

MARCH 2018

**First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, MN**

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On the day of the annual meeting I was on a week of vacation, visiting our sons in Chicago and St. Paul. When I got back, I heard several people mention how much they appreciated the words of Darren Krein, who is serving as president in the coming year. I am glad that Darren has given us permission to reprint them here. Pastor Marcus

Good Morning!

I want to thank Cindy Larson, Greg Peterson and Greg Wagner for their years of service to the church!

I am very excited to assume the role as Church Council President here at First Lutheran! We have been blessed with many gifts at First and I am very thankful for that. Today, the most valuable gift we can receive, is your time and volunteerism. When I speak to people, the number one challenge is that we are all too busy. Believe me, I get it with three kids in hockey, a wife who works and coaches, a full time job, and running my own business. I understand.

There is a song by Mathew West that I've heard on Life 97.9 that hit home for me. The song talks about asking God to do something about all of the challenges we face at church and in society. God's answer is simple. God said, "I did, I created you!" Please consider giving your time and talents to all of us at First Lutheran. Thank you so much for all you do and will be doing for First Lutheran Church!

Darren Krein
President

Upcoming...

Red Cross Blood drive– March 12th 1:15– 7 p.m. Call 1-800 RED-CROSS 9733-2767) or www.redcrossblood.org enter Sponsor Code: Fergus First Lutheran

Hymn Fest May 20th– more information to come!

Salad Luncheon & bake sale– Thursday, April 26th, 11-1 pm

Spring Flowering plants will be used to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the church office (or put in a pew envelope marked "Easter Plant" and place in the offering plate). Those purchasing a plant may take it home following the 11 o'clock service on Easter Sunday.

**DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL MESSENGER
is March 15th**

Wednesday schedule during Lent

Beginning Wednesday, Feb. 21-March 21:

10:30 a.m. Senior Bible Study

12:10 p.m. Worship followed by soup lunch

3:45-5:15 pm Children's Choir & FLY K7

5:30 p.m. Hosanna Bell rehearsal

7:00 p.m. Holden Prayer Service

7:30-8:15 p.m. Senior FLY

7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday worship 7pm/5th grade First Communion

Good Friday worship 7 pm

Easter Vigil worship 7 pm

Easter Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. worship

Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m.

WITH HEARTS & HANDS & VOICES YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE



- It's great to see the acolyte schedule filling up. Let's keep the momentum!!
- We are looking for egg stuffers for the Easter Egg Hunt that will happen between services on Easter Sunday. Stuffing can be done at home or at church. Contact Pastor Martha for more details.
- Egg hiders needed Saturday March 31st at 10 am in preparation of our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt. Contact Pastor Martha or the office.
- Newspaper clipper. If you read the local newspaper and are familiar with our members, we are looking for help highlighting our members in the news. Contact Katrina in the office.
- Nursery worker. March 4 & 18 \$10/hr 8:15 am– 9:45 am & 10:45 am-12:15 pm-Contact Katrina or Pastor Martha
- Council position for Youth Committee - Contact Darren Krein or either of the Pastors
- Delivering Meals by Wheels– contact the office
- Helping at the Red Cross Blood drive– contact Rick West 218-205-6963

WELCA Board Meeting:
No March meeting

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

CIRCLES
Wed, March 28
Sarah: 9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe
Hannah: 1:00 pm at Church

Opportunities for service at Luther Crest Bible Camp

Director Dave Holtz has invited us to help with demolition of cabin interiors. This includes removing bathroom fixtures, carpet, bunkbeds, repairing walls and floors and painting the weeks of March 5th and 12th. The week of March 19th is Renovation Week where it all gets put back together. Contact Dave for more information daveh@luthercrest.org.



Meet the wonderful volunteers headed to Houston with our youth to the National Youth Gathering!

From left, Jolene Roers, Calie Anderson,
Ashley Shuck & Lewis Roers

The First Lutheran Foundation has agreed to provide matching dollars to attend Luther Crest. This is an incredible opportunity to attend camp at a very low price!

The following is what the foundation will pay for Luther Crest Camps: (The rest of the balance is your responsibility – However, if you have financial need, please speak with Pastor Martha!)

On Site Day Camp	\$60
Explorers	\$70
Seekers	\$200
Leapers	\$300

Critters

Any other Luther Crest Camps for other grades: \$300

You will need to pay the deposit when you register. Registration information can be found on the Luther Crest website at www.luthercrest.org. Also, brochures containing registration information can be found on the counter in the front of the office window in the narthex.

Important: To get these dollars applied to your camp registration, you need to notify the church office before 4/25 and give the church office proof of your registration. This can

\$300

be as simple as emailing the office a copy of your registration to firstlutheran-churchff@gmail.com!

Thank you to the First Lutheran Foundation for this awesome gift toward attending camp!

**NO FLY or
Children's
Choir
March 28th**

Palm Sunday Pancake & Sausage Breakfast fundraiser for National Youth Gathering 9:30– 11 am– free will offering.

Save the Date–

March 11th– Communion classes for 5th graders (see education page)

March 28th– NYG pizza supper –Youth room

May 19th– 10 am Confirmation breakfast, cinnamon rolls & fruit

May 20th– Confirmation Sunday

May 27th– Senior Recognition Sunday



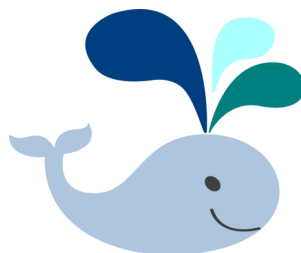
First Lutheran Church Sunday School



A WHALE OF A TALE

If you go fishing or know someone that fishes, I am sure you have heard many fishing tales. Those stories of fish that are exaggerated in size. The more the story is told, the bigger the fish gets. Of all the fish stories I have heard, Jonah's is the first to be SOOO BIG that it swallowed him whole! Jonah was a prophet and when he refused to do his job, God reminded him using a unique misadventure at sea to persuade him to change his mind. He came back to dry land and listened to God's command. He told the people to obey God and to pray to him. This month, the Sunday School will be diving into the belly of

the fish and will come up with a better understanding of what it means to follow God.



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES: FAITH MILESTONE FOR 5TH GRADERS

A unique faith experience begins for 5th graders and their parents this month. This class with the students, the parents, and the Pastors provides an opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The classes begin with a pottery making day as they mold a chalice for their First Communion. It continues with a bread making day and instruction. These tactile lessons are meant to help kids reflect on the things they've felt and learned about communion. The families go home with a hand made pottery chalice which will be used to receive First Communion. After the instruction, students will experience their First Communion at the worship service on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00pm. Grandparents and God-parents are encouraged to attend the service as a wonderful family celebration. Following the occasion, have these special

adults share what the sacrament means to them. When we find an opportunity, take the time to discuss and affirm each of the gifts given in Holy Communion; Being together with Jesus, receiving forgiveness, celebrating, giving thanks, receiving strength to serve receiving Jesus, and growing in faith.



PALM SUNDAY

The Sunday School will be joining the procession of palms and singing at both services (8:30am and 11:00am). We look forward to this special event and hope your child can be there. Please make sure that your children are in Sunday school in the coming weeks as they prepare for participation in this special worship event. The children will be excused following the performance at the 11:00am service.

March 4

4th Grade Milestone Class

March 11

Daylight Savings Time

Butterflies

4th Grade Milestone Blessing

5th Grade 1st Communion Pottery Class

March 18

5th Grade 1st Communion Class

March 25

Palm Sunday

Sunday School sing at 8:30 and 11:00 worship

Palm Sunday breakfast

Palm Sunday/Lenten Festival

No Sunday School

March 28

5th Grade 1st Communion Bread Making Class 5:00pm

March 29

Maundy Thursday

1st Communion for 5th Graders @7:00pm service

April 1

Easter

Easter Egg Hunt

No Sunday School

Kristy Wicklund
Interim Sunday School Superintendent

First Lutheran Church Sunday School (continued...)

PALM SUNDAY/EASTER FAIR

Come one and come all, young and old, come and join the celebration! We invite all the congregation and visitors to have some pancakes at the Palm Sunday breakfast and then to continue your journey down the Sunday School hallway and join us in the various activities going on in the classrooms. Some activities include: cross making, bracelets, quilt block designing, baby animals, and more. We have something for all ages to enjoy! It will be a great way to get together and celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



LOOKING AHEAD TO CHANGES

At baptism, you promised to place in your child's hands the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, and to nurture their lives in faith and in prayer. The congregation promised to help you fulfill that promise. We join together in helping fulfill these promises through our Sunday School. Exploring the Bible, teaching God's word, and building community with you and your child(ren) is very important to our church. While our Sun-

day School is an excellent program, we are always looking for ways to improve. During the month of April and May we will be trying out some new things in our Sunday School program. Please stay tuned for more information as it comes available.

STAFFED NURSERY

The Nursery will be staffed every Sunday during both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship services starting Sunday, March 4. The Nursery is for children under 5 years old.

Butterflies VBS will be June 4-7th 9-10:30 am. Watch for more details!

QUIET CORNER

We know that bringing very young children to worship can be challenging. If your child needs a place to move around during the service there is now a space for them to play with quiet toys in the back of the sanctuary. We hope this gives you and your child the opportunity to stay in the worship space. Let Pastor Martha know how it works for you and your little one. She is happy to hear your suggestions.



Meet our Council

We invited the council to share a significant faith experience that they have had at First Lutheran Church. Watch for more to come as we introduce all of our Council members!

ANNE TAYLOR WORSHIP CHAIR



When I think of a memorable moment or experience at First Lutheran that has been meaningful to me, it's not just a single event—it's worship in general and music specifically. I'm amazed at how the power of music can affect me in such profound and personal ways. Whether it's one of Keith's powerful organ preludes, a choir anthem that so beautifully conveys the day's message, or the connection I feel to my parents and grandparents when we sing well-loved hymns, the music at our church is a powerful way to feel God's love. And experiencing it together makes me feel connected to my First Lutheran family.

Anne 770-4612 or annemltaylor@gmail.com

DICK FELSTUL VICE PRESIDENT & FINANCE CHAIR

The joy that I have found at First Lutheran Church is being able to be a part of Chad and Kelsey's family worship experience and the real satisfaction of being able to see my grandchildren grow in their faith and maturity through their participation with the church.

Dick 998-2177 or dfelstul@prtcl.com



KIM WARD MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

When first asked what memory do you have as a significant moment in your First Lutheran church life... my first thought was - so many, where do I start?? We have raised 3 children, been a part of many milestones and then it hit me, my dad passing away of cancer. Ironically it was 17 yrs. ago on Feb. 13th, the exact day I was asked to think about this question. I woke up on a Sunday morning in 2001 and told Scott, let's get the boys up, go to church and Sunday School, then I want to leave for my parent's house, I need to see my dad today. Pastor Tonneson preached that morning and the hymn after his sermon was *Shine, Jesus, Shine*. Those words stayed with me over the next few days and when we said goodbye, I thought Shine, Dad, Shine. I was able to get permission from the priest of my parent's VERY Catholic church to sing that very Lutheran song on the day of his funeral. After all of these years each time I sing that hymn with my church family on a Sunday morning, it reminds me how wonderful all of you were during that time and how honored I am to be a part of the First Lutheran Family and church council.



God Bless, Kim kaward@otpc.com