



# First Lutheran Church June 2020

Worship Sun. 9:30 am  
Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7  
[www.channel977.com](http://www.channel977.com)  
Livestream on YouTube, link found on website

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Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
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**Mission Statement: "As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts".**



I have most exciting news for the good people of First Lutheran Church!! On Sunday, June 21st during worship we will install Lynn Melchior as our new part-time seminary intern. She will serve FLC for 2 years beginning June 15th. This is truly a dream come true for me personally. I have always felt called to serve as a seminary intern supervisor as to give back to the greater church through this capacity.

Lynn is coming to us with much church experience. She has most recently served Zion, Amor for the past 9 years as a church administrator. She held many leadership roles including: assisting with worship, leading small groups, chairing committees, being a council member, council secretary and president of the council.

Some of her learning goals for her formation are: pastoral care visits, leading confirmation, leading WELCA Bible Studies, leading and preaching during worship, and anything else she needs to learn or experience!

Lynn's professional strengths include leadership, stewardship and administration. She is also comfortable with public speaking.

This is a small glimpse into Lynn's professional profile. There is much more to say and know about her faith journey. I hope I have sparked your interest to warmly welcome her to our faith community through a card, e-mail or phone call in the coming days. Her e-mail is [Lynn@flcfff.org](mailto:Lynn@flcfff.org). Lynn will have office hours posted so that she can easily be reached at the church office.

A point of interest—Lynn's monthly stipend has been covered by a grant from Luther Seminary through the generosity of the Buntrock Family. We are embarking on new territory living in the age of COVID-19 while welcoming a seminary intern. It is most exciting to see where God will lead us next. Thanks be to God.

Sharing Christ's Service,  
*Pastor Gretchen*

## Worship With Us on the Radio, YouTube and PEG Access

The ELCA churches of Fergus Falls have joined together to provide worship opportunities on Sunday mornings. **We will continue with the services closed to the public through July.** Services will be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30am on Sundays. (FLC, Augustana & Hope)

To access YouTube go to the First Lutheran website: [www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)  
You can livestream or watch later.

Our worship services are being aired on PEG Access Channel 8. The schedule does change, so be sure to check the website at <http://pegaccess.com/channel8programming.html> for current times.



**God's Work.  
Our Hands.**

**Love Never Fails  
1Corinthians 13:8**

This was a strange year, we did not get to end it with our usual celebrations, but we still got to celebrate in our own ways. I hope that even through this separation, you and your families were able to live out our motto this year of "God's Work, Our Hands" and you were able to continue to grow your faith in both of our Sunday School and FLY lessons both on-site and online.

Just during the month of May, our FLY K-6 students celebrated nurses by sending cards and thank yous to the hospital and nursing homes. Our virtual Sunday School lessons covered God's house, the three truths (Love God, love others, and God loves you), the Ascension, and the Holy Spirit. We celebrated teachers with a virtual thank you and blessing along with doorstep thank yous. We celebrated the end of Wednesday FLY K-6 with a Zoom party and doorstep design your own frosted cookie packs. Finally, we celebrated the end of the Sunday School year with a side walk chalk tribute to every Sunday School student at First Lutheran to let them know that they are special to us. You might be thinking it is time for a good rest, but we continue on with plans for a VBS To-Go, a virtual Luther Crest Day Camp, and some summer activities.

Thank you for your commitment to First Lutheran, and I hope you have a great summer and keep living out our motto, "God's Work, Our Hands". See you at VBS To-Go pick up!

Blessings!

Kristy Wicklund, Director of Children's Ministry

Kristy@flcff.org (218) 531-9544  
Remind for Sunday School-@flcss18  
Remind for FLY K-6- @flyk6



### June - VBS To-Go

Ages: 1 year old – 6th grade  
pick up date to be announced

### June 10- FLY K-6 Zoom Game Night at 6:00

Meeting ID: 721 7456 7582  
Password: 0JeG3X

### August- "Bold Transformative Faith Program"- Virtual VBS Day Camp by Luther Crest

#### VBS this Summer

We have two things happening for Vacation Bible School this summer:

1. VBS To-Go is a bag of fun and engaging activities to bring Jesus into your child's everyday life. There will be two VBS bags one for 1 year olds through 4 year olds and a bag for 5 year olds through 6th grade. We will arrange a pickup time in June from the church.
2. "Bold Transformative Faith Program" by Luther Crest, "This program will be a faith formation experience for youth in your congregation. We know that the experience of gathering is irreplaceable. This program will help us continue to connect with youth in your congregations and provide you with tools and materials for a faith formation experience," from Luther Crest. Luther Crest will be providing Bible Dives, Worship, Materials, and other activities that can be done from your home. This program will be made available in August. This program is provided at no cost, all required is a registration form.

# First Lutheran Seniors



**Olivia Becker**

Parents: Brian and Patty Becker

National Honor Society, A Honor Roll, worked in child care at YMCA since August 2018, is Attending U of M in Twin Cities for elementary education hopefully as a Kindergarten Teacher.

Also, loves camping /fishing in Canada, spending time with friends/family. Enjoys going to lake.



**Jacob Spangler**

Parents: Lisa and Ron Spangler

He is planning to take one year off to work and then attend school for media and video editing.

He likes playing basketball, riding 4wheeler, video games and playing kendama. He enjoys spending time with friends and currently going for drives.



**Brandon Hinsverk**

Parents: Todd & Tammy Hinsverk

Brandon plans to take a year off to save some money for college. He will probably spend his spare time skateboarding, snowboarding and practicing Tai Kwon Do. He is interested in going into graphic design when he starts college.



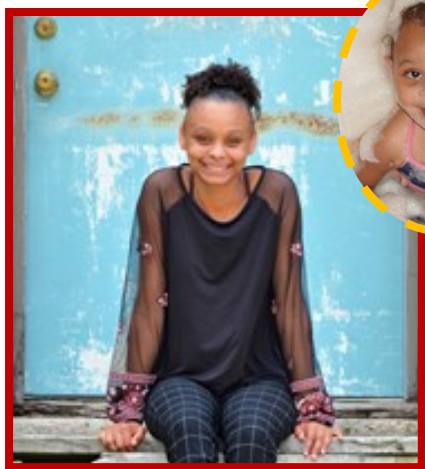
**Isaac Pederson**

Parents: Jim and Jody Pederson

Isaac is uncertain of his plans after graduation, although plans to stay in the Fergus Falls area. Isaac has enjoyed swimming for Otters and spends as much time as possible hunting and fishing. He is excited to graduate!



# First Lutheran Seniors



**Andreyia Lockett,**

Parents: Megan Johnson & Dennis Lockett

Plan: Going to M. State Fergus Falls to get an Assoc. of Arts degree & transfer somewhere after to pursuing a forensic psychology degree. Will play basketball for Spartans too.

A fun fact is that "I love to dance in my bedroom all the time."



**Tucker Henkes**

Parents: Chuck and Dawn Henkes

School activities: Nordic Ski Team (6 yrs, senior co-captain, State Meet Qualifier 2020), High School and Chamber Orchestras (2 & 2 yrs.), Fall Play Pit Orchestra (3 yrs).

Pastimes: Nordic skiing, fishing, biking.

Future plans: NDSU for Radiology or UND for Medical Laboratory Science.



**Alison Koch**

Parents: Kristopher and Sara Koch

Planning on going to MState

School activities: Musicals/Plays, Cinderella, Man of Lamancha, Guys and Dolls, Myths Busted, Is there a Dr in the House?, The Audition, HS Bel Canto Choir, Talent shows 3 stand up comedy routines,

Loves to Paint and play guitar.

NOT PICTURED:

Sydney Batzlaff

Sara Hansen

Ethan Menge



Paul Haarstick joined First Lutheran Church in May 2020 as the bookkeeper. Paul is from Vergas, MN, and after high school, he attended Alexandria Technical college where he received a degree in computer networking and web development. He has worked for companies in the Fargo/Moorhead area and in the Twin Cities. In Summer 2019, he returned home to change careers and be closer to his family. Although most people do not think of IT



professionals as educators, Paul knows that is the real reason he has loved his work. After working with the accountants at his previous job, he found his passion for “debits and credits” and went back to get his associate degree in Accounting. He is currently working on his undergraduate degree in Accounting from Bemidji State University. In Paul’s off-time, you can find him scrolling the Netflix catalog or planning the most efficient city in Cities: Skylines. He lives in Vergas, MN, with his cat, Rummy.



*Kirby  
& Gretchen*



*May 23, 2020*







## Greetings from First Lutheran's new intern!

I can just imagine what is going through your head....Intern?  
What? Is Pastor  
Gretchen okay?

I am happy to say that  
Pastor Gretchen is doing  
fine. Better yet, she has



been recognized as a Pastor that would be a great intern supervisor.  
Further, First Lutheran has been recognized as a healthy church that  
would mutually benefit from an intern.

The internship application was started and finished in a very short  
time – which is very different than the normal process. That is be-  
cause I am pursuing an accelerated Masters of Divinity degree. This  
new degree program is for people who are already working in or with  
the church in some capacity. I will work with First Lutheran part time  
for two years – concurrent with my full time schooling at Luther Seminary.

A little about me.....I am one course short of being a lay minister (due to COVID-19!). I have been  
privileged to provide pulpit supply preaching and have lead Bible studies. Previously I was an office  
manager at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor for 9 years – so I have a unique view of how a church works.

I love to travel – I have visited all 50 states and spent time in 28 countries around the world. I also enjoy  
reading, quilting and my pets. I have a black lab who LOVES to fetch and two cats who think I have nothing  
to do but love on them. I have two children who are finishing up college (ages 21 and 24). I live across the  
street from my 90 year old father – who misses our daily hugs due to COVID-19.

One of my interests in ministry is helping people live out their faith in their daily lives – which is simply a  
different (and more fundamental) way of looking at stewardship. My favorite verse is Psalm 118:24 “This is  
the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Each day – even if things  
don’t go well that day – is the Lord’s and a blessing to us.

I am grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside you at First Lutheran for the next two years.  
To borrow a Native American proverb: I “give thanks for unknown blessings already on their  
way.” I look forward to meeting you and being part of your ministry!



Grateful for First Lutheran,  
Lynn Melchior

## Formation Intern Team "FIT"

By: Vicki Hanneman, Chairperson



Something new and wonderful is happening at First Lutheran!  
We are being blessed with a seminary intern! Her name is  
Lynn Melchior, and she is being supported by her very own  
team! Eight of us are "FIT For The Challenge" of assisting Lynn  
during her 2 years with our congregation. You will be hearing  
more about this team, but we wanted you to know that First  
Lutheran is ready and willing to make Lynn feel at home.



## Meals by Wheels June 22—26

Since we cannot utilize our traditional means of sign up, please contact me by text or phone call (701-238-0276) or via email ([77jennifer@msn.com](mailto:77jennifer@msn.com)) to let me know of your willingness to help/preferred routes/dates of availability. Please know that this request does not supersede any current recommendations--please use your best judgement in volunteering.

### Blood Drive at First Lutheran Tuesday, June 30 at 1:00 p.m.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. To ensure the health of staff and donors, precautions include:

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors *before* entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
- Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
- Ensuring face masks or coverings are worn by both staff and donors.
- Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.
- Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.
- Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation.



### God Bless you All!

First Lutheran Staff

Laurie Keith Pastor Stan Anne  
Linda Paul Janel  
Pastor Gretchen Steve Calie Kristy



### The Worship Corner by the Worship & Music Committee

Merriam-Webster defines a hymn as a song of praise to God; a metrical composition for singing in a religious service.

Our hymnal, as well as many others, is filled to the brim with hymns that glorify God, draw our hearts and minds closer to Him and bring us into communion with God and each other.

The seasons of the church year are divided into hymn groups that contain texts appropriate to the day, along with many general songs that are appropriate for any time we worship together.

The hymns are not randomly chosen, but selected carefully for their belonging on each day; how they relate to scripture, the theme of the sermon and the season are all considered in choosing the hymns. When we are able to gather again as a church family, or when you are worshiping at home online, consider the texts you are singing as an integral part of your praise....and sing out joyfully!





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

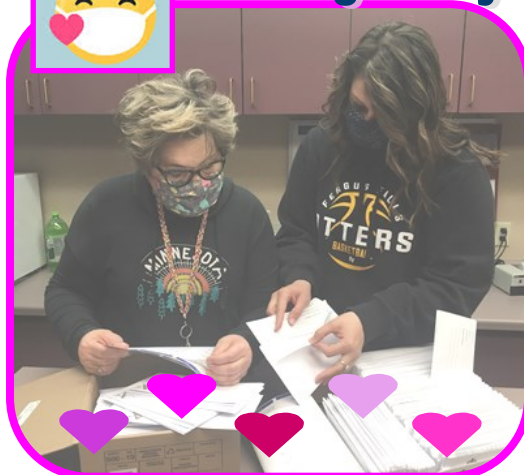
Note: Luther Crest Women's Week has been cancelled for this year.



Watch for updates when WELCA activities will begin again!



**Working Safely!**



### **Breathing Under Water**

A study based on the book by Richard Rohr will start June 1 via Zoom conference. If you haven't signed up, but are interested, please contact Jennifer at 218 770-1011. Scholarships are available—contact Pastor Gretchen for more information on scholarships.



### **Craft & Chili Fundraiser**

will be hosted by the Fellowship committee this Fall (date to be determined). This is just a reminder to keep working on your favorite craft if you are interested in donating items to the event this fall.

*It's a great time to craft!*

## **Mutual Ministry Update**



The Mutual Ministry Team was instituted to support the ministers and ministry of First Lutheran Church. Members are: Michael Wicklund (term ends December 30, 2020), Leslie Flugstad (term ends December 31, 2021), Steve Fitz (term ends December 31, 2022) and Linda Mellon (term ends December 31, 2023). George Mathison, Vice-President of the Council, serves as the liaison between Mutual Ministry and the Council. Two members (Michael and Leslie) will be appointed by the Council and two (Steve and Linda) serve at the request of the pastor. Our job is to serve as reflectors for Pastor Gretchen; a place where she can bring ideas, concerns and problems for discussion and feedback. Our goal is to also serve as reflectors of what is happening within the congregation, and to discuss those things with Pastor Gretchen with the goal of improving and expanding ministries that make our church a better place to be. We encourage you to contact any one of us if there is any way we can be helpful. Pastor Gretchen will now have help from a part-time intern, Lynn Melchior, and we welcome the gifts she will bring to our congregation as she learns and works toward seminary graduation. It is difficult in a congregation our size to know what is happening everywhere, but we want you to know that you are valued and not forgotten! Even during these unprecedented days when we can't be together, we can still be the church in our world. We encourage you to stay engaged, stay connected and remember that the church still needs your support, both financially and in prayer.

### **Church Council First Lutheran**

#### Term ending 2021

Abbey Kwapinski

Harriet Wicklund

Sara Koch

JoAn Whitlock

#### Term ending 2022

Suzanne Demuth

Jennifer Frank

Debbie Opatz

Jennifer Woore

Ron Spangler

Michael Wicklund

Missy Mattson

Leslie Flugstad

#### Executive Committee

Steve Guttormson, President

George Mathison, VP

Debbie Opatz, Secretary

Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

