



# First Lutheran Church September 2021



In-Person Worship Sunday at 9:30 am  
Listen on the radio 1020 am or FM 97.7  
[www.channel977.com](http://www.channel977.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](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

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

Please mark your calendars and join us for the Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 in the Kairos Room. Bibles will be provided. On Thursday, September 9th, we will begin a 6 part session on the topic of lectio divina and chanting the psalms.



*Lectio divina is an ancient spiritual practice for listening to a scripture passage with the ear of the heart. It is not the same as bible study. In lectio divina we let go of more intellectual, studious, or effortful ways of reading the scripture and enter a state in which we are quiet and receptive to God's word. We let go of our own words, and let God speak to us. In this practice, the words of scripture become very alive and touch the heart in spontaneous ways that lead us more deeply into relationship with God.*

The method to practice lectio divina begins with the choice of a Psalm or biblical passage. Read through the passage four times, leaving a few minutes of silence between each reading.

- Listen with the ear of the heart. Notice if any phrase, sentence or word stands out and gently begin to repeat it to yourself, allowing it to touch you deeply.
- Reflect while you read the passage a second time with deep receptivity. Notice what thoughts, feelings, and reflections arise within you. Let the words resound in your heart. What might God be asking of you through the scripture?
- Respond spontaneously as you listen. Notice any prayerful response that arises within you, for example a small prayer of gratitude or praise.
- Rest in God's presence beyond thoughts and reflections. Just be.

I was first introduced to these two sacred practices in the 80's when I first began my contemplative practices through visiting various Catholic monasteries for silent retreats. For me, spending quiet time with the scriptures, especially the psalms, has been a gateway to deep spiritual consciousness. It has provided great wisdom and strength, grounding me in God's Word as I have grown in faith.

It is my hope that you are interested in embarking on this sacred journey along my side, as we explore the practices in greater depth.

Sharing Christ's Service,  
Pastor Gretchen



## Sunday worship with Holy Communion at First Lutheran at 9:30 am

Radio and YouTube coverage will continue. Services will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJJM 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](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 current times.

**Rally Sunday September 12. Sunday School/Connect begins September 19 10:45 to 11:15 am.**



# Sunday School

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." -Matthew 19:14



Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! I am looking forward to connecting with your family again as we enter a new year of Sunday School and FLY K-6. The last year and a half has been full of questions, changes, and has affected all of our lives, but the one thing that hasn't changed is that we are all a child of God and he loves us. God calls us to him and he calls us to love each other. Our theme this year is Matthew 19:14—**Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."** As we move forward in reconnecting, we are also looking to connect with Jesus and to grow closer to him. We realize that this journey may be different for each of us as we are still in a season of change and trying to find how to fit our lives together, but we hope that Jesus is a big piece of that puzzle. To help your child(ren) on their faith journey we have revamped our Sunday School and will continue to adjust throughout the year as we see how everything fits together. We are going to try a new curriculum called *Dig In* that allows for customization; is adaptable for classroom, small, large, or online learning; is easy to use for the leader; and meets our goals for our students' faith journey. We are also going to hold in-person Sunday School class from 10:45-11:15 a.m. as a large group during the month of September and it will be outside in the lower parking lot outside the Fellowship Hall doors (in Fellowship Hall if weather doesn't permit). FLYK-6 will be outside at Roosevelt Park from after school to 4:30 on Wednesdays to allow for movement, learning, and connection. Also, we encourage all our families to attend worship both in-person or online. We are working to make people of all ages feel welcomed and feel that worship service is a special time for all to connect and learn about God. While children are in Sunday School, parents can enjoy fellowship with one another and discuss topics they are curious about at *Connect*. It is an opportunity to connect in multiple ways!

We hope that we are able to assist you and your child(ren)'s faith journey with our in-person and online experiences and that we all can move closer to Jesus as he calls his children to him.

## You're Invited...

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministries

(218) 531-9544,

Kristy@flcff.org



## Rally Sunday

Sunday, September 12



**"Pop"** into church for worship,  
popcorn treat, and a dance party!!!

### Worship

@ 9:30 a.m.

### Dance Party

@ 10:45 a.m. lower parking lot



# Sunday School cont...

## Connect

Who: Parents &  
Guardians

When: Sundays  
10:45 to 11:15 am

Where: to be  
announced

Another Opportunity for  
**Acolyte Training**  
4th, 5th & 6th Graders  
Sunday, September 26  
11:00 am  
Watch for more info.

### What's Coming up!

- Wednesday, September 8—Children's Ministries Volunteer Meeting on Zoom at 6:00 pm
- Sunday, September 12—Rally Sunday
- Sunday, September 19—Sunday School/Connect 10:45—11:15 am
- Wednesday, September 22—FLY K-6 3:30 to 4:30 pm at Roosevelt Park
- Sunday, September 26—Sunday School/Connect 10:45 to 11:15 am.
- Wednesday, September 29—FLY K-6 3:30 to 4:30 pm Roosevelt Park

### August Acolyte Training



## FLY K-6

Starting September 22nd, Wednesday after school, meet up with Ms. Kristy for FLY K-6. During our time together we have a blast playing games, serving our community, learning about God, and exploring how God's teachings apply to our daily lives. Kristy will meet the children at Kennedy school and then they will walk over to Roosevelt Park or ride in the church van to church if weather doesn't permit us to be outside, Pick up is at 4:30 pm. A Health Form can be found in front of the church office, or on the Children's Ministry page on the church website.

FLY 7-12 enjoy a day at  
**Valleyfair**



Keep an eye out for info  
about activities this Fall!!!



**7-12**

**Save the date:**

**National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis**

**July 24-28, 2022**



Meet our new office manager, Katie Kaderbhai

Greetings First Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls! I am Katie Kaderbhai and I am excited to be able to call myself your new Office Manager. I grew up in Blaine, MN and attended my undergrad at Concordia College in Moorhead MN, there earning a BA in Art Education and a MN teaching license in the same. Later I attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and earned an MA in Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

I have four children: Iby (13), Adam (11), Elias (7) and Elana (5). We recently moved to Fergus Falls last September from Southern MN, a town called Madelia near Mankato area. My kids and I greatly enjoy living in Fergus Falls, it is such a nice combination of small and big town. We also love the school district and the children have had a great time making friends. I will be happy to meet all of you as you visit us in the office and look forward to being an asset to your community.

Yours truly, Katie Kaderbhai



**Time to clean the church kitchen!**

**When: Tuesday, September 21**

**Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**12:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**Coffee, rolls, lunch and laughter  
all provided!**



**Call Lorri Holt 218-731-6579 to volunteer to help during one of the time slots or both, if you'd like!**

## **Save the Date—Coming up in October!**

### **Saturday, October 9 - "Canned Auction" & Craft Sale!**

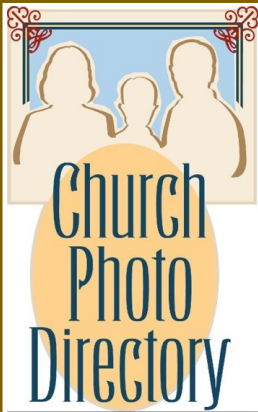
The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring a "Canned Auction" and craft sale on Saturday, October 9. All proceeds will be used for updates to the kitchen. We are looking for donations for the "Canned Auction", such as gift baskets, special craft or handmade items, gift certificates, etc. These items will be displayed, and tickets can be purchased. You put your contact info on a ticket, and then drop it in the can in front of the item(s) you are interested in. A drawing will determine who wins the item. There will also be a craft sale that day, and caramel rolls & coffee will be for sale at 9:00 am and chili from 11 am to 1:00 pm. We are looking for contributions for the "Canned Auction" & the craft sale. Please bring your items to the church and they will be stored until event day.



*Thank you for your support of this important fundraiser.*

### **Sunday, October 10—Gratitude Sunday**

Guest preacher Pastor Blair Anderson and meatball dinner following worship.



### New Church Photo Directory Coming Soon!!

Be sure to get signed up for a photo session.  
Sign up dates are: September 12, September 19  
October 10, October 17, October 24

Look for a table (with a computer) in the Narthex.  
Kris & Robin Werner will be there to assist you.

You can also call the church office at 739—348 to set up a photo date.

The photos will be taken October 11-13 and November 4-6.  
Weekday hours will be from 2:00 to 8:30 pm, and  
Saturday from 10:00 am to 4 pm.

To: All Members of First Lutheran, Men & Women, all ages...we are still in need of volunteers!!!!

Please consider being on the list of helpers for serving funeral lunches. All food is catered, but we need to have people available to help with setting tables, serving food, making coffee, cleaning up, and running the dishwasher. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can email or call the office ([office@flcfff.org](mailto:office@flcfff.org) or 739-3348) with your contact information (phone and email), and which areas you can help with. If you signed up a few years ago, please be sure to sign up again so we have an up-to-date list. We hope you'll consider being part of this important service our church offers to families who have lost a loved one.



**Our VOLUNTEERS are the apple of our EYE!!!**

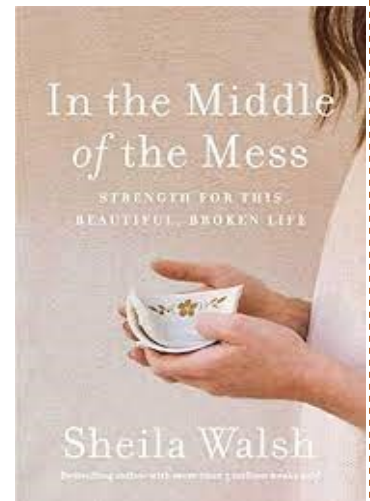


Sign up for a new Book Study this year at First Lutheran Church:

### *In the Middle of the Mess*

by Sheila Walsh

In her book, *In The Middle of the Mess*, Sheila Walsh equips women with a practical method for connecting with God's strength in the midst of struggles. Using the spiritual disciplines of confession, prayer, and meditation on Scripture to form a daily connection to Jesus, women will learn how to experience new joy as a child of God who is fully known, fully loved, and fully accepted. (from *Christianbook.com*)



**Book Study Dates: Thursdays at 12-1pm**

**October 14, 21, 28 and November 4, 11, 18**

Call the office at 218 739-3348 or find the sign up sheet on the counter by the big office window in the Narthex.



The church "ringers" enjoying some time together at the Big Bell Burger Bash at the home of Bud & Linda Mellon.



## A letter from the Council President

August 25, 2021

Dear First Lutheran Friends,

Exciting news from your council and Pastor of the latest happenings at First Lutheran.

I am pleased to introduce you to our new church office manager, Katie Kaderbhai. She has extensive experience in managing church offices and church work in parishes around the state. A graduate of Concordia College with a degree in K-12 Art Education, followed by a masters degree from Luther Seminary in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, has provided a strong background for this work. Please welcome her warmly when you see her. She will be responsible for the day to day operation of the church office and coordination of the staff.

Laurie Whitehead has retired, but thankfully has agreed to continue to produce the Messenger for the time being. We thank her for years of sharing her expertise and friendliness and we wish her well in her retirement. Also, Calie Anderson has resigned to take on a new full time position and we thank her for her hard work and involvement in FLC.

We recently hired a new bookkeeper, Kattie Meek, as a half-time employee. She loved her job and was doing very well. However, she had also applied at the same time for a full-time job in Underwood, her hometown. When she at last heard that the job was open to her, it was a dream job which she could not pass up. So we regrettably accepted her resignation and we have posted a new full-time office position, combining an office assistant/bookkeeper. Pray that we find the right person to fill the niche. We also are in the process of hiring a youth director, in cooperation with Augustana Lutheran, for the benefit of our youth at FLC. More info to follow.

Lastly, let me say a few words concerning the progress we are making and will continue to make at First Lutheran Church. The trauma we have all endured with this pandemic has left many of us, me included, with disappointments, anxiety, frustration, even anger at what is occurring around us, in our country, in our state, our community, and even in our own church. We are sometimes more quick to judge a person's words or actions, later regretting our haste to judge. I think this last year has been a difficult time because of the mental stresses we all have been under. So I ask you, and me, to please remember that words can cut deep, and the scars can be permanent. As a church community, a Christian church in the ELCA, who profess love for God and our neighbors as ourselves, let us all work very hard at being kind to one another, forgive more readily and freely. Please chip in when help is needed and volunteers are requested to do the work of the church. "God's work; our hands!"

Your church council is looking forward to 2022 when we celebrate our 150th anniversary. David and Lori Holt agreed to be chairpersons and planning is well underway. We will need everybody to help in the yearlong festivities. A new church directory, which does not cost the church anything but time, an organ concert, and a guest preacher to start us off in October 2022! It will be a wonderful year, with all your help and with the help of God.

In Christ  
George Mathison, Council President



### Vicar's Thoughts.....

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



I have so much to be thankful for. Seminary. My new husband. The fact that I am breathing. But it is hard to find gratitude in ALL circumstances like 1 Thessalonians directs us to.

We have been planning Fall Worship, Sunday School, and Confirmation. We must grapple with the uncertainty of Covid-19. How am I to give thanks for Covid-19? I've thought about this for a while. It is matter of perspective. I am thankful for all the work of critical & essential workers. I am thankful for the times I can get together with family and friends. I am thankful that Covid-19 did not take more lives than it has. I am thankful that it provides us with new ways of doing ministry.

So, yes, I can be thankful in ALL circumstances. It just requires a bit of thinking and perhaps a change of perspective.

Thank you for all the congratulations, well wishes, cards and gifts around our wedding. It was a fabulous day!

Questions? Ideas? Complaints? You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at [Lynn@flcff.org](mailto:Lynn@flcff.org).

Serving Christ alongside you, *Vicar Lynn*

### **Show your Art**

Attention children, youth and adults. Do you love to create art? We are looking to show your art on our Sunday Bulletin covers. We are looking for art for the following weeks and themes:

September 19, 2021	Who is the Greatest? (Mark 9:30-37)
September 26, 2021	Share God's Love (Mark 9:28-50)

#### ***All September art, please submit by September 12, 2021***

October 3, 2021	Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:4-25)
October 10, 2021	The Wilderness (Philippians 4:12-13)
October 17, 2021	James and John (Mark 10:35-45)
October 24, 2021	Bartimaeus Sees (Mark 10:46-52)
October 31, 2021	Reformation Sunday, celebration of the day Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door of the church and it marked the beginning of a major change in Christianity, one being that God's love is for all.

#### ***All October art, please submit by September 26, 2021***

Please note the date for which the art was created on your submission. Art can be turned into the church office or mailed to [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org). One piece will be selected for the week, any additional artworks will be on display in the Narthex.





Some of the FLC staff gather for a retirement luncheon for Laurie at the Whitehead home.

Linda, Harriet

Pastor Gretchen, Katie

Anne

Laurie, Keith

Steve, Pastor Stan



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

When we sing together, we realize we need many sounds. We need songs like "Alleluia" and "Holy" and "Amen. These songs

are the church's prayer — in agreement we sing praise. We need songs where we repeat the same thing over and over. These responses shape us into the church, people marked by baptism who beg for God's mercy. We need the psalms. They teach us everything about how we sing. They are so ancient and from a different culture. That's why they're great — they bind us to our ancestors and to one another. And we need all those other amazing songs that are the poetry of the church — the hymns and spirituals and carols set to music in so many styles from old Latin hymns like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" to American songs like "Precious Lord" to modern compositions. We need the great gems of our Lutheran heritage. (Taken from the Lutheran Magazine, June 2006 - Courtesy of Rev. Robert Rimbo)



**Make a JOYFUL NOISE!**

Join us as the Adult Choir and Hosanna Handbells return to rehearsals!

Hosanna Handbells  
Wednesday, September 8  
6 to 7:30 pm

Adult Choir  
Wednesday, September 8  
7:30 to 8:30 pm

Please add your time and talents to the music ministry of our church!!

**Executive Committee**

George Mathison, President  
Leslie Flugstad, Secretary  
David & Lorri Holt, Co-VP  
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer

**Council Members**

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





**WELCA Board** will meet Tuesday, September 7 at 10:00 am in the Kairos Room.

**Hannah Circle** will meet Wednesday, September 22 at 1:00 pm in the Kairos Room.

Note: We are beginning again, 4th Wednesdays of the month, about an hour, for current members & women who wish to join. Come for fellowship, refreshments, and Bible Study. Our lesson will be led by Vicar Lynn, using the "Gather" magazine. Bring your September issue if you have a subscription, or pick one up at the library shelves near the office. Feel free to call me for more information—Gayle Fitz (218) 736-3058.

The Love Day Quilters meet each Monday from 9 am to 3 pm in the Quilting Room. If you would like more information, contact Katie at 218 826-6791.

We hope you will come and see what we do, then think about joining us!



The quilters have made drawstring backpack style bags and the following supplies are needed for each Lutheran World Relief School Kit:

- Four 8 1/2 x 11 inch wide-ruled notebooks (70 sheets in each)
- One 30 centimeter ruler (inches on one side, centimeters on the other)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors
- Five ballpoint pens (NO gel ink)
- One box of crayons (16 or 24 count)
- Five pencils
- One Eraser

**The help of the congregation is appreciated!**

There is a collection basket in the Narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome.

**September 17-18**

at Christ the King Lutheran Church  
in Moorhead

**"Love Boldly"**



the NWMN Synodical Women's Organization  
(SWO) 33rd Annual Convention.

Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the  
ordination of women in the ELCA.

Guest Speaker Jacqueline Bussie, author of  
"Love Without Limits" and "Outlaw Christian".

**NOTE:**

*There isn't much time to register  
for the Convention!*

*\$125 for both days, \$75 for one day.*

*There is a group planning to go on Saturday,  
and a plan to carpool.*

*Completed registration form and check  
made out to NW MN SWO are due in the office*

**Tuesday, August 31. No exceptions.**

*Registration forms are at the church office.*

*Any questions, call Gayle at 736-3058.*

