



First Lutheran Church August 2019

Worship Sun. 9:30 am
Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7
www.channel977.com

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

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

Psalm 92:1-4 New Living Translation

A psalm. A song to be sung on the Sabbath Day.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to the Most High.

*It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning, your faithfulness in the evening,
accompanied by a ten-stringed instrument, a harp, and the melody of a lyre.*

You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me! I sing for joy because of what you have done.

Good day to you First Lutheran Church faith community,

It is hard to believe it has been a year since I was called to serve the good and faithful community of First Lutheran, Fergus Falls. The above psalm reflects my great joy and sincere gratitude for all that has unfolded this past year. The transition from city life to a small town community has been blessed. I prayed for a slower paced lifestyle and community grounded in faith and tradition. Fergus Falls has been an answered prayer, indeed.

Relationship building has been the heart of my ministry this past year infused with invigorating worship services, numerous baptisms, festive weddings and heartfelt funerals. I have felt accepted and encouraged through your presence and prayers during the diagnosis and treatment of my breast cancer. Thank you kindly. In addition to ministry adventures, I have spent many hours home shopping. On July 26th, I closed on my own home near Swan Lake. I was eager to establish roots within the community, recognizing the mutual blessing this call has been for all.

What does the future hold? Only God knows for sure. My intent is to continue to love and serve you, encouraging servant leadership and the generous giving of time, talents and treasures. My invitation to you, is to let me know how I can be of service to you and your family more intentionally. Please invite me to join your family for a meal or a community event. I am interested to know you more.

Sharing Christ's Service,

Pastor Gretchen



Summer Worship continues on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

We will be traveling to ELCA churches in the area for worship. Locations are listed on your monthly calendar!

Sunday School

How to contact Kristy,
Director of Children's Ministries
(218) 531-9544,

Kristy@flcff.org

Subscribe to Remind App by texting

@flcss18 to 81010

What's coming up!

Sunday, Aug. 11-

VBS set up at 11:00 a.m.

VBS Volunteer Orientation

6:00-6:30 p.m.

Monday Aug. 12– Thursday Aug. 15-

Camp Yahweh

for ages 0-5 years old

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Jesus 180

for ages Kindergarten– 6th grade

9:00-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 25–

Sunday School Teacher Training

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Childcare & Pizza provided

Sunday, Sept. 8–

Rally Sunday

Butterflies

TBA- Movie at Westridge Cinema for
grades K-6th.

Movie, date & time to be announced

Jesus 180 Day Camp

What to bring:

- Healthy lunch
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen
- Shoes for playing & running
- Weather appropriate clothing
- Hat & Sunglasses (optional)
- Please mark name on items



Participants will enjoy a week of playing, singing, worship, making friends, and much more. Pick up and drop off will be at the front doors of the church. Doors will open at 8:45 a.m. Please pick up your child at 3:00 p.m. We are going to have such as great time!



We have some awesome opportunities in our Children's Ministry for Sunday School teachers and FLY volunteers. Teachers and volunteers get to pray with the children and introduce them to Jesus. It is an amazing opportunity to watch a child grow as they follow Christ. Would you be interested in taking on this important role? If so, please contact Kristy, Director of Children's Ministry.

FLY K-6

TBA- Movie at Westridge Cinema for grades K-6th.
Movie, date & time to be announced.

Wednesday FLY- starting in September!!

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



FLY 7-9 & 10-12

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING, and keep an eye out for fun upcoming activities!!!

***Skyzone—TBA**

***Valley Fair August 20**

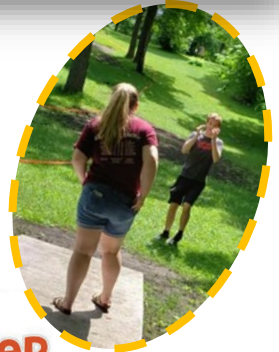
(see sign up info next page)

***Feed my Starving Children August 27**

(see additional info next page)

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

FLY 10-12
Frolfing & Zorbaz in DL
June 30



FLY 7—12

Tuesday, August 27

Feed My Starving Children

Meet in the Narthex at 10:00 a.m. and we will load the van & head to Morris. We will provide lunch to eat on the road. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. we will pack meals for malnourished children. These meals are shipped around the world to feed starving children. We will plan an ice cream stop on the way home, and should be back in Fergus by 3:30 p.m. Please let Calie know if you can help with this important project.



Valleyfair



Who: Kids going into grades 7-12 from First Lutheran, Hope, Zion, Augustana, & Bethlehem

What and Where: A day at Valley Fair, Shakopee, MN

When: Tuesday, August 20, 2019

Why?: for FUN!!!!

- Bus will load in the First Lutheran Lower Level Parking Lot at 7:30 a.m. on August 20.
- We will return around 10:30 p.m.
- \$35.00/per person, food and drinks at own expense (can pack a lunch if you want). Stopping at McDonalds on the way home.
- Bring sunscreen and swimwear/towel for waterpark.
- Sign-up required before August 6 at your home church. Health forms and payment due August 6.



The Worship Corner

by the Worship & Music Committee

Our worship is central to everything we do. It unites us, engages us and helps us grow in our faith. God helps us grow in our faith. God is present and speaks to us through word and sacrament.

We speak to God in prayer and praise and thanksgiving. In coming months, we will look at parts of our liturgy. Liturgy means “service”. In worship, our “liturgy” comes into joyful focus!



OWLS—a trip is being planned to the historic

Bagg Bonanza Farms

in Mooreton, ND on

Tuesday, September 17.

Watch for further information!!



First Communion for Michael Schmidt

June 2, 2019



Summer Blessings



First Communion for Grace Lappegaard
May 26, 2019

Rally Sunday
September 8
Just around the corner!!



LOVE DAYS

Taking August off!!!

Starting again on
September 9 and every
Monday after from
9 am to 3 pm

We hope you will join us!!

WELCA Board

No meetings August

CIRCLES

Sarah & Hannah

No meetings August

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



Lutheran World Relief School Kits

The quilters have made drawstring backpack style bags and the following supplies are needed for each Lutheran World Relief School Kit:

- Four 8 1/2 x 11 inch wide-ruled notebooks (70 sheets in each)
- One 30 centimeter ruler (inches on one side, centimeters on the other)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors
- Five ballpoint pens (NO gel ink)
- One box of crayons (16 or 24 count)
- NOTE: Pencils or erasers are **NOT** needed this year.

The help of the congregation is appreciated! There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Hygiene Kits for Lake Region Halfway Home

We would like to gather items to help the Lake Region Halfway Home with their need for hygiene kits. The following items are needed:

1. Disposable razors
2. Shaving cream
3. Toothbrush
4. Toothpaste
5. Roll-on deodorant
6. Shampoo & conditioner, or shampoo with conditioner in it
7. Soap
8. Soap box
9. Fingernail clipper
10. Toenail clipper
11. Lotion

Our quilters will be making bags to store the items.

The congregation's help to fill the bags is appreciated! Your donations can be brought to the church and be left in the collection basket in the Narthex.



**Lake Region
Halfway Homes, Inc**

BUILDING A BIGGER TABLE

by Harriet Wicklund

Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly

When Pastor Gretchen called to invite Barret and I to attend the Synod Assembly as delegates from our church, I happily answered, "I'll ask Barret if he's interested in attending" (fully expecting him to say he was entirely too busy to go and I would use his response as my reason to give someone else the opportunity to attend).

You could have knocked me over with a feather when Barret casually said, "Yeah, I guess I'd do that."

"What?" "Really!" Well, I guess we'll be going then...

Registration and reservations were all taken care of by the church staff, so all we had to do was a little homework to acquaint ourselves with the agenda, the six resumes of the candidates for bishop, and 'show up'.

Also attending as delegates from First Lutheran were Pastor Gretchen, Steve Guttormson, Nancy Swenson and Mike Wicklund. (A group I've lovingly dubbed 'the Synod Six'.) Pastor Curt Rotto also joined us at our table. The theme of this year's assembly was "Building a Bigger Table". Through worship services, music, interesting break-out sessions, gifted speakers and leaders, coffee, food and fellowship, our thoughts were directed to ways we might reach outside our own walls to be God's hands in our communities.

The retirements of Bishop Wohlrobe and Pastor Laurie Natwick were recognized at a dinner on Friday evening. They were obviously well loved and respected by the assembly.

Dr. Michael Chan energetically delivered three reflections based on the book of Jonah. He focused on the dilemma Jonah faced, the Ninevites, and God's desire for all people to know Him. We were challenged to consider questions like: Are we 'in the belly of the fish' unwilling or unable to go out and answer God's call? Who are the 'Ninevites' in our communities – or are they us? Are they the marginalized? Are they the people who need our help? How can we reach out to build a bigger table?

The election of our new bishop was an important responsibility of the assembly this year. It was done through ecumenical ballot. 5 separate ballots. The first one allowed write-in candidates of any rostered minister. The following ballots served to reduce the number of candidates on the ballot, until the last, 5th ballot, where only two names remained and a simple majority would determine the election's outcome. On Saturday evening, we had a chance to hear from each of the nominees with a 'meet & greet' opportunity at the end. Each ballot was entered into prayerfully, with an invitation to the Holy Spirit to lead us. Pastor William Tesch was elected by a significant majority. Our 'Synod Six' were very satisfied with this outcome.

Attending this year's Synod Assembly as a delegate from First Lutheran was truly a privilege and an experience for which I am thankful. My hope is that any member of our congregation, when asked, might accept the invitation to serve in this capacity in future years. It felt really good to participate.



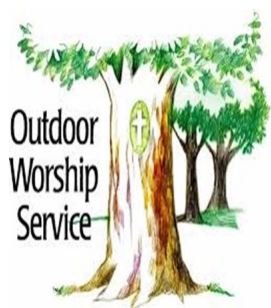
Drivers needed to deliver Meals by Wheels

August 12 through August 16

Sign-up sheet located on counter outside office windows.

Thank YOU for helping with this important mission!!

NOTE: If weather holds, our parking lot will be seal coated & restriped on August 1 & 2.



**Sunday
August 25
9:30 a.m.**

Joint outdoor
worship service at
Hope Lutheran

1309 Stony Brook Road

Potluck after worship

Hope to see you there!

(there will not be a service at First Lutheran that day)



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

OWLS in the WILD!



July
16



*Enjoying
Theatre
L'Homme
Dieu*



Singers needed for the September 14, 2019 "September's Embers" Massed Choirs Sacred Choral Event at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor. If you are interested in joining this choir, information is located on the kiosk in the Narthex, or you can text or call Sonja at 218 560-1090.