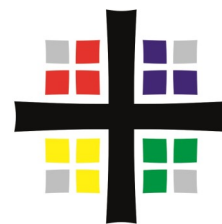


# AUGUST MESSENGER 2017

First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN



## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MARCUS

### First

I have a history with churches named First Lutheran.

In 1960 I began kindergarten at First Lutheran in Knoxville, Tennessee (yes, that's me in the bowtie). I had wonderful teachers, including Miss Judy Wunderlich (see, it's right there in the name!), who met with me on her own time for extra tutoring in the summer when I fell behind in my reading.



*Pastor Marcus, wearing the bowtie*

Two decades later the youth worker at First Lutheran in St. Joseph, Missouri, introduced me to her friend, who introduced me to her friend, a spectacular woman named Martha Halls, whom you will meet soon.

So, this is not the *first* First Lutheran I've been associated with in a significant way. But, that's not what the "First" is really all about, is it? And while I know that "First" has often been a signifier of a congregation's relationship to other congregations (the first to build in town, or the first to use English in worship), that's not really the important thing either.

"I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god" (Isaiah 44:6), we heard in worship recently. God is the one who is truly first among us, and not simply first once upon a time, but "first and last," the one who is always our most trustworthy hope in all things. God is the one who has made Jesus Christ the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18), the first in a family of redemption (Romans 8:29). Jesus is "the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth." "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:5, 8).

When we say we are *First* Lutheran, may it be our witness not about ourselves, but about the One who is first among us—Jesus, firstborn in God's new creation, and the one who is bringing us to the God who first and last, the Alpha and the Omega.

Pastor Marcus Kunz

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### Save The Date!

September 10th:  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
services begin

September 10th:  
Rally Sunday

September 21:  
Meals by Wheels  
Benefit

## AUGUST MESSENGER

### MEALS BY WHEELS

As many of you already know, the Meals by Wheels program brings cold, hot, and frozen meals to homebound adults and persons with disabilities. This program is very important to those recipients of the meals, and they need your help. If you are not already on the list of people that are called to help deliver meals, and would like a new opportunity to serve others, please call the office to be included. The meals are prepared at the Senior Center, and are placed into separate coolers so it is easy to transport them. Each route has about 6 or 7 people on it, and it goes fairly quickly. Many people enjoy driving for Meals by Wheels because it gives them a chance to do something kind for one another.

Some people like to bring their kids along, which can brighten someone's day more than a hot meal. No matter the reason for being involved in Meals by Wheels, join us for a new experience. You might just make a new friend in the process.

August 28-September 1 and September 4-8 is First Lutheran's next two week deliveries. Please email Kelsey at [felstul@gmail.com](mailto:felstul@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.

*"Love one another, as I have loved you."  
John 13:34*

### CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



During the church council monthly meetings we have been discussing the Call Committee process, Interim pastor contracts, Membership roll update and staff reviews.

Pastor Marcus attended his first monthly council meeting on July 11 where he discussed Pastor Martha's current interim call in Chicago and when we can be expecting to have her join us at First Lutheran. They hope to both be in church together on July 30th if you would like to meet her. Pastor Martha is hoping to be joining the team in mid August. A copy of the most recent council minutes is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex and they await approval at the following council meeting.

Please continue to hold each of our council members and committee members in your prayers.

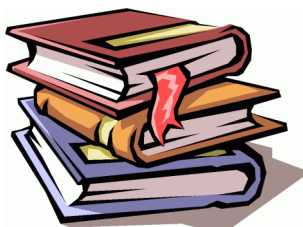
*Greg Peterson, Council President*

### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has met 3 times, most recently with a synod staff representative. The Call Committee completed the Ministry Site Profile which is the first step in starting the Call process to get names of potential pastors. In the near future, the Call Committee will be asking the congregation for names of pastors who may be a good fit for our congregation. If anyone has questions about the Call Committee or Call process please contact Chad Felstul by email at [c.felstul@pemlaw.com](mailto:c.felstul@pemlaw.com) or by phone at [\(218\) 205-1216](tel:2182051216).

### NEW BOOKS AND DVDS ARE HERE

The many new books and DVDs ordered by your Library Committee, with a generous gift from the FL Foundation, will be on the shelves the first week of August. Included are adult books and many DVDs for preschool and Sunday School age children. Children are welcome to visit the Library any time, not just on class designated Sundays.



The Library is open whenever the office is open. Look for new titles displayed in the Narthex and DVDs in the church library. Check them out for your reading pleasure!

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT PEBBLE LAKE, AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:00 A.M.

First Lutheran Church is having their Outdoor Worship and potluck on August 20th at 10 a.m. at the Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter in Fergus Falls. There will not be worship at First Lutheran Church. Please bring a dish to share, there will be hotdogs, buns, and beverages provided. Also, bring a lawn chair to save the best seats in the grass. In case of rain, we will all gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall at First Lutheran Church.



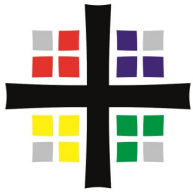
## YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

"It's been a busy summer for the Youth Committee at First Lutheran! Members of the committee have been working hard planning events for our FLY and older youth groups including Frolfing (frisbee-golf) at DeLagoon Park, a movie night at the theater, and the Mystery Mission Trip which is taking place the end of July. We are committed in our efforts to provide our youth with fun, faith-based activities and experiences that enrich and bond our children in so many ways. We thank the Congregation for their continued love and support."

Youth Committee  
First Lutheran Church







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 Phone: 218-739-3348  
 E-mail: [firstlc@live.com](mailto:firstlc@live.com)

**"Love Days" Quilters**  
 Meets every Monday  
 9:00 am– 3:00 pm  
 Hope you'll join us!

**WELCA Board Meeting**  
 Will meet Tues, Sept. 12  
 at 10:00 a.m. in Kairos Room

**Circles**  
 No August meetings

**Be Kind...**  
**The Power of Kindness Can  
 Change the World**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**NW MN Synodical  
 Women's Convention**  
**Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes, MN**

**September 14-15, 2017**

*Watch for more information*



## **Attn: First Lutheran Families!**

**You are invited for a NEW FUN FAMILY  
 SUMMER Get-together called FAM JAM!**

**This is for ALL AGES and is going to be a  
 blast! Watch the church Facebook page for  
 more info!**



**Beach Party**

**Pebble Beach**

**Swimming & Food**

**Aug 22 6-8 PM**