



First Lutheran Church **MARCH** 2021

In-Person Worship Sunday at 9:30 am
Listen on the radio 1020 am 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@flcfff.org

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

The Road of Abundance

"And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8



This Lenten season I have been exploring what I have been consuming with the hope to see what is consuming me. All this is to say that I have been watching my 'spending'...consuming and the like. This spiritual practice of noticing my inclination to distract myself with 'shopping' has awakened my awareness of God in my heart and mind. For example, if I am drawn to seek something material in nature, I have been practicing to ever so gently return to God as I put down the thought of consumption.

I share this practice with you in the hope that it may spark within you a desire to return to God as well. This is not to suggest that there is anything wrong with your relationship with God; rather we know that we as humans have the propensity to turn away from God more often than we like to admit. God is always waiting for us to return, again and again as we stray into 'self' and our personal design for life.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, I invite you to recommit yourself to God, asking God to direct your thinking when it comes to the topic of ABUNDANCE. Ask God for the eyes to see how it is that you have been blessed with abundance; so that we may be propelled to give generously of ourselves to others in faith.

This Lenten road is short, as is life. So let us boldly explore the means to live in the mindset of pure ABUNDANCE as compared to that of scarcity. Giving back to God all that is His.

Sharing Christ's Service,

Pastor Gretchen



Worship With Us In Person, on the Radio, and on YouTube and PEG Access

In-person worship has started again, with attendance limited to 50 at this time. (no pre-registration required) Services will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30 am on Sundays. 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.



Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

The Ten Commandments

Have you ever tried to play a game without knowing any of the rules? It is pretty hard. God realized that living life would also be hard without rules, so he made rules to help us with our relationship with him and rules to help us with our relationships with others. He made these rules because he loves us so much and wants all to win at life. These rules are called the Ten Commandments and this is our story for Sunday School in March. Check out our YouTube Channel for this month's Sunday School lesson with Ms. Kristy, Butterflies Storytime with Ms. Vicki, and some fun songs.



You can pick up your Sunday School kits under the church canopy Wednesday, March 3rd from 3:00-5:45 p.m. Please check in using the QR code or text Kristy. If you were interested in receiving a Sunday School kit and have not previously signed up, check out the link:

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

Kristy Wicklund
Director of Children's Ministry
Kristy@flcfff.org (218) 531-9544
Remind App: Sunday School-@flcss18

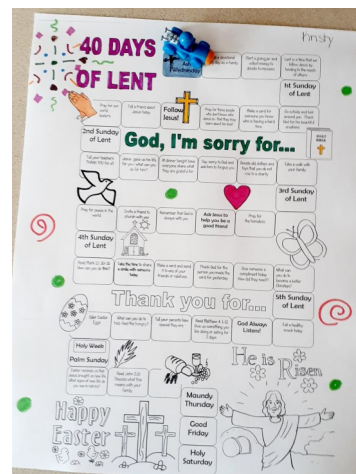
First Lutheran Church

Sunday School

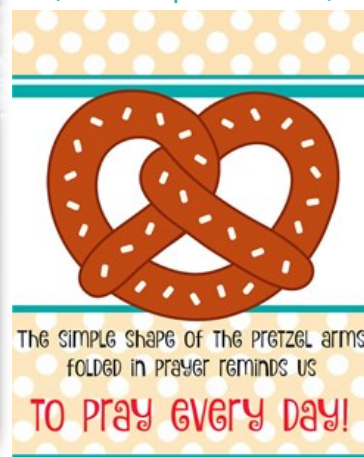


40 Days of Lent

We are fully into our Lenten journey and I hope you are traveling along on your game boards. Please feel free to send Kristy pics of your 40 Days of Lent game board and of your adventures.



Enjoying the Pretzel Prayer Activity (and the pretzel too)



Mark Your Calendars for Palm Sunday

We are working on a fun event for people of all ages for Palm Sunday, so mark your calendars. More information will be coming.



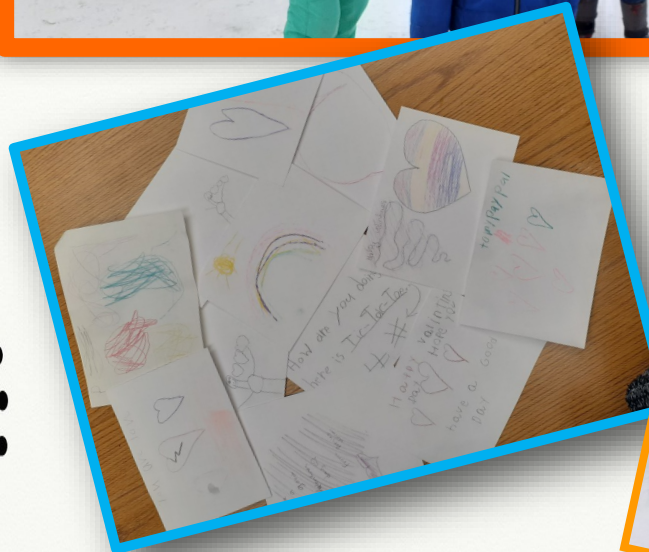


We will continue to meet outside at
Roosevelt on Wednesdays from
after school to 4:30 pm!

Last month we made Valentine's cards for
residents at Pioneer care, went sledding,
painted snow, had a Valentine's party, and
participated in Ash Wednesday with ashes
and a blessing.



Remind App
@flyk6





7-12



To contact Calie

Calie@flcff.org

Remind app text @fly79 or @fly10-12 to 81010; text or call 218 321-0970

"March Into Spring" Snowman Building Contest continues through March 4!!

All FLY 7-12 Students are asked to build a snowman, either outside with REAL snow, or inside with craft supplies, and submit a picture of their creation to Calie before March 5.

Categories: 1. Best Dressed 2. Most Spring Like 3. Funniest

A prize will be awarded to the winner of each category.

Questions? Text or call Calie at 218 321-0970



FLY 7-12 will be serving rolls and juice at the Palm Sunday Event on March 28.

More details soon.

This will be a fundraiser for the Youth.



- Scholarship forms for the Foundation Scholarship (anyone attending or planning to attend a Lutheran college) will be mailed out in early March. Please return the form by April 1.
- Scholarship forms for the Fergus Falls ELCA High School Senior scholarship will also be mailed to all seniors in early March. If you plan to apply for this scholarship, please return the form to the office by April 1. This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding senior of one of the sponsoring congregations.

Any questions, please contact Calie.

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

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

Registration information can be found on the Luther Crest website at www.luthercrest.org.

Important: To get these dollars applied to your camp registration, you need to notify the church office before April 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.

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!

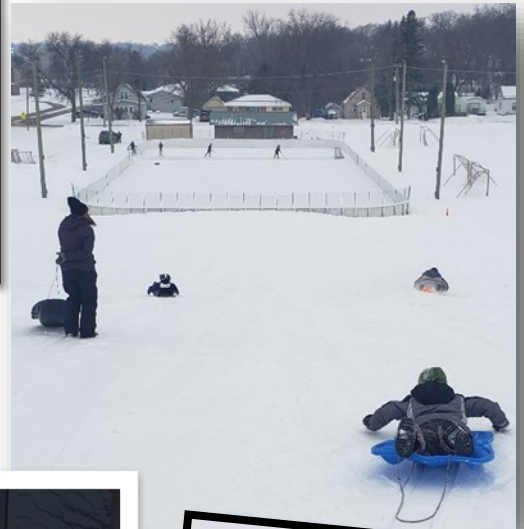
Calie Anderson, Administrative Assistant and Youth Director

218-739-3348 218-321-0970



**LUTHER
CREST**

FLY 7-12
SLEDDING AT
CLEVELAND!!





Vicar's Thoughts.....

Lent is here!

Each Wednesday in Lent, Augustana and First Lutheran will be joining together to worship with the Holden Evening Prayer. The Holden Evening Prayer was written during the winter of 1986 at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Holden Village was originally a copper mining town but over the years has been transformed into a vibrant place of education, programming and worship which encourages journeys in faith. It is a community of contemplation and fellowship in the remote wilderness. If you have never heard the Holden Evening Prayer, you are missing out on an amazing worship experience!

This Lent, Pastor Gretchen, Pastor Dave and I will be speaking on the theme of Affirming Our Baptism. Each week we will be discussing how we can live out our baptism. The topics include:

*How do we **live** among God's faithful people?*

*How do we **hear** the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper?*

*How do we **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?*

*How do we **serve** all people following the example of Jesus? and*

*How do we **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth?*

These questions are sometimes called the God-given gifts of discipleship. These gifts of living, hearing, proclaiming, serving and striving overlap and lead to faithful living. Faithful living is a lifelong adventure that we all participate in and help each other with. I'm excited to walk along side you this Lent in our baptismal adventure!



If you want to chat more about baptism, Lent or anything else, feel free to contact me. You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at Lynn@flcff.org.

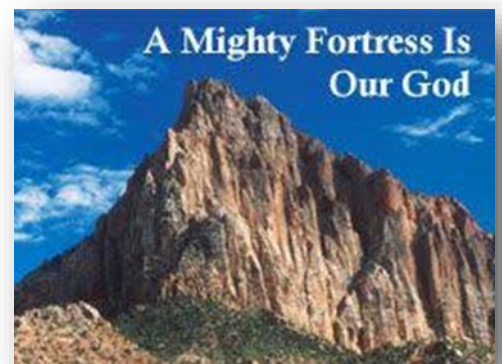
In Christ's Love,
Vicar Lynn



The Worship Corner
by the
Worship & Music
Committee

On our Top Ten Hymn list this month, we find #5, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God". It is fitting that this hymn is known as the battle hymn of the Reformation. Martin Luther was a bulldog of a defender, going up against the Catholic church and his belief that they had strayed from the one true faith.

The text was penned around 1529 as a paraphrase of Psalm 46. The tune is known as Ein Feste Burg, also composed by Luther in 1527. You can find this favorite on page 504 in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal.





As we journey through Lent together, join us for the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer services each Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

Lenten Sermon Themes: "Affirming Our Baptism"

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

March 3: How do we hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper?

March 10: How do we proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed?

March 17: How do we serve all people following the example of Jesus?

March 24: How do we strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

We hope you will join us!

In-person worship limited to 50. Services will also be livestreamed to the church website.

Looking ahead to Holy Week

Palm Sunday March 28th at 9:30am



Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem on a donkey in the midst of the crowds singing, "Hosanna, Hosanna, in the Highest!" This marks the beginning of Jesus' journey toward the cross. It is a day to consider Jesus' humility and the sacrifice he made for each of us.

Hosanna Handbells & piano will be playing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!"

Watch for additional information on a Palm Sunday Event to take place after worship on Palm Sunday.

After reflecting on our brokenness for 40 days we come together to confess our sins and to receive forgiveness; in addition we celebrate Jesus' Last Supper using the bread and the wine. Out of love for our neighbor we reenact Jesus' demonstration of humble service in the foot washing. We depart the service in silence.



April 1 at 6:00 pm



Our sins nail Jesus to the cross. The only thing good about this day is that we know there is more to the story than what transpires on Good Friday. We are a people who live in hope of the Easter promise.



Easter Sunday, April 4 at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**Jesus defeated sin, death and the Devil and brings us into new life.
Hallelujah! Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed.**



Yum!

Drive-Thru American Legion Rib Meal (with baked potato & dinner roll), sponsored by Fellowship Committee, will be on Sunday, March 14 from 10:45 am until the food is gone. If you wish to reserve a meal, or if you would like a meal delivered, please call the church office at 739-3348. Additional meals (beyond those reserved) will be ordered. Free will donation.

Friends in Christ, greetings from the board members of the First Lutheran Foundation.

The foundation held our annual meeting in January, at which the primary focus was to set our annual budget. The income side of the budget is provided by accessing a portion of the interest earnings from the endowed assets that have been invested. Much of the expense side of the budget is set based on requests brought to the board. These requests were noticeably less this year. That has left us with some additional unbudgeted funds.



As the pandemic has caused disruptions everywhere, we recognize there is a lot of uncertainty in what even the next few months will bring. The board agreed that we should establish another opportunity later in the year to consider requests when we all have a better idea of needs. Look for an announcement for the opportunity likely April or May when we have a better idea on re-openings, vaccination access, etc.

As a reminder, our focus is not on providing funding to support normal day-to-day operations of the Church. The funds provided by the foundation are intended to be used for things outside of the scope of the regular budget constraints of the Church.

The first step to make a request to the foundation is to submit that request to the Church Council. The reason for that is often the council has budgeted dollars or has funds in a special account that can cover the whole request or a portion of it anyway.

If there are unspent funds available at the end of the year, the December meeting focuses on distributing the remaining budgeted funds to benevolence recipients in the area.

Look for an announcement in an upcoming Sunday bulletin about seeking funding requests, and more about the foundation's work in future Messengers!

Greg Wagner

First Lutheran Foundation Board Member



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!

If you have any thoughts or ideas as you think ahead about starting WELCA activities again, please contact Gayle Fitz (736-3058).

God's blessings to you! *Gayle Fitz and Donna Quam*



First Lutheran will be sponsoring a Relay for Life Team. The relay is at June 11, 2021 at the college, starting at 5:00 pm.

If you are interested in more information or wish to join the team, please contact Sue Toso at 218 770-5156.

IRA REMINDER

When you send your Qualified Charitable Distributions through your retirement account to FLC, please send a note to the Church Office so that we may record it to the correct person. Sometimes, the checks may not indicate who donated the money. Thanks!



First Lutheran Church
FERGUS FALLS, MN
Since 1872

Celebrating 150 years in 2022!

If you would like to help with the planning of this Anniversary Celebration, please contact Pastor Gretchen at 218 321-0995 or pastorg@flcff.org.

\$300 DEDUCTION

Did you know that you can take an "above-the-line" deduction on your income taxes up to \$300 for your donations to First Lutheran? The CARES Act allows taxpayers, even those who take the standard deduction, to claim a deduction up to \$300 for cash donations made in 2020. Contact the Church Office for a copy of your contributions if you have not already received it.



**CHURCH
COUNCIL**

Executive Committee

George Mathison, President
David & Lorri Holt, Co-Vice Presidents
Steve Guttormson, Secretary
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

Council Members

Jennifer Frank, Outreach
Michael Wicklund, Discipleship
Missy Mattson, Personnel
Leslie Flugstad, Finance
Harriet Wicklund, Worship
Alison Koch, Youth
JoAn Whitlock, Fellowship
Tara Wagner, Education
Tedd Steenbock, Property
Kris Werner, Membership



From the Mutual Ministry Committee:

It has been brought to our attention that folks have seen Pastor Gretchen texting on occasion during worship. We want to make you aware that during this days of online worship, people have notified Pastor Gretchen of technical issues with the broadcast and she has communicated with the audio/visual operator accordingly. She is also occasionally on call at the hospital and has been contacted by phone when there is an emergency need. In the future, Pastor will try to step out to answer these calls so that it is less distracting. Please know that if you have any concerns or suggestions, Pastor Gretchen is very open to hearing them directly and we encourage you to speak with her.

We are ALL in ministry together!