First Lutheran Church March 2020

Worship Sun. 9:30 am
Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7
www.channel 977.com

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

From Pastor Gretchen—Below is an article written by our very own Pamela Schroden...... sharing an update regarding a most sublime addition to our worship space. In the coming weeks, I invite you to take time to take a closer look at the altar either prior or following a worship service. Notice the clear lines and simplicity of the treasured altar. Thank you to the talented and generous artisan for their contribution to our worship space glorifying God.

The Altar Table by Pamela Schroden

In January First Lutheran added an altar table in the chancel space. The Worship Committee was given the idea, shared from 2 members that attended a synodical meeting. When ideas to enhance your worship experience are brought to us, we study them in the context of Lutheranism, and follow guidelines outlined from the ELCA church headquarters.

The place where the Lord’s supper is set out is a table. It is a meal we eat at Jesus Christ’s invitation, and the food of a meal is set on a table. We may, however, call that table an altar metaphorically, since here Jesus Christ gives us his own sacrifice, the sacrifice that is the end of all sacrifices, amazingly reversing the direction of sacrifices.

The free standing table is the oldest practice, discoverable in the earliest images and architectural remains we have of old church buildings. This practice has been widely recovered today, since it so clearly helps us to see that the Lord’s supper celebrates the risen Christ in the midst of an assembly. Many Lutherans, in concert with other Christians, think that the time of which Martin Luther spoke has come, and that the pastor should preside at the table facing the people. The assembly needs to have a sense that it is gathered around that table, sees and hears what happens there, has the promise of Christ clearly addressed to it, participates in the thanksgiving, and is made into a community through God’s gift.

This altar table was handcrafted and donated to the First Lutheran Congregation.
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

First Communion Classes: Faith Milestone for 5th Graders

A unique faith experience begins for 5th graders and their parents this month. This class with the students, the parents, and the pastor provides an opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The classes begin with a pottery making day (Sunday, March 1st at 10:00) as they mold a chalice for their First Communion. It continues with instruction (Sunday, March 22nd at 10:00) and bread making (Wednesday, April 8th at 5:30). These tactile lessons are meant to help kids reflect on the things they’ve felt and learned about communion. After the instruction, students will experience their First Communion at the worship service on Maundy Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 pm. Grandparents and God-parents are encouraged to attend the service as a wonderful family celebration. Following the occasion, have these special adults share what the sacrament means to them. When we find an opportunity, take the time to discuss and affirm each of the gifts given in Holy Communion; Being together with Jesus, receiving forgiveness, celebrating, giving thanks, receiving strength to serve receiving Jesus, and growing in faith.
Luau Party

It’s cold outside, so let’s warm up with a Luau! Come and pretend to be in a warmer climate with some fun games, food, and sharing the warmth with others.

Where: Fellowship Hall
When: Sunday, March 1 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Who: Kindergarten—6th grade (family members are welcomed to join)

Information about attending Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, MN (for all ages) can be found on the next page!!!

FLY K-6

FLY K-6 (Kindergarten through 6th grade) meets 3:30 to 4:30 pm on Wednesdays each week. We all gather in the youth room to play various games, teaching each other & learning about the fun ways that God works in our lives. Van ride from Kennedy Secondary school is available.

VBS with Luther Crest will be JULY 6-9

8:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
This year we will be doing Vacation Bible School together with Augustana, Hope, and Zion churches. We are very excited to bring this combined event to our community and congregations. Keep on the look out for more details to come!
Dear First Lutheran Youth,

The First Lutheran Foundation has agreed to provide matching dollars to attend Luther Crest. This is an incredible opportunity to attend camp at a very low price!

The following is what the foundation will pay for Luther Crest Camps:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Type</th>
<th>Foundation Donation</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On Site Day Camp</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seekers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critters</td>
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<td>Explorers</td>
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<td>Leapers</td>
<td>$300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other Luther Crest Camps for other grades</td>
<td>$300</td>
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</tbody>
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You will need to pay the deposit when you register. Registration information can be found on the Luther Crest website at [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org). Also, brochures containing registration information can be found on the counter in the front of the office window in the narthex. **Important:** To get these dollars applied to your camp registration, you need to notify the church office before 4/25 and give the church office proof of your registration. This can be as simple as emailing the office a copy of your registration to [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org).

Thank you to the First Lutheran Foundation for this awesome gift toward attending camp. They, like I, believe that attending Bible camp is simply one of the best things you can do in the summer. Please see me if you have any questions!

Thank you!  
Calie Anderson

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**FLY 7-9 Lock—In**

**Saturday March 14 at 9 pm until Sunday, March 15 at 8 am**

Pizza, movies, crazy games, board games, FUN...FUN...FUN!!

Bring some friends, a positive attitude, an item for the junk food buffet to share, your sleeping bag/blanket/pillow.

No cost—just need current FLC health form.

Sign-up sheet located outside the office—sign-up is required!

Call or text Calie at 218-321-0970 or email calie@flcff.org.

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- Scholarship forms for the Foundation Scholarship (anyone attending or planning to attend a Lutheran college) have been mailed out. If you didn’t get a form but would like one, please contact the office. Please return the form by April 1.

- Scholarship forms for the Fergus Falls ELCA High School Senior scholarship were mailed to all seniors. If you plan to apply for this scholarship, please return the form to the office by April 1. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding senior of one of the sponsoring congregations.

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**March 18**—FLY 7-12 meet in Youth Room 5:30 pm

**April 5**—Palm Sunday Breakfast served by youth

**April 26**—Confirmation at 11:00 a.m. worship

**May 17**—Senior Recognition Sunday at 9:30 a.m. worship
Lenten Theme: “Life in the Shadow of the Cross”

Traveling Lenten Services on Wednesdays

We will travel to the other ELCA churches in town. There will be 12:10 pm worship followed by soup lunch and 5:30 pm supper followed by 6:30 pm worship.

March 4—Bethlehem Lutheran – 102 West Junius
March 11—Hope Lutheran—1309 Stony Brook Road
March 18—First Lutheran
March 25—Zion Lutheran—202 East Summit
April 1—Augustana Lutheran—308 East Douglas

April 9 Maundy Thursday worship will be at individual churches. 7:00 pm at First Lutheran with 5th grade 1st Communion. There will also be a prayer vigil in the Chapel from 12 to 6 pm on Maundy Thursday. Sign-up sheet for prayer vigil is located in Narthex.

April 10 Good Friday worship will be 12:10 pm at Bethlehem and 7:00 pm at First Lutheran with a Joint ELCA Cantata.

Lenten worship will be here at First Lutheran on Wednesday, March 18. We are looking for volunteers to help with the meal after the 12:10 p.m. service and the 5:30 p.m. meal before the 6:30 p.m. service. We also need cookies and bars for both meals. There is a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter in the Narthex.

We hope you will be able to help.

Holy Week Calendar

Sunday, April 5—Palm Sunday
9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion & procession of palms
Palm Sunday Festival & Youth sponsored breakfast

Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday
12 to 6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil in the Chapel
(sign up sheet for 30 minute prayer intervals located in Narthex)
7:00 p.m. worship & 5th grade 1st Communion

Friday, April 10—Good Friday
12:10 p.m. Joint ELCA worship at Bethlehem Lutheran
7:00 p.m. Joint ELCA Cantata at First Lutheran

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday
Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Alleluia, based on the Hebrew word hallelu yah, means “praise the Lord”. Because of the penitential nature of the season of Lent, the word alleluia is historically suspended during the forty days of Lent.

The alleluia is bid farewell on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday, which is Transfiguration Sunday or the last Sunday in Epiphany. Just as the alleluia is removed symbolically by recessing the banner from the sanctuary, it will make its triumphant return in procession on Easter, when we will joyfully and in full voice celebrate our risen Lord, Jesus Christ!
Spring Flowering Plants will be used to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for $20.00 to the church office (or put money in a pew envelope marked “Easter Plant” and place in the offering plate). Those purchasing a plant may take it home after the 11:00 service on Easter.

Thank You!

LOVE DAYS
Every Monday
9 am to 3 pm
Join us for quilting, mission projects, and fellowship!

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am
Kairos Room

CIRCLES
Wednesday, March 25
Sara 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Pioneer Pointe
Hannah 1:00 p.m.
Kairos Room

Coming in April
First Lutheran will be hosting the WELCA Conference 7 Spring Gathering—”ALL ARE ONE IN MISSION” on Monday, April 20, 2020. There will be a 5:00 p.m. meal followed by a meeting and a program of special music with the Moline Sisters.

Watch for more details!
**WHO is this message for?**

Any **Older Wiser Lutheran** (55 or older)!

If you would like to receive information about OWLS activities, there is a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter where you can list your phone number and email. Notices will still be posted in the bulletin, Messenger & bulletin board, but additional contact information would be appreciated.

**Thank YOU!**

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**Craft & Chili Fundraiser** will be hosted by the Fellowship committee this Fall (date to be determined). This is just an early reminder to start working on your favorite craft if you are interested in donating items to the event this fall. Also, if you can contribute any of the following items - wooden cutting boards, clear glass vases or candles of any color or size, please leave them in the collection basket in the Narthex. They are needed for one crafter’s project.

**Time to get CRAFTING!**