



First Lutheran Church January 2020

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

Believing in the future takes faith.

At this time of the year we are given an opportunity to recommit to our walk with the Lord. A relationship with God is a two-way street. He is there to help us, but he expects us to follow His plan. In the reading below from the book of Genesis, God called Abram to leave his country and his people and go to a land that God would show him. God promised to guide him, but Abram had to step out in faith.. God has promised to be with us as we seek direction in every aspect of our lives, but he may also ask something of us. As with Abram, God may be calling us away from a familiar way of living which may be dragging us down. And if we want to make progress, we will need to follow His plan.

Genesis 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. 3 I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."

One of the distinctions between us and the rest of created life is that while the critters of the earth such as animals and the like, are content with surviving, humans are not content to simply survive; we are driven to thrive. So how is it that we can thrive as God's people in this new year walking with the Lord?

For instance: We can ask God to help us recommit to deeper intimacy with Him through action and contemplation. We can ask God to give us a willingness to read His Word each day...even a sentence or two as a means to connect with Him. And we can listen for God's direction within the silence of our days. If we are not naturally inclined to be silent; we can practice being silent, even for a brief few moments to hear what and how God is calling us into a deeper relationship with Him.

I invite you to explore what it means to be a thriving child of God in 2020 and share with me your findings. I enjoy hearing how God is transforming lives and hearts; a person at a time.

God Loves you and so do I,
Pastor Gretchen





"God's Work, Our Hands"

Jan. 5- Jesus the Word (John 1:10-18)

**Jan. 12- Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17)
Butterflies ages birth-Preschool**

**Jan. 19- Family Worship/ No Sunday School
Lessons**

**Jan. 25- Rock 'n Bowl at Northern Aire
Lanes 12:15 – 2:30 pm
Kindergarten-6th grade**

**Jan. 26- The Disciples
(Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1-4)**



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

"Love Never Fails." 1 Corinthians



We are back at Sunday School! December was a busy month with program practice, but it was such a beautiful and fun way to celebrate Jesus' birth! Thank you families for being apart of such a special celebration. If you would like to see pictures or a video of the program, or you have pictures you would like to contribute, check out the Google Photo album here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Qkczw9gBDFJX5QQ8>

During the month of January, we will be warming our hearts with stories of Jesus from the Gospel and growing in God's love. We will continue to warm the hearts of others with kind deeds and kind words as we live out our theme, "God's Work. Our Hands." We end the month with the Disciples. This story teaches us that Jesus invites us to follow him, a perfect way to end January and follow Jesus into February.



FLY K-6 Meets Wednesdays after school 3:30-4:30 pm

- Jan. 1- No FLY/ Happy New Years!
- Jan. 8- Lesson: Jesus the Word (John 1:10-18)
- Jan. 15- Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf;
4:30 pm Parent pick up at the Food Shelf.
- Jan. 22- Lesson: The Lamb of God (John 1:29-42)
- Jan. 25- Rock & Bowl at Northern Aire Lanes 12:15-2:30
- Jan. 29- Lesson: The Disciples (Matthew 4:12-23; 9:9-13; 10:1



FLYK6 PJ & Movie Party



FLY 7-9

Meets the first Wednesday of the month @5:30 pm



Rock & Bowl FLY K6 & FLY 79

Let's go bowling! Come on down to the Northern Aire Lanes for an afternoon of bowling with lights and music. We will get together for some fun, fellowship, and bowling!

Where: Northern Aire Lanes

When: Saturday, January 25

12:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Who: Fly K6 w/Kristy

Fly79 w/Calie



Cost: \$5 per person, sign up
by January 22nd



FLY 10-12

Be on the lookout!!!

Plans are in the works for a trip to the Escape Room and Andes Tower Hills.

Finance Open Forum after worship January 19 to discuss any questions regarding the proposed 2020 budget.

ANNUAL MEETING



Mark your calendar:

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2020, after worship.

Potluck lunch to follow annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. Sign-up to help in the Narthex. We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship.



Office & Activity Closure Reminder

First Lutheran follows the Fergus Falls School District 544 for closures, late starts, early dismissals and after school activity cancellations.



This information can be found on the school website or Facebook page, and local radio and news stations.

Charitable Deduction for 2019

In order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2019, checks must be mailed to the church by no later than December 31. Checks must be written, postmarked, and mailed in 2019 to qualify for a 2019 deduction. Please keep this in mind when making year-end donations. Thank you.

THE MESSENGER

This month's newsletter was distributed to a larger group due to the Annual Meeting Notice. If you don't receive the newsletter every month, but would like to receive it, please contact the church office

at 739-3348, or office@flcfff.org.

We would be happy to add you to our distribution list, either via regular mail or electronic e-mail. If

you are receiving the Messenger, and are satisfied with the delivery method you have, no need to contact us.



We will be delivering for Meals by Wheels January 20—January 24.

Sign-up sheet is located on the counter outside the office windows.

Thanks for helping!!!



The Worship Corner

by the Worship & Music
Committee

Following the offering of our gifts, we approach the second high point of our liturgy, the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We pray for and assure each other of the Lord's presence. Then comes the invitation to "lift up our hearts" and "give thanks to the Lord, our God". This reminds us that the entire communion service is a service of thanksgiving. We join our voices with the angels who gather round the Lord's throne and sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude singing "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

We then pray the Lord's prayer, which Jesus himself taught us. We are reminded that at the communion table, we are not many individuals but one body, brothers and sisters in faith, whose spiritual welfare is closely linked together.

In the words of institution, which Jesus spoke to us on the night He was betrayed, we make the Lord's Supper a celebration, not just a custom, but a sacrament instituted by Christ Himself. He assures us that he is present to give us forgiveness and fellowship with Him. With these words, the pastor consecrates the bread and wine, setting them apart for holy use. As Jesus gave Himself for us on the cross, He gives Himself to us in communion. In this way, He assures us personally that the blessings He won for all on the cross are most certainly for each of us individually. We sing hymns that focus our thoughts on the meaning and benefit of the Lord's Supper.

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
JoAn Whitlock
Membership (open)

Executive Committee

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





Thank you to Jennifer Frank and the Outreach committee for coordinating our Giving Trees! Thank you also to our generous shoppers—we were so HAPPY to make Christmas a bit brighter for many in our community.



Just a small sample of items purchased from our Giving Trees!!!!
Thank You, Thank You!!!



Thank you to the church council for packing and delivering 30 food baskets this year.



Many thanks to the talented decorators who made our church so festive this Christmas season!
We will take the decorations down on Monday, January 6th at 9:30am with potluck lunch to follow. All are welcome to come help!!



Automated lighting has been added to main hallways and restrooms. This is both convenient and a money saver. Thank you to the generous donor who made this possible.



LOVE DAYS

Every Monday

9 am to 3 pm

Except Martin Luther King Jr.
Holiday on January 20

Join us for quilting, mission
projects, and fellowship!

WELCA Executive Board

Tuesday, January 14 at 10:00
am in Kairos Room

CIRCLES

Wednesday, January 22

Sarah—Pioneer Pointe

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Hannah—Kairos Room

1:00 p.m.

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



Thank you to our
coordinators, bakers, cookie plate
packers and delivery crew who made
Christmas a little sweeter for over
50 special friends this year!



YUMMY!



***From Ramon at
Studio Renaissance:***

Here are a few pictures we took last week of the progress. We will continue full force on your windows with hoped for completion and install in February. Thanks, and have a great holiday season!

(This is phase one, of two. Phase two is a new storm window. We don't have an ETA for phase two, yet!)

