



First Lutheran Church July 2020

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

402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
Phone: 218-739-3348
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org
office@flcfc.org

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

A Vicar's Thoughts.....

"In the beginning"I feel like I have been living that phrase for the past four months:

Beginning living and working in a COVID-19 world,
Beginning as a full-time seminary student,
Beginning a new role as a part-time Vicar, and



I could go on - but you get the point. Did you know that "In the beginning" is used 143 times in the Bible? So, all my 'beginnings' do not seem out of place. Remembering we are not alone has helped me get thru it all. Our entire community is living through this time of change.

The Holy Spirit who dwells within us is also our constant companion and cheerleader. God is with us – 24/7/365. I find great comfort in the notion that we are *never* alone. God is listening, the Holy Spirit is nudging, and Jesus is beckoning us daily. My daily conversations with God might not always be coherent or well thought out in this time of beginnings – but God can handle incoherence (He did create order from chaos after all....).

I strive to give grace to all in this time of beginnings – and hopefully your lives are filled with grace as well. At some point we will be "In the beginning" of doing church in the physical building. Until then, I (as COVID allows) look forward to getting to know you and learning more about God's vibrant church called First Lutheran.

On a side note.....What is a VICAR??? A Vicar is an apprentice pastor of sorts. A vicar is a position of authority but not able to officiate weddings and bless the Sacraments. Being an 'apprentice' pastor is part of my seminary training.

A little about me: After 18 years of marriage, my husband and I parted ways. I raised my two children, Ryan and Katie, along the Ottertail River between Ottertail and Rush lakes. My 90-year-old Dad, Verle, lives across the street from me. Until last May, I was the office manager and occasional lay minister at Zion Lutheran Church in Amor (Battle Lake). My boyfriend, Rob, is a farmer and over the road truck driver from Vining. I enjoy sitting on my dock, as well as cooking, reading, traveling, quilting and my pets – Krieger (black Lab), Dragon (a feisty cat) and Airgar (a sweet cat).

I am excited about spending the next two years with you on our faith journey. You are welcome to get in touch with me via email Lynn@flcfc.org or by phone 218-321-0967. I plan on being in the office, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

Grateful for beginnings, Vicar Lynn

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. 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.**

Sunday School & FLY K-6

Love Never Fails
1Corinthians 13:8



July 6th-19th the search begins for the VBS To-Go Scavenger Hunt. We hope you are enjoying your VBS To-Go bags. Please remember to bring your Flat Jesus with you on your VBS journey and post photos to #VBS2020fergusfalls.



Registration forms in your VBS To-Go bags or in front of the church office. Registration forms due by Monday, July 20.



First Communion Class
(for last year's 5th graders)
on Wednesday, July 29 at
6:00 p.m. on ZOOM . Link
will be sent out via email.



Wednesday, July 22
6:00- 6:40 p.m.

Kindergarten- 6th grade

Join Kristy on as we put on a Zoom Talent Show. Showcase your talents whether they are joke telling, dancing, singing, moves, etc...It will be a fun evening of supporting each other and showcasing our uniqueness.

Topic: FLC Talent Show
Meeting ID: 726 7524 7284
Password: 0zpAvf





Confirmation will be celebrated in outdoor ceremonies in August for confirmands and their families.

8th Graders—Sunday, August 9 at 11:00 a.m.

9th Graders—Sunday, August 23 at 11:00 a.m.

Watch for more information.



These are the bright and warm fleece blankets made by the women at First Lutheran to surround our graduating Seniors with the love, thoughts, hopes and prayers of the congregation.

Calie will be delivering these to our Seniors.

2020

Congrats to our Seniors!!!
Thanks to the blanket makers!



THANK YOU

A huge THANK YOU to all the people from Augustana, First, Hope, and Zion Lutheran Churches that helped to make VBS To-Go possible and to make this a memorable experience this summer for our children!



a message from Council President Steve Guttormson

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and staying safe during this crisis. With physical distance between us, it's easy to feel disconnected. Some of you may have questions about what is happening behind the scenes at First Lutheran Church. As it should be for all of us, my first question addresses mission. Ours is that *"as faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts."*

So first, how are we living our mission as a church? The Council has continued to meet on its regular schedule, dealing with ongoing work of the church. Pastor Gretchen has collaborated with our friends at Augustana and Hope Lutheran almost since the beginning of the pandemic-related restrictions, providing meaningful virtual worship experiences for our community. While providing access to worship for those who may not otherwise feel comfortable attending in person, I hope our virtual worship options will continue. Besides that, other church activities such as education and Bible studies, pastoral visits, and more have continued with creative solutions. And we are proactively working towards fully paying our benevolences – a mission-driven budget commitment we made to support community need. And when speaking of mission, we can always strive to do more.

Second, and perhaps the most pressing question for many: When will we open our building? While I must admit to favoring some aspects of virtual worship, such as attending in my pajamas and drinking coffee, I thoroughly miss worship as we know it. That said, there will be changes ahead.

At our June 9th council meeting we approved the formation of a Smart Team. This group of 8-10 members will further develop and implement our COVID-19 pandemic operations plan, leading us forward with everyone's spiritual, social, and physical wellbeing in mind. Multiple sources including the ELCA, CDC, and Minnesota Department of Health will guide them. We can trust the Smart Team to make decisions based on available facts and not on emotional pressure. I urge us all to be patient and respect the team's recommendations on access to the building and returning to in-person worship when their work is brought to the Council for action.

Team members were chosen and recruited carefully based on their personal and professional talents, as well as their diverse backgrounds. They will lead us through the details of when and how we adapt as the situation changes. Members include: Calie Anderson, Dr. Joe Dinsmore, Steve Hosch, Dr. Daniel Lembke, Kristi Kvern Wentworth, Missy Mattson, Tara Wagner, and Harriet Wicklund. Pastor Gretchen and I will attend as needed.

Finally: How is First Lutheran doing financially? I believe we can say we are cautiously optimistic. While latest reporting shows close to a \$30,000 income gap compared to budget, our expenses are down as well. In late March, we put a spending freeze in place until we had a more solid picture of the church's position, especially noting potential changes in weekly offering. Our new bookkeeper, Paul (who is doing an awesome job, by the way), reports we have about 90 days cash on hand. Considering the crisis, that's a good position to be in. Thanks so much to each of you who have responded by adapting your financial support of First Lutheran.

I'm also aware some of us have been financially impacted by this crisis. Please continue to give as you are able. As the picture of our situation clears, we'll continue to focus on how we support our church's mission.

Again, I hope and pray this letter finds you well, and that we will see each other in person again soon.

God's Blessings,



Steve Guttormson
Congregation President



The FIT (Formation Intern Team) is set and ready to go! This team was formed to support our seminary intern Vicar Lynn. The team will be meeting monthly. The Team Chair is Vicki Hanneman, and the team members are: Jennifer Smestad, Al Jensen, Curt Rotto, Cindy Larson, Denny Hystead, and Pam Western.



Eunice (Eunie) Simonson is turning 90 on July 26!

Eunie's daughter Naomi would like friends to send a birthday greeting and memory to tannygranny@gmail.com by July 15. Photos are welcome. Naomi is making a birthday album for her Mom.

(Note: for those that don't know the Simonson family, Naomi is the daughter of the late David Simonson and his wife Eunie. They are from Fergus Falls, and were Lutheran missionaries in Tanzania, and founders of Operation Bootstrap Africa).



Luther Crest Event Updates

Please contact Jody Johnson, jodyj@luthercrest.org or 320-760-9476 with additional questions.

75TH ANNIVERSARY ONLINE QUILT AUCTION NEW FORMAT AND NEW DATES!!!



Monday, July 27 at 10:00am through Friday, July 31 at 5:00 pm

Location: Online Auction at luthercrest.org --- Online Quilt Viewing will begin on Monday, July 13.

Online Bidding Opens 10am, July 27.

Winners of items can pickup items on Saturday, August 1 or contact camp for alternative pickup options. Items that need to be shipped will have the shipping cost added to the winning bid amount.

We are still accepting items for the online quilt auction until July 1st. Please contact jodyj@luthercrest.org if you have any questions about donating an item to camp. The online auction website will include fun 75th Anniversary interviews and stories and videos about the amazing history of the Luther Crest Quilt Auction. The Online Auction Page is still being developed and will be available soon. Stay tuned!!

NEW CURBSIDE TAKEOUT LUNCH OPTION!!! TAKING ORDERS NOW!

Saturday, August 1 11am-1pm Curbside Pickup Quilt Auction Turkey Lunch

Take a drive out to camp and pick up lunch at Luther Crest. Luther Crest will be taking orders for Quilt Auction Turkey Take Out Lunch until Monday, July 27. Quilt Auction Turkey sandwiches are a tradition at Luther Crest. We would like to celebrate 75 years of ministry and quilt events by offering this take out lunch option on Saturday, August 1st. Take Out Lunch includes: 1 pulled turkey sandwich, potato salad, fresh mixed fruit, chips and cookie.

To order, please complete the order form at www.luthercrest.org. Each lunch is for 1 person.

19TH ANNUAL LUTHER CREST GOLF SCRAMBLE

July 15 - August 15, 2020 at the Lake Miltona Golf Club (extended dates)

Cost: \$65 per golfer

Allowing for COVID-19 safety precautions, instead of hosting a one day event with over 100 golfers, we are extending the time frame for golfing from July 15 to August 15. You can sign up to golf any day that Lake Miltona Golf Club has tee times available.

Includes: Registration & \$50 Donation, 2 mulligans per person, AND your name in the prize drawing. Does not include golf or cart fees. You will contact Lake Miltona Golf Club to set up your golf date and time. You will pay for your golfing at Lake Miltona on the day you golf.

1. Golfers—register online to participate with Luther Crest.
2. Pay for the event registration through the registration link or online at luthercrest.org.
3. Call Lake Miltona Golf Club to set up your golf date and time. Phone 320-852-7078, info@lakemiltonagolfclub.com
4. Pay for golfing at Lake Miltona Golf Club the day you golf.
5. Turn in your scorecard to Lake Miltona Golf Club. Luther Crest will announce all winners after August 15.



Craft & Chili Fundraiser

will be hosted by the Fellowship committee some time in the future (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.

It's a great time to craft!



Church Council First Lutheran

Executive Committee

Steve Guttormson, President

George Mathison, VP

Debbie Opatz, Secretary

Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

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



If you are finding yourself feeling disconnected from church during these days of online worship, you are not alone. Worship is at our core. Being together with other believers in praise of our God is central to our faith.

The Worship Corner

by the
Worship & Music Committee

Worship can feel very different when it happens in our living rooms or on the deck, but the Holy Spirit comes to us even there, bringing us the gift of grace through word, song and prayer. These can be holy and sacred times, knowing that we are connected in community to the body of Christ. So relish these days of isolated worship, and know that your church family is still there for you! To God be the glory!



Calie sporting her new First Lutheran church jacket!



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



WELCA Board is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kairos Room.

Note:

- Luther Crest Women's Week has been cancelled for this year.
- Hannah Circle will not meet in July, decision will be made about August.
- The Quilters are not meeting in July or August.

We hope to resume some of our activities in September. Watch for updates!

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE NW MN SYNOD BOARD



All WELCA gatherings have been postponed for the remainder of the year. The plan is to "start over" with our 2020 calendar of events for 2021. This included Spring Conference 7, State Convention, and Fall Conference 7, all of which were postponed for 2020.



NOTE: First Lutheran will be hosting the Spring Conference 7 on April 12, 2021!!!



Thank You!

We were absolutely in awe of the beauty of the quilt made by the quilters at First Lutheran—it is truly a masterpiece infused with God's love. Thank you to the entire congregation for this wonderful gift!!!

Kirby & Pastor Gretchen