



First Lutheran Church APRIL 2021

In-Person Worship Sunday at 9:30 am (50% capacity—220)

Listen on the radio 1020 am or FM 97.7

www.channel 977.com; PEG Access Channel 8

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".

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful
Colossians 4:2



Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Lent 2021 is in the books. We made it. Now we get to continue our spiritual journeys through daily recommitting ourselves to prayer and the study of God's Word.

First Lutheran is offering a Bible and Book Study beginning April 8th from 10:30-11:30 am for 9 weeks. The study is titled *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande. The book was named the best book of the year by the *Washington Post*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *NPR*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. Here is a description of the book found on Amazon.

Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury, and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, what medicine can do often runs counter to what it should.

Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced. Nursing homes, devoted above all to safety, battle with residents over the food they are allowed to eat and the choices they are allowed to make. Doctors, uncomfortable discussing patients' anxieties about death, fall back on false hopes and treatments that are actually shortening lives instead of improving them.

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Here he examines its ultimate limitations and failures—in his own practices as well as others'—as life draws to a close. Riveting, honest, and humane, "Being Mortal" shows how the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life—all the way to the very end.

Vicar Lynn and I hope you can find time in your upcoming weeks to join us for this life-enhancing conversation regarding what matters in the end. Also, we will hold a funeral planning workshop at First Lutheran on June 21st at 5:30 pm for anyone interested.

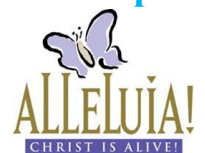
Sharing Christ's service,
Pastor Gretchen



Maundy Thursday Worship with First Communion—April 1 at 6:00 pm

Good Friday Worship —April 2 at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4 at 9:30 and 11:00 am





Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus' disciples felt that prayer was one of the most important things that Jesus did, so they asked him to teach them to pray. Jesus then taught the disciples the Lord's Prayer. This month we will be learning about prayer.

Check out our YouTube Channel for April's Sunday School lesson video and a Butterflies Storytime with Ms. Vicki.

Sunday School kits can be picked up in the Narthex the first full week of April. There will be a drive through pick up under the church canopy on Wednesday, April 7th from 3:00 to 5:45 pm.

Kristy Wicklund
Director of Children's Ministry
Kristy@flcfl.org (218) 531-9544
Remind App: Sunday School-@flcsl18

First Lutheran Church

Sunday School



Secret Message Lab

1st-6th grade students, we will be playing a game of Secret Message Lab.



Kristy will be mailing to you in the months of April and May a code to crack and a special pen to help solve the puzzle. After the students have used their super smarts and cracked the code, they will mail it back to Kristy at church. On the final day of Sunday School, Kristy will reveal the entire message that each of the students helped to figure out.



WORSHIP, BIBLE DIVES, GAMES, ARTS & CRAFTS, FUN!

**Tuesday,
June 29,
2021**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Kindergarten- 6th grade

Register at Augustana's or First's church office, or on the church's website by June 7th.



FREE!!



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

Last month, we talked about finding things we have lost like Jesus' story of the 100 sheep and the 10 coins. We also played games, played in the snow, and enjoyed the beautiful weather.



Remind App

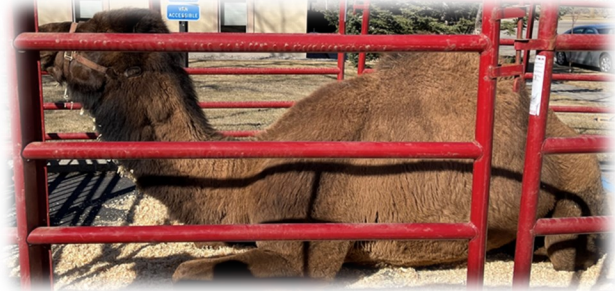
@flyk6

K-6th





The ZOO guests
were a hit!



Palm Sunday *Celebration Walk Thru*



FLY serving rolls & juice



Thank you to all who attended and
volunteered! You made this event
a memorable one.

Funds raised from the sale of rolls, juice &
coffee goes to the youth fund.



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

HEY FLY 10-12!!!



Let's get together for
 food and chat on
Wednesday, April 7
 from 4 to 5 pm
 at Applebee's!!!

(FLY will pay for the food)

FLY 7-9 Save the DATE!!

Monday, April 26 let's meet at Applebee's
 from 4 to 5 pm for some food, some fun
 and a chance to talk.
(The church will pay for the food)



2021 Confirmands!
8th Grade Confirmation
Retreat will be on
Saturday, April 24 from
10:00 am to 2:00 pm at
the church. Learning,
FUN, lunch, and more!
See you there!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY
APRIL 25, 2021
11:00 AM



Confirmands, please be at the church
by 10:30 am for pictures.

There is still time to get the
 matching dollars from The
 First Lutheran
 Foundation to attend
 Luther Crest. 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@flcfff.org.



**LUTHER
 CREST**

This is an incredible opportunity to attend camp at a very
 low price! Registration information can be found on the
 Luther Crest website at www.luthercrest.org. Thank you
 to the First Lutheran Foundation for this awesome gift
 toward attending camp. Please see me if you have any
 questions!

Calie Anderson,
 Administrative Assistant and Youth Director
 218-739-3348 218-321-0970

Collection for Lake Region Halfway Home April, May & June

We are gathering items to help the Lake Region Halfway Home with their need for hygiene kits. The following items are needed:

- ◆ Razors
- ◆ Shaving cream
- ◆ Toothbrush
- ◆ Toothpaste
- ◆ Roll-on deodorant
- ◆ Shampoo & conditioner (or shampoo with conditioner)
- ◆ Soap
- ◆ Soap box
- ◆ Fingernail clipper
- ◆ Toenail clipper
- ◆ Lotion

Your donations can be brought to the church and left in the collection box in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thank YOU!

*Many thanks to the
decorators who made
the church so
festive on
Palm Sunday!*



*Palm
Sunday*



**Remember and pray
for our Military.**

**Please let the office
know if you have a
military member you
would like
remembered in prayer.**

C.J. Ward

Army National Guard

Deployed to the Middle East for the
next 9-12 months.



C.J. and his family with Pastor Gretchen
on the day of the blessing.

**Some of the recent events at
First Lutheran!**



Holy Baptism- Stoen Family

Vicar's Thoughts.....

Alleluia! He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

Happy Easter! We are indeed Easter people.

The first time I heard the phrase “we are an Easter people” it was not Easter. Not even close. I pondered the bulletin. Had the church secretary must have made a mistake? Being the curious sort, I asked my pastor what that meant. The answer was simple.

Easter people are not those who attend church on Easter or even throughout the holy week. Easter people means we are a global community that professes faith in Jesus Christ. It is through Him that we are saved from our sins by dying and rising again with Him. So we are Easter people 24/7/365. We are filled with the Holy Spirit - The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you.



Knowing this, Holy Week became that much more important to me. It is a time to celebrate my faith and renew my commitment to Christ. It is a call to live out my baptism. It's a call to rejoice in God's love.

May the joy of Easter be with you all year long!

If you want to chat more about Easter (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 Service,

Vicar Lynn



The Worship Corner
by the
Worship & Music
Committee

Hymn #4 on our Top Ten Hymn List is “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, written by Robert Robinson in 1757. Robinson was an unruly child. His father died when he was just eight years old. He was gifted intellectually but made too much mischief for his loving mother, and she apprenticed him out at age fourteen. Instead of learning and working, he chose a life of gambling, drinking and

carousing. One night, he and his friends decided to attend an evangelist meeting just to heckle the preacher, George Whitfield. Instead, Robert felt that the words were meant only for him. When he was twenty, he gave his life to God and entered the ministry. He wrote this hymn at age twenty-two. Millions of Christians can relate to his spiritual story — “prone to wander, Lord I feel it” and the testimony — “O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be”! Find it in the Evangelical Luther Worship hymnal (ELW) on page 807.

Meals by Wheels April 26-30

Please contact me by text or phone call (701-238-0276) or via email (77jennifer@msn.com) to let me know of your willingness to help/preferred routes/dates of availability. Please follow all COVID mitigation protocols.

Thank You!



Easter Blessings from the First Lutheran Staff



Don't be Fooled!

Just a reminder that no one from the church will ever ask you to purchase gift cards or secretly send money. Pastors and church staff will always use an @flcff.org email address. If you receive a suspicious message, call, don't email, the Church Office right away.



Thank you FLC members for your support of your church! This year we have been keeping pace with our monthly benevolence support. So far this year, we have supported six partner ministries: Habitat for Humanity, Hospice, Jail Ministry, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, and Meals by Wheels; we support the broader work of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod by contributing Synod Mission Support dollars; and we have a fund of money readily available to assist families in need within our community.

Blood Drive at First Lutheran
Tuesday, April 20
1:00 to 6:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Sign up by calling
1-800-733-2767 or visit
RedCrossBlood.org.

Sponsor Code: Fergus
First Lutheran

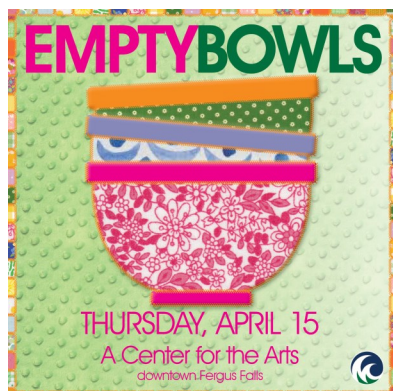
Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control. To ensure the health of staff and donors, precautions include:

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors *before* entering a drive to make sure they are healthy. **Scheduled appointments only—NO walk-ins.**
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
- Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
- Ensuring face masks or coverings are worn by both staff and donors.
- Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.
- Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.
- Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation.

Help needed at April 20 Blood Drive

We are looking for volunteers to cover 2 shifts--1-3:30 pm and 3:30 to 6:00 pm, with 2 volunteers per shift. Involves registration and monitoring the snack table. Please contact Jennifer at 701 238-0276 if you are able to help. Thank you.





After a one year absence, the ever-popular Minnesota State Community and Technical College's *Empty Bowls* is returning this year at a time when need for the fundraiser has never been greater. This won't be the traditional *Empty Bowls* – it won't be at the college, and guests truly will get an empty bowl. But one thing isn't changing: The fundraiser will continue to benefit the Fergus Falls Salvation Army, which has seen its food needs soar more than 1,000 percent since the pandemic began. This year's socially distanced *Empty Bowls* is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at A Center for the Arts in downtown Fergus Falls. Charest said AC4TA (A Center for the Arts) graciously invited the college to use their back stage doors, having guests enter through one back door, choose a bowl from a display on the center's stage and exit through a second back door. Parking is conveniently located in the City Parking Lot directly behind A Center for the Arts. Pre-pandemic guests at *Empty Bowls* were served soup in the pottery bowls they'd selected in Legacy Hall on the M State campus. This year, for a suggested donation of \$20, guests will get the bowl of their choosing and a copy of the recipe for the *Empty Bowls* favorite, chicken wild rice soup. The organizers do not want you to leave hungry, though, and have arranged for a food truck in the City Parking Lot behind AC4TA from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In its previous 14 years, Empty Bowls has raised just under \$60,000 for the Salvation Army food program, and this year the support is needed more than ever.



Senior Bible Study returns April 8 at 10:30 am!!

The 9 week study will go over the book *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande and will be lead by Pastor Gretchen and Vicar Lynn. Please contact the church office by calling 739-3348 or email office @flcff.org if you are interested in joining this study!



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.



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

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 at 736-3058.



May your Easter be filled with JOY, and we HOPE to be gathering again soon! *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.

\$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.



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.



Save the Date!

**September 10-12 All Church
Campout at Fossen Woods**



**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

PLEASE JOIN US

CONGREGATIONAL

MEETING

**A special congregational
meeting will be held on
Sunday, April 18 after
worship.**

**The purpose of this
meeting is to approve
amendments to the
constitution.**



**We are looking for
volunteers to help
in the office or to
run the sound
board or camera.
Please contact
Pastor Gretchen if
you are interested!**



**THANK
YOU!**