





# Be the Light

Matthew 5:14

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14-16

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 23rd either in-person or on YouTube as we join together to end our Sunday School year on a bright note. During the children's message I will reveal the secret message that the 1st-6th graders decoded for me along with lifting up spirits with a “This Little Light of Mine” sing along. Check out the May Sunday School video to learn the song.

Thank you for continuing to “Be the Light” especially this past year. I hope you continue to spread love and kindness and let the light shine before others.

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



First Lutheran Church

## Sunday School



### Secret Message Lab



Join us in-person or on YouTube on Sunday, May 23rd for worship where the secret message decoded by the 1st-6th graders will be revealed.



First Communion Class April 1, 2021



We will continue to meet outside at Roosevelt on Wednesdays from after school -4:30 p.m. On May 26th we will have a last day of FLY party. More details to come for this day.

Last month , we played a game that helped us to retell the Easter story and the events leading up to Easter. We also gave thanks for God's creation during the week of Earth Day, and we learned the Lord's Prayer all while enjoying time together.

K-6th

Remind App  
@flyk6



FLY K-6 at  
Roosevelt  
Park!



**First Lutheran Church grounds clean up day Wednesday, May 12 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Refreshments and cool treats to follow. Bring your gloves and rakes.**  
**Open to all ages. Come and go as you please.**



**Hey FLY 7-9 and FLY 10-12, let's get some ice cream!!**

Meet at the Dairyland on Saturday, May 15.

**FLY 7-9 from 1 to 2 pm**

**FLY 10-12 from 2 to 3 pm**

The church will provide the ice cream treats.

Hope you'll join us!

To contact Calie

Calie@flcff.org

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



**7-12**

# BUTTERFLIES VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Tuesday,  
**June 29,**  
2021  
9:15-  
11:15  
a.m.

0-5 YEARS OLD AND  
FAVORITE ADULT

Outside at  
First Lutheran Church  
(inside if it rains)

**FREE** for participants!

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

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

Tuesday,  
**June 29,**  
2021

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

Kindergarten- 6th grade

## LUTHER CREST DAY CAMP

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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

**FREE!!**





**Confirmation  
Retreat  
Saturday  
April 24, 2021**



**Confirmation Sunday**  
**April 25, 2021**



**Senior Recognition  
Sunday  
Sunday, May 16, 2021  
at 9:30 am worship**

## Vicar's Thoughts.....

*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."*

Martin Luther

Welcome to Spring!

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year – things are fresh, new life is sprouting and being outside is a blessing – not a survivalist moment. I always connect with God by being outside but in spring, I seem to spend so much more time outside. Spring is my reward for surviving winter. It is a promise that after you experience the harshness of life, new life follows. Spring gives me hope. So, it is no surprise that we celebrated Easter last month - in spring.

The church season of Easter is seven Sundays long. This year it runs April 4 to May 16<sup>th</sup>. So, as we continue in the Easter season, let us be reminded of the resurrection of Christ with every new leaf and blade of grass.

The next church season is Pentecost. The season celebrates the Holy Spirit becoming the advocate for each of us. On Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> we remember how the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples. The Easter season gives me hope and Pentecost solidifies how that hope is internalized in me. I am grateful for my own personal cheerleader. As Romans 8:26 says: *"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words."*

*Groaning* sounds kinda weird here. Other words that can be used here are "sighs", "moaning", "grumbling" or "crying out". On our behalf, the Holy Spirit prays for us with cries that can not be expressed in words.

Spring brings us not only the resurrection but also our very own advocate. No wonder I love spring!

If you want to chat more about spring, resurrection, Holy Spirit, or something different, let me know. You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at [Lynn@flcff.org](mailto:Lynn@flcff.org).

Very gratefully,

Vicar Lynn



## **Funeral Planning Workshop**

June 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30 pm

Funerals are a difficult subject to talk about. But it is also natural – we all die.

Give your family the gift of making your wishes known – Plan your funeral! This workshop is an opportunity to explore what your funeral will look like before you die. It will cover a funeral service and writing obituaries. A representative from a funeral home will be present to answer any questions you may have. Workshop is FREE.





## HERO DRIVE

First Lutheran Church will host an equipment and supply drive for the **Healthcare Equipment Recycling Organization (HERO)**, based in Fargo, during the entire month of May. This non-profit organization, started by a group of operating room nurses, accepts clean used healthcare equipment and new unopened healthcare supplies to distribute both locally and globally wherever the need is greatest.

**Commonly accepted items include** bedside commodes, canes, crutches, diabetic supplies, hearing aids and batteries, incontinence supplies, nebulizers, nutritional drinks, respiratory supplies, walkers, wheelchairs (manual or electric), and more. **Items NOT accepted include** soiled or broken equipment, expired products, exposed needles, fabric mattresses, mercury thermometers, open or partially used personal hygiene products, prescriptions of any kind, renal or peritoneal dialysis supplies, or items used with patients treated for C-Diff, MRSA, or VRE. Please see the complete list on the posters at the front counter in the narthex.

If you have items to donate, please drop them off in the church narthex behind the counter just left of the main entrance on Sunday before worship or during regular church office hours, Monday – Thursday between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM. A self-serve station there provides a list of accepted items and donation receipts for you to record your donation.

Items will be accepted through Monday, May 31. If you have an item that takes two or more people to lift and move, please call or text **Steve Guttormson at 218-770-7274** to make special arrangements for drop off.



**First Lutheran Church grounds clean up day Wednesday, May 12 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Refreshments and cool treats to follow. Bring your gloves and rakes.**

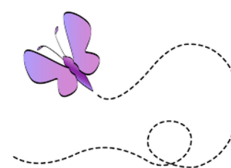
**Open to all ages come as go as you please.**



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

We've all heard of St. Patrick, or at least celebrated his day. Few people, however, have heard of the blind Irish monk, Dallan Forgaill, the writer of "Be Thou My Vision", our #3 hymn on the Top Ten Hymn List. Forgaill was a monk who ministered in the wake of Patrick's evangelism and church planting. He wrote the song as he remembered St. Patrick's mission and the zeal he had for life. The poem was part of the Irish monastic tradition, used as a prayer and chanted in old Irish. It wasn't till 1905 that it was finally translated by Mary Byrne and in 1912 set to verses. Today the words and "Godward" vision are loved by believers just as they were hundreds of years ago by Irish believers.





*Thanks to all who made the Sanctuary so beautiful on  
Easter Sunday 2021!*

Greetings dear friends in Christ,

As you may know, I have been volunteering a couple hours per week in the church office, as part of my seminary education. One of the things I wanted to do with this time, was to learn about an organization which First Lutheran supports, and share a little about their mission with all of you. The organization that I chose for this was The Welcome House. The Welcome House was founded as a way to help people in need, particularly pregnant single mothers looking for housing. Eventually, they would like to create a transitional home in order to help facilitate this process. First Lutheran has supported this mission by allowing them to use our building for their board meetings. We have also made a room available for use as a drop off point for donations. I recently had a chance to take a tour of their store, which has recently finished a remodeling project. They have everything from furniture and clothing, to kitchen utensils and books. I would like to encourage you to stop by their store and check it out for yourself.

If you have any items you would like to donate to The Welcome House, their drop off hours are:

- Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 to 6 pm at the Welcome House
- Or you can leave your donations here at First Lutheran during office hours. There is a dedicated room #10, located in the second floor of the Sunday School wing.

Christ's Peace,

Michael Wicklund







## Lions Green Living Projects

Thank you to everyone that leaves plastic bags & wraps in our box in the narthex. The word is spreading throughout the community, and our Riverside Lions Club in Fergus Falls appreciates all the participation. We are in this endeavor with other communities in the area, so wherever you see

a collection box with the Lions info on, we encourage donations.

It is that time of year again when we will also be collecting clean, like-new shoes. This project keeps used shoes out of the landfill, and the club receives a small monetary return, which goes toward our local service projects. You may leave your shoe donations in the same box as the plastics.

Lions International continues to recycle prescription eye wear, as well as hearing aids, so as more of us are returning to in person worship & meetings, you may leave your eye glasses and hearing aids in the collection bin in the narthex. Any questions, contact Pamela Schrodin, 218-731-2954.

### Lillian Saure Nursing Scholarship

Students entering or continuing a nursing degree program next fall have a scholarship opportunity to pursue through the PioneerCare Auxiliary. Applications are now being accepted for the Lillian Saure Nursing Scholarship, with an application deadline of Saturday, May 15, 2021. Candidates may download the application online at [www.pioneercaare.org](http://www.pioneercaare.org) or pick up a copy on the counter in the Narthex.



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

The Love Day Quilters are back to work!  
They meet each Monday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
in the Quilting Room.

If you would like more information,  
contact Katie at 218 826-6791.



*Save  
the  
Date*

*Mark this date on your calendar:  
Wednesday, June 16, 2021  
The First Lutheran Women of the  
ELCA (WELCA) plan to gather on the  
Courtyard at First Lutheran.  
We hope you'll plan to join us!!*



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.

### 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!**



**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@flcfc.org](mailto:pastorg@flcfc.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

Like to dig in the dirt? We are looking for volunteers to help maintain the courtyard off the Narthex. Contact the office at 739-3348 or Tedd, Property Chair, at 736-7070.



#### **UPDATE:**

Congregational vote at the special meeting on April 18th unanimously approved the proposed changes 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!**