



NOVEMBER MESSENGER 2016

**First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, MN**

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A NOTE FROM OUR NEW INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR ERICK THOMPSON

Greetings!
My name is Pastor Erick Thompson and I'll be starting November 1st as the Interim Senior Pastor at First Lutheran. I am excited to begin my ministry as First Lutheran moves through this time of transition. By way of introduction, I will share a little of my story so that you can get to know me better. I hope to hear more of your stories in the coming months.

I grew up on an old farm place outside of New London, MN. My parents were both teachers and I had an older brother. After high school, I attended Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, MN where I majored in History and Russian Studies. After college, I went to Luther Seminary in St. Paul with a focus in Youth and Family Ministry. With a brief stop as a Chaplain Resident at Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital in St. Paul, I be-

gan my ministry in 2000. Along the way, I kept pursuing higher degrees and completed a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2013. I love teaching and have taught over 20 courses at Augsburg and Thiel Colleges in their Religion departments.

My wife, Kara, and I met while we were both counselors at Skogfjorden, the Concordia Norwegian Language Village. We were married in 2003 and spent much of our first year of marriage living in Dusseldorf, Germany where Kara had a scholarship to study the German legal system. Our first daughter, Olivia, was born in 2010, and Marit-Anne, our second daughter was born in 2013.

My most recent call was at Holy Trinity Lu-

theran Church in New Prague. I began this call in 2012 and spent four wonderful years partnering in ministry with them. I was sad to say goodbye to them, but given my family's circumstances, we needed to transition out of New Prague. I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in our new location!

I will meet many of you on Sunday, November 6th, and look forward to getting to know you better.

Peace,
Pastor Erick



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Don't forget to turn your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR** this Saturday, Nov. 5th !



Deadline for the



**December
Messenger
Is Tues., Nov. 17th.**

CINDY LARSON

NOVEMBER 2016

Sunday School News

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Enjoy the beauty of the season!



NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Kdgn. Milestone Class with parents	6
7th Gr. Milestone Class with parents	13
Kindergarten Milestone Blessing in worship	13
"Butterflies"	13
Harvest Dinner	17
7th grade Milestone Blessing in worship	20
No Sunday School	27

Jesus is my Superhero!

The Sunday School kids have been gathering each Sunday in the Chapel. They sing worship music that fires everyone up for a great day of Sunday School. Some of the words are: "Jesus. You're my Superhero!" As a congregation of teachers, parents, grandparents,

worship leaders, participants, Pastors and friends, we are called to be the face of Jesus for our Youth and for each other. The 7th graders will have a Milestone class this month to help them see themselves as hand-picked mirrors of God's image.

**NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL
NOVEMBER 27**



Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLANS

Our Christmas Program will be held on **Sunday, December 18 at the 11:00 service.** Character and Speaking part tryouts are taking place now! There will be practices every Sunday, so keep those kids coming

to Sunday School. We want them to feel comfortable and confident for the Program. It's time to invite the relatives now :)



NOVEMBER WORSHIP THEMES

November 6—All Saints Sunday

Text: Luke 6:20-31

In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In the assembly today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest,” who have fought the good fight, who have gained the crown. In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of the Lord Jesus in today’s gospel. Recalling that we have been sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we keep on keeping on as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.

November 13

“Is the Sky Falling?”

Text: Luke 21:5-19

Sometimes we can feel like Chicken little – “The Sky is falling! The Sky is falling!” The tone of our readings today is ominous. The end is near.

We come together as a congregation to break bread, confess sins and receive forgiveness, and to receive strength to walk forward together, knowing that with God’s love and care, we don’t need to be afraid.

November 20—Christ the King Sunday

Text: Luke 23:33-43

Jeremiah’s promise of the execution of “justice and righteousness in the land” finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears so utterly contradictory that the king should be crucified with the criminal. This victory appears for all the world as ignominious defeat. Yet through the gate of death our Lord opens the door to paradise.

November 23—Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Text: John 6:25-35

Every gathering for worship has

elements of thanksgiving. When we partake of Jesus’ word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so “with thanksgiving.” Let us give thanks to the Lord, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.

November 27

“Walking In the Light of the Lord”

Text: Matthew 24:36-44

Advent is here! Today we gather to walk in the light and prepare for Jesus’ arrival. Jesus is coming soon. How do we stay ready?



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

**Wednesday,
Nov. 23rd at 6 pm**

**Remember to bring your
items for our local food
shelf that night.**

MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO— Online Scheduling Solution

First Lutheran Church is excited to announce a new volunteer scheduling system! Ministry Scheduler Pro is an online based scheduler that will allow us to communicate via email and easily schedule families when it is convenient for them. This allows families to log-in and decide which services they prefer, when they are available to serve, and which ministries they would like to be a part of. We appreciate each and every volunteer for their time and talents, we wouldn’t be able to function without you. To sign-up or if you have any questions, please contact Ashley in the church office at 218-739-3348.



November FLY News



Senior Fly

Schedule (Grades 8-12—7:30-8:30 pm)

November 2 SR Fly

November 9 SR Fly

November 16 SUPER FLY
Harvest Dinner Prep 6:30-8:30 (Pizza provided!)

November 23 No FLY,
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 30 Sr Fly
Advent Games, 7:45-8:30
(After Vespers)

Fly K4 & 57 Schedule

November 2 Fly 57

November 9 Fly K4

November 16 Fly 57

November 23 No Fly,
Happy Thanksgiving!

November 30 Fly K4

Special Events

November 16 Harvest
Dinner Prep, 6:30-8:30

**November 17—Harvest
Dinner! (Work
assignments will arrive
in the mail)**

November 19-20 NWMN
Synod Middle School Youth
Gathering, Grand Forks!

Why Harvest Dinner?

Every year for the last fifteen years, we have put on a fabulous Harvest Dinner for the community—with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, bars, rolls—and we give it away for free. Why do we do this?

It's a wonderful opportunity for our congregation—and our youth—to give something back to the Fergus Falls area. Lots of people come for the Harvest Dinner—last year there were more than 500 people in attendance!

For some people, the Harvest Dinner is their Thanksgiving meal—the only time they are able to eat turkey, stuffing, and the works—they simply can't afford to prepare a nice meal at home.

For other people who attend, they work really hard at work and just don't have time to prepare a nice meal for their family. It's a great way to give them a night free from feeding responsibilities—kids are a lot of work, and they are messy, too.

For others, it's the only meal that they have in community with other people. Perhaps they eat most of their meals alone, or in front of the

TV to give them a little noise to drown out the loneliness they regularly feel. This meal is an opportunity for them to come and enjoy a little bit of companionship with other people.

Others come because the food is good! Yum!

Regardless of their reasons for coming, it is truly one of the only places and times in Fergus Falls that people of all different places in life gather for a meal together. It's a beautiful thing. I'm so proud of the Harvest Dinner—for the way our congregation always provides the food we need—to the way people step up and help with the dishwashing.

I hope that you are proud of this dinner too—and that when you get your letter in the mail with your work shift for the Harvest Dinner, that you consider this a great opportunity and make it a priority. Set a calendar alarm. Do whatever it takes—you aren't going to want to miss out on your opportunity to serve!!

Pastor Jim

Love Days Quilters

Every Monday

9:00-3:00

JOIN US!

WELCA Board

No Meeting in Nov.

CIRCLES

Sarah—Wed. Nov. 16th
9:30am @ Pioneer Pointe

Hannah -Wed. Nov. 16th
1:00pm @ PioneerCare
Hannah's Circle will also
host the PioneerCare
Sunshine Aide on Nov.
16th at 3:00 p.m.

Come join us in the Narthex for a

Soup Lunch

Following the Noon Advent Worship

November 30, December 7, 14 and 21

Everyone is welcome to come and
enjoy a delicious bowl of soup or
grab a lunch bag to-go following the
Noon Advent Worship services.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION REQUESTS FOR 2017:

The requests should be approved by the Church Council. The written request for funds should be sent to Orrie Leabo, Foundation President, before **December 5th, 2016**. This will help the Foundation Board to prepare for the Foundation's Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or comments please contact the board members. They are as follows: Chad Felstul, Vicki Hanneman, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Tim Johnson, Orrie Leabo, Missy Mattson and Linda Mellon.

(Inadvertently left out of the Oct. newsletter)

Dear friends at First Lutheran Church,
Thank you all for the wonderful celebration party you threw for myself, Mary Kay, and Kenny on September 18th. It was a wonderful meal and we so appreciated all the kind words, the video, and the very generous gift from the congregation, and, of course, the beautiful quilt from the quilting group.

Also, over the past several weeks we have received many cards, personal words of appreciation and gifts from so many of you. Thank you and may God continue to bless all of you and the ministry of First Lutheran Church.

Love In Christ,
Saul, Mary Kay, and Ken Stensvaag

Did You Know That...

Your First Lutheran Church Foundation Provides Luther Crest Camp Scholarships For The Youth Attending Summer Camp?

It Is Another Avenue For The Foundation To Enhance The Religious Life Of Our Children.

CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The 90th annual Concordia Christmas Concert will celebrate the birth of Christ through music and art. "Gather Us In, O Child of Peace" is performed by 400 student musicians in 5 choirs and a 75-piece symphony orchestra and staged with a dramatically lit art display filling the entire Memorial Auditorium. We'll travel with Ottertail Coaches to the 2 p.m. concert on Saturday, December 3. Coach will load in lower level parking lot at 12:05 and leave promptly at 12:15.

Sign-up sheet is on the Info Counter. Please pay \$15 (group rate) by check when you sign up. Payable to First Lutheran Church—Concordia Concert in the Memo line. Deadline to sign up and pay is Wednesday, Nov 23. Individual tickets are \$19 this year. First Lutheran Foundation is again sponsoring the coach. Thank Foundation members when you see them!

If you've never attended or haven't for a long time, join us—we know you'll be inspired!

All ages and guests are welcome—this is not strictly an OWL event!

Tickets will be given out on the Coach.

Leave First Lutheran parking lot (lower level)

12:15 Saturday, Dec 3

Concert

2 p.m.

Supper (on your own) after concert

Moorhead Village Inn

Return to Fergus Falls

8 p.m.

THANKOFFERING—2016

Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings for more than 100 years. Last year, Thankofferings totaled over \$900,000 to support Women of the ELCA church-wide ministries, with offerings coming from 2,450 congregations. We'd be happy to reach a goal of \$900 from First Lutheran in 2016.

Thankofferings are sent in full to the church-wide women's organization and help do mission work and address concerns of women and children in crisis—especially the crisis related to poverty, health, AIDS and domestic violence.

The blue offering envelope you receive in the Nov Messenger may be placed in the offering plate anytime in November or bring it to the office. If you receive your Messenger e-mail, there are envelopes on the Info Counter for your use. Questions?? Call Margaret Kratzke 736-3697