



First Lutheran Church October 2021

In-Person Worship Sunday at 9:30 am
Listen on the radio 1020 am or FM 97.7
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

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

Life after Loss

Today I am writing with a heavy heart. My cat, Athens, has been missing for almost a week now. He was an indoor cat who enjoyed going outside to smell the flowers and lay in the grass. One night, even as it was raining, he went outside and is yet to return.

About 5 years ago, I found Athens on a neighborhood website looking for a new home for a cat. I adopted him, in spite of the fact that I had never had a cat, nor did I especially care for cats. My love for Athens grew with each passing year to the point that I now find myself in deep grief at the thought of never seeing him again.

Yesterday, I found myself at a garage sale, where I purchased 2 books on grief and loss. What I have come to see is that I have not personally experienced great loss in my life. Of course it was a loss when my grandmother died, or when I surrendered to alcohol, and when I was diagnosed with breast cancer, but the loss of a runaway cat is new for me. One of the books on grief reminded me, "The truth is there is only one very worst kind of grief-and that is yours." and "Viewing grief as work to be done will help you to take an active approach to your grief."

I often sit with individuals and families in hospital waiting rooms leading prayers and sharing words of encouragement. This grief feels different for one obvious reason. It is my grief.

I know many of you have been holding Athens and me in your prayers, and for that I am humbled. I want to express gratitude for each of you who have helped me care for Athens when I have been out of town. You know who you are. You are a pure gift. I believe that God wants each of us to grow through all of life's challenges. So today let us focus on growing through loss. Here is one way to grow through loss: Growth means gaining new love and reverence for life. It also means shifting your attention from the ordinary to the quality elements of life and lastly, growth is a greater awareness of our mutual need for each other and of the sacred dimension of life.

The work that I plan to do with God's inspiration consists of writing a letter to Athens expressing my love to him. In addition, praying for the acceptance to life, on life's terms. I wholeheartedly believe that acceptance is the answer to all of life's heartaches.

In closing, I encourage us to continue to trudge the road of life remembering always that we live under the umbrella of God's genuine grace and mercy. God is with us in our everything, especially in moments of grief and loss.

Thy will be done,
Pastor Gretchen

A GOOD NEWS UPDATE—After this article was written, Athens found his way home and is safe with Pastor Gretchen & Kirby!



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. 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.

Sunday School 10:45 to 11:15 am.



Sunday School

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." -

Matthew 19:14



What's coming up!

Sunday, Oct. 3— Sunday School

10:45-11:15

NO BUTTERFLIES

Sunday, Oct. 10— Sunday School

10:45-11:15

Sunday, Oct. 17—

2nd Grade Bible Milestone Class
9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
10:45-11:15

Sunday, Oct. 24—

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, Oct. 31-Sunday School (Reformation/Halloween Party)

10:45-11:15

We have been so fortunate to have such beautiful weather for holding Sunday School outside. It has been marvelous to share God's love in God's beautiful creation. If the weather continues to be beautiful, we will continue to hold Sunday School outside. Once the weather gets cold, we will move inside. Preschool and Kindergarten will be in Fellowship Hall, 1st-3rd will be in the Youth Room, and 4th-6th will be in the Chapel. As of right now, we will not be having Butterflies, but we encourage you to share God's word through reading the SPARK Storybook Bible with your little ones. If you do not have a Storybook Bible, please let us know and we will get you one.

God loves you,

Kristy Wicklund, Director of Children's Ministry



2nd Grade Bibles Milestones

On Sunday, October 17th our 2nd grade students will be asked to come forward and receive their Bibles. This is an important milestone in their faith journey as they are having the word of God put into their very hands. 2nd graders and their families will be invited to a short class at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. During the worship service, the 2nd graders will receive their Bibles.

Reformation/Halloween Party

On October 31, 1517 a German monk by the name of Martin Luther started a movement that reformed the church. He nailed 95 theses/grievances on the All Saint's church door and changed Christianity forever. Today, we will celebrate Reformation Day with a party. Bring your children to church in a fun costume and during Sunday School we will be celebrating the Reformation with some fun activities.





FLY K-6

We will be meeting at Roosevelt Park weather permitting on Wednesdays until 4:30 pm. This month we will be stewards of the earth by picking up garbage in the park and around the school. At the end of the month we will have a Halloween Party.

FLY Fun!



HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday October 29th
Fleet Farm parking lot
4:30pm to 6pm

Come see Kristy at
Trunk or Treat along
with lots of other
trunks and treaters!



Donations of candy can be left in the church office.



Rally Sunday!



September 12



Worship



Dance Party!





7-12



FLY 7-12 will meet on October 13 and October 27. Meet at 4:30 pm at the church for some fun with Alison!!

Also available for First Lutheran Youth:



Club Schedule For ALL 6th - 8th graders

September

19th - FIRST CLUB

October

10th - Jersey Club

17th - Tik-Tok Club

31st - Halloween Club

November

14th - Cereal Club

28th - Another awesome club!

December

10th-12th - FALL WEEKEND @ CASTAWAY

19th - Christmas Club

ALL WylDLife clubs will be from 6-7:30pm and will be held at The Underground, Which is located in the basement of The Keller Williams Building
225 W. Cavour

Please sign up for the Remind app to be notified for our location for club!

Download the Remind app and join @wlotc to get up-to-date changes due to weather or COVID

**ELCA National Youth Gathering
Informational Meeting
Thursday, October 21 at 5:00 pm
Youth Room First Lutheran**

**Save the date:
National Youth Gathering
in Minneapolis**

July 24-28, 2022





*You are invited to shop after worship
on October 3, 10 & 17!!*

***Note: the one-day event on
October 9 has been cancelled to be
mindful of COVID precautions.***

*You can also view the crafts and auction
items during office hours (beginning
October 4). Craft items and tickets for the
Canned Auction can also be
purchased in the office.*



**The First Lutheran Fellowship Committee is
sponsoring a "Canned Auction" and Craft Sale on
October 3, October 10, and October 17 in the
Narthex after worship.**

**All proceeds will be used for much needed updates in our
church kitchen.**

"Canned Auction"!!



Items such as gift baskets, gift certificates, special homemade items, etc., 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 on October 17 will determine who wins the item.

Crafts!!

Homemade craft items for sale!



Please stop by after church on October 3, October 10, or October 17, or in the church office during business hours beginning October 4th.



OCTOBER 10TH IS GRATITUDE SUNDAY with a Drive Thru American Legion meatball dinner. Outdoor seating in the upper parking lot and courtyard (weather permitting) and in the Narthex. You can call ahead to reserve your meals (739-3348), but do not worry—you are still welcome to partake even if you don't reserve.

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

Farewells are bitter / sweet; sad and happy at the same time. That farewell time has come for me. I've been visitation pastor at First Lutheran for about seven years. We've seen plenty of Joy together, some difficulties, I suppose, and challenges and reasons to be sad. But the gentle hand of the Lord has been upon us all along and I'm so glad that I was able to be a part of it all.



I'm going to try to retire, again. At least, I'm going to turn a page and start a new chapter. Life is still an adventure with plenty of surprises. You remember that lovable fellow in the movie *Forrest Gump* who said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get."

It's true for me, - and it's true for all of you at First Lutheran. The question is what's next? In my case I will travel more and have more contact with our large and interesting family. Then, of course, there are a lot of books that need reading. Through the years my favorite sports, (all featuring silent motion) were canoeing, - sailing, - bicycling and - skiing. (How old do you have to be to stop those things?)

For First Lutheran the next chapter will be more working for the Lord; more imaginative, vibrant, inspiring and powerful Ministry. Beautiful things will happen. You will face the big issues and show people how to do what they can. May your commitment become stronger and sharper.

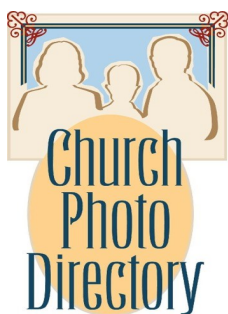
A song I remember from my college days says, “Forward, Forward, in dauntless quest. Led by the Spirit of Truth.” That Spirit will surely put each and every one of you on the fascinating and challenging path to Joy; that Joy that Jesus spoke of. The Joy that is marvelously complete.

You will probably hear yourself saying something like, “Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee. How Great Thou Art. How Great Thou Art.”

In Norway many gravestones have the words, "Thanks for everything." In Norwegian it's "Tak for alt." I think these words are good to use here,- and now. Thanks for everything - and also, The Lord be with each one of you.

Pastor Stan Satre





New Church Photo Directory Coming Soon!!
Be sure to get signed up for a photo session.
Sign up dates are: 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—3348 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.

Photo of First Lutheran Church on Labor Day 2021



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

In the Middle of the Mess

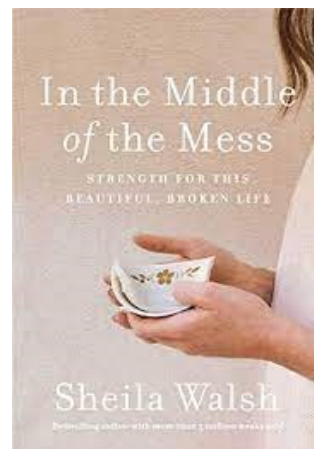
by Sheila Walsh

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.





Worship Together



Baptism at Itasca



Baptism at First

“Blessed are those who glory in singing with others, for others; For they shall glorify God!”

(This is a new Beatitude for Choir members.)

A parish educator once said that when people listed the ways in which they served their church, she never accepted that being in the choir counted as service to the church. In her opinion a choir member is on the receiving end, so to speak, and not so much on the service end of church ministry. I think most of us agree that choir music enhances a worship service, so choir membership can be viewed as service to the church, but I also agree with her suggestion, that choir members receive at least as much as they give, if not more.

This raises the question, “In what ways have we received?” The answer to that question can be found in the songs we sing. The songs and hymns we sing have countless, life-defining and life-affirming scripture verses etched into our brains, or to quote from the 119th Psalm of David: “Thy word have I laid up in my heart.”

We learn about God in strong hymns like “Holy, Holy, Holy” and “My God How Wonderful Thou Art.” We sing about the promise of Christ coming, “And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed” his birth “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come,” his life and teachings “The Beatitudes,” his death and resurrection “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and “Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!”

When overwhelmed by the circumstances of life, we can remember that “He will raise you up and hold you in the palm of His hand,” “God is Our Refuge and Strength – we will not fear!”, “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart,” “Amazing Grace saved a wretch like me,” and “Jesus loves me!”

The texts we learn through our participation in choir teach us about the life of Christ and the music is our pathway into the presence of God. We draw close to God as we offer our praise and thanksgiving. This spirit of thankfulness, together with a love of singing is a part of our lives. To paraphrase a hymn:

*My life flows on in endless song;
I hear the music ringing; It finds an echo in my soul –
How can I keep from singing?*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
A fountain ever springing; All things are mine since I am his –
How can I keep from Singing?*

With rigorous rehearsal, we don’t always manage to work out all the rough spots, but with music, as in life, in between the rough spots are some measures of beauty, and those are the measures we will choose to remember. Our lives are richer through our service.



First Lutheran’s choir meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm, and we invite adults and senior high students to come and sing. Due to the pandemic, we are meeting in the narthex, practicing social distancing and singers’ masks are provided for those who wish to use them.

Harriet Wicklund

Vicar's Thoughts.....

I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Phil 4:12-13



When was the last time you felt grateful, truly grateful? Stop a moment and reflect on that feeling. It felt good, didn't it? What was your response? Did you thank someone? Post it on Facebook? Thank God? Or maybe you just enjoyed the warm fuzzy of gratitude.

The more we are grateful, the more we see things to be thankful for. It is a strange phenomenon that rings true. Once we open ourselves up to being grateful, we find all sorts of things that are a blessing to us. We find common things like doors, blankets, stoplights, electricity, shoes, etc. to be grateful for. These are our human things.

But let us not forget the divine. There is a lot to be thankful for in our lives that is divine. John 3:16 says a lot in a short sentence *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."* The thankful phenomenon holds true with the divine as well. I am grateful for the Bible, the disciples, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and so much more.

Out of that gratitude for my life and all that I have in it – both human and divine – I take action. I give and serve in little ways and in big ways. I am generous with the gifts God has given me. On Oct 10th, we celebrate Discipleship Sunday. It is an opportunity for us to be grateful for all we have and to return a portion of our gifts to God. We feel the most blessed when we give out of gratitude. How will you respond on Discipleship Sunday for all the blessings in your life?

Questions? Ideas? Complaints? You can call/text me at 218-321-0967 or email me at Lynn@flcff.org.

Serving Christ alongside you,
Vicar Lynn





MEMBER APPRECIATION

Generosity Sunday

Meatball Meal

from the American Legion



Meal includes meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw and roll.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10TH STARTS AFTER CHURCH DRIVE-THRU ONLY

FREE WILL OFFERING

Due to COVID-19, we ask you to remain in your vehicle. All volunteers will be following safety precautions. Please contact the church office if you need the meals delivered.

Weather permitting, there will be tables in the parking lot to eat outside.



The Worship Corner by the Worship & Music Committee

Song is our music for going in and going out on Sundays. Music often teaches more about our faith than theology books or classes. We leave ordinary speaking at the door when we gather to do this thing that matters most in life. In singing, the voices of the individual are taken up in the voice of the assembly. It's how the church does what we must do: repentance, praise, thanksgiving, pleading. The singing voice of Christ in the world.

So open your
mouth and
sing!!



News from First Lutheran Church Foundation

Since the First Lutheran Foundation was formed in 1968 to end of 2020, \$1,031,049.00 has been given to various causes.

Those causes include scholarships to youth attending an ELCA college, Luther Crest Bible Camp, church building repairs, office equipment, organ fund, youth bibles, mission trips, youth room, high school seniors fleece blankets, Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS), missions in Africa, and local outreach for the Food Bank, Meal by Wheels, Salvation Army, United Way, Good Samaritan fund, and grocery gift cards for those in need.

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- no October meeting

HANNAH CIRCLE

Wednesday, October 27 at 1:00pm

Fellowship Hall

Please remember your masks.

The west door will be unlocked for our use.

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!
ALL ARE WELCOME!



2021 FALL CAMPAIGN

“Coins, Cash & Checks Change Lives”

Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out to each of you asking for financial support of Missions that are important to all of us. The product of this Campaign is ***Coins, Cash and Checks Change Lives*** and the generosity of the people of First Lutheran has changed lives locally and around the world.

With your generous donations in 2020, we helped to change lives in these areas: KBRF Morning Watch, Lutheran Campus Ministry, A Place to Belong, Someplace Safe, Meals By Wheels, Camp Knutson, Luther Crest, Lutheran Social Service, Pioneer Care Foundation, Operation Bootstrap Africa, Haiti Medical Mission and Global HOPE – Haiti Wells.

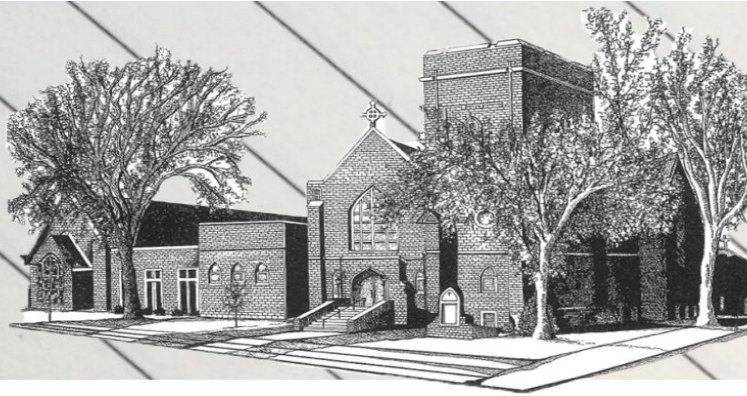
You are asked to place your coins, cash or checks in an envelope marked **WELCA Fall Campaign** and either bring it to the church office or mail it to First Lutheran Church, 402 South Court Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537 before the end of October.

We are all called to grow in faith, to support one another and to be engaged in ministry and action.

Thank You for your Support of this Campaign.

Because of your Actions, we will be able to help change lives again this year.





Attention children, youth, and
adults!

SHOW YOUR ART IN NOVEMBER

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:

-November 7: Mark 12:38-44 The Widow's Offering

-November 14: Mark 13:1-8 Be Ready

-November 21: John 18:33-37 Christ the King

-November 28: Luke 21:25-36 The Fig Tree

All November art, please submit by October 31, 2021

If able, we would appreciate it if your picture could be in black and white.

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. One piece will be selected for the week, any additional artworks will be on display in the Narthex.

The library committee is being reorganized. If someone thinks they may want to be on this committee, contact Karen Lundstrom to see what's involved.



218-731-0305, lahatzen@prtcl.com

FREE BOOKS! The library has been cleaned out.

A cart in the narthex has books for the taking.

Help yourselves and enjoy reading.

