

First Fruits

December 2021

Volume 25, Number 10

Worship Ministry

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

We will have Mid-week Advent Services on Wednesday evenings, December 1, 8, & 15, at 7 pm, at First Lutheran. With a light supper before the services at 6 PM.



There will be acting, singing and bells. You won't want to miss this program. Come enjoy the story of Jesus' birth and fellowship!

CONFIRMATION NEWS

AT FIRST LUTHERAN:

Confirmation classes will resume in January.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5 PM – First Lutheran Worship

7:30 PM – Corydon Worship in Sanctuary

6:30 PM – Radio Broadcast on KIIC

Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, WILL BE PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 12 DURING THE 9 AM WORSHIP SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN.

LET EVERY DAY BE CHRISTMAS

*Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.*

Norman Wesley Brooks

SayingImages.com



COMMUNITY BLESSING BOXES- Some of the Confirmation students were able to go shopping to purchase items to donate for the blessing boxes in our community. With the help of FLC President Gayle Bortz they were able to completely fill 4 blessing boxes!

We thank the youth for their

volunteerism and their time!



Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

Christ the Servant

Sunday, January 9, 2021

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual meeting for ministry at Christ the Servant in Corydon. The meeting will begin about noon following regular Sunday worship. A potluck meal will be shared after the business portion of the meeting is concluded.

First Lutheran

Sunday, January 16, 2021

On this day, Christ the Servant and First Lutheran will gather for joint worship at Chariton beginning at 9 AM. The business meeting will follow at around 10:15 AM. Following the business items of the day, we will join in the sharing of a potluck meal in the Fireside Room. Those who are able are invited are encouraged to bring a dish to share with others.

Pastoral Pondering

Jesus said: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” - ([John 8:12](#) NIV)

Frustration was evident and quickly became audible as I opened the box of Christmas lights that I wanted to hang outside. They were purchased just last year - beautiful, long lasting LED lights – but now, there in the box they lay, all tangled and knotted together.

Why hadn't I been more careful in putting them away last year?

My struggle to adorn the house with twinkling lights for the holidays wasn't tragic, but it was proving to be frustrating. Why hadn't I put them away carefully, why had I been in such a hurry last January - my patience was being tested! But far beyond the topic of exterior illumination for Christmas are the struggles and heartaches that Christmas drags to the surface.

Within our homes and country, we witness all kinds of daily struggles in life. However, in turning toward that child born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, we glimpse a flicker of light in the midst of our frustrations and darkness. For that young child brought hope and promise to life, in spite of the grief and hardship of the moment.

In ancient Biblical times, Jewish tradition lit up the city of Jerusalem during festivals. Light signified positivity, and Isaiah spoke of the Messiah that would be a light for all the nations. As the pillar of light led the Israelites through the desert at night, so Jesus leads us through the darkness of this world. And when we follow Him, as Luke states, we have the “light of life.”

Jesus declared, “I am the Light of the world.” He permeated the darkness and frustration of his day by bringing hope and promise to a frustrated world. Now by our Christmas lights, may we bring to a hurting world a little bit of brightness that affirms the good news found in that one is the “light of life?” For, in all the twinkling lights of Christmas, we are reminded of the reason we celebrate with joy despite all of our frustrations. Our joy cannot be boxed, frustration cannot win. For in the love and enlightenment of the child laid in the straw, light has entered our world and darkness has been overcome. What a joy to see all the lights that enlighten our neighborhoods on cold December nights. What joy is to be experienced as we cast our frustrations onto the shoulders of the one who is the “light of the world” – Jesus!

In “the light of the world” we are the recipients of an amazing love, one who was willing to bear our frustrations, help us untangle the messes of life, and offer us a life filled with wondrous moments and joy. Though we often try to untangle our messes alone, there is One who stands at our side shedding light on our darkest moments. He is always close, and always willing to show us the way. I cannot image what it would be like to always walk alone, to remain in the darkness, when the “light of the world” is close at hand and willing to bless us beyond all we can dream of or imagine. Those who follow “the light of the world” will witness the way He connects our everyday lives, in untangling a hopeless strand of old Christmas lights, with the joy of celebrating life each day for all eternity.

So, twinkle on, Christmas lights! And, may we understand that even when we're unplugged for the season, we still hold the brightness of the one who is “the light of the world” in our hearts.

A Blessed Christmas to All! Pastor Dick

Discipleship Ministry

THE RADIO BROADCAST OF PASTOR HUTTON'S
SERMONS IS AN ONGOING MINISTRY OF FIRST
LUTHERAN and CHRIST THE SERVANT

Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:

KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia.

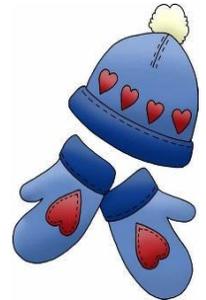
The radio stations website: kiicradio.com

(click on the “Listen Live” button)

If you miss the broadcast on Sunday, you can also catch it as a podcast on the church’s website: firstlutheran-christtheservant.org

THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!!
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A WEEKLY BROADCAST for any occasion, an anniversary, a birthday, in memory or honor of someone, or some other reason, we invite you to consider giving a gift to sponsor the broadcast. The cost of a weekly sponsorship is \$35, or you can just give any amount to help us pay for the broadcast. It will be our intent to acknowledge the sponsor each week at the conclusion of the broadcast, unless you prefer to remain anonymous. To check and find out if the Sunday you’d like to sponsor is available, please call the church office and talk to Tiffany (641-774-4875).

- December 5 Rod & Gayle Bortz
- December 12 Del & Karen Kray in celebration of Del’s Birthday
- December 19 Del & Karen Kray in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary.
- December 26 Delores Ranshaw in Thanksgiving of Harlan Ranshaw’s Memorials.



Stewardship Ministry

STOCKING HAT & MITTENS

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE: is working on our congregation’s annual hats and mittens project for the Headstart children. This year due to Covid we will be giving them a Thrivent gift card. They will do their own ordering again this year. If you would like to contribute to this gift, please make checks payable to SCICAP and on the memo line of your check please write Lucas County Headstart, and your give your contribution to LuAnn Mosbach.

Thank you! - LuAnn, Jean, and Allison.



SALVATION ARMY

BELL RINGING OPPORTUNITY

First Lutheran will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell on Saturday, December 11, in front of Dollar General. The sign up sheet on the desk in the Fireside Room is full. But there are plenty more



opportunities for ringing. Please contact Patti Bisgard or Delores Ranshaw if you are interested in helping with this ministry. Thank you!



⋮⋮⋮

On the Vine

PRAYER SHAWL/BABY AFGHAN MISSION will gather in the FLC Library, beginning at 1:30 PM, on the following date:

Wednesday, December 1

FLC BUDGET MEETING will take place on:

Saturday, December 4

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather at the home of Miriam Hibbs, beginning at 1 PM, on the following date:

Thursday, December 9

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE will take place at First Lutheran from 1:30-4:30pm on:

Sunday, December 12

BREAKFAST GALS will meet in the Fireside Room at FLC, beginning at 8 AM, on the following date:

Tuesday, December 14

Please bring 2 dozen cookies for our exchange, new Christmas cards and a Christmas gift.

“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING at CTS will take place from 9 AM – 3 PM on:

Tuesday, December 14

Come when you can and leave when you need to!! We have something for everyone to do: sewing and non-sewing!

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP (LAF) will get together at 5 PM in the Fireside Room on:

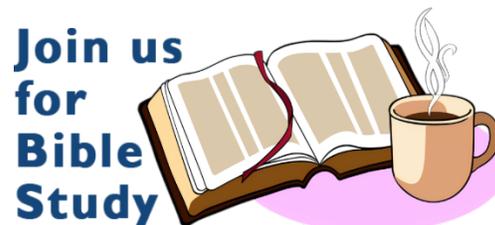
Sunday, December 19

Please bring a food item to share and a Christmas gift.

THE SNOW REMOVAL SCHEDULE is now posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room. Please check your schedule to see when you may be able to help with this ministry, and sign up on the posted schedule. If you prefer, you can call the church office (641-774-4875) and have Tiffany put you on the schedule. Please consider helping with this important ministry.

THE CTS WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet at Noon on:

Tuesday, December 21





First Lutheran Church
Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
1004 Curtis Ave • Chariton, Iowa 50049

the

Pastor Dick Hutton
email: flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
FaceBook: First Lutheran Church ELCA, Chariton, IA
and Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
phone: 641-774-4875

De
ce
mb
er

**** CONFIRMATION STUDENTS FILLED
COMMUNITY BLESSING BOXES**

**** ADVENT SERVICES at FLC**
- December 1, 8, and 15 at 7 PM

**** CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
- December 12 at 9 am

**** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
-- Chariton: 5:00 PM
-- Corydon: 6:30 PM

**Be Bold
Share**



**in our Faith as Children of God and
the Good News of Salvation with All People**

(First Lutheran Mission Statement)

Share the Joy of Christ, and Serve Others

(Christ the Servant Mission Statement)



First Lutheran Church Chariton, IA
 flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
 (641)774-4875
 Worship and Sunday School 9 AM

Pastor Dick Hutton

Christ the Servant Corydon, IA
 Office: 641-774-4875
 Sunday School 10 AM
 Worship 11 AM

December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Tiffany's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8 AM – 3 PM</p>			<p>1 <u>1:30 pm</u>- Prayer/Shawl Meeting <u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 FLC Budget Mtg. AA – Alcoholics Anonymous <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>5 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship & Sunday School <u>10 am</u>- CTS Sunday School <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship</p>	<p>6 <u>6 pm</u> – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room</p>	<p>7 <u>10 am</u> – Worship and Music Committee Mtg. <u>11:30 am</u>– Lucas Co. ICC Meeting <u>6:30 pm</u>– Southgate Service</p>	<p>8 <u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>9 <u>1 pm</u> – Women of the ELCA</p>	<p>10 Office Closed</p>	<p>11 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>12 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – CTS & FLC Worship & Sunday School <u>1:30 pm</u>- Pastor Dick's Christmas Open House at FLC</p>	<p>13 <u>2 pm</u>–Laplanners Quilt Guild at CTS <u>6:30 pm</u>–Council at FLC</p>	<p>14 <u>8 am</u> – Breakfast Gals In Fireside Room <u>9 am-3 pm</u> – Blanket Making at CTS</p>	<p>15 <u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>

<p>19 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u>–Chariton Worship & Sunday School <u>10 am</u> – Sunday School at CTS <u>11 am</u>–Christ the Servant, Corydon <u>6 pm</u> – Lutheran Adult Fellowship</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 <u>Noon</u> – CTS Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service <u>5:00 pm</u>-Chariton <u>6:30 pm</u>-Corydon</p>	<p>25</p>  <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>26 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u>–Chariton Worship & Sunday School <u>10 am</u> – Sunday School at CTS <u>11 am</u>–Christ the Servant, Corydon</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

