



First Lutheran Church October 2019

Worship Sun. 9:30 am
Sunday School 10:00 to 10:45 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

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

Let Go of Outcomes

Recently I checked out a book from the church library entitled, Change Your Mind and Your Life will Follow, by Karen Casey. Throughout the book she outlines 12 simple principles, and the one I will highlight for today is Let Go of Outcomes.

I will be transparent and share an outcome I have an attachment to: it is the number of congregants who attend worship. I am attached to the expectation that people will show up for worship. It is honestly my favorite hour of the entire week! Casey highlights the simple fact that I nor anybody else is responsible for any particular outcome. The only thing required of church leadership is effort. She writes, "Becoming able to discern the difference between making a responsible effort and taking responsibility for the outcome takes courage and an understanding of our limits and the role of God." No matter how perfectly the worship service is organized I am not in control of the outcome of attendance.

Casey continues by saying, "Don't Look Past Your Nose". This concept reminds us to live strictly in the moment if we want happiness. Who doesn't want happiness? To practice this concept, as we are singing the opening hymn, I express gratitude to God for each person who has joined in worship for any given day; trusting that exactly the right number of people are in the pews for that day.

"Stop Worrying About The Future" is another concept which brings to mind the fact that our minds can only hold one thought at a time. We can ask ourselves, "Do we entertain worry or the presence of God"? If my mind goes to the fear that people will not show up for worship, I simply remind myself that God is available right now. I shift my thinking to that of abundance and gratitude for what is.

Casey's final concept in this chapter is, "Find The Joy Right Here. Right Now". This is a simple reminder that joy is always available to us, moment by moment, but we must keep our minds open and pay attention. The decision is ours to see the joy and the good of what is, or not.

I don't know what specific outcome you have an attachment to, but I imagine we all have something. I invite you in the coming days to practice 'letting go' of outcomes as a spiritual discipline and a means to deepen your relationship with God. Of course I cannot overlook this opportunity to encourage you to attend worship each week for yourself, not as an act to meet my desired outcome, but for your own fulfillment. The reality is that we are all in this adventure of life together. We get to be church together. So, as I see it why wouldn't we want to participate in the life of the church fully through weekly attendance in worship? See you in church!

God loves you and so do I,

Pastor Gretchen





Sundays 10:00– 10:45 in the Chapel

Preschool through 8th Grade

All are welcomed!

Subscribe to the Remind App to stay up to date on all the Sunday school happenings.
Text @flcfs18 to 81010

“Love Never Fails.” 1 Corinthians 13:8

Thank you for all the donations for the Lake Region Halfway Home. The students made the kits and were able to fill a very full grocery cart with all of them! We also got to enjoy some popcorn while having fun working to put the kits together. During the month of October, we will have another activity for the K-2nd graders to share kindness in our church. We will also be starting practice for the Christmas Program. Please mark your calendars, the Christmas Program is December 15th at 11:00.

A notice to all parents of Preschool through 2nd grade students, please pick up your child after Sunday School (10:45) at their classrooms.

Kristy Wicklund, Director of Children’s Ministries
(218) 531-9544
Kristy@flcff.org



October Sunday School Happenings

Oct. 6- 2nd grade Bible Milestone Class @ 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday School sing in worship

Lesson: A Seed of Faith (Luke 17:5-10)

Oct. 13- 2nd grade students receive Bibles in worship

Butterflies

Pastor Appreciation Day Activity for Kindergarten– 2nd grade

Lesson: Ten Men Healed (Luke 17:11-19)

Oct. 20- Family Worship/No Sunday School Lessons

Oct. 27- Lesson: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

FLY K-6 Wednesdays

3:30 to 4:30 pm



Oct. 2- Lesson: The Parable of the Rich Man

(Luke 16:19-31) God wants us to listen.

Oct. 9- Lesson: A Seed of Faith (Luke 17:5-10) God's love grows in me.

Sat., Oct. 12- Hike at Inspiration Peak for 3rd-6th grade, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Oct. 16- NO FLY

Oct. 23- Lesson: Jacob Wrestles (Genesis 32:22-31) God blesses me.

Oct. 30- Halloween Party

Trick-or-treat for the Food Shelf

To stay up-to-date on all FLY K-6 happenings, use Remind App @flyK6.

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

Kristy@flcff.org, Remind App text @flyk6

Hike at Inspiration Peak

Saturday, October 12 from 1:00-3:00 the 3rd-6th graders will be traveling to Inspiration Peak where we will overlook God's beautiful creation and the colors of the season from this high up view. We will meet Kristy at First Lutheran Church and will take the church van to and from our destination. Kristy will bring snacks.

Where: **Inspiration Peak**

When: **Saturday, October 12th from 1-3:00 pm**

Who: **3rd-6th grade**



Trick-or-Treat for the Food Shelf

On October 30th, we will be collecting food items for the food shelf. This year we are finding ways to share God's love with kind deeds through our

"God's Work, Our Hands" theme.

Please bring a non-perishable food item to FLY as we celebrate the ending of the month of October. You might want to put the item in your child's backpack that morning on the way to school.



FLY 7-9 & 10-12



FLY 7-12 will start meeting in October on the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Supper provided. Meet Calie in the youth room!

Dates set so far: October 2, November 6, February 5, April 1

Contact Calie at Calie@flcflf.org or use Remind App by texting @fly79 or @fly10-12 to 81010, or call or text cell 218 321-0970.

FLY 7-12

We are headed to the



Easy To Get To, Hard To ~~Leave~~ ESCAPE!

Saturday, October 5, 2019

Meet at the church upper level parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

Pizza after we escape!!

\$25.00 covers all!

If you haven't signed up yet, please contact Calie if you're interested in joining us.





Preschool 1 Blessing Rally SUNDAY



September 8, 2019

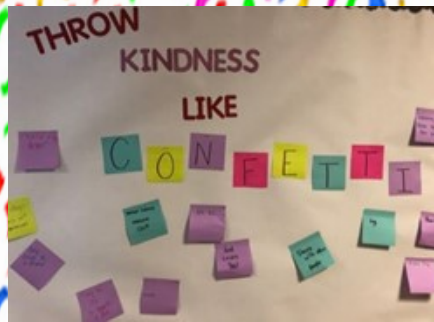


Sunday School "The Amazing Race"



Gearing up for the Amazing Race!

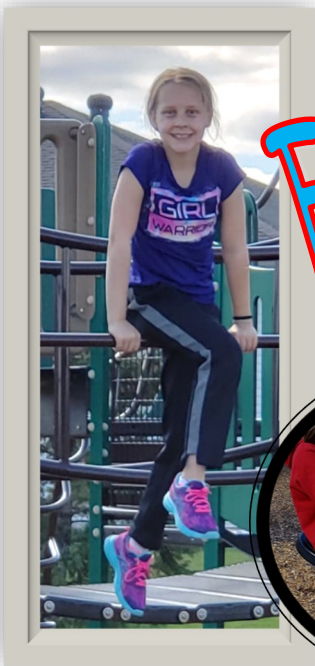
Showing kindness to
nature by watering
plants & weeding
gardens.



God's
Work.
Our
Hands.



Showing kindness to neighbors by
washing windshields on cars!



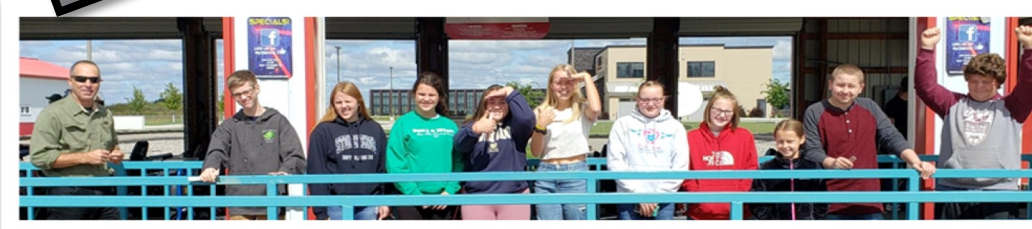
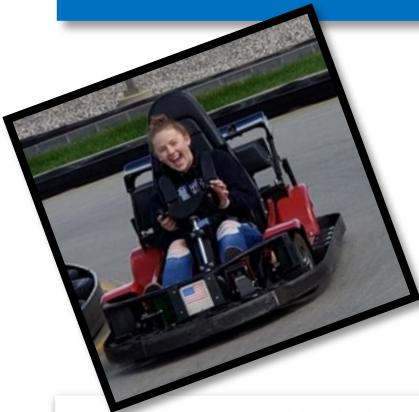
FUN!!!



FLY 7-9 & 10-12



Thunder Road!



Save the Date



Education Hour
November 3 at 11:00 a.m.
Operation Boot Strap

Meals by Wheels Delivery
November 4-8

Harvest Dinner
November 7

Generosity Sunday
November 10
Bishop Tesch preaching

Blood Drive
November 12

New Member Class
November 10 at 11:00 a.m. OR
November 14 at 5:30 p.m.

New Member Sunday
November 17

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
November 27 at 6 p.m.
FF & Dalton ELCA churches
Offering: Salvation Army
Pie after worship

Advent Worship
December 4, 11, 18
12:10 pm; soup after
6:30 pm
All Area ELCA churches at
First Lutheran

***Watch for details on these upcoming
events at First Lutheran!!***

The Worship Corner



Kyrie

Kyrie means "Lord, have mercy". For us, the kyrie is an expression of our emptiness without God and of our need to have Him come and fill us with His grace.

The Gloria in Excelsis provides us an opportunity to lift our voices in thanksgiving for sending His son to be our Savior. The angels sang a gloria in the fields of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. It is fitting for us to lift our voices joyfully, as well!

In the Salutation, the pastor prays that the Holy Spirit may bless the congregation as we offer our petitions to God and give our attention to His word. The pastor expresses, "The Lord be with you" and we answer by invoking that same Holy Spirit might be with the pastor, that she might give voice to our petitions and preach God's word with power.

The Prayer of the Day (or the Collect) gathers the thoughts and prayers of the entire church as they apply to the theme of the day.

From the Property Committee:

First Lutheran's North and South cemeteries have undergone extensive work of leveling and straightening of monuments and markers. The work was provided by the OTC Sentence to Serve inmates. Feel free to visit and view the wonderful results. Anyone interested in helping defray the cost is welcome to contact Steve Leitte at 218-731-1110.

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, Sara Koch, Membership (open), JoAn Whitlock

Executive Committee

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



Women ^{of the} ELCA 

LOVE DAYS

Meets every Monday from 9 am to 3 pm
Join us for quilting, mission projects, and fellowship!

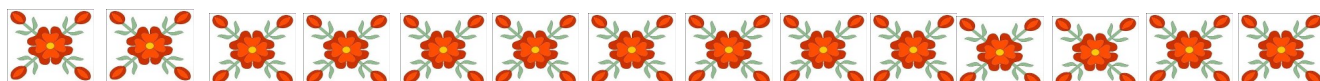
WELCA BOARD
No October Meeting

CIRCLES

Wednesday, October 23
Sarah Circle 9:30—10:30 a.m. at Pioneer Pointe
Hannah Circle at 1:00 p.m. Kairos Room



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



WELCA 2019 FALL CAMPAIGN

“Coins, Cash & Checks Change Lives”

Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out to each of you asking for financial support of Missions that are important to all of us. Therefore the product of this campaign is Coins, Cash & Checks. The product of a generous culture is changed lives locally and around the world.

We have helped financially to change lives in these areas in 2018: KBRF Morning Watch, Lutheran Campus Ministry, A Place to Belong, Someplace Safe, Matthew House, Meals by Wheels, Camp Knutson, Luther Crest, Lutheran Social Service, OBA Scholarship, OBA Shule Fund, OBA Mama Naomi Clinic, Haiti Medical Mission, Haiti School Children (Soaring Unlimited), Global HOPE—Haiti Wells & Lutheran Disaster Response.

You are asked to place your coins, cash or checks in an envelope marked WELCA Fall Campaign and either put it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office before the end of October. We are called to grow in faith, to support one another and to be engaged in ministry and action.

Thank you for your support of this campaign. Because of your actions, we will be able to help changes lives again this year.



Invitation to First Lutheran Women to spend a morning with women from area ELCA churches

Fall 2019 Gathering Conference 7 Women of the ELCA

“We are Clothed with Strength & Dignity”
presents “Heaven Bound Trio”

Eagle Lake Lutheran Church
15456 Highway 81
Battle Lake, MN

Saturday, October 19, 2019

Registration: 9:00 a.m. Meeting: 9:30 a.m.

Program: 10:30 a.m.

Meal & Fellowship following program.

Eagle Lake WELCA invites you to donate a new or gently used purse, handbag or tote to be donated to Someplace Safe in Fergus Falls. The bags will be filled with personal care items provided by donations from Thrivent and others.

Please register at the Information Desk by October 6. Rides will be shared. Cost is \$10.00, checks written to 1st Lutheran WELCA.





MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM

Our Lutheran understanding of the church sees ministry as being shared by all the baptized people of God. At no time can we assume that only the pastor and lay staff are responsible for ministry. **The whole people of God have a ministry with and to one another. It is a mutual ministry.** From this awareness emerges a congregational

mutual ministry committee. (Quote Mutual Ministry Committee by the Division of Professional Leadership of the Lutheran Church in America)

First Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls Mutual Ministry Team was begun as a carry-over from the First Lutheran Call Committee for an Associate Pastor and includes the same members. The Mission Statement designed by the Team states:

The Mutual Ministry Team of First Lutheran Church shall support and encourage the ministers and ministry of First Lutheran.

The team acts to strengthen the ministry of pastor, lay professional and congregation. It may include:

- Open communication concerning attitudes and conditions within the congregation and staff through listening, conferring, affirming and forgiving.
- Conflict resolution for misunderstandings and sounding board for Pastor and Staff and Congregation.
- Concerns for the spiritual, emotional and physical needs of the Pastor and Congregation. We are "Reflectors"!

Considering these benefits and drawing upon the experiences of many synods and congregations, every congregation is urged to consider establishing a Mutual Ministry Committee according to Chapter 13 of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Ministry is shared by all members, staff, and pastor(s) of First Lutheran. As this sports season begins, may we consider becoming a member of **Team FLC (First Lutheran Church)** and sharing in support and concern for all the players with encouragement, prayers, and the Team's (HOLY) SPIRIT!

Members include: Linda Mellon, Chairperson; Steve Fitz; Leslie Flugstad; Ann Rotto; Michael Wicklund; Pastor Gretchen; Steve Guttormson, Church Council Liaison. The Mutual Ministry Team will meet monthly or more, if necessary. Minutes are available upon request.

Are you interested in joining First Lutheran? We are offering new member classes, and ask that prospective members attend one of the two classes. The dates for the classes are Sunday, November 10 at 11:00 a.m. or Thursday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m. New members will be welcomed during worship on Sunday, November 17. If you are interested, please contact the office at 739-3348 or talk with Pastor Gretchen. We look forward to hearing from you!!



New Members Are Joining



Sunday, October 6, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Celebrate!

**A Pipe Organ
Fundraising Concert
at First Lutheran**

Free will offering

Refreshments following concert



Our church is in the midst of an exciting project to expand the capabilities of our beautiful pipe organ!

In 2020 we will complete the final stage of an expansion project that started in 2012—the addition of 8 ranks, or voices, to the organ's current 27 ranks. This final stage of the project will enhance and enrich the sound and versatility of the instrument.

Financial support for the project comes from dedicated organ funds, a commitment from the Church Council, and a gift from the First Lutheran Foundation. However, we still need additional support from our church family and friends to finalize the funding.

An **organ fundraising concert** – in celebration of the power of music to lift our spirits and inspire our lives will be held on **Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 pm at First Lutheran**. The free-will concert will feature our own musicians, along with local musician friends, and will include choral selections, handbell music, organ and piano pieces, and congregational singing. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Our beautiful church organ is fundamental to our worship experience. The final step of this project will sustain our strong, vibrant musical heritage far into the future.

We hope that you will come and enjoy this afternoon of beautiful music!

Generosity by Jeani Trosvig
Member of Stewardship/Discipleship Committee



I have been a member of this church since as far back as I can remember. My brother and I walked to Sunday school while growing up on South Court Street in the late 70's, I have vivid memories of crunching ice on the sidewalks in the early spring as we made our way the 3 blocks to church and can recall releasing balloons into the bright blue sky with the rest of the kids, back in the days when we didn't think about where those rubber balloons would land and what sea creatures might ingest them. I still LOVE seeing a rogue balloon floating up to the heavens at the occasional outdoor sporting event. Growing up I was a pretty normal kid, self-centered and self-conscious, not wanting to draw attention and craving attention at the same time. I was not what you would call 'generous.' I'm still not sure where I learned how to be generous, I'm assuming it was from my mother, whom I believe most of my positive traits can be attributed to. She was a busy working-mom with a blended family who rarely wanted to blend. She had the patience of a Saint and only left us in a huff once and drove all the way to Alexandria to calm down at the KFC before returning home to her humbled family, if I would have been in her situation, Canada would not have been far enough away.

I grew up and had my own family, much to my surprise, I had planned to raise only dogs (that would be allowed to sleep in my bed) and a fabulous husband and fabulous life far away from Fergus Falls. God had other plans for me. There have been times in my life, many, where God and I have had some serious discussion about the life choices He made for me. But with age comes wisdom and each year brings just a little bit more. Today I look back on parts of my life and am so very grateful to have this wonderful church family to rely on. This church has helped raise my girls, they have offered up numerous prayers, put amazing, strong women leaders in their path for them to look up to and the Foundation has paid hundreds of dollars for them to attend church camps and mission trips. This church has offered a safe haven for them to learn about Jesus' teachings and have crazy fun at the same time, it brought them Brian Becker for goodness sake, whom I believe just might be a saint walking this earth alongside us. How can I ever thank First Lutheran Church enough? I simply cannot...what I can do is continue to try to be generous, I can continue to give financially, I can continue to usher and lector and assist with the sacraments, I can continue to help with confirmation at the end of a long day when the thought of a hot bath or a mindless show on Netflix sounds so very tempting. I can continue to show up, reach out, pray for my church family and the leaders in our church and hopefully show my girls what it's like to give back just a little.



Thank You from
**Lake Region
Halfway Homes, Inc**

The Lake Region Halfway House would like to thank you all for the donations that were recently made to us. An offering was taken last month during the joint service with Hope Lutheran and First Lutheran Churches and nearly \$450.00 was received. A portion of that money will be used to provide meditation materials for the

men. Thank-you also for the donations toward the hygiene kits* that will be given to the men when they enter the program. A special thanks to the Sunday School children for helping assemble those kits and to the Women's Sewing Group for making the bags to put the items in. What a great team effort!! Your support of this program is deeply appreciated. Thank-you also to Pastor Gretchen for her involvement with and encouragement of this cause.

** 48 kits were assembled*

Jeff Christenson-Director

CONFIRMATION UPDATE & REMINDERS!!

We are excited to have 48 7th -9th graders in our Confirmation class this year. This is a year of transition, as we will be moving away from 8th -9th grade confirmation classes to 7th—8th grade classes, to be in alignment with the other local ELCA churches in 2020-21.

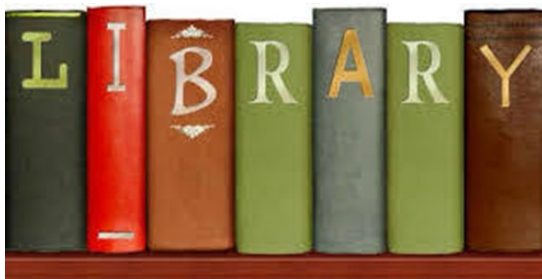


A CONFIRMATION RETREAT is set for Saturday, October 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., here at the church. This will be a fun day of activities, service project & lunch. The retreat is a requirement for Confirmation.

Confirmation students will be helping with the **HARVEST DINNER** on Thursday, November 7. This is a First Lutheran tradition, and a great chance for our Confirmation students to be involved in a meaningful service project. Watch for sign-up sheets!



ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE BALCONY: After discussion with our insurance company regarding the stained glass window, the balcony will be open to seating except when there is weather with high winds.



Library News! What's New?

- The library is coming to the Sunday School classes on a cart with a selection of books and DVDs for checkout instead of kids coming to the library.
- New adult books are on the library cart in the narthex including:
 - Karen Kingsbury and Alexander McCall Smith fiction books
 - Love Does by Bob Goff
 - Parenting Beyond Your Capacity by Reggie Joiner
- The library is open whenever the church office is open, and Sunday mornings, for self-checkout with easy instructions on the desk in the library.



Celebrate!

A Pipe Organ Fundraising Concert

October 6th, 2019 @ 1 pm

at

First Lutheran Church

402 S Court St • Fergus Falls Mn

Free Will Offering

Refreshments following Concert

October 2019

OFFICE HOURS


8 am to 4:30 pm
MONDAY-THURSDAY

WORSHIP BROADCAST SUNDAYS AT 9:30 A.M. ON
KJJK AM 1020 or 97.7 FM

MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program)—
MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:45 A.M. KBRF AM 1250

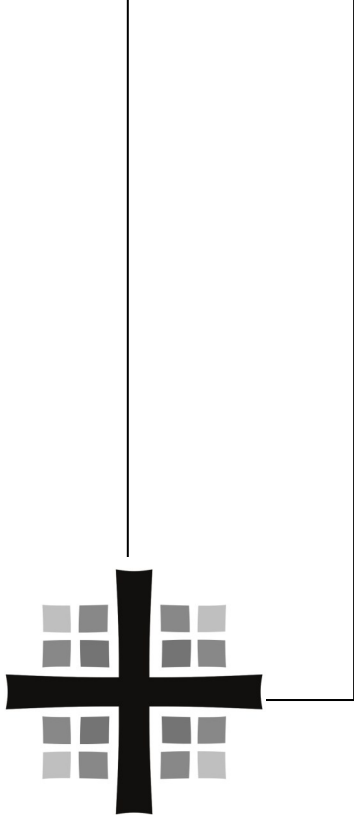
Wednesday Evening Schedule

3:30 to 4:30 p.m. FLY K-6 (not on 10/16)
6:00 p.m. Hosanna Handbells
6:30 p.m. Confirmation (not on 10/16)
7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 p.m. Stewardship/ Discipleship Mtg Conf. Room 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall	2 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am AA 12:00 Executive Cmttee 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm FLY 7-12 See Wed. Evening Schedule	3 8:45 am Morning Watch 10:30 am Sr. Bible Study 4:45 pm Youth Mtg Conference Room 6:00 pm Women's AA group	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10:15 am FLY 7-12 to Escape Rm
6 9:30 am Worship/Holy Communion—Sunday School sings @ worship 10:00-10:45 Sunday School & 2nd Grade Bible Class 1:00 p.m. Organ Fundraiser	7 9 to 3 WELCA Love Days 5 pm Al-Anon 6:15 pm OA	8 3 pm Mill St Bible Study 6 pm Church Council	9 10 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am AA 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA 1:30 pm Staff Meeting See Wed. Evening Schedule	10 8:45 am Morning Watch 10:30 am Sr. Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's AA group	11 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	12 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1-3 pm FLY K-6 Inspiration Peak
13 9:30 am Blended Worship with Holy Communion & 2nd Grade Milestone (receive Bible) 10-10:45 am Sunday School and Butterflies	14 November Messenger Deadline 9 to 3 WELCA Love Days 5 pm Al-Anon 6:15 pm OA	15 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Fellowship Hall	16 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am AA 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA 1:30 pm Staff Meeting See Wed. Evening Schedule No FLY or Confirmation	17 8:45 am Morning Watch 9:00 am Conf. Pastors NO Sr. Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's AA group	18 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	19 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED WELCA Conf Eagle Lake
20 9:30 am Family Worship with Holy Communion & Holy Baptism NO Sunday School lesson	21 9 to 3 WELCA Love Days 5 pm Al-Anon 6:15 OA	22	23 9:30 Sarah Circle 9:30 am Al-Anon 10 am AA 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA 1:00 Hannah Circle 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 11:00 am Caregiver Support See Wed. Evening Schedule	24 8:45 am Morning Watch 9:30 Messenger Crew 10:30 am Sr. Bible Study 4-10 pm Sustainability Open Forum Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm Women's AA Group	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10 am to 3 pm Confirmation Retreat 7 pm AlAnon Open Mtg Fellowship Hall
27 Reformation Sunday 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Holy Baptism 10-10:45 am Sunday School	28 9 to 3 WELCA Love Days 5 pm Al-Anon 6:15 pm OA	29	30 10 am AA 1:00 pm Cookie Monster AA 1:30 pm Staff Meeting See Wed. Evening Schedule	31 8:45 am Morning Watch 10:30 am Sr. Bible Study 6:00 pm Women's AA group		 Electronic Giving!

After 5 days return to
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537

Address Service Requested



Staff Directory

Office phone: 218-739-3348

office@flcff.org—please use this email the most!!! All bulletin, Messenger, volunteer, general office etc. inquiries. Laurie & Katrina both have access to this email!

Katrina@flcff.org—Operational and Finance inquiries

Kristy@flcff.org— Sunday School, FLYK6

To call Kristy: 218-531-9544, or use the Remind Sunday School Class. FLYK6 app

Calie@flcff.org—Administrative Assistant/Youth Director 7-12 , or use the Remind app FLY 79, FLY 1012 To call Calie 218 321-0970.

Pastorg@flcff.org — Pastor Gretchen, call or text 218-321-0995 , FLY 79