

THE INSPIER

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church

August 2024



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420 1st Street NW
P.O. Box 191
Clarion, IA 50525

Church Office
Mon-Fri 12:30-4:30 PM
515-532-3440
firstlutheranclarion@gmail.com

Food Pantry
2nd & 4th Thursdays
5-6:30 PM



firstlutheranclarion.com

Welcome to our community!

The First Lutheran Church is a congregation of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) and the [Northeastern Iowa Synod](#). We pray that worshiping with us will give you a sense of fellowship with Christ and with us as God's people, as well as comforts and strength for all your needs. Because we are inspired by God's great love, we seek to lead Christ centered lives, grow in faith and ignite generous spirits. And through our values we believe... YOU are loved, YOU belong, YOU are called, and YOU are gifted.

NE Iowa Synod Ministry Fair

BRUCE & JOAN VOIGTS | ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

We represented First Lutheran Church, Clarion at the 2024 Northeastern Iowa Synod's first Creative Collaborative Congregations (C3) Ministry Fair held June 1, 2024 at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa. We visited displays, attended the worship service, and four workshops.

Enabling Your Congregation To Be Stronger and Your Youth Be Safer

(Rev. Al Erickson and Kathryn Koob)
Pastor Erickson said, "God revealed to me two major Biblical mandates missing in my ministry to save kids. First, equip parents and grandparents to pass on the faith and safeguard their children. Luther said that parents are bishops, apostles, and priests. They deserve training. Secondly, all congregational members be prayed for."

Ukraine – Moral Trauma

(Rev. John Sheahan) This presentation highlighted a mission trip to train Ukrainians on Moral Trauma along with teaching the participants as to why we need to continue to support our brothers and sisters of this war-torn country.

Jesus said: You Feed Them. How?

(Rev. Kim and Diane Wills) How do you start and maintain a food ministry? The Wills shared what they have learned from starting a Mobile Food Pantry in 2016 and turned that into a food pantry that owns its own building. They talked about how to source food and the importance of building partnerships.

The Wills represented Zion-St. John, Sheffield. They shared about the community support and faith in God that guided the development of the West Fork

Food Pantry with community volunteers and five congregations. Three things stood out: “We have to be willing to listen to God and to one another. We have to have open and caring hearts. We have to follow Christ, always.”

Divina Moments: Many Ways to Listen for God

(Rev. Joy Edeker) Divine reading involves listening for God through prayerful, reflective reading of scripture which involved praying with music, poetry, art/photography, and video.

Lectio divina, “divine reading,” involves listening for God through prayerful, reflective reading of scripture. Pastor Joy Edeker will lead this workshop to help those attending learn about and experience this ancient spiritual practice,

as well as a few creative variations of Lectio divina that involve music, doodling and artwork. These practices can be incorporated into worship services and midweek evening services during Advent and Lent.

Last year (2023) at the Synod Assembly, it was decided that there will be a Synod Assembly every other year, on the odd years. This year (2024) and in the even years moving forward, there will be Creative Collaborative Congregations (C3) = Ministry Fair. In 2025, there will be a Synod Assembly.

Thank you to our congregation for the opportunity to attend the synod assembly and represent First Lutheran Church of Clarion.

July Council notes

BARB MUSSMAN | COUNCIL SECRETARY

JULY 10—President Austin Charlson called the meeting to order and opened with prayer at 7:05 PM. Other members present were Michael McLoughlin, Zach Dahlgren, Gretta Bauman, Trudy Bloxham, and Joyce Charlson. Also present was Shelby Fisher (Office Secretary). Barb was unable to attend.

Ballot Results

- Counted by Gretta, Trudy, Austin, and Michael
- Work w/ Dows (Option 1): 22
- Work w/ GUPC & UCC (Option 2): 50

President’s Report

- Sent letter to congregation
- Three councils will meet July 31

Secretary’s Report

- Approved the June minutes

Office Report

- Approved Shelby’s PTO August 19-23

Treasurer’s Report

**Last month’s totals in parentheses.*

General Account: \$76,098.25 (\$77,408.11)

- Inflow: \$4,087.92 (\$16,929.07)
- Outflow: \$5,397.78 (\$10,707.98)
- First Citizens: \$10,301.03 (\$16,885.58)
- Good Samaritan: \$1,708.25 (\$1,708.25)
- Youth Funds: \$1,079.74 (\$1,079.74)
- Vanguard: \$65,797.22 (\$60,522.53)

Memorial Fund: \$19,864.97 (\$19,781.57)

- First Citizens: \$579.42 (\$579.42)
- Vanguard: \$19,285.55 (\$19,202.15)

Food Pantry: \$27,798.47 (\$26,869.08)

Parsonage: \$163,159.12 (\$159,006.76)

NOTES:

- Transferred \$1,800 from General Fund to Food Pantry that was incorrectly deposited
- Transferred \$5,000 from General Fund to Vanguard
- Approved the June report

Administration

Austin Charlson (Pres.)*
Zack Dahlgren (VP)*
Barb Mussman (Sec.)*

Finance

Michael McLoughlin (Treasurer)*
Jim Dahlgren
LeAnn Johnson
Marcia Larsen

Worship

Joyce Charlson*
Austin Charlson*

Christian Education

Dani Scheffel*

Evangelism

Gretta Bauman*
Jerrine Cayler
Jane Dettman

Community

Trudy Bloxham*
Cathy Cramer
Pat Kirsten

Prop & Maintenance

Mark Cramer*
Rick Rasmussen*

Nominating

Mark & Cathy Cramer
Bruce & Joan Voigts

Auditing

Rod Brooks
Jean Ridenour
Bruce Voigts

Endowment

Zach Dahlgren*
Jane Dettman
Jean Ridenour
Arlan Urness

Staff

Shelby Fisher (Office)
Kara Curry (Ptr. Care)
Jackie Zeiger (Custodian)

*Council Member



August Host

First Lutheran

Lord's Supper

August 18



ELCA Prayer Ventures

Remember our neighbors who are most vulnerable to hot weather, including older adults, children, people who are ill and those without shelter. Pray that they will find public cooling centers and neighbors offering relief.



Ingham Okoboji

712-337-3306

registrar@okoboji.org

Riverside

515-733-5271

rlbc@riversidelbc.org

Ewalu Retreat Center

563-933-4700

camp@ewalu.org

Pastoral Care

- Shelby will be contact person for any questions Kara Curry may have
- Invited Kara to next Council meeting
- Fireside Room will be used for spiritual counseling—needs cleaning out

Chairman Reports

FLCW:

- None

CHRISTIAN ED:

- Michael will talk to Dani about VBS
- Austin will talk to Nikki Conlon

PROP. & MAINTENANCE:

- Security system is working well

FOOD PANTRY:

- Operating well

New Business

- Accepted Synod Meeting report from Bruce & Joan—thank you!

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for August 14 at 7:00 PM.

**Full minutes are sent via our email list and published on our website.*

07/16/24 Addendum of Minutes

- Kara accepted our invitation to join the August Council meeting
- Nikki informed Austin about a FLC volunteer for VBS. More volunteers required.

Our community

16 [Prairie Homestead Show](#)
Belmond • 7 AM–10 PM

23 [School Year Resumes](#)
CGD School District

29 [Rowan Church Rummage Sale](#)
Rowan School • 8 AM–5 PM

29 [AAUW Clarion Book Sale](#)
802 4th St SW • 8 AM–5 PM

29 [Hwy 3 Yard Sales](#)
Franklin, Butler, Wright Counties

[Clarion Farmers Market \(Jun–Sep\)](#)
Main Street • Saturdays 9–11 AM

[Wright Community Connections](#)
215 N. Main Street • Hours vary

[Weekly Card Games \(TWF\)](#)
Senior Citizens Center • 1:30–3:30 PM

Bible camp events



Hog Roast Pie Auction
August 25 • 4–6 PM

Fall Eldersversity
September 8–10

Women's Day Away
October 12



Weekend Fall Recharges

- Oct 18–19: Juniors (Grades 3–6)
- Nov 8–9: Junior High (Grades 6–9)
- Nov 22–24: High School (Grades 9–12)



Quilt Auction
September 21 • 9 AM–2 PM

Superior Hiking Trail
Backpacking Trip
September 27–October 1

Autumn Odyssey 55+
Retreat
October 14–16

Navigating Transitions: From Summer to Fall, from Struggle to Strength

DEB WHITFORD | LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA

Though the longer days of summer, BBQs, and running through sprinklers are coming to an end, cool evenings at the football stadium, beautiful color-changing leaves, and spending the school day with friends are upon us. As Iowans prepare for the multicolored season of autumn, LSI is here to help you navigate the changing of the seasons. Transitions can be a difficult time for anyone, and LSI provides services to ease the process of change.

Our Immigrant and Refugee Community Services help new arrivals to the U.S. resettle and start a life in Iowa. Our Host Homes program helps adults living with disabilities transition to greater independence through a mentor-mentee relationship. Our Early Childhood Services prepare parents expecting a child for a healthy birth and provide support as children transition from milestone to

milestone. Our foster parents provide safe, loving homes for children moving through the foster system as they await adoption.

Whether we're helping someone through a difficult life transition in therapy or teaching former refugees English and cultural competency skills, at LSI we're there every step of the way. If you need support during a transition in your life, visit LSIowa.org to learn more about our services.

If you are interested in volunteering with LSI for God's Work, Our Hands, talk to your pastor and have them contact philanthropy@LSIowa.org.

For more information please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Pastoral Care

Kara Curry is our new Pastoral Care Provider! Her duties include visitations, spiritual counseling, congregational support, bible study, prayer ministry, etc.

515-851-1071 • karadcurry@gmail.com

MON	11-12 @ UCC
TUE	9-12 @ FLC 1-3 @ UCC
WED	9-12 @ GUPC

This month in history

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

AUGUST 15—The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning "God-bearer." Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate, and it revealed God's presence among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.



August 5–August 10

Ephesians 4:17-24
1 Corinthians 12:27-31
Mark 8:1-10
Romans 15:1-6
Galatians 6:1-10
Matthew 7:7-11

August 12–August 17

Ephesians 5:1-14
2 Peter 3:14-18
John 6:35-40
Galatians 4:4-7
Romans 16:17-20
John 4:7-26

August 19–August 24

Acts 6:1-7
Acts 7:9-16
Mark 8:14-21
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Romans 13:11-14
1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

August 26–August 31

Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Ephesians 6:21-24
John 15:16-25
James 1:1-8
James 1:9-16
John 18:28-32