



# First Lutheran Church FEBRUARY 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@flcfff.org](mailto:office@flcfff.org)

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

Please mark your calendars for February 17th, Ash Wednesday, a day to mark the beginning of Lent 2021. My absolute favorite day in the Christian calendar. Why, you may ask? It is a day we are forgiven through the eating of the bread and drinking the wine, and then in the next moment we are encouraged to remember our humanity and brokenness through the placing of the ashes on our forehead in the sign of the cross. How could a day be any more complete?



In addition, it is a day to begin a 40 day disciplined journey, excluding Sundays, toward the cross of Christ. My mantra for Lent is to take a look at what we are consumed with, and my hope is to see what is consuming us. This year I plan to focus on my consumption by way of my 'spending'. This is not only in relation to the spending of money, but rather to the way that I spend my time, energies and resources. I will ask myself the question, "How does spending time, energy or resources on 'this or that', align with my desire to place God first in my life?" As I answer this question, I will be able to 'let go' of some beliefs, behaviors or routines that are not 'honest' in my quest for spiritual integrity.

Please join me in exploring how God is calling you to walk with Him in the wilderness these coming days. I humbly invite each of you to make it a priority to 'drive by' First Lutheran Church from 12-1 pm, or 5-6 pm on Ash Wednesday to pick-up a prefilled Communion cup and ashes for use at home. Both will be wrapped individually, so that COVID safety protocols are practiced. If for some reason these times do not work for your schedule, please call the church office (739-3348) and we can make other arrangements for you.

In hope and truth,  
*Pastor Gretchen*

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

First Lutheran, along with Augustana Lutheran will begin in-person worship February 7, 2021, following guidelines set out by the Worship Committee and SMART team. Pre-registration is required, and attendance will be limited to 50. 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/>





# Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

## Love Is...

It is February, the month of love. We focus so much on loving others and being loved by others during the holiday of Valentine's Day, but have you ever thought about how God loves you? God loves you and His love never fades. No matter what day it is, God's love for you is still there. This month we will be exploring God's love in the story of "Love is..." (1 Corinthians 13).

Sunday School kit drive-thru pickup will be Wednesday, February 3rd from 3:00-5:45 p.m. under the church canopy. Please check in at pickup using the QR code, or text Kristy. If you are interested in receiving a Sunday School kit, please sign up at the link:

<https://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org/children/> or contact Kristy

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministry

Kristy@flcff.org (218) 531-9544

Remind App: Sunday School-@flcss18



**Note: Luther Crest Camp Info  
on the FLY 7-12 page.**

First Lutheran Church

# Sunday School

## Lenten Count Down

Ash Wednesday is February 17. This starts the 40 day countdown to Easter. To guide your children in this countdown and get engaged in the journey of the Lenten Season, your Sunday School aged children will be receiving a countdown game and a pretzel prayer activity in the mail. Feel free to join them in this journey and the excitement that Easter brings.



## First Communion Instruction & Pottery Class

Two times available for  
First Communion Instruction & Pottery Class

*Details will be coming soon, including how to sign-up.*

Dates:

Thursday, February 25 from 5 to 7 pm

or

Sunday, February 28 from 11 am to 1 pm





K-6th

Remind App @flyk6



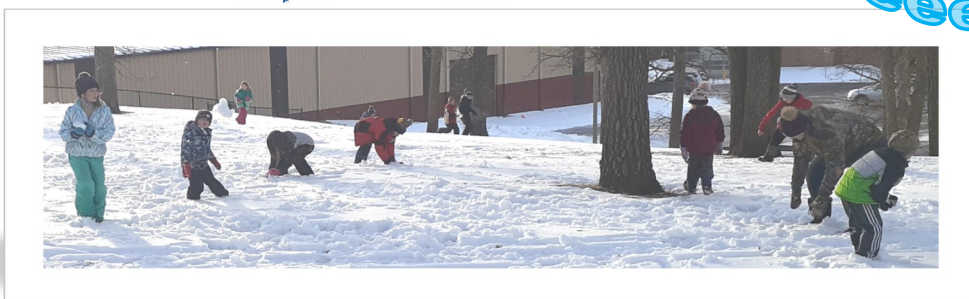
We will continue to meet outside at Roosevelt from after school -4:30 pm! This month we will be getting creative and making some fun Valentine's to brighten up some people's days.

Things to keep in mind for FLY K-6:

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



Wheeeee!!!



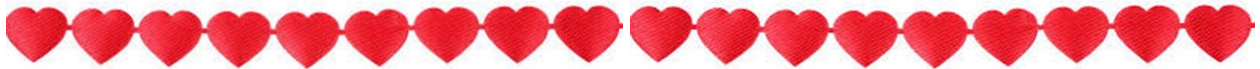
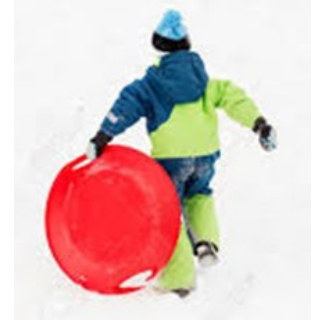




To contact Calie  
Calie@flcff.org  
Remind app text @fly79 or  
@fly10-12 to 81010;  
text or call 218 321-0970



**Hey FLY 7-12!**  
**Sledding Party!!**  
Sunday, February 21  
1:00 pm  
Roosevelt School  
Watch for more details!!!



The First Lutheran Foundation has agreed to provide matching dollars to attend Luther Crest. This is an incredible opportunity to attend camp at a very low price!

The following is what the foundation will pay for Luther Crest Camps: (The rest of the balance is your responsibility – However, if you have financial need, please speak with me!)

On Site Day Camp	\$60
Explorers	\$70
Seekers	\$200
Leapers	\$300
Critters	\$300



LUTHER  
CREST

Any other Luther Crest Camps for other grades: \$300

It is in your best interest to register early. **The early bird registration ends on Valentine's day (February 14<sup>th</sup>)** – so get your registration in by then to save an average of \$100 and for best week selection!) You will need to pay the deposit when you register. Registration information can be found on the Luther Crest website at [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).

**Important: To get these dollars applied to your camp registration, you need to notify the church office before 4/25 and give the church office proof of your registration. This can be as simple as emailing a copy of your registration to [calie@flcff.org](mailto:calie@flcff.org).**

Thank you to the First Lutheran Foundation for this awesome gift toward attending camp. They, like I, believe that attending Bible camp is simply one of the best things you can do in the summer.

Please see me if you have any questions!

Thank you!

Calie Anderson, Administrative Assistant and Youth Director

218-739-3348 218-321-0970





February – the month love is celebrated.

Love means different things to different people. Our society and commercialism tend to focus on romantic love during February. But I challenge you to celebrate all kinds of love this February. The love between family members, friends, neighbors, congregation members, and yes, even our pets.

Jesus showed us how to love. He showed compassion and respect. He listened and encouraged. These are simple acts we are all capable of doing. They cost nothing to do.

Compassion is showing concern for others – especially in times of suffering and trial.

Respect is a regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others.

Listening is making an effort to hear something, to be alert and ready to hear something.

Encouragement is the action of giving someone support, confidence, or hope.

We can all use a little more compassion, respect, listening, and encouragement in our lives. No matter how strong you are, you are human - as are your family, friends, and neighbors. Only God's love is perfect. It might be helpful to remind yourself of just how much God loves you:

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
(Romans 8:38-39)*

Give it a whirl. Celebrate all kinds of love this February. God's got your back.

If you want to chat more about love or anything else, feel free to contact me. You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at [Lynn@flcfc.org](mailto:Lynn@flcfc.org).

In Christ's Love,

Vicar Lynn



Charles Schulz



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

Number 6 on our *Hymn Hit List* is How Great Thou Art. A 26 year-old pastor in Sweden was caught in a thunderstorm one Sunday afternoon following worship. He watched as the storm swept in with a bolt of lightning and a clap of thunder, reverberating across the land with its power. After the storm, a rainbow appeared and Carl Gustav Boberg was overcome by God's power and majesty. The result was the adoration and worship of "O Store Gud". The song has been translated into countless languages and a stanza was added by English missionary Stuart K. Hine in 1949. Now millions of Christians sing in dozens of languages the same prayer of humble adoration, "My God How Great Thou Art"! Find it on page 856 of our ELW.





*Excerpts from the Thank You Notes from A Place to Belong:*

Thank you for the: gloves, clothing, household supplies, jeans, gift certificate, cardigan, stamps, acrylic paints, etc. "You are so blessed as a people who gather and worship in the name of the Lord Jesus! Thank you for your kindness and making so many people smile this Christmas! Thank you for sharing the love of Christ through giving. "



Lutheran Social Services thanks everyone who donated to the Mitten Ministry and helping to keep your neighbors warm.



Dear First Lutheran Church Sunday School Children:

Thank you so much for thinking of us and raising the money for utilities for people in need! This donation will go directly to local water bills for people who are in danger of being shut off. Going without water is hard!!

Again, thank you so much.

Salvation Army Social Services



**someplace safe**  
SAFETY. OPTIONS. HOPE.

Thank you for your generous donation to Someplace Safe. We truly appreciate your kindness and support of our work in the community. Someplace Safe continues to serve as a critical safety net in the community, offering safety, options, and hope to those most in need.

*(over \$500 was donated from funds received for the Giving Trees)*



**LUTHER CREST** sends thanks!

During a year greatly affected by COVID-19 requirements and safety protocols, a year without on-site summer camp and months of cancelled events, your generosity and support allowed our mission and ministry to continue. We are incredibly humbled by the increase in the number of donors and donations in response to this year's financial need. THANK YOU!







## Ash Wednesday February 17, 2021

There will not be in-person worship on Ash Wednesday. A devotion with Pastor Gretchen & music by Ty Stortroen will be available on the church website all day.

Drive-Thru pickup of prefilled Communion cups and ashes for use at home:

12 to 1 pm under Canopy Upper Level Parking Lot

5 to 6 pm under Canopy Upper Level Parking Lot



## Lent 2021

In-person worship at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays

February 24; March 3, 10, 17, 24

Joint Worship with Augustana and First Lutheran

Attendance limited to 50, sign-up by calling the church or use the link on the church website

Service will also be live-streamed on the church website

*Confirmants are required to attend worship (either in-person or on live-stream)*



## Lenten Sermon Themes: "Affirming Our Baptism"

Do you intend to **continue** in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism?

**To live** among God's faithful people?

**To hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper?

**To proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?

**To serve** all people following the example of Jesus?

**To strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?

### Church Council First Lutheran 2021

#### Executive Committee

George Mathison, President  
VP

Steve Guttormson, Secretary  
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

#### Council Members

Suzanne Demuth  
Jennifer Frank  
Michael Wicklund  
Missy Mattson  
Leslie Flugstad  
Harriet Wicklund  
Alison Koch  
JoAn Whitlock  
Tara Wagner  
Kirby Herman



*Many thanks to the  
outgoing Council members!*

*Abbey Kwapinski*

*Jennifer Woore*

*Ron Spangler*

*Sara Koch*

*Deb Opatz*





Cities and towns around the country rang church bells at 4:30 pm on January 19 as a national moment of unity and remembrance of those lives lost to COVID-19.

*Thank you Steve Guttormson & Nancy Swenson for ringing the bells at First Lutheran.*



We are still 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!*

The WELCA Board has not met due to continued COVID pandemic concerns, but we will contact you when a meeting is scheduled. We do wait for Synod updates as well.

Thank you for your continued offerings. Because of your generosity we were able to contribute to fourteen of our Benevolences!

Keep our Love Days Quilters and Hannah Circle members in your prayers for good health. We hope to soon be gathered together to begin God's work in the New Year.

God's blessings to you!

*Gayle Fitz and Donna Quam*

