



First Lutheran Church January 2019

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 MN

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

A Message from Pastor Gretchen: *Creating Space For God*

My invitation for each of us in the coming year is to be intentional in creating space for God. Those famous seven words-*But we've always done it this way*-are among the greatest enemies of making changes, even for the good. You may think that you already have space for God. My encouragement for you this new year is to pray for the willingness, to be willing, to create even more space for God. I invite you to seek means to immerse yourself into God's love throughout each waking moment. The change comes into play as we open ourselves up to the promptings of the Holy Spirit for direction in this venture.

The goal of course is to grow and thrive in our relationship with God. However, the fruits of this growth become evident throughout our entire livelihood. Roman Catholic priest and writer Henri Nouwen, speaks of a fruitful, or fecund: *"The great mystery of fecundity is that it becomes visible when we have given up our attempts to control life and take the risk to let life reveal its own inner movements. Whenever we trust and surrender ourselves to the God of love, fruits will grow. Fruits can only come forth from the ground of intimate love. They are not made, nor are they the resulted specific human actions that can be repeated. Neither predictable nor definable, fruits are gifts to be received."*

Let us boldly enter this new year with an openness to create ever more space for God. God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Gretchen



Mark your calendar:
First Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting is January 27,
2019 following 9:30 a.m. worship.

Sunday School

What's happening in January?

6th- Sunday School Resumes

Lesson: Jesus the Word

(John 1:10-18)

13th- Butterflies

Ages Birth through Pre-school & favorite adult

Lesson: Jesus' Baptism

(Luke 3:15-17, 21-22)

20th- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

27th- Lesson: Jesus Goes to

Nazareth

(Luke 4:14-30)

Happy New Year!!! Thank you for bringing your children to all the Christmas program practices and helping to make our Sunday School Christmas Program so special. I know it is hard to make time with all the commitments you have in your life. It was so great! A HUGE thank you to all the teachers and volunteers that helped. We could not have had such a wonderful program without you! Kelsey and Joyce did a fantastic job, and we so appreciate all the work they did for our Christmas program!

As we enter the new year, Sunday School will be a little quieter without the Christmas program practice. However; we have been brainstorming to find a way to get all the children involved in Holy Communion, and starting in January we are going to try it out. The plan is that there will be Holy Communion and a child's blessing during Chapel Time in Sunday School. Children are still welcomed to stay with their families in the sanctuary for Holy Communion if desired, but children going to Sunday School will now receive a blessing or Holy Communion in the Chapel every Sunday. Also, without practice, we don't need quite as much time in the Chapel, so Sunday School will be 45 minutes long (10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.) instead of an hour. Children ages Preschool through 2nd grade can be picked up at their classrooms on the first floor at 10:45. 3rd through 5th grade classrooms are on the 2nd floor and will be dismissed at 10:45.

If you ever have any positive thoughts, concerns, or ideas about Sunday School I would love to hear them! Feel free to catch me, leave me a note in the office, call me, or email me.

May God bless you in this new year,

Kristy Wicklund

Sunday School Superintendent

(218) 531-9544

Kristy@flcfff.org

The Little Free Library is Open for Reading!!!



Have you seen a small, cute building structure on the North side of the church? It is our Little Free Library! The books have been in it for a while, but it is now officially registered and even has a nice plaque. I encourage you to check it out. The books are for all ages of any reading level, and they can be shared, or kept. No library card needed! If you would like to donate some books to our Little Free Library, please just drop them off in the church office. Thank you to everyone that helped make this possible! Check out this site to find us on the map or to learn more about The Little Free Library.

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

LOVE DAYS

Every Monday 9 am to 3 pm
(except for Jan. 21)

We hope you will join us!!

WELCA Executive Board

Tuesday, January 8 at 10:00 am in Kairos Room

CIRCLES

Sarah—January 23, 2019 9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah— Wednesday, January 23, 2019 1:00 pm Kairos

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

Thank You

Every year at Christmas, Slumberland donates beds to children through the Homes for the Holiday program in Ottertail county. We would like to thank the First Lutheran quilters for donating beautiful quilts so the children can have a new quilt to put on their new beds.



Vicki Long, Asst. Mgr. Slumberland Furniture

2019 is here!



The sign-up sheets for providing Altar Flowers and sponsoring the Radio Broadcast for 2019 are posted on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Flowers run around \$45.00, and the Flower Mill will bill you directly. \$100.00 to sponsor a radio broadcast. This is a great way to honor or pay tribute to someone special. *Thank YOU!!!*



Sunday School Program December 16, 2018 “What Christmas is All About”





Giving Trees: Thanks to Jennifer Frank and the Outreach Committee for coordinating the Giving Trees! Thank you to our generous shoppers! We were excited to continue this important ministry in our community.

Christmas Food Baskets: Thank you to the church council for packing and delivering 43 Food Baskets this year.

Cookies for Special Friends: Thank you to our Cookie Coordinators, bakers, cookie plate packers, and our delivery crew for making Christmas a little sweeter for over 80 people!



CALLING ALL UNDECORATING ANGELS!

We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on **Monday, January 7, 2019**, starting at 9:00 a.m. Please join us if you are interested in helping out. We will have a potluck luncheon when we are done at Pastor Gretchen's home.



Thank You

to all of the Volunteers who helped during the busy Christmas season!

We appreciate all your help during worship, decorating, serving food, helping in the office, coordinating special projects, teaching, singing, and in so many other areas!





The Spirit of Giving
is alive and well
at First Lutheran
during Christmas 2018!



SO many
cookies
donated by
wonderful
cookie
bakers!

Beautiful
plates
delivered
to over 80
people!



Food Baskets— the church council
prepared and delivered 43 baskets.



Thank you for shopping
and making Christmas
merrier for so many!



January 2019: Youth News!

UPCOMING EVENTS



FLY K-6—resumes January 9!

- We continue to collaborate with Sunday School curriculum, and to meet on Wednesdays after school.
- January 27: Family Game Night 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Bring games and snacks to share.
- Also, plans are in the works for a Sledding Event in February. Watch for details!!

FLY 7-9

- Plans are in the works for sledding at Roosevelt in February! Watch for details.

FLY 10-12

- Sunday, January 20: Tubing at Andes Tower Hills for FLY 10-12! Meet at the church at 1:15 p.m. to head to Andes for a fun day of tubing. Sign up on the counter in the Narthex. If you want snacks, be sure to bring your own money.



Luther Crest Bible Camp 2019 Summer Schedule is out. If you register before February 14, 2019, there is a \$175.00 discount off full price!!

THE MESSENGER

This month's newsletter was distributed to a larger group due to the Annual Meeting Notice. If you don't receive the newsletter every month, but would like to receive it, please contact the church office at 739-3348 or office@flcff.org. We would be happy to add you to our distribution list, either via regular mail or electronic e-mail.