



First Lutheran Church December 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@flcfff.org

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



Keep Watch Mark 13:32-37

"But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable. It's like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and

putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch."

No one on earth knows...no one...only the Father. We are encouraged to keep a sharp lookout throughout this Advent season. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word meaning "the approach" or "the arrival." Who wants to stand watch day and night? Practically no one. All the while we are given the charge to keep watch. What is one to do while watching?

Traditionally people of faith were not passive about their watching, rather they were actively preparing themselves for the coming of the Savior. They prepared their bodies by a thorough scrubbing and their homes by tidying them up.

How is it for you today that you prepare your lives for the Christ Child? Individual practices are as varied as there are people. There is no wrong way to prepare for it is the intentionality of one's preparation that delights God.

I invite you to commit to your own spiritual practices this Advent season as a means to "keep watch". For instance, you could commit to attending each of the three Advent worship services on Wednesday noon or evenings, participate in the Giving Tree, volunteer to host fellowship following worship on a Sunday, or pray for a friend who needs encouragement. These are simply a few suggestions of means to be actively preparing your inner lives, so that when the Christ child arrives you will be watching.

May God bless your efforts to "keep watch".

Pastor Gretchen





Sundays 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. in the Chapel
Preschool through 8th Grade
All are welcomed!

“Love Never Fails.” 1 Corinthians

Subscribe to the Remind App to stay up to date on all the Sunday School happenings. Text @flcss18 to 81010.

Contact info for Kristy, Director of Children’s Ministries
(218)531-9544 or Kristy @flcff.org.

December Sunday School Happenings

Dec. 1- Family Worship/
No Sunday School
Lessons

Dec. 8- Christmas Program
Practice 10:00-11:30 am
(note longer time)
Preschool– 8th Grade

Butterflies
10:00-10:45 am

PJ & Movie Party
3:30-5:00 pm
FLC Youth Room
Kindergarten-6th grade

Dec. 15- Christmas Program
Practice 10:00—11:00
Sunday School
Christmas Program,
“A Classic Christmas”
at 11:00

Trowbridge Creek
Petting Zoo after
Christmas Program

Dec. 22- Family Worship
No Sunday School
Lessons

Dec. 29– Family Worship/
No Sunday School
Lessons



“God’s Work, Our Hands”

The First Lutheran Church Sunday School Presents:

A Classic Christmas



December 15th 11:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church

Trowbridge Creek Petting Zoo following Program

FLY K-6

Dec. 4- God Will Bring Peace (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Card making for Christmas Cookie plates

Sunday, Dec. 8- Movie & PJ Party 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Dec. 11- God's Peaceful World (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Dec. 18- Christmas Party

Dec. 25- NO FLY/ Merry Christmas

Jan. 1- NO FLY/ Happy New Years

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



Movie & PJ Party

Throw on your pajamas, bring a pillow and a blanket and come and snuggle in for the movie *The Grinch* (2018). Popcorn and pizza will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish if desired.

Where: **FLC Youth Room**

When: **Sunday, Dec. 8**

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Who: **Kindergarten—6th grade**



FLY K-6

FLY 7-9 & 10-12

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

THANK YOU to all the families and youth kids that helped with the Harvest Dinner this year. **WOW!!!** What a great turn out! - *Calie*



Game Night & Santa's Elves

- WHO: **FLY 7-9**
- WHEN: Wednesday, December 4
- TIME: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Youth Room
- WHY: to help & have fun!
- For Santa's ELVES we will package gifts for families in need for the Salvation Army.
- For fun, we will play games and eat pizza!!

Hope to see you!!!



it's **Game night** & Project Santa



- WHO: **FLY 9-12**
- WHEN: Sunday, December 8
- TIME: 6 to 8 p.m.
- WHERE: Youth Room
- WHY: to help & have fun!
- For Project Santa we will package gifts for families in need at Someplace Safe.
- For fun we will play Trivia, Games & eat Pizza!

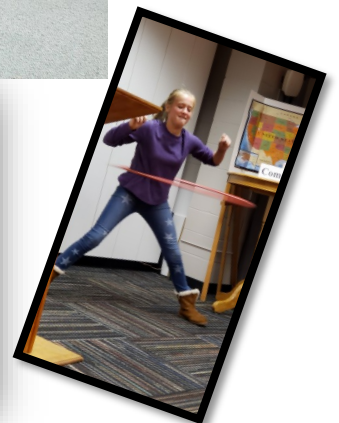
Hope you will join us!!!



Confirmation Retreat



October
26





The Worship Corner

by the Worship & Music Committee

The Offering and Prayers for the Church—We have listened to God's word from scripture and preaching. We offer our hearts and

lives to Him, asking Him to make us eager to do His will in our lives.

We bring our gifts to God's altar. They are meaningful when we recognize them as tokens of our entire selves, given in worship and service to God.

In our prayers, we ask God to fulfill all our needs, the needs of the church and of all people. In these prayers, we express our belief in the priesthood of all believers, actively naming the prayers in our own hearts and bringing them individually to God in Jesus' name.



Calling all Cookie Bakers!

We will be delivering plates of holiday cookies to shut-ins and members unable to bake anymore. Bring a batch or two of your favorite cookie to the kitchen on Tuesday, December 10, or by 8:30 am on the 11th. Plates will be assembled at 8:30 am on the 11th and delivered after that. We are also looking for help with assembling the plates and delivering them. If you can help with those areas, or have any questions, please contact Sandy at 736-4520.



First Lutheran Foundation Requests 2020

The Foundation will hold its annual meeting on January 13, 2020. Any requests from the Foundation should be approved by the Church Council. Written requests for funds should be emailed to Chad Felstul (c.felstul@pemlaw.com) or dropped off at the Church office, before December 21, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact any Foundation Board members: Chad Felstul, Vicki Hanneman, Leonard Hatzenbuehler, Tim Johnson, Missy Mattson, Linda Mellon, and Greg Wagner.



Poinsettias are available to purchase from The Flower Mill for \$14.00. Give your plant in honor or in memory of a loved one and their name will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Plants may be taken home after the second service on Christmas Eve. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church with poinsettia in the memo line before **Thursday, December 12**, and turn in check with this form.

Your Name: _____

In Honor of _____

Or in Memory of _____





Sharing the Joy and Hope of Christmas through Giving Trees

"It's the most wonderful time of the year..." For many of us, the season of Christmas brings us great joy. Children wait with great anticipation to open the colorfully wrapped gifts under the tree. Families look forward to spending time together, sharing special meals, time to visit and reflect on the year that is drawing to a close. As Christians, our greatest gift-our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ-comes to us in humble form. It is a season of joy; a season of hope.

But it is for everyone? Among us are many people who lack family with whom to celebrate. Whether by distance or choice, they won't spend Christmas with loved ones. Among us are women and children for whom family are not a safe refuge. Among us are children whose parents cannot afford proper clothing to outfit them for harsh Minnesota winters, much less gifts under a tree.

I begin many mornings with devotions from Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor at Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, CA. He often repeats this quote: "For many people, the only Christ they will see is the Christ they see in you." We are called to spread Christ's love by sharing our time, talents and resources. During the Advent season, I invite you to use our Giving Trees, for the benefit of A Place to Belong, Someplace Safe and School District #544, as a means of sharing our joy and hope in Jesus by providing a gift for someone to whom it will mean so much. Additionally, I encourage all of you to return your Time and Talent sheets and to prayerfully consider the financial support you can give to First Lutheran Church. In giving of ourselves, we are truly blessed.

Wishing you and your family a season filled with hope,

Jennifer Frank, Outreach Chair

Christmas Food Baskets will be delivered to community members on Saturday, December 14. If you can help with assembly and delivery of these baskets, please call or text Jennifer at 701-238-0276.





LOVE DAYS

Monday, December 2, 9, 16

9 am to 3 pm

Join us for quilting, mission projects, and fellowship!

WELCA Executive Board

Tuesday, December 10 at 10:00 am in Kairos Room

CIRCLES

No meetings in December

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



All women of First Lutheran are invited to our annual

Christmas Tea

Thursday, December 12

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Pioneer Pointe
Dining Room

Share the **JOY** of
Christmas through
fellowship, refreshments,
a special message and music!



♥ Bring a Friend! ♥

*Hosted by Hannah &
Sarah Circles*



O.W.L.s December Activities

Sunday December 8
Harvest Moon Holiday-
Prairie Wind Players
Barrett, MN
Bus departs at 12:45
for a 2:00 show. Cost
\$15. Supper after at
Knotty Pine Elbow Lake
(at own expense)
Sign up by Dec 2

Friday, Dec 20
Bells are Ringing
AC4TA
OWLS Group Discount
\$21.60
Sign up by November 30

Sign-up sheets on the
Info Counter in the
Narthex



Baptism October 27 Emery Rose Wood

Looking forward to Advent Services

Five Fergus Falls ELCA churches will be worshipping here at First Lutheran on Wednesday, December 4, 11, & 18. Services will be at 12:10 p.m., with lunch after, and 6:30 p.m. Offering will go to each specified church, with loose offering going to the Lake Region Recovery Home.

We hope you will join us.



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, Fellowship (open), Membership (open)

Executive Committee

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

Youth busy doing the prep work for the Harvest Dinner!



Great job!!



Generosity Sunday
November 10



Harvest Dinner 2019

November 7



- Great Cooks/Coordinators!
- Fabulous volunteers! Enthusiastic & efficient!!
- Awesome help from the youth! Friendly & fast!!
- Yummy food!
- Happy guests! 505 served!

#whatablessing

November 17 - New Member Sunday



Matt & Laurie Kettner Family
Bennett, Jacob

WELCOME
new members



Jennifer Woore



Christina & Aiden Delong



Roy & Sheila Graham



Dennis & Debbie Johnson



Jim & Jody Pederson Family
Abraham, Isaac (not pictured)



Melissa Wolf



Becky Nelson



Dana & Cora Johnson
(with husband Ryan who is already a member)

Not pictured: Carl & Jane Burton, Aaron Gothier, Jon Anderson