

Ambassadors of Christ

The Upside-Down of Christmas

Theologian Halford Luccock once saw a shopper “who looked like an animated Christmas tree with packages dangling from every limb.” When he retrieved some [her] dropped bags, she grumbled that Christmas “turns everything upside down.” Luccock replied, “That is just what it was made for!”

He explained: “Christmas is a story about a baby, and that is a baby’s chief business, turning things upside down. ... A baby in a family divides time into two eras, just as Christmas does. There is B.C., which means ‘before child,’ and A.D., which means ‘after deluge.’”

When God became flesh, the lowly, last, least and lost were exalted, added Luccock. As a result, “the locked-up treasures of kindness and sympathy come from the inside of the heart, where they are often kept imprisoned, to the outside of actual expression in deed and word.” The Christ-child “enables all [people] to get at the best treasures of their lives and offer them for use.”

- December 13—Youth Christmas Party and Caroling. Last day of CSI until next year.
 - December 16 — Bake Sale from 9-11:30
 - December 24 — Regular Service 9:30
 - **Christmas Eve Service** at 5:00
 - December 25 — **Christmas Morning Service** at 9:30



Pastor Scott Kiehn

Church Council
President - Shelly George
Vice Pres - Donna Lee
Secretary - Bev Johnson
Education/Youth - Mandy Rasmusan/Darcie Waarvik
Finance - Donna Lee
Property - Marvin Johnson
Discipleship - Tara Wesen
Stewardship - Maxwell Knodel
Worship - Judi Martin

Our Staff
Youth/Family Coordinator
Daniel Brandt
Secretary

Sandy Carpenter
Financial Secretary
Peggy Hansen
Church Treasurer
Leanne Fontaine
Church Cleaner
Debora MacDonald

Choir Director
Colleen Thompson
Kathy Smith, accompanist
Organist/Pianist
Audra Breigenzer
Jennifer Fewer

Inside This Issue

- Pastor’s Letter
- Council Notes
- Bake Sale
- Mr. Lefse recipes
- Lifting update
- Summer Camp—Save \$100
- Power of Gratitude
- Song of Thanksgiving
- Staff Spotlight—Dan Brandt

Color newsletter on website.

November Pastor Note:

Attitude can make all the difference. Do you have an attitude of gratitude or an attitude of scarcity? As we look ahead to November, we cannot help but focus on Thanksgiving. A day that we are called to remember all those things that we are thankful for. It makes a profound difference in your life when you start each day with an attitude of gratitude. Focusing each day on the things we are thankful for instead of what we have lost or what we are lacking. What are you thankful for?

What I am thankful for right now is the hiring of our new Youth Director, Dan Brandt. He is already making a big difference in our congregation and for me personally. Dan has been involved in Confirmation, CSI, mid-week worship coordination, Youth events and activities for both Senior High and Middle School youth groups. If you haven’t had the opportunity yet introduce yourself to him and visit with him.

I am also thankful for all of the volunteers that get things done and keep our ministry going. First Lutheran Church was one of the host sites for the Synod’s

Bishops Convocation on October 24th. Thank you to Donna Lee and all who helped make that event possible. Also, a huge Thank You to everyone who helped with and participated in the celebration and potluck commemorating the 100-year dedication of our building on Reformation Sunday, October 29th. Thank you to Debby Cornwell for coordinating this event.

As you can see, I am thankful for all of you and all that you accomplish in the name of Jesus for our congregation, the community, and the greater church. Take a moment and think of all the things and people that you are thankful for, once you have made your list give thanks to God for all of these things and people. Then take a moment and tell the people for whom you are thankful that you are thankful for them and why.

As we move forward with all of our programs, activities, educational events, and worship opportunities I pray that we can gather as one in Christ and focus on what is most important to our faith journey together. In Christ,
Pastor Scott



Song of Thanksgiving

After retiring from the ministry in England, the Rev. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) became a prolific hymn writer. Some people have compared his talents to those of Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist Church.

Green’s popular Thanksgiving hymn “For the Fruit of His Creation” (# 679) calls worshipers to move beyond gratitude to their responsibilities for other people and for God’s creation. The hymn’s closing lines sum up why Christians can give thanks throughout the year: “For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.”

December Pastor Note:

Advent is here and Christmas is on the way. During this hectic time I pray that you find time to reflect on what the season of Advent is all about. When we think of preparing for Christmas most of us focus on the lists of things that need to be done. We get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. But what does it really mean to prepare for the coming of the Christ child on Christmas? In the gospel reading for the second Sunday of Advent Mark 1:1-8 we hear of John the Baptist coming to prepare the way. So what does John the Baptist do to prepare the way? He baptizes people and tells them to repent. To repent is to literally turn around and go in a different direction, in this sense it is to live into the forgiveness of baptism. To go in a new direction. During

this season of Advent look forward to Christmas when Christ comes to us as a Babe in the manger, but also know that through your baptism you belong to Christ now. Christ is with you now. Maybe instead of getting caught up in the lists of things that need to be done to get ready for Christmas make some quiet time to reflect on what your baptism means to you. What does it mean that you are a baptized child of God?

In Christ,
Pastor Scott



“Lifting to New Levels”

Log on to the church’s website at flcglasgow.org to review the plans. Please consider participating in these significant improvements. Donations may be mailed to the church, delivered in person, or made online through Tithe.ly.com.

On September 24, the congregation overwhelmingly approved the purchase of the lift equipment and architect fee. It will be stored until all funding is in place. Every year, as we all know, the prices for everything keep going up and hopefully the purchase now will keep costs closer to the goal.

Update 11/22/22:
The plans for the new lift that will reach all four levels of our church property have been updated and sent out for bid.

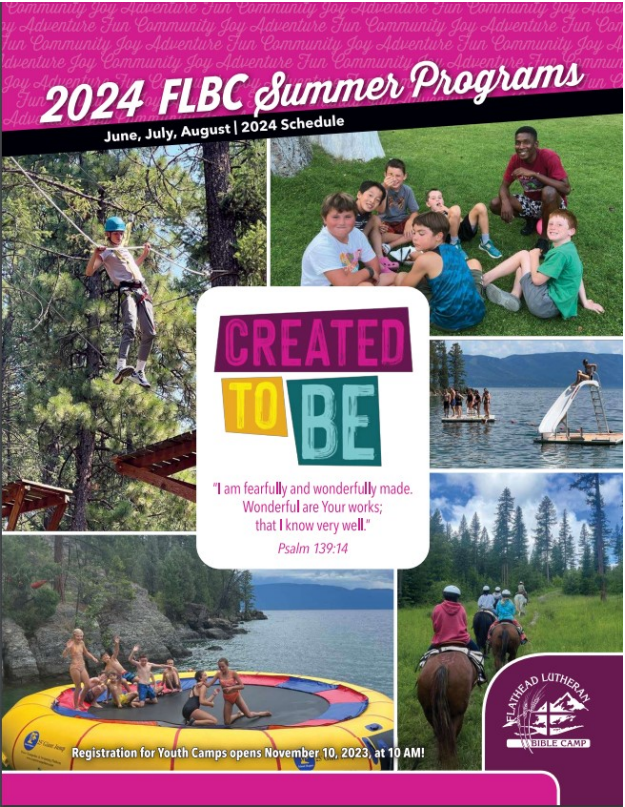
Bidding will close December 15, 2023, at 3:00 P.M. The bids will be opened in the church narthex at that time. Please feel free to join the Church Council and the Steering Committee for this exciting event.

Thank you to all who have so generously contributed to this significant and lasting building project.

“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.” Hebrews 3:4



Jon Mattfeldt built a wooden model of the lift project then turned it into a nifty bank. If everyone dropped in the price of a specialty drink, think how much it would add up to? We can do this. Bit by bit. Level 1 is almost full. Time to fill up to Level 2!



Early Registration — Save \$100

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp offers a Christ-centered camping experience for people of all ages. The staff is trained to help campers understand God’s message of grace and to provide positive Christian role models while having an amazing experience in God’s great outdoors! For YOUTH camp sessions, register by March 1st and receive \$100 off your camper fees.

2024 ELCA Youth Gatherings

For any youth interested in traveling to New Orleans to attend one of the Created to Be Youth events, a deposit of \$150 is due by 1/3/24. Please talk to Dan for additional information. This is event is every 4 years for youth from all over to gather and be part of something bigger. elca.org/gathering, also find them on social media @elcagathering.

Notices

- **Service/Event Team** is Team E: Kar-yl Barnes & Mary Sue Knodel followed by Team F: Bev Johnson & Lynette Schultz. Coffee Leader for December is Lynette Schultz. On-call list is from Hughes to Lloyd.
- If you want to help out with services and events, it is welcomed. Every little bit helps when putting together a luncheon, even if all you want to do is bake some bars or a make a salad! Call Sandy in the office to get on the list.
- Next **Noisy Offering** (Dec 31) is for the High School Youth to support their 2024 budget.
- Wolf Point is having a Smorgasbord Dec 10 from Noon-2.
- Anybody wanting offering envelopes for next year (2024), please sign up in Narthex or call the office. 406-228-4862.



Login or register on Reyn-old’s website. Then go to rewards and my rewards. Click on the **Friends of Reynolds** button and add the charity (#1006) you would like to support. You can only support one charity at a time. For help, come see Sandy in the office and she’ll get you set up. Your grocery shopping is worth it. Use #1006 as charity.

Food Bank

- Dec 3 Nut Butter
- Dec 10 Shelf-stable Milk
- Dec 12 Crackers
- Dec 24 Applesauce/fruit
- Dec 31 Meals in a Box

First Lutheran Church WELCA
SCANDINAVIAN
Bake Sale

December 16, 2023 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am
Pre-ordering available and encouraged for guaranteed selection of Scandinavian goodies. Call or bring pre-order slips to the office.

We are asking for your help so open your cookbook and find your family’s favorite. Bake it and bring it. Cakes, cookies, breads and rolls or whatever you enjoy making and can share are encouraged. Bring the goods to the church kitchen by December 15.

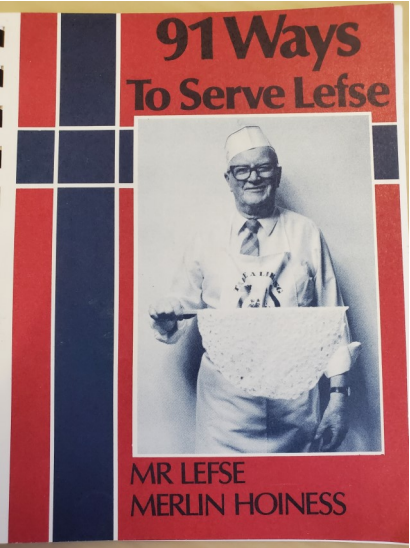
Updated Baking Schedule:

- Krumkake**
Nov. 26 after church & Nov. 28 at 1:00
- Rosettes**
Dec. 3 after church & Dec. 5 at 1:00
- Lefse**
Dec. 10 after church
- Fattigmann**
Dec. 12 at 1:00



Volunteers needed. Join any session. No experience needed!

First Lutheran Church - 641 2nd Ave North - 406-939-4657 - firstlutheran@nemont.net - flcglasgow.org



From Mr. Lefse
Page 11:
Egg Salad Roll—Cut the lefse in 6 pieces. Place a small amount of egg salad on each piece. Roll up and have for lunch.
Party Plate—Cut lefse in pie shaped pieces and spread with French onion dip. Use a different kind of cold meat on each piece. Roll up.
Grandchildren Lefse—Have children draw pictures on paper. Cut the pattern out and use it for lefse. Spread with butter and sugar and eat.
And for a special treat from page 8:
Liver & Onion Roll—Fry pork liver and onions. Drain off fat. Lay on lefse and roll up.

FLC Council Highlights

September 18, 2023

(Complete printed or electronic copies of the minutes are available from the church office.)

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelly George, Donna Lee, Judi Martin, Max Knodel, Mandy Rasmusan, Jon Mattfeldt, Tara Wesen. Others present: Leanne Fontaine, Pastor Scott. Absent Bev Johnson and Marvin Johnson.

TREASURERS REPORT: Total Income for August \$12,572.60, Total Expenses for August \$16,625.76. August cash flow \$-4,053.16, YTD cash flow \$-12,783.33.

- Paid the Ostlund’s Fire Protection’s annual inspection bill in the amount of \$440.00,
- Sunday Brunches – The Stewardship Team will be putting on the October Second Sunday brunch. It will be after the Church Service on October 8, 2023.
- CSI starts Wednesday. They will review the curriculum with the teachers. All the grades are covered.
- The Discipleship Team continues to deliver bulletins each week and prepare the newsletters for mailing. There are 5

- Sundays in October so there will be a Noisy Offering. The Discipleship team will collect /count the Noisy Offering after the church service on October 29th.
- The deck at the parsonage is being built. It is being paid for by a private donation.
 - The Church received \$9,881.00 in stock for the lift fund. It was put into a money market account.
 - The sewer at the parsonage was fixed. The city will pay for the repairs since it was caused when the city replaced a manhole in the street.
 - Pastor Scott reported that he has funerals on September 18 and 29, continues services at Prairie Ridge and Valley View. Pastor will be gone from September 11-14. He has interviewed a couple of people for the Youth Director position, and the Divine Drama Series starts tomorrow.

Meet Dan Brandt — Youth & Family Coordinator

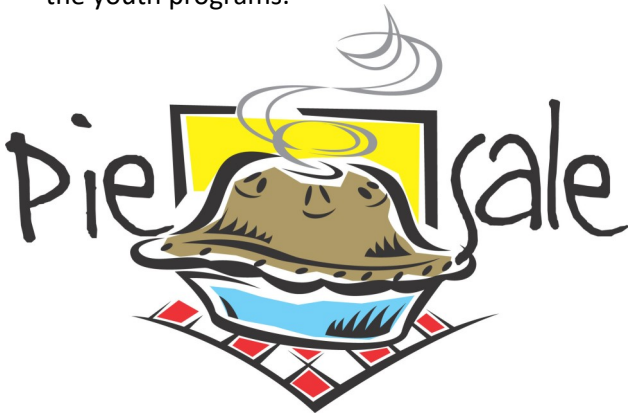


- 37 years old
- Confirmed at FLC in 2001
- Favorite Bible Verse: John 4:4
- Hobbies include hunting & fishing with family.
- Favorite Sports Team: Raiders
- Favorite Foods: Pizza, Sea food, scallops especially and anything home made by Mom, Diane.
- 1 Dog, a golden retriever, “Annie”.
- Into muscle cars (Moped) & Scotties sports.

Core goals: Teach kids about God, help them get closer to Creator, spiritual development and to be involved in church.

Stew Feed & Pie Auction

Thanks to Myron Malnaa, Shelly George and everyone who bought a pie and all the help for making the Stew Feed/Pie Auction such a great success. Over \$3200 was raised for the youth programs.



At Holiday and “Holy Day” Times

From *Tips for Creative and Courageous Faith Sharing in Daily Life* by David Poling-Goldenne

—Rember that some people are more inclined to first come to church at Christmas or Easter. Look for creative ways to invite a friend, neighbor or co-worker to worship or to a special holiday event.

—At Christmas time, provide faith-related gifts and storybooks to neighbor children, teachers, and friends.

—Share verbally why Christmas and Easter are times of celebration for you and your family.

How do you know when the moon is going broke?

Answer: When it's down to it's last quarter.

First Lutheran Church

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of God’s world as Ambassadors of Christ.



The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie

grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
Permit #6
PAID
Glasgow, MT
59230

First Lutheran Church
641 2nd Avenue North
Glasgow, Montana 59230
Phone: 406-228-4862
firstlutheran@nemont.net
www.flcglasgow.org
Change Service Requested