



First Lutheran Church November 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".

Psalm 100 A Psalm of Thanksgiving

- 1 Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!*
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.*
- 3 Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- 5 For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*



This psalm is a joyful invitation to look upwards and discover the wonder and greatness of our God. Worship and praise are the means by which we overcome discouragement and despair. The more we focus on the Lord instead of our circumstances, the greater will be our joy, even if nothing around us changes.



I invite you this month of thanksgiving to focus on the Lord and all the blessings He has bestowed upon you and your loved ones. Even as there may be hardships, disagreements and pain, God is welcoming us to focus on the good. The Lord is good and His loving kindness is everlasting.

One of my spiritual practices is to keep a daily list of people, places and things in which I am grateful. It is a means to stay current with the countless blessings in my life. I encourage you to take up this spiritual discipline as well.

One of my greatest blessings is having been called to serve among the faithful people at First Lutheran in Fergus Falls.

What are you grateful for?

Sharing Christ's service,
Pastor Gretchen



"Love Never Fails." 1 Corinthians 13:8

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 @flcss18 to 81010



November Sunday School Happenings

Nov. 3- Lesson: Zacchaeus (Luke 18:9-14)

Daylight Savings Time Ends

**Sat, Nov. 9– Rock & Bowl and Feed the Hungry
12:15-2:30, check out details on the
FLY page**

**Nov. 10- Lesson: The Sadducees' Question
(Luke 20:27-38)**

Wed, Nov. 13– World Kindness Day

**Nov. 17- Lesson: God's Love is Forever
Luke 21:5-19)**

**Nov. 24- Lesson: The Day Jesus Died
(Luke 23:33-43)**

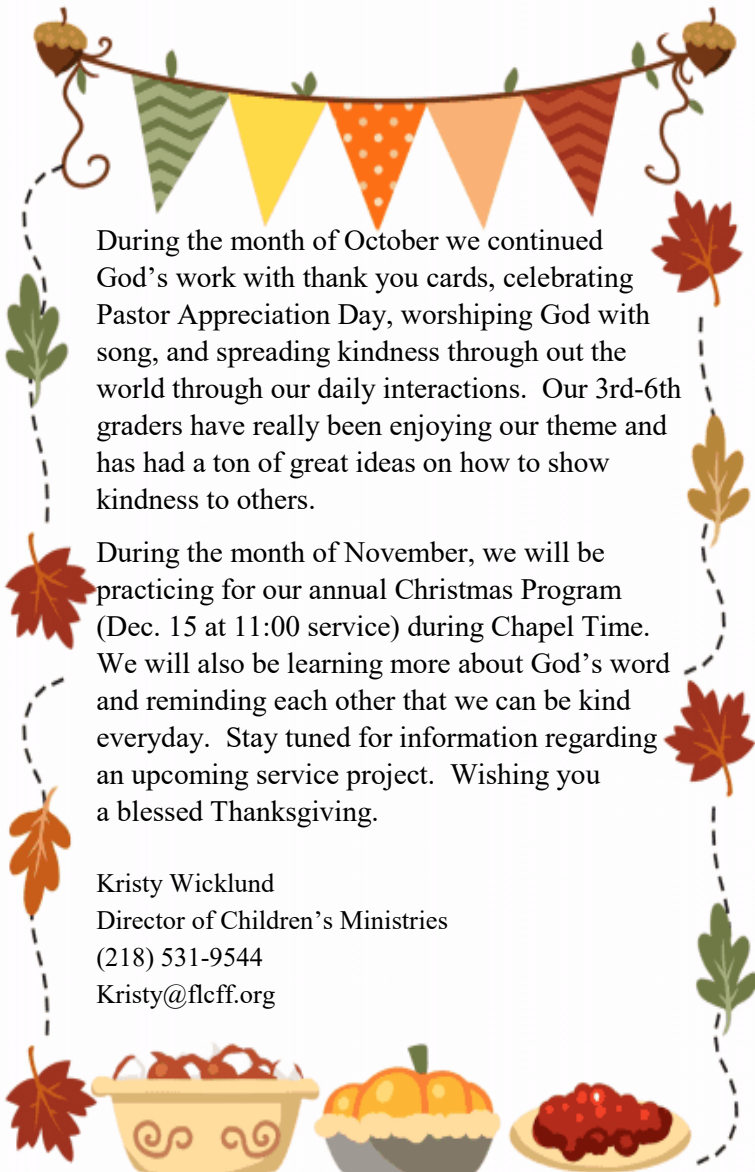
**Dec. 1- Family Worship/ No Sunday School
Lessons**

**Dec. 15- Sunday School Christmas Program
at 11:00**

During the month of October we continued God's work with thank you cards, celebrating Pastor Appreciation Day, worshipping God with song, and spreading kindness through out the world through our daily interactions. Our 3rd-6th graders have really been enjoying our theme and has had a ton of great ideas on how to show kindness to others.

During the month of November, we will be practicing for our annual Christmas Program (Dec. 15 at 11:00 service) during Chapel Time. We will also be learning more about God's word and reminding each other that we can be kind everyday. Stay tuned for information regarding an upcoming service project. Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving.

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



FLY K-6



Nov. 6- Lesson: Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) Meeting Jesus changes our lives!

Saturday, Nov. 9- Rock & Bowl and Feed the Hungry 12:15– 2:30

Nov. 13- World Kindness Day

Visit the Food Shelf

Nov. 20- Lesson: God's Love is Forever (Luke 21:5-19) Stones can tumble, but God's love stands strong.

Nov. 27- NO FLY

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 flyk6**

Rock & Bowl and Feed the Hungry

Saturday, November 9 let's go get our bowling on and help the hungry in our community. Join us at Rock & Bowl at the Northern Aire Lanes from 12:15-2:30 with a canned or boxed food item for the food shelf. Bowling, Music, Lights, and Pizza all with your church friends! Please pick up and drop off at the bowling alley, check in with Kristy.

Where:

Northern Aire Lanes

When:

**Saturday, November 9
from 12:15-2:30 pm**

Who:

Kindergarten—6th grade

Contact Kristy to register or Sign up in the Narthex.



World Kindness Day– Nov. 13 Visit the Food Shelf

On October 30th and November 9th we brought food items for the food shelf to our FLY events. On World Kindness Day, November 13, we are delivering these goodies to the Food Shelf and will help care for the items that are there. We will leave from Kennedy school to go to the Food Shelf. **Please pick up your child from the Fergus Falls Food Shelf.**



November FLY 7-9 & 10-12

- FLY 7-12 meets on the first Wednesday of the month from 5:30 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. in the Youth Room. Supper provided. Our next get together is Wednesday, November 6.
- Save the Date: FLY 9-12 will have Trivia Game Night Sunday, December 8 from 6-8 pm.

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

FLY 7-12 at Escape Room!

October 5 in Alexandria



Generosity Sunday – November 10, 2019



First of all, I want to thank the members of First Lutheran Church for your past generosity in giving of your time, talents, and resources. Your generosity has provided First Lutheran Church with the ability for help make the world a better place whether the needs are local, regional or worldwide.

Our Generosity Sunday is scheduled for **November 10**. I am pleased to let you know that Rev. William Tesch, our new NW Minnesota Synod Bishop will be participating in our church service on this important day. Following the service, we will have a light brunch provided by the Fellowship Committee and served in the Narthex, which Bishop Tesch is also planning to attend. Thank you to our Fellowship Committee for their work in making the arrangements.

In the past, our title for this Sunday has been Stewardship Sunday. In discussions with the Stewardship/Discipleship Committee and the Church Council, it has been decided to change the title to Generosity Sunday. When one opens the dictionary to find the meaning of the word “generosity”, it tells us “liberal in giving” which I believe represents the giving philosophy of the congregation of First Lutheran Church very well.

Our 2020 Time and Talent Sheet will be available shortly. As you review the sheet, don’t let the idea that you have never done this before cause you to be apprehensive about signing up for one of the areas. The committee representative with contact information will be listed on the sheet for each area. Please contact them about the duties and other questions you may have and remember that there are many individuals who will be glad to help you. We need your time and many talents to continue the good work of First Lutheran Church. Please consider signing up for one of areas listed.

As we look to our 2020 Giving Goal, we bring forward the goal from last year of providing the resources to hire an Associate Pastor. This goal goes back to the reflection sessions held during the time of our interim pastors, Pastor Eric, Pastor Marcus and Pastor Martha. An Associate Pastor was a primary goal of the congregation at that time and continues to be today.

In order to meet this important goal, our yearly giving will need to increase \$130,000. The Church Council and the Stewardship/Discipleship Committee fully understand that this is no small undertaking however, when broken down per week, it represents an \$8.00 increase per giver. A quote from David Heenan and Warren Bennis which is “Generosity is grounded in the profound understanding that we are all in this together. It is only in fruitful alliances with others that we can do great things”. This causes me to see us as “the fruitful alliance” and I believe that together we can do great things.

Our committee members are Darren Krein, Jeani Trosvig, Dawn Danielson, Larry Dorn, Steve Guttormson, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, and Jennifer Frank. Please contact any of the members with your thoughts and questions.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you advance for giving our requests for your continuing generosity to meet these important goals prayerful consideration.

Rick West, Chair
Stewardship/Discipleship Committee

NOVEMBER

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

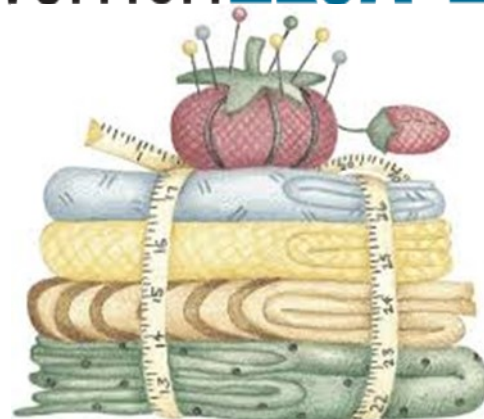
No November Meeting

CIRCLES (meet one week earlier than usual)

Wednesday, November 20

Sarah Circle 9:30—10:30 a.m. at Pioneer Pointe

Hannah Circle at 1:00 p.m. at PioneerCare,
followed by Sunshine Aide at 3:00 p.m.
at PioneerCare



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



Thank you for supporting WELCA's Fall Fundraiser, "Coins, Cash, Checks Change Lives".

Funds raised will be used to support missions that are important to all of us.



Our annual Christmas Tea for all First Lutheran women, hosted by Hannah & Sarah Circles, is planned for Thursday, December 12 from 2 to 3:00 p.m. at Pioneer Pointe Dining Room.

Share the Spirit of Christmas!!



NOVEMBER THANKOFFERING FOR 2019

Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings for way over 100 years. Last year, Thankofferings totaled nearly a million dollars to support women of the ELCA church-wide ministries, with offerings coming from over 2,450 congregations. First Lutheran sent close to a \$1,000 last year—let's try for \$1,000 again in 2019!

Thankofferings are sent in full to the church-wide women's organization and help do mission and address concerns of women and children in crisis—especially the crisis related to poverty, health/AIDS and domestic violence.

Please use the blue Thankoffering envelope you received in the bulletin on November 3 and place it in the Sunday offering plate or bring it to the office anytime in November. There are also envelopes on the info counter for your use or use a pew envelope and write Thankoffering on it. Thank you for participating in this worthwhile project. If you have questions, call Margaret Kratzke 736-3697.



Thank you from the Organ Project Committee!

We extend a big thank you to everyone who attended the pipe organ fundraising concert on October 6. A special thanks as well to the many dedicated and talented First Lutheran Church musicians who participated in the beautiful, inspiring concert. It was indeed a celebration!



Your financial generosity was amazing. We raised more than \$9,000 at the concert. This means that—in addition to financial support from the Church Council, the First Lutheran Church Foundation, and dedicated organ funds—we have a remaining \$11,000 to raise in order to reach our goal of \$20,000.



If you haven't already contributed to this exciting project, which will enhance the sound and capabilities of our beautiful pipe organ for years to come with the addition of eight additional ranks or voices, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation. You can drop off your donation at the church office, send it through the mail, or add it to the offering plate on Sunday morning. Every little bit adds up.

Work on the organ is expected to begin in winter 2020. Stay “tuned” for updates on the project in the coming months!

With grateful hearts,

Organ Project Committee

Keith Melberg, Linda Mellon, Pamela Schroden, Anne Taylor, Harriet Wicklund



First Lutheran Church 17th Annual

Harvest Dinner



from First Lutheran Church and served by the Youth and their Families

First Lutheran Church is offering a FREE Harvest Dinner with turkey, stuffing and the works for the entire community!

It will be a time of fellowship and giving.

We invite you to come and join us for dinner together!

Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)

First Lutheran Church, 402 South Court Street

Fergus Falls, MN

Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 5-7 pm



OWLS—Save the Date!

Date: Sunday, December 8 in the afternoon

Where: Prairie Wind Players in Barrett, MN

What: "Harvest Moon Christmas Show"



OPERATION BOOTSTRAP will present information during Adult Education Hour on Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

Please meet in Fellowship Hall.

Are you interested in joining First Lutheran?



New Members Are Joining

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. (Classes last about 1 hour).

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.

A message from our Council President:

I've seen what appears to be a popular saying or phrase lately that has caught my eye. It is three words, **Thankful, Grateful, Blessed**. As I sat in our sanctuary on October 6 to listen to the music concert, the initial fund raising project to update the ranks of our organ, the words Thankful, Grateful, Blessed went through my head. Thankful for the wonderful musicians who shared their talents that day under leadership of Keith Melberg, Linda Mellon, Pamela Schroden, Anne Taylor, and Janel Trosvig-Buttke, with the bell choir, senior choir, and the piano and organ pieces. Grateful that they were willing and able to share their gifts, and blessed as a congregation for these people who participated last Sunday in sharing their love and passion of music for the enjoyment of all.

We all have challenges in our lives, whether personal, social or political but as I was letting the music flow over me as our First Lutheran musicians performed, I felt as though I was able to have God's peace flow over me like a river, and to feel the power of our God from whom all blessings flow. It was a wonderful hour listening to our musicians perform, including, for those that were there, the Burlington Northern railroad. A reflection that we all can feel Thankful and Grateful for God's blessings, and Blessed to be a part of a congregation of people willing and able to share their talents.

We have many people that share in so many ways on a daily basis to help make First Lutheran a place where "with hearts and hand and voices, we serve our Lord and neighbor in worship". First Lutheran Church is "we the people", and it takes all of us in whatever way individually and collectively. We are able to make our congregation a welcoming place for all. A place to glorify God through our shared worship experience and our commitment to each other as believers in Christ on a daily basis.

I feel Thankful and Grateful for all of you and truly Blessed to be part of First Lutheran Church.

Thank you.

Dick Felstul, President

From the First Lutheran Foundation:



I joined the foundation board just under one year ago. Having previously served on the Church Council for 6-years, I had always known our congregation had a foundation, but I wasn't fully aware of the depth of support the foundation provides to this Church. During our recent September board meeting we discussed that this was likely the case for many. We felt that an ongoing article in the Messenger would be a good way to share a little bit about our work.

The First Lutheran Foundation functions like most foundations. We have invested financial gifts into targeted investment accounts with the intent to preserve the principal balance into perpetuity (the endowment) and each year we utilize a portion of the interest earnings from those funds to support work in the Church.

Our focus is not on providing funding to support normal day-to-day operations of the Church. The funds provided by the foundation are intended to be used for things outside of the scope of the regular budget. These include pastoral and staff professional development, and youth and senior ministry. Recently, we covered the bus cost for an OWLs trip to an event in Alexandria, summer Luther Crest scholarships, and annually provide the funds to purchase the bibles our youth receive. The foundation has also provided support for mission work: Funding for youth mission trips, and the quilters work in providing quilts to graduates and others in the community. We also provide scholarship support for First Lutheran members pursuing a college education in the Ministry, recently Madeline Trosvig, and Jeff Fitzkappes. The Foundation has also provided support for capital projects such as the Organ Fund. If there are unspent funds available, our December meeting focuses on distributing the remaining budgeted funds to the benevolence recipients that the Congregation has elected to support.

Look for more about the foundation's work in future Messengers!

Greg Wagner
First Lutheran Foundation Board Member

Joint ELCA Thanksgiving *Eve Service*

Please Join Us for Worship at First Lutheran Church
402 South Court Street
on Wednesday, November 27
at 6:00 p.m.

There will musical selections by a Combined ELCA Chorus
and the Hosanna Handbell Choir.
Fellowship & pie following worship.



“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”



Education Hour

November 3 at 11:00 a.m.
Operation Boot Strap
Fellowship Hall

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

Coming Soon

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



The Worship Corner

by the Worship &
Music Committee

We reach the high point of our service. So far we have opened our mouths in prayer and praise. Now we will be silent and listen as our Lord speaks to us. He reveals Himself in a special way: in the reading and preaching of His word. God makes Himself known to us in the Bible. Without the word of God our worship and our faith would die.

We hear God's promises in the Old Testament and receive instruction in living a Christian life from the New Testament letters or epistles. The Gospel reading centers on the life and words of our Lord Jesus Christ. We sing a hymn to prepare our hearts for the word which we will hear through the sermon. God speaks to us through his servant, our pastor, who prayerfully prepares proclamation of God's message of repentance, salvation and growth in faith.



**Remember to take
time to honor
those who served.**

The office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28. Enjoy time with your family and friends.



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



We invite the entire congregation to sign-up to bring food for the Harvest Dinner, which will be on November 7. Sign-up sheets located in the Narthex.

Confirmation students will be helping to serve 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. Sign-up sheets will be available at Confirmation.

Please consider signing up to help with the delivery of Meals by Wheels. The sign-up sheet is located on the counter outside the office window. First Lutheran is scheduled to deliver **November 4–November 8**. We hope you can help with this important outreach!!



Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at First Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall **Tuesday, November 12** from **1 to 7:00 p.m.**

To make an appointment, call 733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: Fergus First Lutheran.

Also, if you can help at the drive, there is a sign-up sheet on the counter outside the office windows.

The sign-up to bring food for the light brunch on **Generosity Sunday, November 10**, is located on the Information Desk in the Narthex. We hope you can help make this a special time of fellowship. Treats can be left in the Narthex on November 10.

