



May 2018

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, MN

402 South Court Street

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

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We Say YES!



YES is a powerful word. We say it when we want others to know that we are ready and eager to bring our passion to their lives and to experience joy together. YES speaks our hope, our confidence, our love.



It was early spring and I was greeting people at the door after worship. Eliza stopped, offered her six year old hand to me with a smile. She said a few happy words about worship before she skipped away. When she came running back through the huge Gothic doors of Luther Memorial, she was waving a tattered envelope in her hand. She held it out to me, smiled a huge toothless smile and said in an excited voice, "I almost forgot to give you this. It's very important!" When I looked at the envelope, it made me happy. She had given a large offering for a little girl. She had prepared the envelope with care and joy. Eliza was saying YES. (see photos)

A few weeks ago Megan was helping as an usher at the 11:00 a.m. service. It was the first time her family was able to say YES to serving in worship, and I could tell they were a bit unsure about how to do it. But kind and helpful folks helped them learn. Megan, dressed in her Sunday best, helped pass the offering plate. When the offering was gathered, she stood at the back of the church beside her dad. They were ready. She began to walk forward with her dad at her side. But it was just too exciting for her to walk. Her walk turned to a sprint down the aisle, and she smiled widely as she handed me the plate and gave me a hug. It was a joyful moment to see this child's YES.



The joy and passion of our YES flows from God who is not ambivalent or hesitant in loving us. "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was not 'Yes and No.' In him it is always 'Yes.' In him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.'" (2 Cor. 1:18-19)

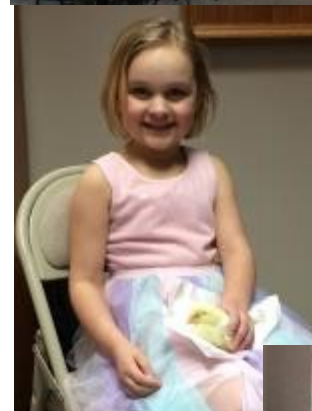
During May and into June we are going to give our attention to the power of the YES in our lives. We will explore how God says YES to us in Jesus and how, living in Christ, we say YES to God's life in us, to each other, to moms and dads, to our neighbors in this community and around the world, and to our new senior pastor. We will be a community that says YES!

Pastor Martha Halls

Summer Office Hours
Beginning Mon., June 4th
8 a.m.—3:30 p.m.



Summer Worship
Sundays at 9:30 am
(starting May 27th)





First Lutheran Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are heading into our last few weeks of Sunday School. It has been a fantastic year with learning about Jesus' love through the Bible stories. We kicked off the year with Rally Sunday, and we sent stuffed animals to the emergency services to help comfort children in times of crisis for a service project. We celebrated the birth of Jesus with another wonderful Christmas program. The children and families celebrated the coming of Jesus to Jerusalem and his resurrection during our Lenten/Easter Fair, and now Sunday School will end with the Creation story.

I would like to extend a thank you to our Sunday School workshop leaders and shepherds. Thank you for all your hard work, time, compassion, and



The Creation Story

God created everything we see. The beautiful starry sky, the animals parading on this Earth, and you and me. During the month of May, we will be looking at the creation story. The lessons will be teaching the children:

- I am a unique part of God's creation.
- I can be a creator with God.
- God's creation is good.
- We are God's stewards, just like Adam and Eve.
- We are created in God's own image.
- God created a world full of amazing things.

knowledge that you have imparted to our students. We could not have done this program without you.

Thank you parents for bringing your child (ren) every Sunday and entrusting them in our care. It has been wonderful getting to know your child(ren) and growing in faith with them.

As we approach summer, plans for the 2018-2019 Sunday School year will start taking shape. If you would like help with our Sunday School, please let me know.

"For every lesson you've prepared, the love of God has been shared."

God Bless you,

Kristy Wicklund

Interim Sunday School Superintendent

The First Lutheran Church Library Committee asks for your help in maintaining the library. Please look around your home and return any books or DVDs your children checked out before Sunday School ends in May. Many thanks as this helps us have a full selection for children to check out next year.

May 6

10th grade milestone class @ 10

10th grade milestone blessing @ 11

May 13

Sunday School sing at 8:30 & 11:00 worship services

Butterflies

Parent Meeting @ 10 in Kairos Room

Teacher Recognition

May 20

Last day of Sunday School

Luther Crest Day Camp preview during the Sunday School hour

Confirmation

May 31

Day Camp with Luther Crest early bird registration deadline

June 4- 7

Butterflies Vacation Bible School
(information on attached flyer)

July 16-19

Summer Day Camp with Luther Crest
(information on attached flyer)



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- 6th grade

Registration open to the public

**Join us for worship, games, crafts, snacks, fun,
and more!**

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

Registration fee \$30 per child, register before June 1st 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 1st** 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

One in Spirit Hymn Festival

Sunday, May 20th at

First Lutheran Church 2:00 pm

A celebration of Song & Community. Sponsored by the Ferguson Falls Catholic Church & the ELCA Congregations.

Sign-up sheets for Radio Broadcast & Altar Flowers are in the Narthex.

Each of these is a great way to honor the memory of loved ones or celebrate personal milestones. The radio broadcast is \$100, checks made to FLC with radio in the memo line. The flowers come from The Flower Mill and cost approximately \$40. They bill you directly.

Meals by Wheels ~~May 29~~ June 1 & June 4-8

Can you spare 1 hour of your time to deliver meals to those less fortunate??

Around 10:45-11 am you pull up behind the Senior Center and enter through the back door. They provide you the meals and a map for your deliveries. It's a smooth operation and provides a hot meal to those in need. We would love your help 1 day or multiple days. It's flexible!!

Please call Jennifer Frank 701-238-0276 or sign up in the Narthex

WELCA Board Meeting:

Tues. May 8, 10 am– Kairos
Room

Love Days Quilters meet every
Monday from

9 a.m.—3 p.m. Except May 28

All are welcome!

CIRCLES

Wed, May 23 Sarah: 9:30 am at
Pioneer Pointe

Hannah: 1:00 pm at Church



Congratulations to this year's Graduation Class of 2018!

Levi Danielson, Riley Hinsverk, DeAnna Hurley, Jared Kuehl, Cole Mahler, Dakotah Mau, William Pajari, Ellie Swenson, Casey Thom, Logan Wentworth, Lauren Werner, Ryan Wilson, Max Wolfe

Senior Sunday is May 27 at 9:30 am



CONFIRMATION

At 11 am on Sunday May 20, 17 ninth graders will say "YES" to what God is doing in their lives through the public rite of Confirmation. Please say "YES" to these young people by praying for them and continuing to encourage them as they discover the many ways God has said "YES" to them. Isaac Anderson, Hope Fletchall, Madisen Hinsverk, Callie Knudson, Hailey Knudson, Karley Kugler, Koryna Loomer, Grace Opatz, Luke Opatz, Jacob Opatz, Svea Smestad, Ian Stumbo, Raven Vallevand, Charlie Vaughn, Emily Werner, Sam Western

Confirmation Schedule for May

May 1 - Confirmation verse due to the office

May 2 - Last day of Confirmation Class for 8th and 9th graders. Thanks to Pam Western and Andrea Loomer for fitting robes after class.

May 6 - Last day to let the office know if you will be bringing family members beyond the confirmation and parents to the reception. We want to have enough dessert.

May 9 - 7:00 pm - Confirmation Dessert Reception hosted by 8th graders and their parents.

Thanks to Kristi Wentworth and Wendy Werner for organizing this event. Rehearsal will follow dessert in the sanctuary.

May 20 - 10:00 am Confirmation photos in the Sanctuary. After photos confirmands will meet in the hallway by the Youth Room to line up for the procession

May 20 - 11:00 am Worship with the Rite of Confirmation

PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE LAST DAY OF CHOIR AND K-7 FLY

Wednesday May 9 the Children's Choir and FLY K-7 will celebrate the last meeting for this year with a pizza party and games. Parents please note: all activities will end at **4:30 pm**.

SPECIAL THANKS to Choir director Kelsee Ellig, Choir and FLY Assistant Maddy Trosvig, Pianist Keith Melberg, FLY Adult Leaders Magen Nivison, Cali Anderson, Linda Mellon, Lorri Holt and Linda West for saying "YES" to the children through this year!

Kids will wrap up the year singing on April 29th, 11:00 am service and May 6th, 8:30 am service.



What will our Youth be doing at the ELCA Youth Gathering?

2018 Gathering will have five program areas that are the primary vessels for engaging youth and adults in ministry and fulfilling our mission of faith formation in teenagers:

SYNOD DAY – a day of Bible study, worship and fellowship within the ELCA's geographical groupings.

SERVICE LEARNING – a day of learning the stories of Houstonians, service projects and advocacy.

INTERACTIVE LEARNING – a day of hands-on experiences related to theology, service, justice seeking, prayer, the arts and fellowship.

COMMUNITY LIFE – daily opportunities for worship, fellowship, music and recharging.

MASS GATHERING – daily gatherings of the whole community featuring inspiring speakers, engaging Christian musicians and worship.



Meet Our Council



Terry Gervais Fellowship Chair

During senior year of Sunday School I pretty much skipped every Sunday. I would talk various friends into going to the Highway Host for a cinnamon roll. After all, my brother got to go fishing or hunting instead, why should I have to go? Luckily my best friend told me there was going to be a senior SS graduation Sunday at the end of the year. So I figured I better show up for that, right? We all sat in the Senior Choir loft in full view of the whole congregation. As they called out everyone's name they were to go stand up in the front of the Church. Being a "Willett" at the time I was one of the last to be called.....only I wasn't. Yikes, I flunked Senior High SS in front of the whole congregation AND my mom and dad. Needless to say I was extremely nervous to go home and to this day I will never forget that "Memorable Moment at First Lutheran".

Terry

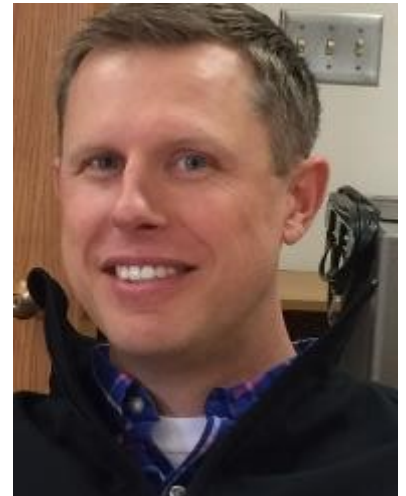
aunteehee1@gmail.com

Joe Ellig Personnel Chair

Experience: Each time I go to church it reminds me of Pepe or Pastor Preus as many others knew him. Pepe was the family name for my grandfather Chris Preus. Chris was someone that I greatly admired. He was kind, caring, enjoyed life, loved the outdoors, hunting fishing, happy hour and was wonderfully good with people. My experience with Pepe embodies what FLC does to me. It helps me find happiness in the golden rule. In my profession, it can be very easy to slip into a dark path of doing unto others as you see fit. This is not the way Pepe lived nor the way of the church. I'm proud to be a member of a church like FLC and trust that it will provide similar guidance to our family's fourth generation to attend this church, my daughter.

Joe

joe@nycklemoelaw.com



Suzanne Demuth Treasurer

When council members were assigned the task of writing about a significant event that we experienced in this church, I had a hard time coming up with just one. Being baptized and confirmed at First Lutheran, I have memories of many significant experiences here. Even with the big milestones that have been a part of my family's life here, I find that the most meaningful experiences happen on a day to day basis. Playing a favorite hymn in bell choir, being touched by a brilliant sermon, or participating in a peaceful Holden evening prayer service are all part of regular daily church life. But it's these everyday occurrences that have made the most impact on my connection with the church.

Suzanne

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