

Advent Festival

DECEMBER 3RD



Celebrate!
The Joy and Wonder
of Christmas

Christmas Cantata

First Lutheran Church
212 2nd Street NW, Watford City
Wednesday, Dec. 13th at 6:30 pm
No admission ~ Reception to follow

**ALL ARE
WELCOME!**

DECEMBER
17TH @ 9:30 AM



DECEMBER 24TH
@ 5:00 PM WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

Office will be closed on Dec 25 & 26



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH *Watford City*

The Clarion December 2023

A word from Minister Matthew

Grace and Peace to You

December is the time the community gathers to celebrate the joy of the Christmas Advent season. Lights go up on houses, Sunday School/LYO kids wave from a float in the Parade of Lights, Trees are brought into homes, and the church performs the Hanging of The Green's ceremony while the colors of the alter are changed. It is amazing the beauty and generosity that surrounds us this season. Let the beauty of this season remind us of the beauty of this Bible passage:

Luke 2:8-14 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Thank you to all who lovingly packed up 'Operation Christmas Child' boxes! It's a wonderful experience to deliver these boxes to the drop off point Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Sid-

They are so committed & start their campaign in July, tracking packages around the world! They pray over each bunch that is delivered to their door, pack up thousands of boxes & deliver eventually to Denver for further distribution to kids all over the globe. What a wonderful ministry! God bless each & every box & everyone & every step it takes to get these gifts to their destination. Praying each child feels the love of God in these gifts!



First Lutheran Church December Worship , Sunday School & Confirmation Schedule

Sunday December 3rd

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Advent Festival & Decorating the Church

Sunday December 10th

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School/ Coffee Hour

Sunday December 17th

9:30 am Sunday School program in place of worship-
with Holy Communion

10:30 am Sunday School/ Coffee Hour

Sunday December 24th

5:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 31st

9:30 am Worship

Confirmation Classes to be held each Wednesday at
6:00 pm with supper and instruction to follow.





On November 14th and 15th it was time to make the yearly Lefse. It is a lot of work but boy did we have a good team and a lot of fun. The Lefse went to a good cause. It was donated to the First Lutheran WELCA Fall Bazaar. The LYO kids jumped right in to help and they did a great job!



Women's SEEKING HIM SERVING OTHERS Ministry

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Wednesday December 6th

10:00 AM WELCA

Sunday December 10th

Joint Circle Meeting after coffee hour

The Circle monthly meetings include a Bible Study from the "Gatherings" magazine, short business meeting, lunch and great fellowship.



The first annual fall bazaar was held on Sunday, November 19, following services. This included a presentation by County Emergency Manager Karolin Jappe on emergency preparedness; a chili feed sponsored by the First Lutheran Council; and shopping visiting opportunities.

The ladies of First Lutheran had supplied an array of jellies, pickles and baked goods. Lefse was provided by the LYO and didn't last long!! The quilting ladies had donated many items including lap quilts and a variety of table runners/centerpieces. A variety of sizes and colors of crocheted hats were available. There was a silent auction for a quilt that was won by Kim Rolfson.

The total proceeds from the sale were \$1,890, which WELCA will use for expenses and benevolences. It is hoped that this can be an annual event and that more ladies will be inspired to contribute their specialties next year!!





The youth have been busy here at First Lutheran. In November they went bowling in Williston, 4 kids from 1st, 2 from Youth for Christ and 1 from Banks attended. It's so nice for all the kids to be able to have fun together.

On November 23rd we had the Parade of Lights on Main St. We had 10 kids attend for this as well.

December 17th will be the Sunday School program at 9:30 am in place of worship.

February 16-19 we will be going to Red Lodge to Ski!

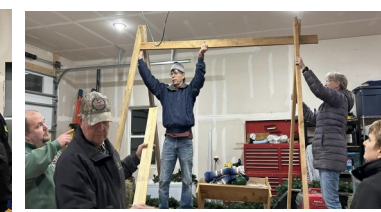
Please have your children turn in their permission slips by December 15th if they are going to attend.

In July of 2024 is the National ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! We would fly out on July 15 and return on July 21. What a great adventure this will be!!

So.. what is the Gathering? Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. Please have the registration forms in by December 15th. Your child must be in 8-12 grade.



The theme for this years parade was "Keep It Merry" so we gave it a little twist. Fun & laughs with these kids & families who built, braved the cold, and still stuck around to tear it apart. May we always keep the 'reason for the season' in the forefront as we enter this crazy beautiful season! Special Thank You to Marcia Hellandsaas for the wonderful heated garage & hot chocolate, Jarvis Sorenson for the trailer, bales and generator.





Serving others is clearly important in the eyes of God. Loving and caring for our neighbors during times of need, times of distress, and times of celebration can often fall by the wayside in our busy day to day lives. During the creation of the Care Team and in the thoughts, conversations and meetings ever since, “becoming neighbors again” has been a phrase that has been repeated over and over.

The Care Team was created in the Spring of 2023 under the Stewardship and Evangelism committee. The purpose of the Care Team is to care for our neighbors during tough times and celebrate with them during good times.

The Care Team has been busy sending cards of celebration, encouragement, and sympathy. We have gathered to prepare hotdishes and delivered them to our neighbors to celebrate new babies and new homes or uplift the ill and injured. We have created care packages to deliver to our neighbors along with a familiar face and a prayer during times of loss.

If serving others is something you are interested in we would love to have you join us on the Care Team!

Recipe of the Month

Melt in Your Mouth Toffee

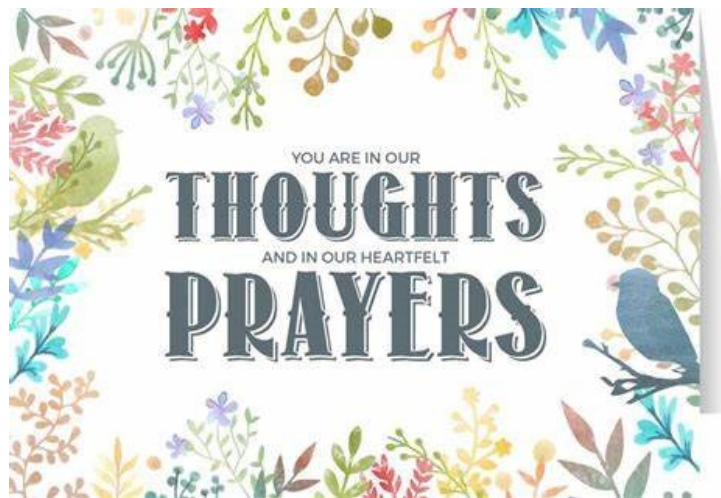
Ingredients

1 lb Butter 1 C Sugar 1 C Packed Brown Sugar
1 C Chopped Walnuts 2 C Chocolate Chips

Directions

In a heavy saucepan, combine butter and sugars. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture boils. Boil to brittle stage, 300 degrees without stirring. Remove from heat.

Pour nuts and chocolate into a 9x13 dish. Pour hot mixture over the nuts and chocolate. Let the mixture cool and break into pieces before serving



† Dain Reeves (son of Justine & Alycia)	
† Micah Moxness	† Joyce Tveter
† Jacob Faulkner	† JoAnn Faulkner
† Melinda Haugeberg	† Bryan Fevold
† Ron & Barb Quale	† Eleanor Kostad
† Melony Sanford	† Rachel Meuchel
† Julie Fedoranko	† Brandon Kindred

If you know of someone needing prayers please contact the church office at 701-444-3244 or emailing office@flcwc.church



A huge shout out to the November volunteers that help worship run smoothly.

Matthew Beard, Darlene Stevens, Steve & Gretchen Stenehem, Cliff & Tarri Wenstad, Steve & Val Williams, Jim Riely, David & Celeste Berg, Ardyce Alvishere, Cindy Geiger, Kevin Sullivan, Lynn Haugeberg, Glen & Ann Beard, Joy Patten, Sue Jorgenson, Curtis & Jennifer Sorenson, Robin & Anna Schwartz, Caroline Schwartz. Also, thank you to all of those that provided special music.

We are in need of more people to volunteer so that those that do volunteer don't have to do it every week. Please sign up in the Narthex or call the church office.



12/4 Noelle Bulzomi

12/4 John Fulwider

12/5 Madeline Miller

12/7 Kira Kostad

12/9 Duane Sanford

12/11 Kenneth Berg

12/11 Joyce Hovland

12/13 Elaine Fedorenko

12/13 Carroll Sax

12/15 Darlene Stevens

12/18 Ross Sundeen

12/19 Kathleen Johnson

12/21 Derek Holen

12/21 Yvonne Johnsrud

12/22 Kanyon Tschetter

12/27 Carrie Johnson

12/29 Sage Feilmeier

12/29 Kenneth Sanford

12/30 Shirley Lee

12/30 Aaron Pelton



Happy
Anniversary

12/6 Ed & Charlotte Schilke

12/28 Glenn & Vicky Stenehjelm

12/29 Scott & Jane Swenson

Upcoming EVENTS

12/1 11:30 am Property Meeting

**12/3 9:30 am Hanging of the Greens, Advent Festival,
decorate Church after coffee**

12/6 9:00 am Worship Meeting

10:00 am WELCA Meeting

11:00 am Youth & Ed Meeting

12/7 5:00 pm Stewardship & Evan Meeting @ Teddy's

12/10 11:00 am Joint Circle Meeting

12/13 6:30 pm Cantata

**12/17 9:30 am Sunday School Program in place of wor-
ship**

12/24 5:00 pm Candlelight Service (only service today)

Quilters meet each Monday at 1:00 pm

**Youth for Christ meet each
Thursday at 4:00 pm**

**Communion will be the 1st
and 3rd Sunday of the
month with alternating 5th
sundays.**

