



First Lutheran Church March 2019

Worship Sun. 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:00 am
Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7
www.channel977.com
YouTube 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

Lent is my favorite church season. It is a period of 40 days, excluding Sundays, when we are invited to take a look at what we are consuming with the hope to see what is consuming us. I like to envision Lent as a pilgrimage to a mystic holy mountain. As with Moses, it is an ascent to a mountaintop meeting with the Divine Mystery. Isaiah addressed this invitation to everyone willing to embrace the adventure: "Come, let us climb God's mountain" (Is. 2:3)

For the mystics, the path to God has always been like climbing a mountain. It is an ascent, a rising up to a higher and holier life. This quest to the summit of all we can be, and all we truly are, is a step by-step ascent. This can be a rigorous venture which requires reflection and preparation.

I invite you to commit to this Lenten season 2019 as though your life depends on it; because in fact, perhaps it does. This is to say, I invite each of us to pray to God asking for direction of how He would have us engage in this adventure of Lent. We can consider the opportunity to commit fully to Lent and all its spiritual disciplines as a means to deepen our relationship with God, ourselves and others.

What could committing fully to Lent mean for you? It could mean attending worship each Wednesday and Sunday throughout the season in addition to participating in the Holy Week worship services. It could mean asking God for the willingness to consider how we might 'let go' of that which may be an obstacle in our spiritual wellness. This could entail 'letting go' of a habit, or a belief which may be compromising our ability to place God at the center of our lives.

Do know that I will be journeying along your side through this most sacred season and I am willing to share conversation, or prayer with you in hope that we can be about this adventure together as people of faith.

May God Bless your journey,
Pastor Gretchen



Adult Education in Fellowship Hall

March 3, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
Jeff Christenson, Director
Lake Region Recovery Home

April 7, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.
Alzheimer's Association

Looking Ahead to Palm Sunday & Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019—Worship 9:30 a.m.
Palm Sunday Festival and Pancake Breakfast

Maundy Thursday, April 18 —Worship 7:00 p.m.
with 5th grade First Communion

Good Friday, April 19—Worship 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 21 —Worship 9:30 & 11:00



Upcoming Dates:

Lesson: The Transfiguration Mar. 3

Lesson: Tempted Mar. 10
Luke 4:1-13

5th Grade First Communion Pottery Class in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Family Game Night in Youth Room 4-6:30 p.m.

Lesson: God's Promises to Abram Mar. 17
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Lesson: Parable of the Fig Tree Mar. 24
Luke 13:1-9
Butterflies (note change of date)
Sunday School sings in worship

Lesson: The Prodigal Son Mar. 31
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Palm Sunday Festival & Breakfast April 14
Sunday School sings in worship

5th Grade First Communion Instruction & Bread Making Class 5:30 April 17
(Pizza provided)

5th Grade First Holy Communion at Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 April 18

Luther Crest VBS Day Camp

Mark your calendars!

Luther Crest VBS Day Camp at
First Lutheran Church is

August 12-15!

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 Pastor provides an opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The classes begin with a pottery making day (Sunday, March 10 at 10:00) as they mold a chalice for their First Communion. It continues with a bread making day and instruction (Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30). These tactile lessons are meant to help kids reflect on the things they've felt and learned about communion. After the instruction, students will experience their First Communion at the worship service on Maundy Thursday, April 18th 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.



How to contact Kristy, Director of Children's Ministries

(218) 531-9544

Kristy@flcff.org

Subscribe to Remind App by texting @flcss18 to 81010



LOVE DAYS

Every Monday 9 am to 3 pm

We hope you will join us!!

(if school is delayed or cancelled, Love Days will not meet)

WELCA Executive Board

No Meeting in March

CIRCLES

Sarah— Wednesday March 27

9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah— Wednesday March 27

1:30 pm Kairos Room

(note time change)



*ALL women are encouraged to join
our Love Days and/or Circles!!!!*



Many thanks to everyone! You all have been so supportive as I have been going through the medical journey of diagnosis, surgery and recovery. I appreciate your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, food, and everything you have done! God Bless you!

Pastor Gretchen

MESSENGER DISTRIBUTION

We are always looking for ways to be good financial stewards. One goal we made is to decrease out paper usage and maximize out digital resources. Here are ways to ensure you continue to receive the monthly Messenger:

1. By mail—please let the office know if you wish to continue to receive a copy at home. Call us at 739-3348 or email to office@flcff.org
2. View or print the Messenger from our website: www.firstlutheranchurch.org
3. Pick up a paper copy at the church.

If you are receiving the Messenger by mail, please let us know by April 15 if you would like to continue to receive it in the mail. Thank You!

Receive Constant Contact emails and reminders by visiting our website and filling subscribing!

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 \$20.00 to the church office (or put money in a pew envelope marked "Easter Plant" and place in the offering plate). Those purchasing a plant may take it home after the 11:00 service on Easter.

Thank You!



**Thursday
March 14
1 to 7 p.m.
Blood Drive
Fellowship Hall**



It's time to pull out those bikes and use our covered, prime parking, bike racks!! April 1 is the beginning of 30 Days of Biking locally. Take a pledge to ride your bike every day in April and ride to church Sunday mornings!! For more info check out the 30 Days of Biking website <https://30daysofbiking.com/> or Pedal Fergus Falls at <http://www.pedalff.org/>.

Pedal Fergus Falls, a chapter of the [Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota](#), is a bicycle and pedestrian education and advocacy group for Fergus Falls.



WORK WANTED

The Lake Region Recovery Home has been providing assistance and chemical dependency treatment to adult men in Fergus Falls since 1973. These men come to our facility after completing a more intense treatment program. The goal here is for these men to find employment while they live in an environment that is conducive to their recovery. Many of these men arrive here because they are homeless, unemployed and have little or no financial resources. We provide for their basic needs as well as providing individual and group counseling. The average length of stay is 90 days. During that time the men are required to look for work so they can accumulate enough money to obtain their own housing.

The challenge they often face is that it is very difficult for them to find employment because of the consequences of their addictive behavior. Many of them have criminal records (non-violent), poor work histories, no car or license, etc.

I am asking for support from the First Lutheran Church. Pastor Gretchen has been actively involved and very supportive of our mission.

I believe that there are members of the congregation who are either employers or know employers who are looking for laborers. Temporary or small day labor jobs such as moving, yard work, clean-up projects are always welcome as well. We usually have men available on call daily. I am asking you to consider giving these men another chance. They have the ability and desire to become good employees as long as they are clean and sober. I realize that there are risks involved but that is true of any worthwhile mission. I will be addressing the congregation regarding this matter during the March 3rd service. I will also be attending the Adult Education class that day to discuss our program and answer questions.

I would ask that you read Matthew 25:34-40 to see what Jesus instructed us all to do with situations like this. I thank-you for the opportunity to share this request with you. If you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to call or email me.

Jeff Christenson-Director

Lake Region Recovery Home, Fergus Falls



Welcome
**to our Administrative Assistant/
Youth Director Calie!**

Calie (Rittenour) Anderson has always been part of the First Lutheran Church Family. She was baptized and confirmed here. Calie is a graduate of Underwood High School and then went to college for Early Childhood Education. She enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her barrel horses. She has always had a passion for children; she also has two boys, Connor, 8, and Nolan, 3, being her top priority. Calie is very excited to be joining the First Lutheran staff and making a difference to the youth of our community.

Passport to Life: Journey with Jesus

2019 Midweek Lenten Worship

With the 5 ELCA Churches in Fergus Falls

WEDNESDAYS MARCH 13-APRIL 10

SCHEDULE EACH WEEK

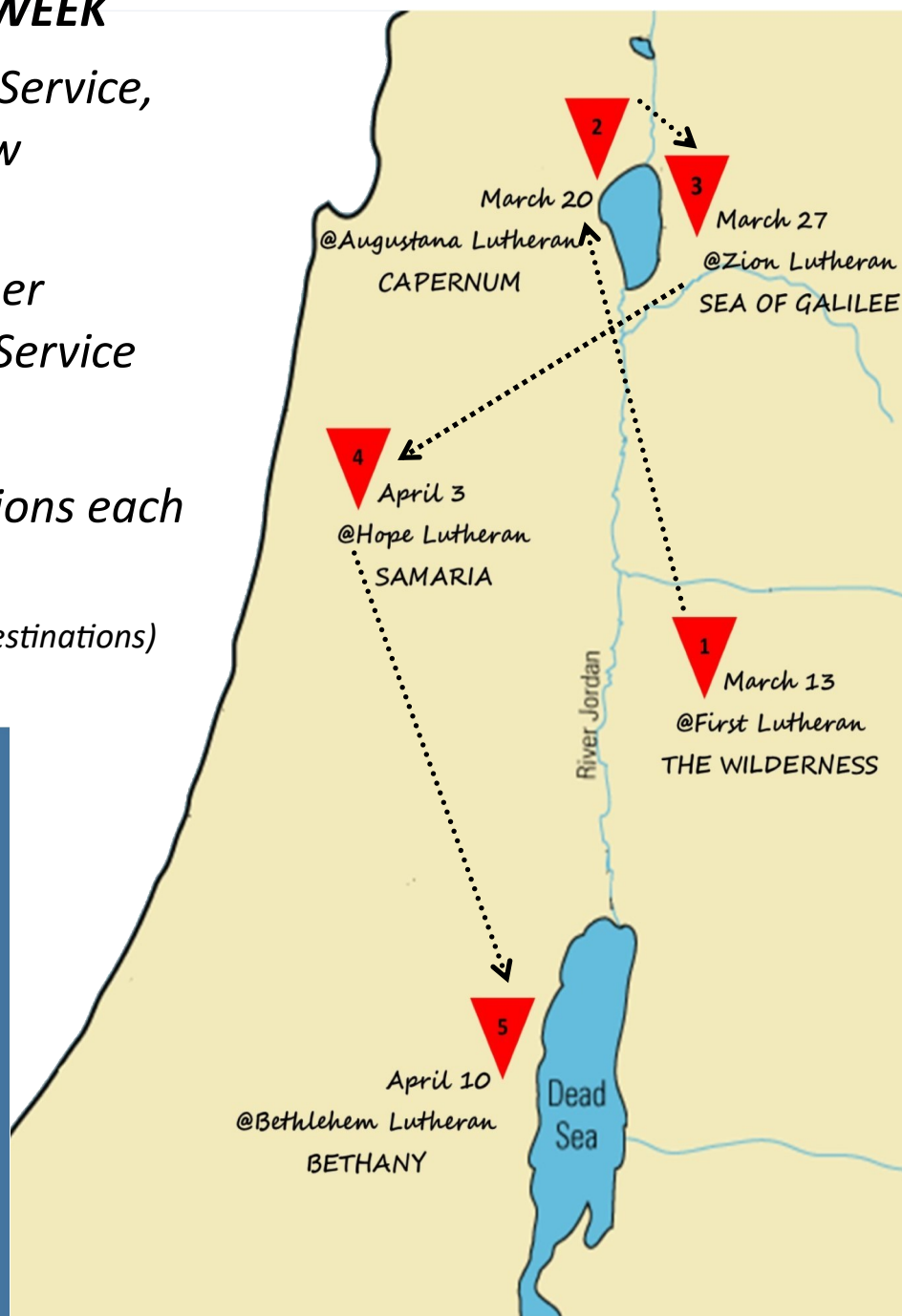
*12:10 p.m. Worship Service,
lunch to follow*

5:30 p.m. Supper

6:30 p.m. Worship Service

*Rotating church locations each
week*

(see map for locations and destinations)



Passport to Life
Journey with Jesus



Lent 2019





This year our Lenten worship will be held at the ELCA churches in town. Services will be at 12:10 p.m. with lunch after and 6:30 p.m. with supper before worship at 5:30 p.m. (except on Ash Wednesday, no lunch will be served) The theme is:

Passport to Life: Journey with Jesus

- **March 6, 2019**—Ash Wednesday—Each congregation will worship at their home church. There will **not** be a lunch after the 12:10 worship. There will be supper at 5:30 p.m., before the 6:30 p.m. service.
- **March 13, 2019**— **"The Wilderness"** First Lutheran
- **March 20, 2019**— **"Capernum"** Augustana Lutheran—308 East Douglas
- **March 27, 2019**— **"Sea of Galilee"** Zion Lutheran—202 East Summit
- **April 3, 2019**— **"Samaria"** Hope Lutheran—1309 Stony Brook Road
- **April 10, 2019**— **"Bethany"** Bethlehem Lutheran—102 West Junius

Other things to know:

- Designated offerings from worship (envelopes and checks) will go to the designated church, so if you want your offering to go to First Lutheran, be sure to note First Lutheran on your envelope, and make checks payable to First Lutheran Church.
- Loose offerings will be split between the Food Shelf, Salvation Army and Habitat for Humanity.
- Freewill offering for lunch and supper will be designated by the host church.
- If you need transportation to the 12:10 p.m. services, please call the office at 739-3348 to arrange to receive an Otter Express bus pass.

We look forward to traveling with our fellow ELCA church members on this Lenten Journey with Jesus.





March 2019: Youth News!

Hello FLY K-6 Friends!

Wednesdays are our special day to play, worship, and have fun as a church family. The invitation is always open to friends that want to join us. Transportation is provided from Kennedy School to the church, or children can be brought to church after school. Events in March include:

March 6th— Lesson: The Transfiguration

Sunday, March 10th— FAMILY GAME NIGHT 4:00-6:30 p.m.— Youth Room

March 13th— Lesson: Tempted

March 20th— Lesson: God's Promises to Abram

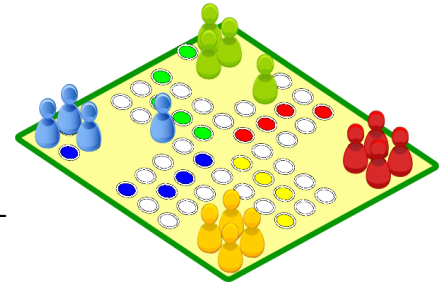
March 27th— Lesson: Parable of the Fig Tree

FLY K-6 ends at 4:30

Please make sure your child is picked up at this time.

You can reach Kristy, Director of Children's Ministries, at (218) 531-9544

Kristy@flcff.org or Subscribe to Remind App by Texting @flyk6 to 81010



Family Game Night

Sunday, March 10th from 4:00-6:30 in the FLC Youth Room. Bring a game, play one of ours, or a friend's, also feel free to bring a nut-free snack to share if you choose. This is for families with members of all ages.

FLY 10-12

March 17 Tubing at

Andes from 1 to 3 pm.

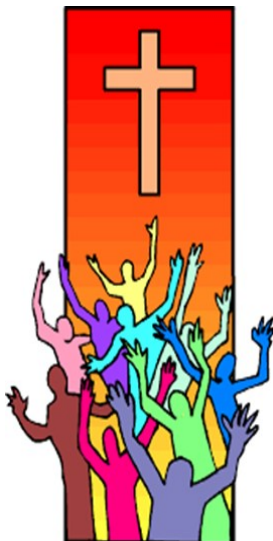
Meet at church at noon.

Sign-up located outside the office windows or

email calie@flcff.org or subscribe to Remind

App by texting @fly10-12 to 81010. Sign up

before March 10 please.



FLY 7-9

March 22 to 23

FLY 7-9 Lock In starts 9 pm

March 22, ends 8 am March 23.

Pizza, movies, games & more!!

Sign up with Calie in the office

or email calie@flcff.org or

subscribe to Remind App by

texting @fly79 to 81010.

Parents—if you are interested in chaperoning, please let Calie know.

Luther Crest Bible Camp 2019

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 me!)

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



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

Thank you to the First Lutheran Foundation for this awesome gift toward attending camp. They, like I, believe that attending Bible camp is simply one of the best things you can do in the summer.

Please see me if you have any questions!

Calie

Life at First Lutheran!



beat ^{the}
winter
blues

