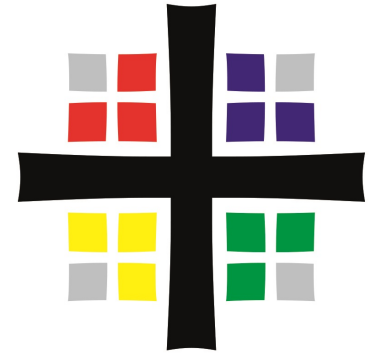


SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

First Lutheran Church—Fergus Falls, MN



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JENNIFER ROSE

Dear Friends,
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." – John 14:27

We are, by our very nature, anxious people. Life can sometimes throw us some extreme curveballs. It's easy to become nervous, fearful, and afraid. And when things change in our lives, in our community, and in our church, we can sometimes become overwhelmed.

We are experiencing some big change in our church right now. Pastor Saul's retirement leaves us with many questions and wonderings. We will miss his presence among us and we will be left with many things to figure out and some big shoes to fill – multiple pair when you add in Mary Kay's shoes and Kenny's shoes.

Some things will be different in the days ahead. And yet, in many ways, things will remain the same. I truly have no plans to make large, sweeping changes in our congrega-

tion. But by my very nature, I do some things differently than Pastor Saul does, and those things make each of us our own unique people. What is really key to our success as a congregation is that we operate as a family – sisters and brothers, each unique and different and special, and dearly beloved by God.

This transition brings many questions. I've been asked frequently about whether I am able to remain as one of your pastors. In some congregations, when a Senior Pastor leaves, the Associate must leave too. This is called a co-terminus call. When the call committee and council discussed this as it related to my position at First Lutheran, they did not include this provision in the letter of call. I plan to remain as your pastor, friends, and have no plans at this time to leave First Lutheran. This will be helpful as we enter into this transition time and prepare to welcome the new Senior Pastor.

In the days to come, I ask you to be a partner with me. We will soon be

welcoming an interim pastor among us. But for a time before that happens, I will likely be somewhat overwhelmed. Some activities of our congregation may need to pause for a bit. We will certainly need help from members of the congregation to keep everything afloat. I will do my best to keep you informed of those things as they happen. Please be ready to say "yes" when you are asked to help.

Above all, friends, though the people in our lives sometimes change and though we may be nervous as everything, one thing remains. And that, is the wonderful news that God walks through this life with us and will never leave us. God will guide this process and this time. God will lead us to our next Senior Pastor and will help us as we look ahead.

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer

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SEPTEMBER MESSENGER

LIBRARY COMMITTEE HAS NEWS FOR YOU!

The many new books and DVDs ordered by your Library Committee, with a generous gift from the First Lutheran Foundation, are NOW ON THE SHELVES. Included are a number of non-fiction titles, several adult, youth and children's titles by Max Lucado, and many DVDs including two new series, Auto-B-Good and Paws & Tales, geared to preschool and Sunday school age children. Children are welcome

to visit the Library at any time, not just on class designated Sundays.

The Library is open whenever the office is open. Look for new titles displayed on the Narthex this fall. Check them out for your reading pleasure!

**NEW
BOOKS**



CHURCH COUNCIL COLUMN: JESUS IS MY SUPER HERO!

Most heroes wear a cape, but mine wore a cross! The Education Committee is excited to announce that our Sunday School theme for this year is "Jesus is my Super Hero". The kids will learn about some "Heroes of the Bible" including the Woman at the Well, the Disciples and more, but Jesus' unconditional love and miraculous acts make him the ultimate Super Hero.

This year will be the second year following the "rotational model" for Sunday School. The kids will focus on one Bible story, or theme, for a five-week period. During that time, they experience the story through different stations or rotations. Our rotations include Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Sci-

ence, Video, and Bible Skills and Games.

We look forward to a wonderful year with the great kids at First Lutheran and our supportive congregation. Who knows, there might be a little Super Hero in all of us!

**JESUS
IS MY SUPERHERO**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

Kelsey Felstul
Education Committee Chairperson

APPRECIATION CELEBRATION & POTLUCK FOR THE STENSVAAG'S

Sunday, **September 18th**, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service, Join the congregation in celebrating and appreciating our Senior Pastor, Saul Stensvaag, for 17 years of service to our church, and his lovely wife & talented Children's Choir Director, Mary Kay, and their

son, Ken, who has been actively involved with the youth of our congregation, as they say goodbye to this chapter and hello to the next. Dessert will be provided. Bring your favorite dish and fond memories to share. There is always plenty of food to go around if you are unable to

bring a dish. **If you are interested in participating with the Adult Choir during the 11a.m. worship, please feel free to join them at rehearsals on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.**

"...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."
Thessalonians 1:3

FIRST LUTHERAN OWLS (OLDER WISER LUTHERANS)—UPCOMING EVENT



Wednesday, October 19 — "Camelot" @ Chanhassen Dinner Theater

Coach bus loads at 8:45 a.m. from the lower parking lot at First Lutheran Church and

will leave by 9:00 a.m.

Cost per person is \$60—that includes dinner, show, tax and gratuity. Coach paid for by OWLS account. Plan to return to Fergus Falls around 7 p.m. No stops on trip

home. Sign up and pay by check (payable to First Lutheran OWLS) before October 10th. Friends welcome! Call Margaret Kratzke with any questions @218-736-3697.

September
2016



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday School News

JE US

Is my Superhero!

Rally Day: Sunday, September 11, 2016

**“I can do all things through
him who strengthens me.” Phil. 4:13**

**Sunday School hour is
from 9:45-10:45 a.m.**

Join us and invite friends to our Rally Day worship and Sunday School hour that will be filled with fun! Children are invited to wear their favorite Superhero costumes that day to celebrate God's amazing gifts! “Butterflies” for children age 0-4 and their parents will kick off during the Sunday School hour.

Milestone Classes and Blessings in Worship

...A way of life that marks special growth in faith. We honor students during worship as they complete a new class with their parents. At First Lutheran, we are building awareness of the presence of God in our everyday lives through Sunday School and Milestone classes. On Rally Day, the **3 year olds** will be introduced to the congregation to mark the beginning of their faith journey in Sunday School. They'll be given a Spark Bible to start them off !

F.L.Y. NEWS (FIRST LUTHERAN YOUTH)

SEPTEMBER 2016



Back to School!

It's been an amazing Summer full of adventures. We've been to Mount Rushmore, to Skyzone, to Harney Peak, and to Dairyland. It's been an awesome summer with youth activities.

How about your summer? Did you go to camp or spend time at the Lake? Did you ride horses or go water skiing?

Are you the type of person to have a hard time getting back into the groove of normal life and get back

to the school mindset? Or are you excited about the upcoming change in your sleeping schedule?

Okay, maybe none of you are excited about that last part. Change can be really hard for all of us—adults included. We're seeing a big change in things at church with Pastor Saul's retirement. But in a lot of ways, things will stay the same. We will still have confirmation class

and FLY, and we will still have Sunday School and we will still be hanging out together.

However you deal with change, know that God watches over you among all of the changes.

"Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

~Hebrews 13:8

God bless you,

SuperFly Kick Off—Thunder Road—September 11

Join us for our SuperFly kick off on the Afternoon of September 11th. Superfly is open to grades 8-12. We will ride go-karts and play some mini golf and then eat supper together before returning to Fergus Falls. Confirmation Students are required to participate in SuperFly activities. Join us for a fun time!



Upcoming Events & Activities

September 11 SUPERFLY Kick Off - to Thunder Road! Watch for more details
September 18 Youth Serve Cake @ Pastor Saul's Retirement Party! Be there at 12 Noon!
October 9 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday!

Regular Fly Schedule:

September 14 Fly K4 4:30-5:15
Senior Fly 8:00-9:00PM
September 21 Fly 57 4:30-5:15
Senior Fly 8:00-9:00 PM
September 28 Fly K4 4:30-5:15
Senior Fly 8:00-9:00 PM

WORSHIP THEMES

SEPTEMBER 4:

“Extravagant Generosity”

Text: Luke 14:25-33

At the end of today’s gospel reading, Jesus says, “none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.” Really, Jesus? All of them? This is a hard word for us. What does it mean for us to give it all up – and give it to God?

SEPTEMBER 11: RALLY SUNDAY!

“Jesus is my Superhero”

Text: Philippians 4:12-20

As we welcome our Sunday School Students back to Sunday School, we celebrate this year’s Sunday School theme: Jesus is my Superhero! Jesus is no ordinary person – He turns water into wine, makes blind see, and has changed the world upside down! Today’s sermon will feature a special guest – Jesus himself!

SEPTEMBER 18:

“The Joy of God’s Love”

Text: Luke 15:1-10

Today we hear a story of God’s amazing love – love that looks for us when we are lost and love that holds us even when we’ve made many mistakes. How are we like the lost sheep? And how does God keep welcoming us home?

SEPTEMBER 25:

“The Great Divide”

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Today’s gospel reading is not especially pleasant. We hear of a man with sores, dogs licking the sores, and two men separated on Earth and in Heaven. How do we Christians walk the life of faith with one another? How do we receive the gift of God’s love?

FALL SCHEDULE RESUMES

Office Hours

September 6

Monday-Thursday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rally Sunday

September 11

Worship at 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Education Hour at 9:45 a.m.

Adult Bible Study at 10 a.m.

COFFEE & CHOCOLATE

WOW (women of the word) invites you to a delicious event on Sunday, October 16 at 2:00 pm.



Our speakers will be Jenny Stumbo of Stumbo's coffee and Kristin Mohagen of Terroir Chocolates. These local entrepreneurs will share their stories of “two of our favorite things”!!

Mark your calendars and join us for an afternoon of delightful decadence!

First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minnesota
Sunday School Info Update Form

Due to changing phone numbers, we want to make sure we have current records for you. We ask that you please update us when changes occur by filling out this form and returning it to the church office.

Youth Participant Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Parents' Names: _____

Home Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street

Town State

ZIP

Parent Cell Phone numbers: _____

(name)

(number)

(name)

(number)

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION THAT MIGHT ALLOW FOR US TO BETTER CARE FOR YOUR CHILD, ESPECIALLY PHYSICAL RESTRICTIONS, ALLERGIES, OR SPECIAL NEEDS:

Photo Release

(please select one)

____ I understand my photo or my child's photo may be taken for use in First Lutheran Church website, display, and other promotional information.

____ I would prefer my child's photo not be displayed at church or in promotional materials.

Parent Signature

Date

CHILDREN'S OFFERING



Beginning in September the children's offering will be given to the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. Through Christ who gives us Super Strength and resources, our youth will be able to

help others. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world.

If you would like to

help the kids raise money for this great organization, you can offer to give them money to put in the basket. 100% of the money collected from the children's offering is used to pay our benevolences!

MEALS BY WHEELS

First Lutheran is scheduled to drive for Meals by Wheels November 28-December 2 and December 5-9. This volunteer opportunity is open to anyone that has a drivers license. You

can drive solo or bring a friend! The one hour commitment involves picking up prepackaged meals at the Fergus Falls Senior Center and delivering those meals to local residents around town. If you

are interested in driving or would like more information, contact Rick at 205-6963.



THANK YOU AMERICAN RED CROSS

First Lutheran Church hosted another blood drive on July 19th & 20th. You may be interested to know that 106 donors registered, 15 donors were deferred

and 106 units were collected! They also registered 2 first time donors! The next blood driver is September 14, 15 from 1-7 p.m. and September 16 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the

Westridge Mall. Call Dolly @ 739-3772 or Phyllis @ 736-7480 for appt./info.



BENEVOLENCE SPOTLIGHT: ELCA DISASTER RELIEF

Flooding throughout southern Louisiana has effected thousands of peoples lives. This flood comes on the heels of several other floods that have hit the Gulf Coast region, starting earlier this spring. With more rain in the forecast, the full scope of this disaster has yet to be realized.

Through congregations, synods and our disaster-affiliate organizations, Lutheran Disaster Response is assisting those who have been affected by the

flooding. Lutheran Disaster Response coordinators are actively present, collaborating with local community leaders and officials to begin planning the proper responses, particularly the long-term recovery efforts. They truly walk with their brothers and sisters, all over the world, to encourage and enable them to get back up after a disaster has knocked them down.

A year after the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, Lutheran Disaster Re-

sponse is still there engaged and empowering communities.

These are just two example of the many ways that the Lutheran Disaster Response helps people in need throughout the United States and internationally. We are proud to support one of our benevolences, the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief, by giving 100% of our Children's Offering donations to this cause.

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**WOMEN OF
FIRST LUTHERAN**



**OPPORTUNITIES TO
GATHER**

*She is Clothed with
Strength & Dignity
and laughs without
fear of the future.*

Proverbs 31:25



September 16 & 17, 2016

29th Annual Convention

**Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's
Organization of the ELCA**

Calvary Lutheran Church
Perham, MN

Hosted by Calvary Lutheran Church, Perham and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wadena

Visit our website at www.nwmnsynod.org

Women of the **ELCA**

FALL SCHEDULE:

***WELCA Board**

Tuesday, September 13th
10:00 a.m.
Kairos Room

***Love Days Quilters**

Every Monday
9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Come for fellowship!

***Sarah's Circle** meets
Wednesday, September 28th
9:30 a.m.
Pioneer Point

*** Hannah Circle** meets
Wednesday, September 28
1:00 p.m.
at the Church
Kairos Room
Join us!

SCHOOL KITS FOR LWR
(LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF)

The quilters have made draw string back pack-style cloth bags and the following supplies are needed to fill them:

- 4 tablets 8 1/2" x 11" ruled spiral notebook, of 70 sheets in each
- 1 blunt scissor
- 1 30 cm metric ruler (inches on one side, cm on the other side)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 eraser 2 1/2" long (approximately)
- 1 box of crayons (16-24 count size)

Your help is appreciated. There will be a collection basket in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome.

