



First Lutheran Church May 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



*Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!
Alleluia!*

Good News for the Oppressed

When Jesus came to earth he had a mission, which is expressed in these words from Isaiah 61:

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

2 He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

3 To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

This mission has been passed on to us. Some people talk about "preaching the gospel" but may alienate those who need the Good News the most. We are in a unique position to share our faith as Evangelical Lutherans, in a way that broken people can understand and receive it.

In recent months the First Lutheran Church Council has been intentionally discerning a new mission statement for our congregation. The fruits of prayerful conversations is below:

"As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts."

I invite each of us to instill these words in our hearts and minds as we go about worshipping God and serving one another. May God continue to bless our mission here at First Lutheran.

Sharing Christ's Service, *Pastor Gretchen*

ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY MAY 5 AT 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL

Deb Forstner, MA, MS, BCC, Chaplain at Lake Region Healthcare, will be presenting

Mental Health Mission: Coming Out of the Dark

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



Summer Worship on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. begins June 5! We will be traveling to the 5 ELCA churches in town for worship. Details coming soon!





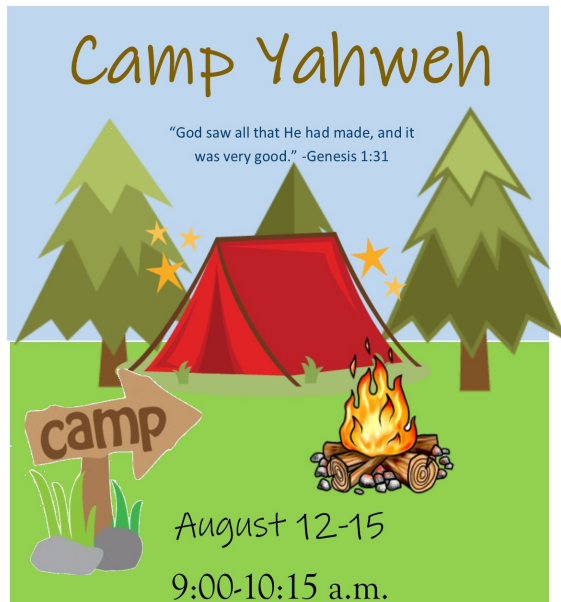
CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

Wow, what a great turn out for our Palm Sunday Festival! It was so fun to have everyone come and celebrate at all the different stations that were up. May is here and with it we enter our last few Sundays of Sunday School. It has been wonderful getting to know your children this year and to see their engagement in class learning about God and worshiping Him. One thing that has been a common lesson focus this year is Caring for God's Creations. This can mean caring for other people, animals, but also our planet. To celebrate our last day of Sunday School this 2018-2019 season, we are going to take these teachings and apply them to our church and our community. May 19th we will be going out and cleaning up around First Lutheran and George B. Wright Park. Feel free to wear your okay to get dirty clothes, and bring gardening gloves and rakes if you wish.. We will have a picnic afterwards. 🐞

How to contact Kristy, Director of Children's Ministries
(218) 531-9544, Kristy@flcfc.org
Subscribe to Remind App by texting @flcss18 to 81010

Look what's coming up!

Sun. 5/5	Saul to Paul Acts 9:1-20 Lesson Focus: God can make enemies into friends
Sun. 5/12	Butterflies Peter and Tabitha Acts 9:36-43 Lesson Focus: I can bring hope to others. Mother's Day
Sun. 5/19	Last Day of Sunday School Sunday School sings in worship Picnic and Clean Up Day Bike to Church Sunday
Aug. 12-15	Butterflies VBS: Camp Yahweh 9:00-10:30 a.m. Luther Crest Day Camp VBS 9:00-3:00 p.m.



First Lutheran Church Narthex
Ages 0-5 years old and a favorite adult

Butterflies VBS at First Lutheran Church (ages 0-5)

Register at church or online at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JVYdZto6AQacG6kzBRRW7xnmMF_xhqKk-/view?usp=sharing

Join us
this
August
for VBS!!



VBS at First Lutheran Church

Luther Crest Day Camp—Jesus 180

August 12-15, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten-6th grade

Registration forms at church or online at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16BCnFeOX30nq0f_hixMbMuOAZA-W8oB/view?usp=sharing



Thanks to
ALL who
helped with
Palm
Sunday
worship,
breakfast,
and the
Festival!!!!



Palm
Sunday

He is
RISEN

Easter Sunday



FLY K-6

Our last month of FLY for the school year is here! It has been so much fun playing, learning, and worshiping God with these children. We will be ending the year strong with a couple more lessons, an End of the Year Party, a Picnic & Clean up day.

May 1- Lesson Focus: Jesus brings us Peace. Doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31)

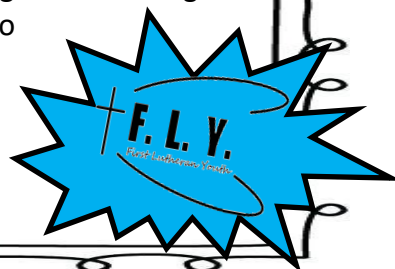
May 8- Lesson Focus: God's love changes us. Saul to Paul (Acts 9:1-20)

May 15- Lesson Focus: We are Jesus' disciples! Peter and Tabitha (Acts 9:36-43)

Sunday, May 19- Picnic and Clean Up Day God says to care for his Creation, we will honor that by getting a little dirty and cleaning up the church grounds and George B. Wright Park during the Sunday School hour. Picnic will follow clean up. Families are welcomed to join us.

May 22- End of the Year Party (Last day of FLY K-6)

You can reach Kristy, Director of Children's Ministries,
at (218) 531-9544, Kristy@flcff.org, Remind App FLYK6



FLY 7-9 & 10-12

Contact Calie at Calie@flcff.org or use Remind App
FLY79 or FLY1012, cell 218 321-0970.

Thanks SO much to all the kids and parents who helped to
make the Palm Sunday breakfast such a success!!! *Calie*



Having FUN at Rock & Bowl!!!

Youth raised \$35 for Sports Scholarship to YMCA



WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

**Confirmation Rehearsal and Dessert
Reception for Confirmands and their
family at 6:30 p.m.**

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Confirmation at 11:00 a.m. worship

Sunday, May 19 Senior Recognition at worship

Please join us as we congratulate these graduating seniors



Cole Knudson

Nycole Mouritsen

Matthew Oehler

Aaron Shelstad

Lilly Stumbo

Madeline Trosvig



Messenger Changes—for those that elected to pick up their Messenger and calendar at church, they will be located on the counter outside the office windows. For those who receive their Messenger via email link, we have changed the calendar to a 8 1/2 X 11 size, so that it will be easier to print at home. Please be sure to let the office know if you have any questions!!

Next Messenger will be combined June/July. Please have articles in by May 21!



*To
everyone
who
helped
during
Lent and
the busy
Easter
season!*



May

Women of the ELCA

LOVE DAYS

Every Monday 9 am to 3 pm (except May 27)

We hope you will join us!!

WELCA Board

May 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

CIRCLES

Sarah— Wednesday May 22

9:30 am at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah— Wednesday May 22

1:00 p.m. Kairos Room

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



First Lutheran OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) have a trip

Old Log
THEATRE

scheduled to the Old Log Theatre for
Wednesday, May 22 for lunch and the
play “Tenderly—the Rosemary Clooney
Musical”. We will board the bus at



7:45 a.m. from the lower level parking lot. Meal choices include: beef short ribs, pork chop, tilapia or vegetarian pasta. Cost for show, lunch (with tax & gratuity) and coach bus is \$52.

Sign up located on the Information Counter in the Narthex. **Please sign up by May 5.**

Let's be “WOWED” at the New Library!!

WOW invites all women to attend:

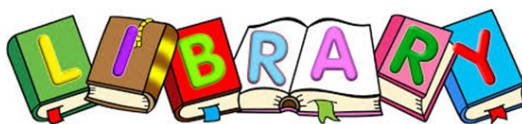
“Discover the Secrets of the New Library”

Tuesday night, May 21, 2019, meet at the library at 5:30 p.m.



Erin Smith, head librarian, is excited to guide us on a tour and tell us about all the resources now available to us! Appetizers will be served.

Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office, 739-3348.



Christ in Your Recovery A 12 Step Spiritual Study

This study will be led by Pastor Gretchen and will begin on May 30 and run through August 22. The group will meet at the church on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for a thirteen-week, twelve-step Bible study. The Life Recovery Bible and workbook will be used, and the cost for both books is \$40 (scholarships available).

Please pre-register before May 16 by emailing Pastor Gretchen at pastor@flcff.org, or call the church office at (218) 739-448 or Pastor Gretchen directly at (218) 321-0995.

Who can come?

Anyone interested in committing to a 13-week study of how the 12 steps in the Big Book of AA and the Bible can be a bridge to deepening one's relationship with God and one another.



18th Annual Luther Crest Golf Scramble Monday, August 5, 2019

Lake Miltona Golf Club, Alexandria MN

Register online www.luthercrest.org, click on special events

Need more info?

Call 320 846-2431 or email jodyj@luthercrest.org

This event helps to raise funds for Luther Crest that are crucial to the ministry we provide every year. Your participation and sponsorship help to keep fees low so that all children, youth, and family can experience the life-changing love of Christ.



May is National Bike Month; May 8 is national bike to school day and May 17 is National bike to work day. **FLC is having Bike to Church Day May 19th and FLC staff is having Bike to work day May 20th!** Pedal Fergus Falls, a chapter of the [Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota](http://BicycleAllianceofMinnesota.org), is a bicycle and pedestrian education and advocacy group for Fergus Falls.



Church Council First Lutheran Term ending 2020

Richard Felstul
Suzanne Demuth
Joe Ellig
Jennifer Frank
Mark Hermes
Rick West
Deb Opatz

Term ending 2021

Abbey Kwapinski
Harriet Wicklund
Youth (open)
Fellowship (open)
Membership (open)

Executive Committee

Richard Felstul, President
Steve Guttormson, VP
Deb Opatz, Secretary
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer



Mission Moment: Salvation Army

The Salvation Army of Fergus Falls has been in existence since 1893, providing aid, support and compassion to individuals in need. In addition to their thrift store, they provide free, daily lunch, emergency disaster response and children's after school and mentoring programs. By organization, the Salvation Army is a church and hosts weekly worship services, as well as bible studies for men, women and teens.

Nancy Diiro manages the Caring Ministry Program, often referred to as the Good Samaritan Fund. This program provides support in our community in many forms. These may include vouchers for bus tickets or gas cards, rental or lodging assistance, food baskets and various other forms of support. Nancy interviews those requesting assistance to verify information and then turns to numerous area churches for financial aid. Money is never given directly to individuals, and careful records are kept to ensure that help is spread out fairly. First Lutheran Church has partnered with the Salvation Army to provide Caring Ministry support for decades.

In addition to financial support, the Salvation Army is always welcoming of volunteers to assist with morning meal prep and their after school program. They also administer the Red Kettle Program at Christmastime that many of us are familiar with. Funds collected stay within our community to support the mission of the Salvation Army—"to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Jennifer Frank, Outreach Coordinator (701) 238-0276

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR MEALS BY WHEELS: May 20 through May 24

**Sign up is on the counter outside the office, or you can contact
Jennifer Frank, Outreach Coordinator at (701) 238-0276**



THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34



NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG #LOVE1ANOTHER

Fergus Falls

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

City Hall

112 Washington Avenue West

May 2—Noon to 12:30 p.m.

MEET TO PRAY AROUND THE FLAGPOLE

(city council chambers in case of inclement weather)