



First Lutheran Church



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".

Gratitude

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. — Isaiah 41:10

Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful. — Colossians 4:2

In every way and everywhere we accept this with all gratitude. — Acts 24:3



The seasons are changing and the time has come to reflect, recognize and to give thanks for the blessings within our lives. Blessings are always present, but we may not take the time to notice their presence in our daily lives. God is always trying to capture our attention through people, places and things as a means to deepen our relationship with Him. God wants to be first in our hearts and minds.

I invite us, individually and as a community, to commit to carving out time for taking a daily inventory as a means to prepare for Thanksgiving Day. For instance, we may put a note pad on our bedside table. Before turning lights out, make a list. The list may be 'things God has shown me', or it could be a gratitude list. Then, offer thanks and praise to God for giving us a willing spirit and eyes to see the good within the brokenness of the world.

For me, this simple practice has fostered an unending spirit of gratitude in my own life. The human condition is such that our minds may become muddled, full of distractions, disappointments and feelings of lack, if it were not for the presence of the Holy Spirit. This spiritual practice of refocusing our thoughts to that of the things of God on a daily basis helps to place us in fit spiritual condition to be of maximum service to God and others.

As you wish, I would be delighted to hear how the fruits of this spiritual practice unfolds for you personally. Please reach out to me and share your findings of this uncomplicated discipline of naming that which we are grateful.

May God bless your spiritual journey!

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. 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 & Butterflies 10:45 to 11:15 am (no class on Nov. 28)



Sunday School

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

Matthew 19:14



Butterflies is Back!

Join Ms. Vicki every Sunday from 10:45-11:15 with your little one for a time of play, connection, and growing in faith. Butterflies will be held in the lower level of the Education wing in classroom #3. We are so excited to see you and your little ones!



What's coming up!

Sunday, Nov. 7— Sunday School/Butterflies

Sunday, Nov. 14— Sunday School/Butterflies
10:45-11:15

Sunday, Nov. 21— Sunday School/Butterflies
10:45-11:15

Sunday, Nov. 28— NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/ Butterflies

Sunday, Dec. 19— Christmas Program at 9:30



FLY K-6

We will be meeting at Roosevelt Park weather permitting on Wednesdays until 4:30. Friends are welcome to attend. This month we will be exploring:

- God is all-powerful
- God is always with us
- God is our friend



Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministries

(218) 531-9544,

Kristy@flcfl.org

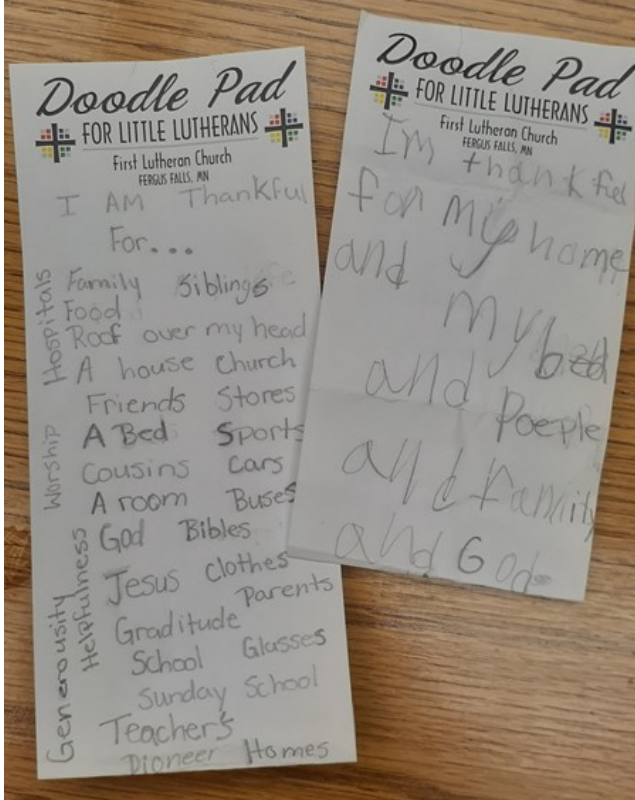


FLY K-6 Halloween Fun!

October 27



From the kid's worship challenge





**Meet at 4:30 pm in the Youth Room for
some fun with Alison!!**



Club Schedule For ALL 6th - 8th graders



19th - Christmas Club

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

Also available for First Lutheran Youth:



WINTER YOUTH RETREATS



REGISTER ONLINE AT
WWW.LUTHERCREST.ORG

Early bird
registration for
Luther Crest
Summer Camp
opens
November 1st.



Save the date:

National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis

July 24-28, 2022



Thank you, Pastor Stan!

Pastor Stan has been a beloved feature of First Lutheran Church for the past 7 years. We have appreciated his deep service to his position as Visitation Pastor, his passion for letter writing, his singing and his Ole and Lena jokes. We have been blessed!



He says of his time here that "I've always appreciated working with the Pastors beginning with Pastor Saul and Pastor Jennifer, and the interims, and concluding with Pastor Gretchen." What's next for Pastor Stan? "I'm going to organize my files, which will hopefully inspire me to write or record my sermons. I want to get out into nature as much as possible and spend time in Colorado, Idaho, New York and Texas with my children and grandchildren."

The Fellowship Committee thanks you for your generosity at the Fall Craft Event & Canned Auction!

We were able to raise over \$1,200 for updates to the kitchen.



Thank you crafters! Thank you donors for the auction!

Thank you shoppers!



A bounty of wonderful items to choose from!





Joint Fergus Falls ELCA Churches Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 24, 2021
6:30 pm

First Lutheran Church
Speaker Jacklin Steege from the United Way
Loose offerings will go to the United Way

A slide show is being created to accompany a performance by the choir for the Thanksgiving Eve service. The theme is "Giving Thanks to God". We are looking for any pictures of families, special events, selfies, landscapes, sunrises/sunsets, etc... that you are thankful for. This slideshow will also be broadcast on YouTube as part of the joint Fergus Falls ELCA Thanksgiving Eve worship service. By submitting the picture, you are giving permission for this to be used for worship and it will be streamed on YouTube. Please submit digital photos to Kristy@flcfc.org or text to (218) 531-9544 by Wednesday, November 10th.



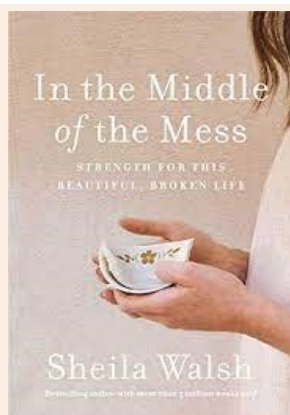
We are updating the furniture in the Narthex, 2 couches, and one loveseat, and 14 chairs in the Conference room. If anyone is interested in any or all of the furniture, please contact Tedd Steenbock, Property Chair, at 736-7070, or the office at 739-3348 as soon as possible. Donations appreciated.

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of the new furniture it would be greatly appreciated. Checks can be made payable to First Lutheran with *Narthex Furniture* in the memo line.



Church Photo Directory

Reminder for those who scheduled appointments: Photos will be taken November 4, 5, 6.



Middle of the Mess
Book Study continues in November

Thursdays from 12 to 1 pm
November 4, 11, 18

FREE BOOKS!

The library has been cleaned out. A cart in the narthex has books that are free for the taking.

Help yourselves and enjoy reading.



**I Chronicles 16:6 – Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.**

Contrary to what you may have assumed by viewing the movie; Raiders of the Lost Ark and its sequels, the Ark of the Covenant was never hidden away in a secret location, with only a diabolical inner circle knowing its' location. The nation of Israel knew where it was and certainly their enemies the Philistines knew exactly where it was because it was in their possession.

After defeating the Philistines in battle at the Lord's direction, arrangements were made to bring the ark to Jerusalem, so that it may be stored underneath a tent in the heart of the city. The return of the Ark was a big deal to Israel and Judah. When they had it in their possession, they were assured of God's blessing and direction for their present and future. King David was so enthusiastic as the Ark was brought into Jerusalem, he did an interpretive dance in front of the procession bringing the Ark to its "final" resting place, much to the chagrin of one of his wives. It is in the context of what I just described that David composed this psalm of thanksgiving.

As far as I am aware, November has not officially been declared a month of Thanksgiving, but we have a tendency to treat it that way. Gratitude is a posture that we are encouraged to assume throughout the year in the good and the bad times. If you are like me, I need God's help and strength to be thankful especially when I am in the middle of a crisis, or just having a bad day. But I thought that I would point out a few people who I am thankful for, and by doing so, you will learn a little more about me.

I have been blessed with a wonderful family. My wife, Laurie has been very patient with me over the years and allowed me to pursue my passions; music, meeting with friends among other things. Naturally, when I take on too much, she lets me know that I have become frazzled and need to downsize my commitments and learn how to politely say "No!" I am very grateful for her counsel and her patience, and most of all her love.

I have been blessed with a son by the name of Evan. He is on the autism spectrum but is somewhat independent; as he can drive, he can help me or Laurie out with occasional projects that we need help with. He has modeled patience and unconditional love his whole life. He was a target for bullies for a while in his junior high years, which ramped up his anxiety considerably, but later on some older students took him under their wing and stood by him and encouraged him tremendously, for which we are indebted and exceedingly grateful.

My daughter Katie and her husband Adam have been a blessing to us all. Katie's talent is obvious, since she is a talented actress and musician (She was in a band with her Dad for a short time). But what I appreciate most about her is her compassion and the way she reaches out to people who are vulnerable and need a friend. Her brother Evan and her have a close relationship, always have, and we are grateful that they do. Her husband, Adam has been a welcome addition to our family. He has fit in well with us and his kindness and compassion are evident to those who know him.

Well, that's us in a nutshell. We have our flaws, but I suppose its best to let you discover that for yourselves 😊. We are also grateful for YOU, the people of 1st Lutheran for inviting us into your church family and to help me use my "retirement" years productively.

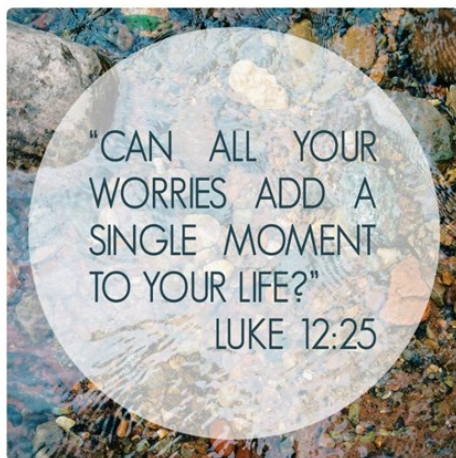
May God carry you through the coming month when times are good and when times are hard. Our God is a faithful God and even when we have difficulty making sense of what life throws our way, we are assured that God is with us at all times, loving us and making His wisdom and power available to us and through us. And for THAT, I am extremely grateful.

God's Peace to You All:
Pastor David



Welcome Pastor David Strom!
Part-time Visitation Pastor
pastordavid@flcfl.org
call or text 218 205-0562
Office hours:
Mondays from 9 am to 12 noon





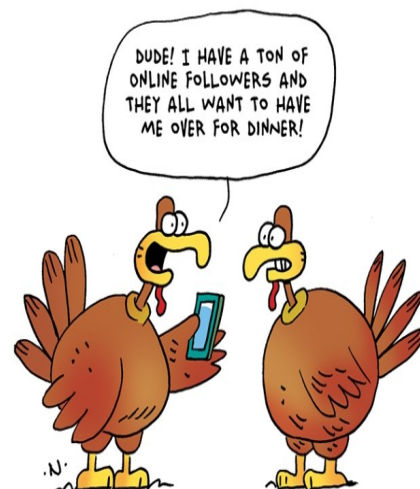
Vicar's Thoughts.....

²² Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. ²⁴ Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! ²⁵ **Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?** ²⁶ And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things?"
Luke 12:22-26

What do you worry about? Paying the bills? Children? Friends? A test at school? COVID? We all worry at some point. It is inevitable. Often it is uncertainty that prompts our worry. Will we have enough money? Will our children find God? Will Grandma Mary survive COVID? The sad reality is we can only control ourselves – so frankly – there is a lot of uncertainty in our lives.

Even the disciples worried. As followers of a traveling preacher, they had a lot of uncertainty in their lives. In Luke 12:22-26, Jesus points out that God takes care of all God's creatures. He rightly reminds us that our worries will not add a single moment to our lives.

This is a great reminder as we are poised to begin the holidays. No matter what happens, God is there taking care of us. We don't have to understand it – which is a blessing. Trust God. He knows what to do.



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

Serving Christ alongside you, *Vicar Lynn*



Christmas is coming! This is a time when we can bless others in our community through our giving of gifts. Please look for the **GIVING TREES**, which will be located in the Narthex **later in November**. The ornaments will indicate items on the wish lists from Someplace Safe and A Place to Belong. Please take an ornament and purchase the requested item. These items need to be returned, unwrapped, to the church office in time for delivery before Christmas. More details provided in upcoming weeks in the bulletin and Blast. Please consider giving generously to this very important ministry.

– Michael Wicklund, Discipleship Chair



WELCA Board- no November meeting

Hannah Circle-meeting November 17 (one week early due to Thanksgiving)

1:00-2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, please wear your mask.

Coffee and Fellowship, followed by Gather magazine Bible study.



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!



Lutheran Women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings for way over 100 years. Last year, Thankofferings totaled nearly a million dollars to support women of the

ELCA church-wide ministries, with offerings coming from over 2,450 congregations. First Lutheran sent over \$700.00 last year—let's try to see if we can send \$1,000 in 2021! Thankofferings are sent in full to the church-wide women's organization and help do mission and address concerns of women and children in crisis related to poverty, health/AIDS and domestic violence.

The need is greater every year. Please place your Thankoffering for 2021 in an envelope, mark it "Thankoffering" and mail it or bring it to the church office before December 1st. Many of you

will remember the "blue Thankoffering envelopes" we sent out in the Messenger. We are not using them this year. I hope you will respond to this very important mission project that First Lutheran has been a part of for many years. If you have questions, call Judy Mouritsen at 218-531-1090.



Congratulations Katie Haugrud!

The WELCA Board is delighted to announce that our Katie Haugrud is the recipient of the Mary Magdalene Award from the NW MN Synod Women of the ELCA.

Katie has been faithful to Jesus' command given first to Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection, instructing her to "Go to my brothers and tell them the news!". Her response was "I have seen the Lord!".

We are grateful for Katie's friendship and endless years of participation in the life and mission of First Lutheran. She has been a member since 1955, serving as Sunday school teacher, Council member, WELCA president, Board and Circle member, Chair of Bazaars, LWR projects, Quilters, serving funerals, and keeping kitchen and serving areas clean, and more.

She serves with grace, love, and dedication to the command to "Go, Tell & Do!". God bless you, Katie!

With thankful hearts, First Lutheran Church



The Worship Corner

by the
Worship & Music
Committee



November is a month of giving thanks. In our worship, we praise God to admire Him for all His virtues and for what He is. Thanksgiving is founded on the things we have been given by God. Praise comes from our insight of who God really is. When we praise God, we thank Him through words and music. In gratitude for all we've been given, we share our blessings with others. God's work. Our hands.

Thanks be to God.



Welcome Doreen Oliphant! Bookkeeper/Office Assistant

I grew up on a dairy farm near Foxholm, ND and now lives in Foxhome, MN. I attended Minot State University where I earned a business degree in business education. I received my master's degree in education leadership in 2015. My husband works for an area farmer. I have 5 children, the youngest 26 (that shows my age)! I have 10 grandchildren that I love to spend time with as much as I can. I'm happy to be the bookkeeper and look forward to working at First Lutheran for a long time.



"Phattie Nattie's" Yoga is now taking place in our church!

Tuesdays at 12 and 5:30 pm.

The church has two comp spots, please contact the office or Pastor Gretchen to sign up for them.

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
Youth
JoAn Whitlock, Fellowship
Tara Wagner, Education
Tedd Steenbock, Property
Kris Werner, Membership
Steve Fitz, Personnel

