The Messenger
August 2026

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A publication of

First Lutheran Church ELCA
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
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Dear People of FLC,

First off, I am happy my contract has been extended an additional six months so I get to have more time with you all! Woo hoo! One thing I have learned in being a pastoral interim the last few years is that interims/times of transition simply take as long as they take and the Spirit will not be rushed – so I am happy I have the flexibility to stay here as we continue the process of figuring out the next steps for FLC.

Second, I pray you are having a good summer! I've been thinking back over summers past. Not long ago I went for a drive over to where I grew up by Henning. I love driving on the gravel roads out by my homeplace and remembering long walks with my mom, bicycle rides with my best friend, hanging laundry out to dry on the clothesline, and those long summer days that *seemed like they would never end*.

The summer after I turned 16 I started working at Luther Crest Bible Camp. Back then they had a "Staff in Training" program for high schoolers who wanted to work at camp. We got paid $10 a week but I felt like the luckiest person in the world to be working there. The $10 a week was enough to get my laundry done and go out for pizza with my friends on Friday night. Those summer days at camp were amazing and *seemed like they would never end*.

When my boys were little and we still lived in Texas, our church and all the churches in town would choose a different week of the summer to host Bible school and then all the kids would rotate going from one church to the next all summer. It was so great as the kids got to see each other all summer and the parents could all rely on at least a couple hours a day that their kids were occupied. Those summer days when my boys were so little are imprinted on my memory and *seemed like they would never end*.

I bet you have so many wonderful summer memories, too, from the seasons of life you have known. I pray you take time this August to remember, maybe go drive down some gravel roads, reminisce a little with the people who matter most to you, and know that you are loved and treasured by God who holds us in all our seasons.

"Let July be July.
Let August be August.
And let yourself just be even in the uncertainty.
You don't have to fix everything.
You don't have to solve everything.
And you can still find peace and grow in the wild of unchanging things."

- Morgan Harper Nichols

With love,
Pastor Ruth

HANDBELL REHEARSAL

Begins September 9
6:30 PM

Celebrating 39 Years Ringing to the Glory of God

Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday September 9th
7:45pm | The Choir Room

ELCA joint Worship Church Service

August 16th

9:30 AM

Spies Riverfront Park

We hope to see you there!

There will not be a 9:00am service at First Lutheran Church this day

Attention College Students. If you plan to attend an ELCA Lutheran Church College, you can receive a **$500 scholarship from the First Lutheran Church Foundation.** Simply fill out the form, available at the kiosk in the Narthex or call the office and we will get you the form electronically.

FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION

DINNER CHURCH

All Are Welcome

September 9th | 5:30 PM

First Lutheran Church
402 S Court Street, Fergus Falls

church community dinner and worship service

FIRST LUTHERAN

Join Pastor Ruth for Bible Study

Each week we will look at and reflect on scripture for the coming Sunday

All Are Welcome

Days and time to be determined.

Starting This Fall!

Stay Tuned!

First Lutheran Church
402 S Court St. Fergus Falls

JOIN OUR CHAIR YOGA CLASS THIS FALL!

Chair yoga adapts traditional poses so they can be done while seated in a chair or using one for support – building strength, flexibility, and balance without the risk of falling.

/Seated Poses

/Chair Support

/Gentle Flow

STARTING THIS FALL

LED BY PASTOR RUTH

PASTOR RUTH HAS BEEN A CERTIFIED YOGA INSTRUCTOR SINCE 2023 AND LOOKS FORWARD TO SHARING THIS CLASS WITH INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS!

Faithful Property Stewardship

A Four-Session Curriculum

Explore how scripture shapes the stewardship, care, and transformation of physical church buildings and land.

As we think about the future here at FLC and how we can creatively fulfill our mission to "Serve God and welcome all people with open hearts as faithful disciples," we hope you will participate in this study this fall.

4 Sessions • This Fall
Days and times TBD

FLC • Faithful Disciples, Open Hearts

CYF

Kick-Off Wednesday Sept. 9th

Kick-Off Sunday Sept. 13th

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

WHERE'S KRISTY?

Wowzer! Where did the summer go!!! It is hard to believe, but it is time for us to start planning for fall. As much as I love summer, I do so look forward to the rhythm of fall with its Sunday and Wednesday programs, seeing all the lovely faces each week, and watching the growth of each individual as the year goes on. As we plan for fall, I need you to register your child(ren). Check out the next page for program information and the registration QR code.

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children, Youth, & Families' Ministries

Contact Me:
Call or Text: (218) 531-9544
Email: kristy@flcff.org

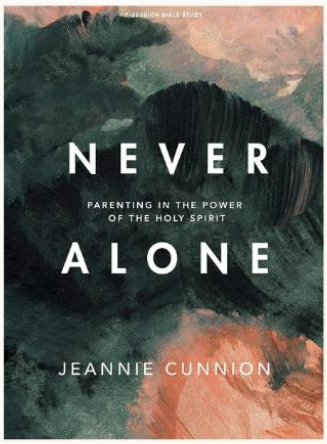
SUMMER BOOK STUDY

For Moms of children & youth

You are invited to a book study. Join me in reading the book, *Never Alone - Bible Study Book: Parenting in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Jeannie Cunnion.

We will meet at **Outstate Brewing on Wednesday, August 5th at 6:00pm.**

Feel free to come out even if you haven't read the book.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Children, Youth, & Families' Ministries

Register Here

"HE COUNTS THE STARS AND CALLS THEM ALL BY NAME." -PSALM 147:4

SUNDAYS

Butterflies
Birth-Preschool

10:30-11:30am

Join Ms. Vicki in the lower Education Wing for Butterflies. During this time children accompanied by their favorite adult can play, sing, and explore as they grow in their faith and learn what it means to find Joy in our lives. Friends are welcome to join.

Sunday School
Kindergarten-6th grade

10:30-11:30am

Join us as we dig in and explore the Bible and God's teachings. Children will learn what it means to reflect God's love in their everyday lives. We will be using "Dig In's Bible in One Year" Sunday School Curriculum as we build a relationship with God.

Youth Connect
7th grade- and up

10:30-11:30am

Sundays during the Sunday School hour. We will meet in youth headquarters known as HQ, during which time we will have conversations around faith. Kids are encouraged to bring their own questions to discuss.

WEDNESDAYS

F3
Kindergarten-4th Grade

after school-5:00pm

F3- Faith, Fellowship, and Fun! After school on Wednesdays, we will have snacks, games, service opportunities, lessons, friends, and fun!

Transportation from school to FLC is provided.

Elevate
4th - 6th Grade

after school-5:00pm

Calling all 5th and 6th graders. We have an afterschool Wednesday program just for YOU! Snacks, games, service opportunity, lessons, and friend time.

Transportation from school to FLC is provided.

Confirmation
7th grade- and up

Dinner Church 5:30-6:30pm
Class time 6:30-7:30pm

Confirmation classes are taught weekly in 7th grade and up on Wednesdays starting with Dinner Church for individuals that would like to affirm their baptism. It is a two year program with confirmation happening on Reformation Sunday. It's a great opportunity for family time AND no cooking time. Friends are welcome to join!

Call Committee Update

Thank you to those of you who took some time to visit with members of the call committee and council these past 3 Sundays, sharing your hopes and fears is not always easy, and we appreciate your honesty and candor.

The council continues to explore the possibility of a 2-point parish with the hope that Pastor Ruth will stay and become our shared pastor. We continue to be led by the Holy Spirit and pray that this hope becomes a reality and ask for your continued prayers.

Romans 12:12 encourages us to rejoice in hope, remain patient during trials, and be steadfast in prayer.

-The Call Committee (Jeani Trosvig, Tally Clark, John Demuth, Kelsee Ellig, Connor West and Cody Ward)

General Fund

Month	Revenue	Expenses	Profit/Loss
January	$ 37,977.55	$ (49,736.22)	$ (11,758.67)
February	$ 39,102.83	$ (46,962.43)	$ (7,859.60)
March	$ 28,038.06	$ (43,074.96)	$ (15,036.90)
April	$ 43,016.88	$ (42,267.84)	$ 749.04
May	$ 26,317.92	$ (39,559.34)	$ (13,241.42)
June	$ 26,171.17	$ (39,672.92)	$ (13,501.75)
July			$ -
August			$ -
September			$ -
October			$ -
November			$ -
December			$ -
			$ -
	$ 200,624.41	$ (261,273.71)	$ (60,649.30)

Revenue is collected from weekly offerings. Expenses are general fund expenses that include basic operations: utilities, staff, building maitenance, worship supplies, cleaning expenses, youth support.

Lutheran World Relief School Kit Supplies

Quilters are making drawstring backpacks and are in need of these items to be donated.
The collection box is located in the Narthex.
Thank you for your generosity!

- [ ] 4 - wide-ruled notebooks, 8 1/2 x 11, (70 sheets each)
- [ ] 1 - pencil sharpener
- [ ] 1 - blunt scissors
- [ ] 1 -30 cm ruer, (with inches on the opposite side)
- [ ] 5 - ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- [ ] 1 - box of crayons, 16 or 24 count

***This year pencils and erasers are not needed.**

Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board Meeting

Tuesday August 11th
10:00am in the Narthex

Love Day Quilters

Meet every Monday from 9:00-3:00, as your time permits. We hope you will come join us to help with mission projects!

Hannah Circle

Wednesday August 26
1-3pm

Bring your August Gather magazine or pick one up in the Narthex. Come and Listen as Pastor Ruth leads the session. Enjoy refreshments and fellowship with our welcoming group

After 5 days return to
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537
Address Service Requested

Staff Directory

Interim Pastor	Pr. Ruth Hetland	PastorRuth@flcff.org
Director Children, Youth & Families Ministries	Kristy Wicklund	kristy@flcff.org
Organist	Keith Melberg	melberke@prtel.com
Choir Director	Harriet Wicklund	wicklund@charter.net
Hosanna Handbells Director	Linda Mellon	lindamellon@mac.com
Worship Team Director	Anne Taylor	annemltaylor@gmail.com
Office Manager	Vicki Ray	office@flcff.org
Office Assistant	Mary Johnson	maryj@flcff.org

First Lutheran Church

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Fergus Falls, MN 56537
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Worship Times
Sundays 9:00am

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8:00am -4:00pm
Friday- 8:00am- noon