



Worship Sun. 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7
www.channel977.com
You Tube channel: First Lutheran Church ELCA, Fergus Falls

402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-739-3348
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org
office@flcff.org

A Message from Pastor Gretchen

It's Jesus' birthday month and an ideal time of the year to take an inventory of that which we are grateful for. I am beginning my 6th month of service with you as your Sr. Pastor. This is my greatest area of gratitude. I simply love being your pastor and I thank you for calling me to lead and serve among you. Often, I am asked how I am adapting to small town living and how I like First Lutheran Church? The truth is I feel grateful and blessed each day. I love what God has called me to be about, being with the good and faithful people at First Lutheran in Fergus Falls. I wouldn't change a thing even if I could! Although I do need to buy a snow blower for my drive way so that I am prepared for ...you know what!

I am grateful for the staff and volunteers at First Lutheran and the many ways they dedicate energies and time to care for their church. I am grateful for the variety of ministries that First Lutheran is about. I am grateful for the small-town atmosphere and especially for the ease of getting around without traffic! I am grateful for the many opportunities to provide pastoral care to individuals and families who are dealing with change, loss, and other challenges that life presents.

I invite you to consider what you are grateful for. Please take time to make a gratitude list in thanksgiving to God for all of life's abundant blessings. It's always a good day to express gratitude to God for whatever it is that reminds you that God is always with you.

Please know that my office door is always open to you for conversation, a coffee, or the like. I am grateful for an opportunity to know you better. May you continue to share the light of the Spirit in all you are and do.

Thy will be done, *Pastor Gretchen*

Advent & Christmas Worship

Advent Services will be on December 5, 12, and 19

- 12:10 p.m.—Worship followed by soup lunch
- 7:00 p.m. - Vespers—Holden Evening Prayer

If you need a bus pass to join us for the 12:10 p.m. Advent Service, please let the church office know— 739-3348

- Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program followed by Trowbridge Zoo animals
- Monday, Dec. 24 at 3:00 & 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
- Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service—10:00 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

You Are Invited to the FLC Sunday School Christmas Program

Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus through song, readings, and play with our Sunday School youth (Preschool through 8th grade).



When:
Sunday, Dec. 16

Time:
11:00 a.m.

Where:
**First Lutheran
Church Sanctuary**

After the program put on a warm coat and join us outside as we visit some of the friendly beasts that were present at the birth of Jesus with the Trowbridge Creek Zoo.

Coin Olympics

During the months of November and December, the Sunday School is collecting coins during the Children's Time for a coin Olympics. All the coins donated will be going to the **Current for Curran** charity chosen by the Sunday School youth. This charity is working to supply solar power to the Curran Hospital in Liberia, a project supported by the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). To learn more about or to donate please check out the link:

<https://www.skipthegrid.org/current-for-curran>



What is Happening this Month?

Dec. 2nd— Lesson: A Good Ruler
(Jeremiah 33:14-17)

Dec. 9th— Butterflies at **10:00** in
Fellowship Hall birth through
Kindergarten

Sunday School Christmas Program
Practice & Coin Olympics Grades
Preschool–6th (and participating 7th
& 8th graders) **10:00-11:30***

Dec. 16th- Christmas Program
Practice at **10:00**

Sunday School Christmas Program at
11:00*

Trowbridge Creek Petting Zoo follow-
ing Christmas Program

Dec. 24- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dec. 31— NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jan. 6— Sunday School Resumes
10-10:45 a.m.*

(*note time changes)

Calling All Cookie Bakers! Christmas Cookies for Special Friends!



On Wednesday, December 12, First Lutheran Church will be delivering plates of holiday cookies to shut-ins and members unable to bake anymore. We need help from those of you who enjoy baking. Let's spread Christmas joy in this delicious way. Deliver a batch or two of your favorite cookie to the church kitchen on Tuesday, December 11 or by 9:00 a.m. on December 12. Please label them "Cookie Plates for Special Friends". The cookies will be used to make cookie plates with a variety of cookies on each. We are looking for additional drivers to help deliver the cookies later that Wednesday morning. Previous drivers have found it to be a very rewarding experience. Please call Sandy Pearson 218 736-4320 if you can help in this way, or if you have questions. Together we can spread lots of Christmas love and cheer!



Christmas Giving Trees are up and ready for donations. Please take an ornament (or more!) from the tree. Purchase the item listed on the ornament and then return the item and tag, unwrapped, to the church before Sunday December 16. The organizations benefiting from the Giving Trees this year are: A Place To Belong, Someplace Safe, Lake Region Recovery Home, and the Fergus Falls Public Schools. This is a simple way to make this Christmas season a little more "merry" for our community!!

THANK YOU to everyone

who helped with the Harvest Dinner on November 8—all the great helpers, those who donated food, our wonderful cooks, and especially the youth who did such a **GREAT** job!!

580 people enjoyed a wonderful evening of food & fellowship!!



First Lutheran Foundation Requests 2019

The Foundation will hold its annual meeting on January 7, 2019. Any requests from the Foundation should be approved by the Church Council. Written requests for funds should be emailed to Chad Felstul (c.felstul@pemplaw.com) or dropped off at the Church office, before December 21, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact any Foundation Board members: Chad Felstul, Vicki Hanneman, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Tim Johnson, Missy Mattson and Linda Mellon.

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018, checks must be mailed to the church by no later than December 31. Checks must be written, postmarked, and mailed in 2018 to qualify for a 2018 deduction. Please keep this in mind when making your year-end donations. Thank you.

An Invitation to a Christmas Tea

TO: All Women of First Lutheran Church

DATE: Thursday, December 13, 2018

TIME: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pioneer Pointe Dining Room



All Women of First Lutheran Church
are invited to come and share the spirit of
Christmas through devotions, music, refreshments and
fellowship at our Annual Christmas Tea.

Bring a friend!

WELCA **LOVE DAYS**

Every Monday 9 am to 3 pm, except for
December 24 and 31

WELCA Executive Board

Tuesday, December 11

9:30 a.m. Kairos Room

CIRCLES—Sarah & Hannah

Will not meet in December



Thank you for supporting WELCA's Fall
Fundraiser, "Coins, Cash, Checks Change
Lives". Funds raised will be used to support
missions that are important to all of us.

MORNING WATCH—Funds for Morning Watch are needed. The cost per program is \$29.00 and with about 260 programs per year, the cost per year is approximately \$7540. Morning Watch is a great out-reach and public relations tool for ELCA churches in this area. If you are interested in making a donation to Morning Watch, checks can be made out to Morning Watch and mailed to Morning Watch, PO Box 495, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. **THANK YOU!**



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018

9:30 a.m.

New members will be celebrated in worship.
Welcome to Sunni Thom, JoAn Whitlock, Clara Whitlock.

January Messenger Deadline December 6th!!!

December 2018: Youth News!

UPCOMING EVENTS



FLY K-6

FLY K-6 is collaborating with Sunday School in collecting coins for the Current for Curran charity. Coins can be brought on Sundays to church or Sunday School. Please read the Sunday School Messenger page for more information.

December 2: Throw on your pajamas, bring a pillow and a blanket and come and snuggle in for the movie **The Star**. Popcorn and pizza will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish if desired.



December 5: Lesson: A good Ruler (Jeremiah 33:14-17)

December 12: Christmas Party

December 19:—January 2: NO FLY. Resumes January 9.

FLY 7-9

NO FLY 7-9 in December, starts again January 9. 9th grade see LYO below.

FLY 10-12

December 9: 6:30 pm TRIVIA! with prizes— Youth Room

January: Watch for dates to go tubing at Andes

January 12-13: LYO Senior High Retreat (9th-12th grade) at Luther Crest. Registration forms & \$70 non-refundable deposit due by December 13th. **This is a confirmation requirement for 9th graders.** Any 10-12th grade students interested are also welcome to attend.

We are looking for a 7th-12th grade Youth Director. If you or anyone you know is interested, please have them inquire in the office or with Pastor Gretchen.



from Middle School youth who attended LYO November 16-17. Thanks to the congregation's generous donations they were able to bring the following items to make Blessing Bags:

- ♦ 16 pair warm socks
- ♦ 125 toiletry items
- ♦ 12 warm hats
- ♦ 4 boxes of snacks
- ♦ 3 pair of mittens

Bags were brought back to Fergus Falls and donated to the Salvation Army.



**Thank You
for all the
food
donations!!!**



***YEA to
volunteers!!***



**Thankful for
the fantastic
cooks!!!!**



***The kids were
GREAT!!!***



**580 enjoyed a wonderful meal
and time of fellowship!**