



# First Lutheran Church OCTOBER 2020

Worship Sun. 9:30 am on Radio & YouTube

Listen on the radio 1020am or FM 97.7

[www.channel977.com](http://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](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

[office@flcfff.org](mailto:office@flcfff.org)

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

*The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.*

**Proverbs 11:25**

First Lutheran Church has many heartfelt traditions: Stewardship Sunday congregational meals, the Harvest Dinner, Christmas Baskets, cookie delivery to the home bound, to name a few. This year, with COVID-19 in mind, we aspire to remain true to as many of our traditions as possible while respecting the limitations of social distancing and wearing masks. This year we will still offer nourishment on Stewardship Sunday, which we are referring to as Discipleship Sunday, with a guest speaker from the NWMN Synod, Pastor Keith Zeh. Included in the day's events will be 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship (remember to bring a chair) with a drive through offering of Holy Communion at 11:00 a.m. along with drive through pick-up of pastries and juice in the upper level parking lot. The service will also be broadcast on the radio and YouTube.

On October 18th, we are beginning a new tradition which we are referring to as Membership Appreciation Sunday. This is a day in which members are encouraged to return their commitment cards, if they have not already done so, and a drive through distribution of a full rib meal from the American Legion will be offered. The meal is an expression of our appreciation for all you are and do for the life of First Lutheran Church. We value you!

Recognizing that COVID-19 has changed the ways in which we do ministry; the good news is we are still very much alive and well as a faith organization. Evidence to support this statement is found in the success of Drive-In Movie Night, 28 individuals completed a 13 week Zoom and socially distanced Bible Study, 34 young people were confirmed into the life of the church, 17 students received First Communion, FLY attendance averages eighteen K-6th graders these last weeks, quilters are at home making quilts and masks, Pastor Stan is sending out letters to homebound members, one on one Communion visits have been made, prayer, meditation and music was offered in the Sanctuary the entire month of September, and benevolence monies are being distributed as a result of your continued generosity.

I want you to know that I am committed to seeing us through this period of pandemic with an eagerness to continue to allow the Holy Spirit guide me as your spiritual leader. It is an honor to learn how to be the church in spite of the reality that we are unable to gather for in-person worship in the sanctuary at this time. It is my hope that we will be able to have in-person for worship on Christmas Eve, while this is a goal, we will watch the COVID-19 numbers and continue to place safety first.

Please reach out to the church office if there is anything that either Vicar Lynn, Pastor Stan, or I may do to support you and your family throughout this pandemic season. Know you are valued, loved, and prayed for by your church staff regularly. You are not alone.

God loves you and so do I!  
Pastor Gretchen



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

First Lutheran along with Augustana Lutheran will continue with the services closed to the public. The Smart Team is working on a plan for return to worship and church activities—we will provide updates as they are available. Services will be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30am on Sundays. 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.



# Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

## Who Is The Greatest

Our lesson this month is Who is the Greatest?! Could it be Captain America, Queen Elsa, Superman... or is it God? We will be exploring who is the greatest and what that means through story, crafts, games, and other activities. Sunday School kits can be picked up at the church in the Narthex starting Sunday, October 4th. If you would like a kit delivered to your door, please contact Kristy or the church office.

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministry

Kristy@flcff.org, (218) 531-9544

Remind App: Sunday School-@flcss18



## First Lutheran Church Sunday School

Remind App: Sunday School-@flcss18

### October Drive-In Movie

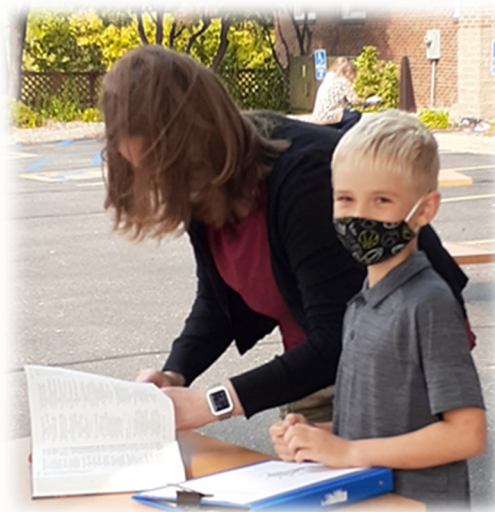
Join us for a Drive-In Halloween movie on Friday, October 16th. Due to licensing, we cannot print the title that starts with an H and T, but feel free to call or email for the movie title. The movie is an animated movie about a hotel that monsters go where they can be themselves without the interruptions of humans. A complication unfolds when a human stumbles in and falls in love with one of the monsters.

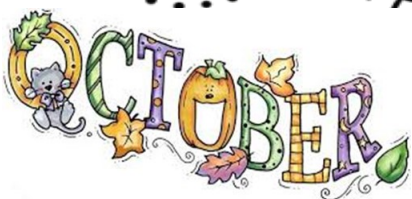
**Friday, October 16th, 6:30 p.m.**

**First Lutheran Upper Parking Lot**



2nd Graders received their Bibles Sunday, September 20





Remind App  
@flyk6

K-6th

We will continue to hold FLY K-6 in Roosevelt Park, weather permitting. Starting this month, we will be writing to some pen pals from Pioneer Care. Learning that even a note or a picture can brighten a person's day.

**Lessons:**

Oct. 7—The Parable of the Vineyard (Matthew 21:33-46)

Oct. 14—The Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)

Oct. 16—Drive-In Movie Night 6:30 p.m. Upper Parking Lot

Oct. 21—Paying Taxes (Matthew 22:15-22)

Oct. 27—Halloween Party



Hope to see you for  
some socially  
distanced FUN!!!

FLY 7-12

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

6 TO 7 PM

BONFIRE, S'MORES & CHARADES!!

UPPER LEVEL PARKING LOT

S'mores ingredients individually packaged with a small bottle of water. Please bring your own chair, beverage (if you want something other than water), and s'mores stick.





# Fleet Farm Trunk and Treat


Friday, October 30

5:30-7:30 pm

First Lutheran will be participating in this event and hopes all our littles can come out for the fun.

If you would like to donate a bag of candy for this event, please drop off in the Narthex.

*Fergus Falls "Trunk-or-Treat"*



Come and join the local community for a night of free and safe family fun!

Local residents and vendors will be parked in socially distant stalls to hand out candy to all of the local ghouls and goblins. Decorated trunks and costumes are encouraged!

**\$25 Fleet Farm Gift Card for the Best Trunk Decoration!!!**

\*This event will be following CDC and MN guidelines for safe assembly.


Free and Open to the Public

*When:* Friday, October 30th @ 5:30 - 7:30 PM

*Set-Up:* 4:30 - 5:15 PM

*Where:* Fleet Farm Parking Lot  
2002 W. Lincoln Ave.

Reserve your free stall by -  
Calling: (218)731-1156 or (218)671-1010  
Email: [felpricing@fleetfarm.com](mailto:felpricing@fleetfarm.com)

**Fleet  Farm**



**For 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Students**

**Wednesday, October 7th**

**Both groups come to church on the 7th  
at 6:30 pm**

**At 7:00 pm we will participate in  
"Next Faithful Move" Worship!!**

**Confirmation will end at 8:00 pm on this night.**

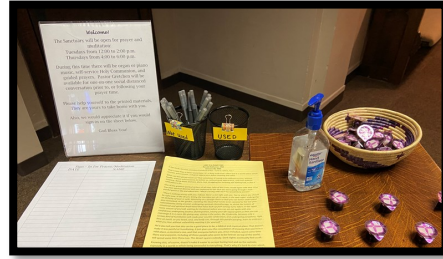
This event that is part of the Anti-Racism Summit sponsored by the Eastern North Dakota Endowment Fund and Northwestern Minnesota's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice. Our Confirmation students will be at the premiere on October 7th via both Synod's Facebook pages at 7:00 using Vimeo.

Music will be led by Tyra Dennis, the leader of the House Band at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. Tyra is an award-winning actress and has performed on movies, theatre, commercials, and with several renown musicians. Tyra believes that she is called to the ELCA to do the work that God has designed her to do, being reminded to worship from within.

Poet Joe Davis and Hip-Hop Worship Leader David Scherer (AGAPE\*) will lead us in a powerful night of music, poetry, and storytelling that will explore issues of race and faith. How do we live together in God's beloved community? This is something that Joe and Dave model with their ministry. Come ready to be inspired to worship God and to dismantle racism in Jesus' name.

For information on the Anti-Racism Summit check out website  
<http://www.eandsynod.org/events/transformed-event>

# Photos from First



**September  
Prayer &  
Meditation  
Time**

**Rally Sunday  
Sept. 13**



**backpack  
blessings**



**August 27**

**Drive In  
MOVIE  
NIGHT**







## Generosity Sunday October 4

**9:30 Outdoor Worship (Upper Parking Lot)  
with Augustana and Guest Preacher Keith Zeh**  
*(Please bring your own chair. In case of bad weather,  
worship service will be online only.)*

**11 to Noon Drive Through Cinnamon Rolls  
& Juice in Upper Level Parking lot  
11 to Noon Drive Up Communion**



November 1st

Please print the names of loved ones you would like remembered on All Saints Sunday in the book in the Narthex, or contact the church office (739-3348 or [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org)) with the names before October 26.

The names of your loved ones will be printed in the bulletin on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1.

*So that the congregation is in the loop while we all can't be together, here's what's happening with the Hosanna Handbells. This note was sent to Handbell members in September.*

My dear ding-a-lings,

I hope this finds you well and happy! I am missing you and ringing and planning for our return. I am going to move our start date to October 7. There is concern from our SMART team, who are the guiding force for re-opening our church, about numbers of participants and our continuing partnership with Augustana Lutheran Church for Sunday worship. The number is ten.



If we are there in small ensembles, we may be asked to act as worship leaders (i.e., lectors, cantors, song leaders) in addition to our playing. The ensemble numbers I have found require from three to six ringers, plus myself. It is accessible music, requiring little rehearsal from advanced ringers such as yourselves. We will still have fun and offer our gifts as we are able! The rehearsals will be structured so that those of you who have said you would play will be assigned to a song or two and during your time at rehearsal, that's all we'll play. Then the next group will come in to rehearse their piece/pieces. This is not ideal, as we are all missing each other and want to kibbutz and laugh together, but that will have to wait. Things are not normal and may not be for some time. I am sending this mask to remind you that you are STILL a bell ringer. I love you and look forward to being with you soon. If you said you aren't comfortable ringing now, that is fine. I still want you to know what is happening, and if you change your mind, let me know and you will be plugged in with delight! In the meantime, wear a mask, wash your hands, and pray for an end to this pandemic. If you are going to ring, look for further instructions coming soon! Thank you!!!!

# MEMBER APPRECIATION



## American Legion Rib Meal



Meal includes ribs, potato, and roll.

Sunday  
Oct 18th

Starts at  
11:00 am

Drive-Through  
Only

Free Will Offering

Due to COVID-19, we ask you to remain in your vehicle. All volunteers will be following safety precautions. Please contact the church office if you need the meals delivered.



First Lutheran Church of FF—Upper Parking Lot  
402 S Court St, FF MN 56537  
[firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org)



### Study Opportunity

I'd like to invite you to join me in a study of Luther's Small Catechism. I will be leading this study as part of my coursework at Luther Seminary. This study is open to anyone who is interested, but due to COVID-19 restrictions, spaces are limited to ten participants, so, sign up right away by calling the office at 739-3348.

We will meet face to face in the Narthex at First Lutheran Church from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on Thursdays. This is a seven-week course starting October 1, concluding November 12.

I look forward to healthy discussions and the opportunity for personal growth as we study this foundation of our Lutheran faith.

- Michael Wicklund

Wheelchair  
available!

Please call the  
church office at  
739-3348 if you are  
in need of a  
wheelchair.



### Women's Bible Study

A Women's Bible Study will begin Monday, October 19 at 6:00 pm and run through November 30. The study will use "Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer as a guide. We will follow COVID-19 protocols.

There are still a few spots open!  
Please contact the office at 739-3348 if you are interested.

(if you've already contacted the office, no need to call again).





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

Continuing our Top Ten Hymn List, this month we'll look at the #9 hymn, In Christ Alone (My Hope is Found) written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend. The song-writers are from the UK and the tune has a strong Irish melody. It is the first hymn that they wrote together. It's a modern hymn, from 2001, and has become a favorite of many. The writers' goal, they said, was to tell the whole story of the Gospel in one song. It does just that, and leaves us consumed by the flood of Christ's love.... "what heights of love, what depths of peace... here in the power of Christ I stand."



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



Due to the Coronavirus, most of you do not feel comfortable in groups settings. We will postpone all Fall gatherings through December.

We will evaluate again in January 2021.

"Thank You" First Lutheran women for your offerings, support of our WELCA projects; locally, Conference 7 and NW Synod. Remember, we won't be gathering until 2021, so your offerings are still needed and appreciated!!!!



**Quilters — we have received the OK from the Smart Team to have up to 7 people in the quilting room beginning October 5! We will follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks and use sanitizers.**

**If you are interested, call Katie 218 826-6791.**



A member of the staff had a great idea for an **FLC at Home** section in the Messenger as a way to "stay in touch" when we can't be together!

Examples? Send us photos of where you worship at home, how you set up your Communion, or

photos of the beautiful fall images you see from your window. Other ideas would be short stories or photos of projects you are working on at home —quilts, cards, woodwork, etc., or how you have been staying in touch with friends and family during this time of COVID-19. This is another way to stay in touch with each other at First Lutheran during these days of being far apart.

Photos or brief descriptions of your projects can be sent to [laurie@flcff.org](mailto:laurie@flcff.org).

**Thank YOU!**

**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





## A Vicar's Thoughts...



Pumpkins. I am not that into Halloween (gasp!), but I do love pumpkins. Some years I have 20 or more pumpkins decorating my front steps. Over the years, we have had massive (250+ lbs) pumpkins, itsy bitsy pumpkins, and gourds of many shapes and sizes. I start collecting pumpkins in September, and come November - the pumpkins find their way to the woods for the deer and other animals to eat.

This year is different. I actually hear that phrase a lot lately. But it is true. This year *is* different. I'm not planning on as many pumpkins this year. And I don't know why – only that it seems that I don't get around to extra things like pumpkin collecting. Further, not knowing the 'rules' of COVID-19, I make mistakes and am trying new and different things. This fall feels odd. Weird even.

Recently, I read a devotion that was titled "You are good enough".....and found it was a soothing balm on my irritated soul. God says, I am good enough. I do not have to earn God's love or search for it. God wraps us up "in the warm, soft blanket of His unconditional love, which never ends." (*Jesus Calling*)

No matter what comes my way, I am good enough. No matter what comes your way, you are good enough. Yes, this year is different, but we are good enough. God loves us unconditionally. Nothing can separate us from God. Romans 8: 38-39 says it best:

***And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

In the coming month, let's be grateful for God's unconditional love as it soothes our souls. If you want to chat more about being good enough, God's love, or something totally different, let me know. You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at [Lynn@flcff.org](mailto:Lynn@flcff.org).

Gratefully,

Vicar Lynn

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?



With a pumpkin patch!

- Luther Crest is open and available to host events through the fall, winter and spring. Church families looking for a chance to seek rest and renewal through a week long or weekend retreat are asked to contact Paige Meier, [paigem@luthercrest.org](mailto:paigem@luthercrest.org) for more information.
- Summer Camp 2021—Luther Crest is in the process of planning summer camp 2021 to explore God's love for us and our call to share that love with our neighbors. Watch for future announcements.
- Luther Crest has launched a startup ministry which supports the works of your church in the community. Check out our website for more information by logging on to [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org) and click on the BTF Congregation Graphic at the top!



LUTHER  
CREST

## 2020 FALL CAMPAIGN

### “Coins, Cash & Checks Change Lives”



Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out to each of you asking for financial support of missions that are important to all of us. Our campaign, **Coins, Cash and Checks Change Lives** is a product of a generous culture and has changed lives locally and around the world.

With your help, we have changed lives in these areas in 2019: KBRF Morning Watch, Lutheran Campus Ministry, A Place to Belong, Someplace Safe, Meals By Wheels, Camp Knutson, Luther Crest, Lutheran Social Service, Pioneer Care Dragon Fly Project, OBA Scholarships, OBA Shule Fund, OBA Mama Naomi Clinic, Haiti Medical Mission and Global HOPE – Haiti Wells.

Please place your coins, cash or checks in an envelope marked [WELCA Fall Campaign](#) and either bring it to the church office or mail it to First Lutheran Church, 402 South Court Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537 before the end of October.

We are all called to grow in faith, to support one another and to be engaged in ministry and action.

**Thank You** for your support of this campaign. Because of your actions, we will be able to help change lives again this year.



Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**

# 2021

If you requested offering envelopes for 2021, they are in the Narthex in alphabetical order. Please pick yours up during office hours, Monday—Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

**Thanks!!**

