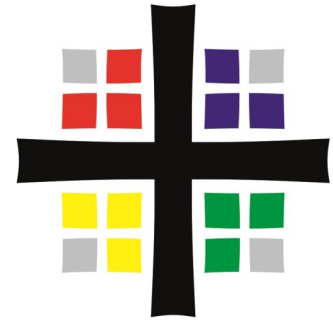


JANUARY MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN

Come Share the Spirit



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER ROSE

Dear Friends,
Aaah, January. A new month. A new year. Time to start fresh and turn the page on 2015, looking forward to what this new year has in store. Sometimes it seems to me that January is a bit of “The Season of Regrets”. We look over the past year and realize all the people we’ve forgotten to contact, step on the scale and regret everything we’ve eaten from Thanksgiving through New Years’, look at credit card bills and cringe, and (maybe) regret some gifts we received and go return them. And worse yet, all the feelings of Christmas time seem to wear off.

So we make lists of resolutions, and come up with things we want to change. They say a lot about who we are and who we want to be. They give great insight into our desires and the hopes we have for ourselves. Some hope to be thinner and healthier, some resolve to have a

more positive outlook on life, some desire to be better friends and stay in touch with family more, some want to be more responsible with their money, and some hope to be more faithful in prayer and reading the Bible.

And yet, even those resolutions become regrets as we often fall short of keeping them (sometimes by January 2nd). What is meant to be uplifting and hopeful turns into a great disappointment. So rather than talk about how we’re going to (or already have) failed at these New Year resolutions, it’s time we shift our thinking from “fixing” the stuff we do, to “being” who God has made us to be.

In baptism God has made you His child, and has claimed you as His own. Through his Son’s death and resurrection, we are freed from sin and death to live a new

life in Him. Just like Paul’s words to the Galatians, “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that I now live, I live through faith in the one who loves me and gave himself up for me.” (2:20) We are no longer left on our own to make resolutions and “fix” our lives – God has already done that for us!

Each day is a new beginning in Him, with all the hope and expectation that we have on January 1st. If things need to change, trust God to put those desires in your heart – and when He does, be sure to follow. And may God draw near to you and guide you in 2016.

Alive in Christ,

Pastor Jennifer

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING



**Sunday, January 31
2016**

Potluck at Noon
followed by the
Annual Meeting in
Fellowship Hall

**DEADLINE FOR
THE FEBRUARY
MESSENGER IS
JAN. 19th**

WORSHIP THEMES

January 3 “The Surprise of Christmas”

Text: John 1:10-18

In John’s poetic telling of the nativity story, we hear that the word became flesh and lived among us. How do we, in this new year, hear this story in a new way? Today we pause and reflect on the beauty of the Christmas story and hear this story again with a light spirit.

January 10 **Guest Preacher:**

David Holtz, LutherCrest

Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17 “Jesus: The Life of the Party”

Text: John 2:1-11

In today’s reading, Jesus is at a wedding and the wine has run out. This is a big problem. But Jesus provides and turns the water into wine. In our daily lives, Jesus is also extravagantly generous, providing us with what we need each and every day.

January 24 “Not Someday but TODAY!”

Text: Luke 4:14-21

The salvation promised in the Bible is not just going to happen “someday” far off in the future. It is happening already today. Jesus takes “someday” and pulls it into this day.

January 31 “Called”

Text: Jeremiah 1:4-10

An epiphany (revelation of God) is always a surprise. Jeremiah is surprised that God would call him, but God has had his eye on Jeremiah for a long, long time. If God puts his Word in our mouths, we too can share the gospel with the world, no matter what our age, experience, or gifts. We are all called!



JANUARY SERVICE UNITS

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE IN THIS UNIT
PLEASE SAY “YES” WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO HELP

Ryan & Sarah Cheshire

Mike & Janette Fletchall

Clarice Grewe

Carol Hanson

Neil & Madeline Herman

Todd & Tammy Hinsverk

Mary (Boyd) Johnson

Megan Johnson

Tim & Lana Johnson

Toby & Kylene Johnson

Angie Julsrud

Elsie Knoll

Linda Kucera

Colleen Kumm

Allen & Sandra Kutzke

Tracy Lillemon

Bud & Linda Mellon

Sharon Mesna

Jack & Judy Mouritsen

Jack & Sandra Pearson

Bryan Peterson

Daniel & Carol Roehl

Bob & Susanne Ronning

Dustin & Melissa Schwartz

Dolores Simdorn

Gina Steyn

Dave & Becky Thole

Tom & Jeani Trosvig

Nichola Welde

Curt & Ann Rotto



January FLY News

S'mores, anyone?

Upcoming Events:

- * January 10th, Luther Crest Promotional Day!
- * January 10th, 8-12th Grades Summer Trip Informational Meeting, 12:00 Noon
- * January 20—
SuperFLY (Grades 8-12) **Mystery Dinner**

Senior Fly Schedule:

(7:30 PM)

January 6

January 13

January 20

(Minute to Win It)

January 27

Fly K4 and Fly 57 Schedule:

(4:30-5:15)

January 6 Fly 57

January 13 Fly K4

January 20 Fly 57

January 27 Fly K4

I know it seems absolutely CRAZY to think about Camp in January, but it's time to think about going to Luther Crest this Summer for a week of Bible Camp.

There are so many different opportunities at Luther Crest, from a camp focusing on critters to fishing to a camp that goes on crazy adventures. They even have sports-themed camps. There are opportunities for families to go to camp together as one unit and opportunities for grandparents to go to camp and hang out with kids for the week. They've got it all!

On January 10th, Dave Holtz, Executive Director of Luther Crest will be here to get us pumped up for camp. Come and enjoy a s'more and think about a fun summer adventure. Doesn't that sound great in January?

Camp is one of those things that I can't recommend enough. Lives are changed through this important ministry.

Because of the importance of camp and the ways in which we REALLY WANT YOU TO GO, the First Lutheran Foundation has generously agreed to pay for half of your

camp expenses (up to \$300.)

That will help to make this experience much more affordable. But if finances are still a problem I would welcome a conversation to talk about how we can get you to camp. I don't want finances to prevent anyone from enjoying this amazing experience!

Early bird deadlines for Luther Crest registration are February 14th.

Find me at church to pick up your Luther Crest Brochure!

God's Peace,

Pastor J. J. J.

SuperFLY Minute to Win It, Wednesday Jan 20

Are you fast? Come and test your reflexes as we enjoy a SUPER FLY Minute to Win It night on Wednesday, January 20th from

6:30-7:30 PM. (This event is required for confirmation students.) Join us for some fun and lots of laughs!



First Lutheran Church

Sunday School News

SHINE



We have accomplished our first semester of a new curriculum and find it to be workable for the adults and exciting for kids! Each topic that we study lasts five weeks and we are looking for more people to

jump in to get their feet wet! It isn't hard to do with all of the materials that are supplied. Only a five week stint is required! Can you give it a try? You may be called soon, otherwise please contact Cindy to talk it over. What better way to SHINE with God's love and become involved in your child's faith building experience.



Thank you for all of the
COATS FOR KIDS
donations!
First Lutheran is so
generous!

• **No Sunday
School on
Jan. 3**

CINDY LARSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT

January Happenings

No Sunday School **Jan.3**

"Butterflies" for **Jan. 10**
0-3 yr. olds and parent.
Sunday School resumes

Preschool 2- Milestone
Class with parents **Jan.17**

Preschool 2 Milestone
Blessing during worship **Jan.24**

Sunday School Students
Sing at both services **Jan. 24**

The Lord's Prayer Challenge!

We will begin a new SPARK topic for the next five weeks in Sunday School. There will be many ways of exploring the parts and mean-

ing to the Lord's Prayer.
As we study, we are challenging the students to memorize this prayer and recite

it to their parent or Shepherd. They will choose something from the prize box as a reward!

PRAY
FOR
PEACE

WOMEN OF FIRST LUTHERAN—OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER

WELCA Board Meeting:
Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 10:00 am

Love Days Quilters meets every Monday
from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. All are welcome!

CIRCLES
Wed, Jan. 27

Sarah: 9:30 am @
Pioneer Pointe

Hannah: 1:00 pm @
First Lutheran Church

OUR CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR SPECIAL FRIENDS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

We delivered over 70 generous plates of Christmas cookies to shut-ins and members of our congregation who no longer bake. Our sincere thanks to the many members who donated their

homemade cookies and candies for this special event. We are also grateful for the dedicated drivers who delivered these plates to church members. The feedback the drivers have shared is that

the recipients were delighted to receive this Christmas gift from First Lutheran. **Thank you,**

Thank You

THANK YOU!!! — THANK YOU!!! - THANK YOU!!!

As we are nearing the end of the year, I want to thank you everyone who has given their time, talent and provided financial contributions to the outreach activities and the benevolences of First Lutheran Church. As always, I am amazed by our congregation's willingness to support those individuals in need, be they in our congregation, our community, our country and our world.

We delivered our Christmas Food Baskets on Saturday, December 19 to 33 families. All families appreciate this gift which contains all the ingredients for a wonderful holiday

meal. One of my deliveries was to Mr. George Keller who was truly appreciative of this gift and requested that I thank our church for our generosity. On behalf of our congregation, you are welcome, Mr. Keller. Our Christmas Giving Trees this year provided for gifts to Someplace Safe and A Place to Belong. We were able to fulfill the wishes of the adults and children associated with these two Fergus Falls organizations thru your generous response to this need. When these gifts are delivered to these groups, there is no doubt that they are appreciated.

I thought about trying to thank

everyone who has helped out with Meals by Wheels, the Red Cross Blood Drives, the Christmas Giving Trees, and everything else we do thru out the year by listing your names, however I am afraid I would miss an individual and I am not sure there is enough space here for the list as it is long. So, I am closing by saying God Bless you and thank you for all that you do to extend God's love to our neighbors, both near and far.

Rick West

Outreach Chairperson

**O
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E-mail: firstlc@live.com
Office Hours: Monday-
Thursdays from 8-4:30 p.m.



FLOWER CHARTS & RADIO BROADCAST SIGN-UPS

The Altar flower chart and Radio Broadcast sign-up are up! They are located on the kiosk in the narthex. Sign up early to get the dates that you want!!!

Please consider signing up for a radio broadcast if you haven't before...we have many shut-ins that utilize this gift that we provide. The radio broadcasts

cost \$100.00. Altar flowers are ordered from The Flower Mill, and they send a bill to the address we have on file for whomever signs up. **Thank you!**



THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU

Once again, our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services were wonderful, and all in attendance could experience the joy and peace of Christmas. Special thanks to all who made these services so memorable: the choirs, accompanists, choir directors, and soloists. The processional party, readers, ushers, altar guild members, decorators, sacristans, and acolytes. May the joy we experienced in our Christmas worship live in our hearts in the coming year. Again, THANK YOU!

Pastor Saul & Pastor Jennifer

WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION

Winter Weather Information: If Fergus Falls schools close due to bad weather, the activities at the church that day will be cancelled and the church office will be closed. (If a leader of

an evening activity, such as the adult choir, decides they WILL HOLD THEIR EVENT, they should contact the members. Sunday morning worship will never be cancelled, but please use your good

judgment when deciding if you should come to worship or not, REMEMBER, you can always listen at home to the 8:30 a.m. worship on KJJK AM 1020.

