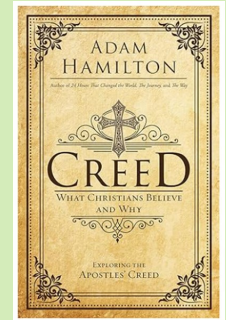
### Men's Breakfast and Bibles

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month:  
January 10 and 24**

**Breakfast:**  
7:30 am at The Pancake Café

**Bible Study:**  
9:00 am at the church

**Information:**  
Contact **Rich Albright**  
[albrightclannn@gmail.com](mailto:albrightclannn@gmail.com)  
(608) 215-6027.

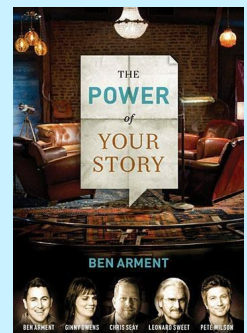


### Monday Zoom Faith Conversations

Join the Faith Conversations  
group! It meets **Mondays on  
Zoom at 6pm.**

This is a great way to get  
discussion in from the  
comfort of home!

Participants are encouraged  
to invite people both in town  
and in other areas of the  
country who might want to join  
in a great discussion!



**Starting January 22**, this group is using a study  
called *The Power of Your Story* by Ben Arment.

What is your story? We all have stories. Some are  
funny, some are painful - all contribute to who we  
are. What we don't always see is that God is  
weaving an overarching story that started before  
time, extends through history, and will reach far  
beyond our lifetimes. God extends an invitation to  
each of us to step into His story and experience the  
ongoing narrative of His Word in our lives.

In this unique study, you will join visionary author  
Ben Arment and four of the most creative and  
effective communicators in the church today -  
Leonard Sweet, Chris Seay, Pete Wilson, and  
Ginny Owens - as they reveal some of their  
personal stories and expound on key stories in  
King David's life.

Get the link for the video and a study guide from  
Pastor Sara at [pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com](mailto:pastor.sara@flcstoughton.com) or  
608-873-7761.



## Women's Advent Event Photos



Thank you to everyone for making this day a success!



## Social Ministry and Fellowship

### Giving Tree And Manger Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who brought new items for the mitten tree and baby items for the manger!

These items are given to the START and Dane County Human Services to help people in need.

### Quilting Season Begins!

Come and join this group of industrious women to create quilts that are then donated to organizations serving those in need.



Quilting begins at FLC on **Monday, January 8 from 8:30 am - 12 noon** and continues **each Monday until Easter.**

The group is looking for new people to participate. Talk to LouAnn Ellingson for more information.



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

### Souper Bowl Sunday is February 11

On Super Bowl game day, FLC will host a Souper Bowl of its own! To "play," please bring canned goods and place in the marked containers to score a "giving to others" touchdown.

The "winners" will be the many families served by the Stoughton Food Pantry. If everyone who worships brings a can of soup we could provide over 300 cans to help feed those in need!



### Bowling Sunday, January 28, at Viking Lanes 4-6 pm

Looking for something family friendly and fun to do on a cold night in January? How about FLC's Bowling Open House at Viking Lanes! \$13.00 will cover the price of bowling, pizza and shoe rental.

Sign up in the Information Center to save your spot. This would be a great event to introduce your friends and neighbors to First Lutheran!



### Lenten Suppers

The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and runs through Wednesday, March 20. Meals will be served each of the six Wednesday evenings prior to Holy Week from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in being a meal leader and/or assisting in serving a Lenten supper, please sign up in the Information Center or contact Pastor Sara.

Many hands are needed to serve each meal! This is a great way to share your gifts and connect with other FLC members.



### Chili & Game Night Sunday, February 25 in the FLC Fellowship Hall 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Here's another opportunity to get out of the house and meet new people!

Bring favorite games and either chili, fixins'/sides or a dessert to share. Play Euchre, board games, see if you can be the next Twister champion, or just eat chili and laugh.

Come and join the fun!





# Great Turkey Giveaway



The Great Turkey Giveaway 2023 was a success! A total of 58 meals were donated by FLC members. **THANK YOU!** On Sunday, November 19, several groups delivered meals to families all over the Stoughton area. Many families benefited from your generosity! They each received a turkey, potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix and pumpkin pie. Many thanks to the Confirmation Class who prepared the boxes. Thanks also to the Soul Sisters who donated the sides. Last but not least, thank you to the people who delivered the meals.

We appreciate you!



thank you





**First Kids and IMPACT 456** will begin again on Sunday, **January 7.**

January is a great time to invite neighbors and friends to join in the learning program!

First Kids will be learning that Jesus is our Friend Forever.



- **January 7:** **Wise Men Bring Gifts to Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)**
- **January 14:** **Jesus Learns in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)**
- **January 21:** **John the Baptist Tells About Jesus (John 1:19-28)**
- **January 28:** **Jesus Begins His Public Ministry (Matthew 3:13-17)**

**Winter Water Day!**

*Remember your baptism, Wear blue clothes.  
Come for some fun and play water games as  
we learn about Jesus and Baptism!*



**4th - 6th Graders or IMPACT 456** will be learning about the New Testament.

- **January 7:** **A New Adventure and a Tragic End**
- **January 14:** **On the Shore of the Galilean Sea**
- **January 21:** **Travels Beyond Galilee**
- **January 28:** **Looking Backwards / Looking Ahead & Winter Water Day**

*A reminder to students and families to work on the lessons for weeks that you missed. If you need extra help see your teacher or Pastor Sara. Also if you have not learned the books of the New Testament yet please work on learning those as well.*

## Stewardship of God's Creation

### Rest ~ Kendra Eppler

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done." Genesis 2:2-3 (NIV)



Back in November, the one session of my Bible study group focused on the concept of rest. The author of the study shared an interesting perspective I had not previously contemplated – that the seventh day was not just about God being done with creation. His perspective was that the seventh day was also a day of creation, the day on which God created rest. But, what does this mean in our ever busy world? And, how does this relate to caring for God's creation?

To the first question, the author's perspective was that a day of rest is about intentionality, that setting aside a day to rest helps us reconnect with God. He viewed this as our greatest gift from God, to simply rest in him and let God be God. While a day of rest may look a bit different for each person, his overarching message was to be intentional, including some form of taking a step back and pausing to enjoy God's presence.

To the second question, taking time for rest can also lead to further care of God's creation. For example, if on your day of rest you limit driving to only attending church when you previously also went shopping or ran errands, you have now reduced the pollutants your car puts into the air that all of creation needs. As another example, if you choose to go for a walk outside, you have the opportunity to see and interact with other aspects of creation, further develop your connection to and desire to care for creation, and potentially even identify other ways you could more actively care for creation.

Could your resolution for the new year include incorporating, or enhancing, a day of rest?

## Youth and Family Ministries

### Junior & Senior High Overnight Lock-in at FLC

Friday, January 19, 6 pm - 8 am

Come and spend a fun night at the church! Fellowship, food, fun and friends!

Look for more details in upcoming e-mails. If you would like to help plan some of the activities contact Pastor Sara.

Friends are invited!

To sign up, turn in the covenant form and permission slip that will be e-mailed to your family or just grab a form off the Youth bulletin board.



### Sledding!

Sunday, February 18  
12:00 noon - 3:00 pm



Come sledding and bring your friends. We will meet at the church, head off for some sledding, and then come back for some hot chocolate and popcorn. There is no cost for this event. **Friends and family of all ages and stages** are welcome! The event will be rescheduled if there is no snow.



### Have you noticed?

The youth at FLC are awesome!  
They volunteer to participate in worship.  
They teach Sunday School.  
They help with confirmation.  
In general they help out wherever they can.  
They also invite their friends!  
They are good examples for all of us to follow!

### Thank You Parents!

Each Wednesday night First Lutheran comes alive in a special way as our Confirmation Youth gather for learning, fellowship, food and lots of fun!!

At 5:45 pm Pre CHAOS begins with lots of yummy food and treats. At 6:30 pm class begins, and the youth begin their current study of the Ten Commandments.

Thank you to the following families who have helped so far this fall:

Klitzke  
Gallagher  
Hansen  
Case

Without your care for our youth and their faith, our program would not be such a success.

### Lutherdale Camp

Registration forms and brochures for all ages of campers grades 1-12 will be coming soon. Plan on making a week at Lutherdale a part of your summer this year

Confirmation Camp will be June 17-22  
Information about camp will be coming soon.

*Scholarships are available. We do two fund raisers for camp in the Spring as well. There is no financial reason for a child not to go to camp. If you have questions about Lutherdale please contact Pastor Sara.*





# First Edition

*The Newsletter of First Lutheran Church*

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## January 2024

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