



# First Lutheran Church January 2021

Worship Sun. 9:30 am on Radio & YouTube  
Listen on the radio 1020 am 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@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org)

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



## Grab Hold of Hope!

Please mark your calendars: We need YOU and 49 others members of FLC to sign up in advance to commit to attend the 2021 First Lutheran Church Annual meeting via Zoom on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 12:30 pm. Please call the church office 739-3348 to sign up to attend the zoom meeting before January 27.

Prior to the meeting, there will be a Drive-Through "Pay it Forward Legion Dinner," 10:45 am or until the food is gone. You are encouraged to call the church office (739-3348) to reserve your dinner before January 21st, or you can drive-through on the 31st to see if food is available. There will also be drive-through Communion on January 31st from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm. Worship will be livestreamed on YouTube as well as on the radio at the regular time of 9:30 am.

The "Pay it Forward" dinner has been engineered through the efforts of the Discipleship and Fellowship Teams. Thank you FLC leadership for providing an opportunity to be nourished through both The Legion and The Lord! If you would like to offset the expense for your or another dinner, financial contributions will be accepted, but are not required.

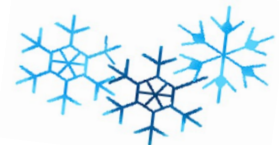
In order to form a quorum for the 2021 Annual Meeting we need YOUR participation. Let's make history together with the largest number of members in attendance at the Zoom Annual Meeting! Thank you in advance for being a "People of Hope" participating in the life of the church through your presence.

*"So God has given both his praise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us."*

Hebrews 6:18 NLT

Sharing Christ's Service,

*Pastor Gretchen*



Worship With Us on the Radio, YouTube and PEG Access

**First Lutheran, along with Augustana Lutheran have put in-person on pause.**

Services will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM 97.7 at 9:30 am 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 times.



# Be the Light

Matthew 5:14



First Lutheran Church

## Sunday School



### Jonah and the Big Fish

There are times in our lives when God is telling us to do something and we don't want to do it. This happens with a guy named Jonah. Even though he tried to run away from God, God never gave up on him and even sent a big fish to convince Jonah that he should do what God says. This month's Sunday School kits will be full of hands on activities based on this Bible story. Also, check out the Sunday School January 2021 playlist for stories and songs that go with this month's theme.

Drive through pick up will be available under the canopy on Wednesday, January 6th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Please check in using the QR code, or text your name to Kristy at (218) 531-9544 when you pick up your Sunday School kit(s). Kits that are left over will be delivered to children's homes. If you haven't signed up for a Sunday School kit, and would like one, please visit the children's page on our website- [firstlutheranchurchff.org/children/](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org/children/)

Or contact Kristy

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministry

Kristy@flcff.org (218) 531-9544

Remind App: Sunday School-@flcss18



### Ice Skating on Lake Alice

You are all invited to the Lake Alice warming house for some winter fun, ice skating! Children 7 years and younger should be accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own equipment and dress warmly. All participants, please check in with Kristy upon arrival and departure. A health form must be on file for children attending, if you need a health form, it can be found on our website:

[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org/children/](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org/children/)



When: Sunday, January 17  
from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: Lake Alice  
Warming House



Who: Sunday School Age Children

### FLY 7-12

Keep an eye out for  
January plans!



Happy  
New Year  
from Calie!!



### K-6th

Remind App @flyk6

We are back in person at Roosevelt Park starting January 6th from after school-4:30 p.m! Keep in mind that this arrangement depends on the weather and COVID numbers. Kristy will contact you by the Remind App in case of any changes. Things to keep in mind for FLY K-6:

- ◆ Please make sure your child has warm outdoor gear with
- ◆ Please remind your child to use the bathroom before leaving school
- ◆ Contact Kristy if your child will be absent from FLY





# Bo's Adventures

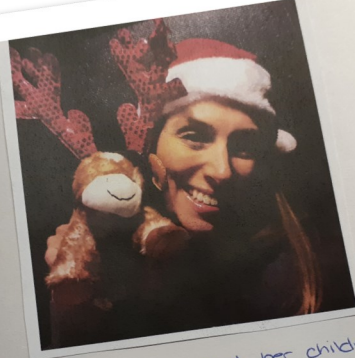
Bo had such a great time visiting friends' homes! Christmas has come and gone, but Bo is still eager to share God's love with more friends, so during January, Bo will continue to travel to our Butterfly group's homes. Thank you for all that have hosted him in the last month. It has been so fun to read about the adventures you have had with Bo!



Bo

We took Bo to meet our donkey, Perry. Perry even gave him a little ride and some pointers on how to be a farm donkey.

♡ Cate, Connor, & Nolan & Perry



Bo visited Mrs. Kristy and her children Amelia, Luke, and Abby. Amelia played chase with Bo and her stuffed puppy. Sofia, Luke snuggled Bo and read him books. Mrs. Kristy showed Bo their Christmas lights and their nativity scene that they put up every year. He was very interested in the donkey and was happy to know that most people ride in cars nowadays and not on donkeys.



Ellie + Henry loved having Bo visit! They played outside, put him in pajamas, and showed him around the house and yard. His favorite adventure was going through a carwash while Ellie explained everything to him!



Thank you Bo for coming to visit us! We had fun snuggling, reading, & watching Christmas movies. Bo even helped Jude wrap some very important presents. Boone gave Bo a ride on his new excavator he got for his 1st birthday. Enjoy visiting the next family!

♡ Jude & Boone

The Duenow Girls - Maddie, Ella, and Chloe were so excited that Bo stopped by! We love doing art and could hardly wait to do a project with Bo! We also sipped hot chocolate and played games!

By - Maddie and Bo

Shepherd



Chloe also gave Bo lots of snuggles!

By - Ella and Bo





## ...more of Bo's adventures!!!



Bo came to visit Theo, his mom, Lettne and their dog, Nellie. Theo invited Bo to eat with his animals. The angel played "Away in a Manger." Bo couldn't believe how Theo's friend, Alexa, could make his tree lights sparkle and could play such beautiful Christmas music.



Bo had a ton of fun playing with the girls. He got to go on a slide ride through the house, listen to books, watch movies, and kept an eye on the house at night. He came to visit us on Hazel's 1st Birthday. We really enjoyed your company, Bo! Thanks for coming to visit us.

Amelia  
Hazel



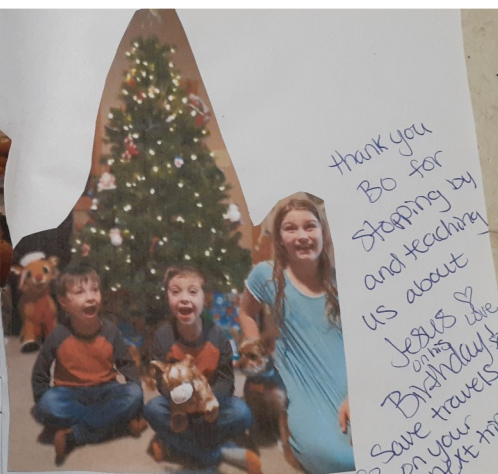
The Anderson's were very excited to welcome Bo into their home! He enjoyed searching for treasure outside with Henrik and Gwendalyn. He napped on the couch with our dog Fiona. Jordynn read to him from her children's bible and books. He didn't like the chickens after one tried to peck him outside. He watched sunsets and sat with everyone at the dinner table. It was fun having him!



Bo visited Pastor Gretchen and Kirby at their home where he met their new puppy, Flo. Flo and Bo played together, and Flo learned about how to play nicely. They had a great time together.



We had a lovely surprise. Bo came to visit Jaynell and her children: Carson, Blake and Keja and our puppy Bella. We had lots of snuggles and Super Hero adventures. We got to set up our Christmas tree and learn about what Christmas is about. Bo was intrigued about our Cool Nativity Set that came from Israel. The children showed Bo around our new built house. Bo was happy to see how far the world has come.



Thank you Bo for stopping by and teaching us about Jesus who brings love. Merry Christmas! Save travels on your next trip.

Merry Christmas



## ***"Pay it Forward Drive Thru American Legion Ham Dinner"***

**Sunday, January 31 from 10:45 am  
until the food is gone!**

Sign-up before January 21st at 12:30 pm to ensure we have ordered enough dinners. We pre-ordered 200 dinners and can order more if needed. Please call and let us know if you would like a dinner reserved to ensure you get a dinner.

Otherwise, just come and take your chances. The non-reserved dinners will go out on a first come first served basis.

There will also be drive thru Holy Communion.

Both drive thru Communion and meal pick-up under the Canopy, Upper Level.

Meal: Ham, cheesy potatoes and dinner roll.

You may make a contribution for your meal, or pay it forward for someone else, but contributions are **not** required.

*Thanks for the Discipleship and Fellowship Teams for coordinating this event!*

***Finance Open Forum via Zoom at  
10:30 am on January 24 to discuss  
any questions regarding the  
proposed 2021 budget.***

### **Office & Activity Closure Reminder**

First Lutheran follows the Fergus Falls School District #544 for closures, late starts, early dismissals and after school activity cancellations.

This information can be found on the school website or Facebook page, and local radio and news stations.



ANNUAL  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

**2021 First Lutheran  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 31, 2021  
12:30 pm via Zoom  
(link will be sent)**

***Please call church office 739-3348 before  
January 27 to sign-up (to make sure we  
have a quorum).***







Thank you to everyone who contributed warm hats, scarves and mittens for our Mitten Ministry.

Your efforts will help to keep the winter chill away!



Thank you to all of you who supported our Giving Trees and Christmas Food Baskets this year! We had tremendous response to the request for financial donations to purchase gifts for the Giving Trees, and we were able to provide presents for 28 members of A Place to Belong. In past years, gift tags for Someplace Safe were basic supplies for distribution at their discretion. With many things changing this year, we elected to make a monetary contribution to Someplace Safe to allow them to use funds to meet the greatest needs. All funds contributed were directed to A Place to Belong and Someplace Safe.

On Saturday, December 19, volunteers delivered food baskets to 27 members of our community. Requests were down a bit mainly due to COVID-19 concerns. We are fortunate to partner with Service Food on this who offers discounted pricing on the groceries and delivers them to the church for assembly. Thanks to all who assisted in this effort!

Thank you for your flexibility and continued commitment to be a blessing to people in our community!

-Jennifer Frank, Outreach Chair



Vicar's Thoughts.....

Welcome to 2021! I write these words with a little bit of trepidation. I am grateful to leave 2020 behind and hope that 2021 will be better. Don't get me wrong, a lot of good things happened in 2020. But I am wary.

I imagine the Israelites were wary as they set out on the Exodus. They were leaving cruel Egypt for the unknown wilderness. Did they think of the wilderness as a 'lesser evil'? Did they miss loved ones they left behind? Their homes? Their routines and certainties? The Israelites had every right to be filled with wariness and hope. Both of these feelings can exist in us at the same time. We can be concerned about the future and yet hope it will be better than the past.

God knew this in the Israelites and knows this about us. In Exodus 33, God's chosen nation has rebelled and made the golden calf to worship. After talking to Moses, God promises to be with His people as they journey in the wilderness. God said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." (Exodus 33:14.) God's promise remains true today—just as it did in the Israelites' wilderness. God understands our weariness and hope for a better future. He journeys along with us no matter what year it is. After 2020, I am incredibly grateful for God's presence in my life.

I am also thankful for each of you. Thank you for all your prayers as I recovered from COVID, worried about my father's health, and mourned my Dad's passing. I saw Christ in your thoughts and actions. I am grateful to be part of the First Lutheran Family. And it is with 'an attitude of gratitude' that I start 2021. What attitude are you starting 2021 out with?

If you want to chat more about 2021, wariness or hope, or something different, let me know. You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at Lynn@flcfl.org.

Very gratefully, Vicar Lynn





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

Back to our Top Ten Hymn List after a holiday break, we look at #7, How Firm a Foundation. When it first appeared in print, the hymn was attributed simply to "K". Extensive research uncovered the songwriter. English pastor John Rippon published the book "A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors". Most likely the hymn was written by Rippon's song leader, R. Keene (1787). Regardless of the author, the Bible is the foundation of this text. The entire hymn is a scripture-filled testimony to God's word. It is worthy of meditation and a place in our recognition of great hymns. You can find it on page 796 of our ELW.



**Thank you to all  
who contributed  
their time and  
talents to our  
church Christmas  
decorating.**

**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

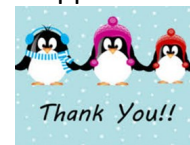
Suzanne Demuth  
Jennifer Frank  
Debbie Opatz  
Ron Spangler  
Michael Wicklund  
Missy Mattson  
Leslie Flugstad



**Sponsorship Sheets for 2021 Radio  
Broadcasts and Altar Flowers**

are on the kiosk in the Narthex. You are welcome to stop by to select a Sunday you would like to sponsor, or you can call the office at 739-3348 to check on availability.

Radio broadcast cost is \$100.00, and flowers cost approximately \$45.00.







## Ways to Help while Social Distancing



Please call the office 739-3348 if you have items to drop off. Thanks!

- \* Eyeglasses for reuse, sponsored by the Riverside Lions, FF. Collection box in the Narthex.
- \* Recycle your plastic bags and wraps. Clean shopping bags, bread bags, produce bags. NO frozen veggie bags, chip bags, bags from prewashed salad, or waxy bags. Receptacle located in the Narthex, and the Riverside Lions will collect the bags.
- \* Spare change can be dropped in the bottle in the Narthex. The money will go to help feed the hungry, 75% locally and 25% worldwide.



### ALTAR GUILD

We are looking for a new chairperson for the Altar Guild. The duties involve vesting the altar, preparing for the sacraments, arranging items needed for a liturgy, changing paraments, caring for linens and vessels, preparing for various days and weeks in the church year as well as baptisms, funerals and weddings. We are advised and work closely with the pastor and the Worship committee. Timely meetings are held and minutes recorded. Serving on the Altar Guild is a rewarding experience and currently we have men and women serving on this committee.

*If you would like to serve in this capacity, please contact the office or Pastor Gretchen.*



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

WELCA extends best wishes to all as the New Year begins under continued COVID-19 restrictions, which First Lutheran carefully follows.

The WELCA Board will decide month by month about meeting for Hannah Circle and Love Days Quilting, and will be in touch with you all.

Thank you quilters! 5 youth quilts were given to Slumberland to go with new beds given to families in need, and 10 quilts went to the Salvation Army!

Thank you to the generous ladies who again so faithfully supported the November 2020 Thankoffering! We were able to send \$740 directly to the church-wide women's organization to help do mission work and address concerns of women and children in crisis situations.



May you be well, knowing we are anxious to gather again!

Blessings, Donna Quam & Gayle Fitz