



# June 2018

**First Lutheran Church**  
**Fergus Falls, MN**

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## Sixty Years on the Water How does a Parish Minister happen?



Raindrops on mountains become rivers that empty into oceans. On a July day in the 1950's, a young family stood on Monument Peak, near Big Timber, Montana. A gentle snow shower dampened the scene for a moment. The melted flakes gradually made their way down the Missouri River and then to the Missis-

sippi and then to the sea.

That family was mine. I was a speaker at Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp in those mountains. In later years, I served churches in those mighty rivers and others. My ministry started with a few rain drops and eventually became a torrent.

The first drop came like a gentle touch. I somehow discovered that I am a creature known and loved by God. Then I realized, that everyone else is too, but not everyone knows it. God wants someone to tell them. It was clear. I became a pastor.

Three young men, from Bethel Lutheran Church in Chicago, were ordained on June 6, 1958. After Seminary, Luther in St. Paul, Minnesota, one became a theological professor and two became parish pastors. I took my wife from a promising career in journalism to become a pastor's wife and to raise a family in Warwick, North Dakota; Stewartville, Minnesota and Sioux City, Iowa. We did the last 21 years of regular Parish Ministry at Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul. My wife taught middle school during those years. Our five daughters all graduated from college while we were there and all were married at the church I served.

I did one year of graduate study in the History of Christian Thought at the University of Chicago before going to Abiding Savior. I also studied one summer at Oxford University in England. I continued my studies at Luther Northwestern Seminary and earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree in 1989. During these years my wife, Bev, and I led tour groups to Israel, Britain and Scandinavia and visited family in Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Hong Kong, England and Japan. At the same time, we were deeply involved in churchwide activities and responsibilities.

I retired in 1996. During the next 16 years, I served as Interim Pastor to 10 congregations in North Carolina, Texas, Florida, North Dakota, and the last at Bethlehem Lutheran, Fergus Falls, MN. During these interim years I also served as Chaplain/Guest Clergy on nine Holland American cruise ships.

The slowly moving stream became a river and then an ocean. I am constantly amazed at what God can do.

"You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit. The kind of fruit that endures." John 15:16

My hope and intention throughout all of these years has simply been to share the Peace. As I visit with people these days, I often pray with them for all of our loved ones, wherever they may be, that each one may, in their own way, for all are different, know the peace that comes through faith in Christ.

I'm looking forward to eating cake with my friends at First Lutheran to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination.

Pastor Stan Satre  
Join us for cake on June 3rd after worship to  
celebrate Stan!

**First Lutheran Ladies Night Out**  
**Tuesday June 19 at 6pm Union Pizza**

### "Love Days" Quilters

Meets every Monday  
9:00 am– 3:00 pm  
Hope you'll join us!

**WELCA Board Meeting**  
No meetings until September

### Circles

Sarah: No meetings until September

Hannah: Wed. June 27th  
1:00 pm – Kairos Room

## Who are the OWLS? (Older Wiser Lutherans)

If you order from the Senior Menu at Perkins, you qualify. Our first event in 2018 is lunch together at Café 116, Wednesday, June 13 at 11:00 a.m. Order off the menu—bring ideas for activities in 2018. Sign up at the Info Counter so we have a count for lunch. Questions?? Call Margaret Kratzke 736-3697



### THE 2018 SALAD LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE WAS A SUCCESS!!

**There were 172 people in attendance, and several to-go boxes. Proceeds will be used for purchasing items needed in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall, and donations to charities.**

**MANY, MANY THANKS to the members of First Lutheran for making this a successful event including: the planning committee, decorators, set up committee, workers at the event, those who made salads, bars, and products for the bake sale, and those who gave a monetary donation. Thanks to all who came to dine on these wonderful salads and bars!**

**Our next annual spring salad luncheon and bake sale will be April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

## WOMEN'S WEEK AT LUTHER CREST

Theme: This Changes Everything

Keynote Speaker: Crystal Kirgiss (PhD, Purdue University) is an award-winning writer, teacher, and national speaker whose interests range widely. She has written 10 books on topics from jazz to prayer to Old Testament prophets to the history of adolescence.



If you are interested in attending for only one day, there will be a carload from First Lutheran driving down on Monday, June 25. \$100 per carload and paid for by WELCA. Bring a friend! There is more information on Kiosk—please check it out! Questions? Call Margaret Kratzke 736-3697. For more about speakers, presenters, or entertainment, please visit [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org) or call the Luther Crest office at (320) 846-2431.

## CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF ADDICTION TREATMENT IN FERGUS FALLS

On April 9, 2018 Lake Region Recovery Homes Inc in Fergus Falls celebrated their 45th year of providing chemical dependency treatment to adult men. Addiction is a disease that affects a person physically, mentally, financially and spiritually. It can also have a devastating effect on the family.

Lake Region Recovery Home provides lodging, meals, counseling and assistance with obtaining employment and housing. These men come from treatment centers, prisons and jails, many with few personal belongings. The typical length of stay is 90 days. We encourage the men to find work, but with their history, it can be difficult to find meaningful employment.

Our house was built in the early 1900's and is in need of repairs. We recently finished a complete remodel of our kitchen to meet State Health Department standards. We are asking for the community to help maintain our facility and assist our residents with their personal needs. If individuals, organizations or businesses would like to make a financial contribution, there is an account at American Federal Bank, 117 South Mill Street, Fergus Falls. Checks can be written to Lake Region Recovery Home.

If you have any questions about our program you can contact Jeff Christenson, Program Director at 218-739-9084 or [jchristenson@pretel.com](mailto:jchristenson@pretel.com) We thank-you in advance for any help you can provide. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did unto me."

# How can you say YES to Operation Enoch?

Here are some suggestions of ways, we as a congregation, can reach out to welcome our new Pastor!

Pray for Pastor Gretchen during this time of transition.

Office Preparation – volunteers are needed to help wash the windows, paint a wall, and clean and stain the desk in Pastor Gretchen's office. If you are able to help, please call the church office.

Welcome Basket – let's put together a Welcome Basket for Pastor Gretchen. We have a packet of information from the Chamber of Commerce that will help her get to know Fergus Falls. Would you be willing to bring:

- Snack items for those busy move in days. Maybe some of our fantastic local products. (some suggestions of things she might like: coffee, fruit and veggies, nuts, plain popcorn, Gluten free crackers, humus, chips and salsa, beef/turkey jerky, guacamole, Larabars and Rx bars)
- Cleaning supplies for move in day.
- Paper plates, cups, napkins to cover those days until dishes are unpacked!

Meals – It would be great to provide some meals for the first days she is in town, from about June 3 to June 8. Please call the office 739-3348 for dietary details and to sign up.

Installation Reception – the date is yet to be decided, but please let the office know if you are interested in helping with the Installation Reception.



## Monday Coffee and Conversation with Pastor Gretchen

We will begin having coffee and conversation in the Conference room on Monday, June 25 at 12:30, and continuing throughout the summer. Please feel free to bring your sack lunch, we will provide the coffee. Take some time to get to know Pastor Gretchen in a small group.

## Summer Worship Volunteers: THANKS FOR SAYING YES!

Your schedule this summer might be unpredictable. However, we have come up with a plan that will allow you to volunteer (Ushers, Greeters and Communion Assistants) in worship even if you don't know your schedule ahead of time. If you are able to plan ahead, please sign up on the on the schedule in the Narthex, email or call Laurie Whitehead (lauriew.flc1@gmail.com or

218-739-3348) in the office as usual. Positions that are not filled by Thursday at 3:30 pm will be listed on cards and hung on a stand outside the Sanctuary. Please take a look at the open positions when you arrive for worship. If you are able to assist with one of the positions take the card with you so that we know it is taken care of for the service. Please leave the card at the Ush-

er station after worship. The instructions for each position will be listed on the card. However, it is more important to serve with a joyful heart than to focus on getting it done perfectly. Relax and enjoy saying YES to God and your brothers and sisters at First Lutheran. As always, if you have questions please call or email the office.

**Yes!**

# ELCA National Youth Gathering: A Really BIG thing!

On June 27 – July 1, thirteen youth and three adult leaders from First Lutheran will gather in Houston Texas with over 30,000 youth and adults from all over the country for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Todd Buegler (Executive Director, ELCA Youth Ministry Network) has this to say about the gathering. “It’s one of the largest gatherings of Christian young people in the world. It’s the largest gathering of ELCA adults within our church. It’s a celebration of what God is already up to. It’s the premier faith formation event within the ELCA. It is serving our neighbor

on a scale that you can’t believe until you see it. It is an economic boon to the community we visit. It is great adult preparation and training. It’s about relationships with each other. It is about relationships with people we meet in our host city. It’s about Jesus. There are a lot of things I love about the Gathering. But the thing that I am most excited about? That we are a part of a church that dares to do something on this scale. I want to be a part of a church that dares, and dares big.”

The Gathering encourages people to think about the really BIG

things. It has been a catalyst for many youth and adults to experience God more fully and live life in response to God’s call. It can be difficult to discern our calling. (What is God asking me to do?) Sometimes it’s a small nudge to do something kind for someone. Sometimes it’s a big life focus shift to care for others in ways we never even thought about. For many, the Gathering has been the place that fed the fire burning inside them to live out their baptismal identity. (from Getting Ready, ELCA National Youth Gathering resources)

The Gathering theme, This Changes Everything, is based on Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.” This is a really big thing. Please pray for the Gathering, FLC youth and adult leaders (see names below) as final preparations are made. May this big gathering help them to see how God’s grace changes everything!

Olivia Becker, Brandon Hinsverk, Madisen Hinsverk, Riley Hinsverk, Emilie Koch, Karley Kugler, Grace Opatz, Jacob Opatz, Luke Opatz, Matthew Pajari, Svea Smestad, Emily Werner, Morgan West, Emma Clark, Jolene Roers, Lewis Roers



ELCA World Hunger’s Global Farm Challenge is a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to support the agriculture-related programs of ELCA World Hunger, our church’s ministry to end hunger and poverty. Many youth and youth groups will raise funds in advance of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in June, and many will bring their offerings to the Gathering. At the Interactive Learning space in the NRG Center, youth and young adults

will have the chance to participate in an unforgettable experience designed to immerse them in what it’s like to be a smallholder farmer around the world. **On June 24th, after worship, our youth will have a coffee and bake sale to raise funds to bring to Houston as an offering to support the Global Farm Challenge.**

Commissioning of the National Youth Gathering participants in worship on June 24th.



**National Youth Gathering kids and adult leaders will be meeting Wednesdays in June from 6-8pm to continue preparing for the trip.**





On June 8-9 Pastor Martha, Council President, Darren Krein and Katrina will be attending the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in Moorhead. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Lois Malcolm who is a professor at Luther Seminary. The deliberative business of the assembly this year will include consideration of resolutions, elections for 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members, elections for Synod Council and Discipline Committee, approval of a synod budget, reception of reports from the synod bishop and other ELCA leaders, and a presentation regarding the synod's "Ministry Site

Profile" from the Bishop Transition Committee. Goals of the Assembly are: 1. Receive anew Christ's ministry of reconciliation entrusted to us. 2. Relearn Martin Luther's pattern for how God's people confess their sins, hear Christ's Word of forgiveness, and proclaim forgiveness to one another. 3. Celebrate the freedom of confession and reconciliation. 4. Equip each other to bring Christ's ministry of reconciliation to all of our neighbors. They will also be attending the "Growth Group" Reconciliation Within Congregational Life. Please pray for the Assembly as they meet and feel free to visit with your delegates when they return.

**YES! \*LIFE\*TRUST\*GENEROSITY\*PROPORTIONALITY\*BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING\*TITHE\*FIRST FRUITS GIVING\* BENEVOLENCE\* YES!**

Yes!

One of the priorities for First Lutheran in the next 6-9 months is to encourage greater personal and financial involvement. Next week you will receive an invitation to consider your financial commitment to First Lutheran. Included will be a response card encouraging you to make a one-time gift and to increase your regular giving by 1% of your household income

for the remainder of the year. We have much to do and much to be excited about! The council is working on updating the 30 year old sound and phone systems, replacing the leaking roof (flat area), staffing for the future and keeping our commitments to the ministries in the community we support through Benevolence. We want to begin our new partnership with

Pastor Enoch in a strong financial place. God has given us all we need and more to do what God has called us to do. We know that you will respond with a great big joyful "YES!" to this financial challenge and to find new and life-giving opportunities to invest your time and energy in the ministry of First Lutheran Church. Thank you for your generosity!

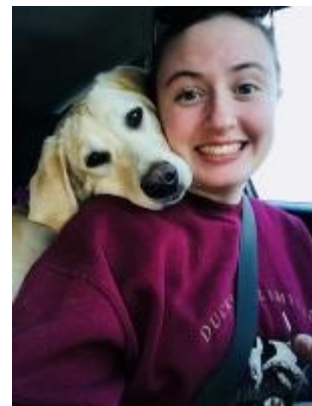
## Meet Magen, our Interim Youth Director!

Hello First Lutheran Church community! My name is Magen Nivison, but in two short months that will be changing to Magen Riestenberg as I am marrying my best friend, Andrew. One of my most proud accomplishments is adopting our fur baby, Winnie (1.5 year old yellow lab). I like to describe myself as nerdy, as I have a strong passion for science and academics. I'm originally from the suburbs of Minneapolis, Minnesota. I attended Osseo Senior High—a health and science magnet school. This is where my spark for science began. After high school, I studied Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, Morris where I earned my Bachelor of Arts. I am continuing my education at Grand Canyon University where I will earn my Masters in Secondary Education this upcoming August. During my time at the University of Minnesota, Morris, I got to work closely with some students from

Saerbeck, Germany; a town of approximately 10,000 people, but runs on 100% renewable energy. Every single one of these students was incredibly intelligent, brilliant in their field, and also possessed a strong desire to learn. I realized the most amazing gift someone can receive is education. From this experience, I decided to dedicate my career to teaching our youth. I am excited to take on this new role at First Lutheran Church, to continue my faith journey, and to help First Lutheran Church youth to continue in their faith journey.

Magen

magen.flc1@gmail.com



## Your Thoughts, First Lutheran's Future

**Around eighty people attended the meetings on May 6 and 13 to share thoughts and ideas about First Lutheran's future.** In the next 6-9 months we are committed to meeting the needs of First Lutheran Church and the community by:

- Developing and implementing a staffing plan.
- Recruiting staff for youth and education ministry.
- Encouraging greater personal and financial investment.

We are confident that these steps will address our immediate needs and position us for a productive partnership with our next senior pastor. **The group was asked to think about what assets First Lutheran has to address these priorities.**

**The asset list includes the following:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| * OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors group), WOW (Women of the Word) and other groups                                | * Strong faith foundation, faithful people, rich history                               |
| * Women of the ELCA, circle Bible studies, ministry to/with the elderly, mission projects, funeral serving ministry) | * Strong financial resources, wealth – FLC Foundation, special funds, designated gifts |
| * Butterflies (young children and parents)   | * Lots of children in Sunday school  |
| * Intergenerational Fair   | * Beautiful building, stained glass, good parking                                      |
| * Kristy Wicklund (interim Education Director)   | * Quilting and other ministry projects outside the congregation                        |
| * Congregation   | * Traditional worship  |
| * Music program  | * Youth programs   |
| * Worship Team (blended worship)   | * Current staff  |
| * Office staff (committed and talented)  | * Strong commitment to community outreach  |
| * Commitment to Youth  | * Keith Melberg (easy to work with, talented organist)                                 |
| * Steve Hosch (long-term, helpful custodian)   | * Council and committees   |
| * Untapped personal and financial resources  | * Volunteer sign-up sheets, opportunities to serve                                     |
| * Pastor Stan Satre (caring visitation pastor)   | * Frequent email communications  |

**The second part of the discussion was devoted to sharing ideas and suggestions about promising ways to build**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| * Care for our pastors   | * Invite youth, form relationships with them and include them |
| * One service – perhaps worshipping together would bring more unity  | * Hire youth staff  |
| * Share building more widely with community  | * Train parents and volunteers to work with youth             |
| * Adult Forum – discuss important issues in society in a safe environment  | * Intergenerational collaboration like the Lenten Easter Fair |
| * Holy Communion every Sunday  | * Youth mission trips   |
| * Move primary education hour to Wednesdays  | * Time and Talent inventories                                 |
| * Solve sound issues in worship space  | * Community childcare center                                  |
| * Work at thinking outside the box to find solutions   | * Keep worship traditional                                    |
| * Find ways to “market” First Lutheran   | * Nametags for everyone every Sunday                          |
| * Congregational Care group – people to assist when help is needed after surgery, facing long term health issues, birth of a baby, other crisis situations | * More outreach to the community                              |
| * Accommodate young families – ask what will help them to participate more fully, listen to their needs and hopes and then act to include them             | * Participate in Art Crawl to showcase stained glass windows  |
|  | * Maintain stained glass windows                              |

Thanks to everyone who said YES and participated in this conversation. It is exciting that Amy Baldwin, Community and Economic Development Director for the City of Fergus Falls, has volunteered to assist the Council in looking at these findings and putting together an action plan. The council is pleased to announce that Magen Nivison will serve as Interim Youth Director until staffing decisions are made. Please keep the Council in your prayers, let them know if you have ideas and are willing to assist during this exciting time!

FLC Executive Committee, Darren Krein, Dick Felstul, Debbie Opatz, Suzanne Demuth

Butterflies Vacation Bible School presents:

singing

crafts

stories

# Under the Sea

snacks

playing

friends

**June 4-7th**

**9:00-10:30 a.m.**

**First Lutheran Church**

**Ages birth to 5 years old**

(must be accompanied by an adult, older siblings are welcomed)

**"MIGHTIER THAN THE WAVES OF THE SEA IS HIS LOVE FOR YOU."**

**-PSALM 93:4**

## **Butterflies VBS *Under the Sea***



**June 4-7th, Monday –Thursday**



Sign up for a fun week of Vacation Bible School for children birth to 5 years old and their parent, grandparent, or other "favorite" adult! The children will explore Bible parables through singing songs, listening to stories, creating art projects, playing, and being in fellowship with other young families.

**Monday –Thursday: 9:00-10:30 a.m.**

Registration for children who will attend Butterflies VBS:

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please include notes about allergies, special needs, and considerations, etc.\*\*\*

Parent's names and phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$5.00 registration per child. \_\_\_\_\_ paid

Please turn registration forms into the church office.

# Summer Day Camp with Luther Crest!

**July 16-19 (Monday-Thursday)**

**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Kindergarten- 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Registration open to the public**

To Register, Contact the church office (218) 739-3348

Registration fee \$30 per child, register before June 1<sup>st</sup> and receive \$5 off the registration fee.

Financial aid is available, please contact the church office if needed.

To Volunteer, Contact: Kristy Wicklund (Interim Sunday School Superintendent) or  
the church office (218) 739-3348



## 2018 LUTHER CREST DAY CAMP REGISTRATION FORM

CAMPER NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SEX \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE JUST **COMPLETED BY CAMPER** (circle one) K 1 2 3 4 5 6

I give my permission for my child to participate in Luther Crest's Day Camp, to take part in the normal activities, and I authorize the camp doctor to provide any necessary emergency medical care. I understand Luther Crest assumes secondary insurance coverage; the camper's family assumes primary coverage. I also give Luther Crest permission to use any photograph of my child taken at camp in future promotion of Luther Crest.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Registration fee **\$30 per child**, register before **June 1<sup>st</sup>** and receive **\$5 off the registration fee**. Financial aid is available, please contact the church office if needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be a Day Camp Volunteer.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to bring an extra lunch for a counselor.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have the Luther Crest Day Camp Team at my home for supper.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to have the Luther Crest Day Camp team stay at my home.

\_\_\_\_\_ paid