



# First Lutheran Church December 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".**

## Psalm 25

*O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God!  
Do not let me be disgraced, or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.*

*No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced, but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.  
Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow.*

*Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.*

*Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love, which you have shown from long ages past.*

*Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth. Remember me in the light of your unfailing love, for you are merciful, O Lord.*

*The Lord is good and does what is right; he shows the proper path to those who go astray. He leads the humble in doing right, teaching them his way.*

*The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands. For the honor of your name, O Lord, forgive my many, many sins.*

*Who are those who fear the Lord? He will show them the path they should choose. They will live in prosperity, and their children will inherit the land.*

*The Lord is a friend to those who fear him. He teaches them his covenant.*

*My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues me from the traps of my enemies.*



I invite us to reflect upon Psalm 25 as we look toward the future. Do you see hope in the midst of the uncertainty of a time such as this? Psalm 25 looks toward the future through a hopeful lens. May we lift our hearts to God, trusting in God's way instead of holding fast to our own preferences and desires. God leads us beyond any disappointment, or fear toward wholeness and reconciliation. As we prepare for the coming of Christ my hope is that we allow God to open our hearts to the truth showing us a road map to a blessed future.

Carry On,

Pastor Gretchen Enoch



## 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.

**Sunday School & Butterflies 10:45 to 11:15 am**



# Sunday School

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

Matthew 19:14



## What's coming up!

Wednesday, Dec. 1— FLY K-6

Thursday, Dec. 2— Cookie  
Baking with the 4th-  
6th graders after  
school-5:30

Sunday, Dec. 5— Sunday  
School/Butterflies

Wednesday, Dec. 8— FLY K-6

Sunday, Dec. 12— Sunday  
School/Butterflies  
  
Movie & PJ Party 4:00  
— 5:30 p.m. Youth  
Room

Wednesday, Dec. 15— FLY K-6

Sunday, Dec. 19— "Pop Up"  
Christmas Program  
9:30/ Trowbridge Zoo

Wednesday, Dec. 22— NO FLY  
K-6

Sunday, Dec. 26— NO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL/BUTTERFLIES

Wednesday, Dec. 29— NO FLY  
K-6

Sunday, Jan. 2—NO SUNDAY  
SCHOOL/BUTTERFLIES

## "Pop Up" Christmas Pageant

It is the Christmas season and we are overdue for the First Lutheran tradition of the Christmas Pageant. This year's pageant is going to look a little different, but will still have all the elements it needs: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, angels, animals, shepherds, music, and of course the Christmas story. What will be different, is that EVERYONE (all ages) is invited to participate, whether it is as a character or in rejoicing in the music. You may be asking, "How is that going to work?!" That is where the "pop up" part comes in. As people arrive at church, greeters will be supplying those that want to be a character with a prop for their part. When we get to the Christmas Pageant part of our worship service, characters will "pop up" and come forward as the narrators read the story. Only the narrators will have speaking parts and they will have their parts ahead of time to have practiced. The story and any directions will be printed in the bulletin. We will all get to join our voices together is singing some of our favorite Christmas songs. It will be a special time to join together to hear the story of Jesus' birth with an element of fun and togetherness. After the service, join us for some Christmas cookies and apple cider, a visit by some animals from the Trowbridge Creek Zoo, and Christmas caroling around an open fire (weather permitting). It will be a day to remember!



## CHRISTMAS MOVIE & PAJAMA PARTY PARTY

Sunday, December 12th  
4:00-5:30 p.m.

First Lutheran Youth Room  
For Sunday School aged students

Kristy Wicklund  
Director of Children's  
Ministries  
(218) 531-9544,  
Kristy@flcfc.org

## 24 Days of Giving

According to the United Way, there are 5,490 children and individuals in Otter Tail County that face food insecurity. Our local food shelf serves 30-40 different families each Wednesday and Friday. During this season of Advent as we count down to Christmas Day, the children of First Lutheran would like to help our local food shelf and community by making a donation to them. For each \$1 donated, they are able to give \$5 worth of groceries. Each family that has children 0-6th grade children will be receiving in the mail an envelope with an Advent calendar printed on the front. For each day of Advent, have your child(ren) put a money donation into the envelope and cross off the day until you reach Christmas Day. Bring your envelope to the church office by Sunday, January 16th. During FLY K-6, the students will be delivering the donation to the Food Shelf on a Wednesday in January.

Have fun counting down the days until Christmas and helping out the people in our community this Advent season. There will be envelopes in front of the church office for any individuals of all ages that would like to participate.



FLY K-6 made Thank You cards  
for people in their lives that  
they appreciate!



## FLY K-6

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

- God is all knowing
- God is our provider
- ...and having a Christmas party.





# December

**FLY 7-12 will meet on  
December 8th!**

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

**F.L.Y.**  
First Lutheran Youth

**7-12**



**younglife**  
**wyldlife**

**Club Schedule For ALL 6th - 8th graders**



December 10-12 Fall Weekend

@ Castaway

December 19—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

Also available for First Lutheran Youth:



*Luther Crest Bible Camp*

**WINTER  
YOUTH  
RETREATS**

*join us for our  
retreats this winter!*

**3-6 GRADE RETREAT:  
JANUARY 14-16, 2022**

**6-9 GRADE RETREAT:  
JANUARY 21-23, 2022**

**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**





Please join us for Advent Worship on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm on  
December 1, 8, 15, 22.

**Theme: GIFTS**

**Holden Evening Prayer Litany**

December 1—**Water**—Vicar Lynn

December 8—**Relationships**—Pastor David

December 15—**Food**—Pastor Gretchen

December 22—**Birth of Jesus**—Vicar Lynn

**Confirmands—please check in with Vicki to get your  
assignments for assisting with worship.**

### **Pray at Noon during Advent**

Advent is a time for reflection – a time to prepare for Christ’s birth. One way we can do this is to pray; to talk to God. This advent, let us unite as a community and pray. At noon on Wednesdays in advent, no matter where you are, or what you are doing, talk to God for a few seconds. (You don’t have to pray out loud.)

Don’t know what to say? Try the Lord’s prayer or the following prayer: “God help me prepare for Jesus’ birth.”

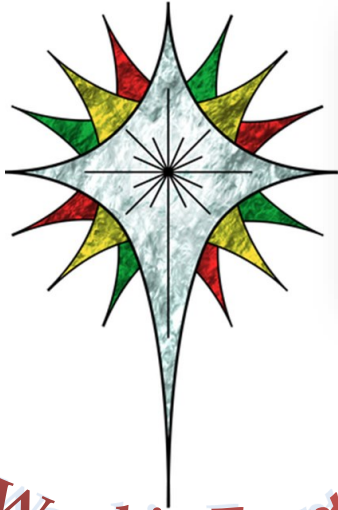
Please pray at noon on the following Wednesdays – Dec 1, 8, 15 and 22. Let us unite as a congregation in prayer!!

In united service,

Vicar Lynn







## Worship Events



### Special Music on Reformation Sunday



Sending Service for Pastor Stan Satre  
on October 31



Installation of Pastor David Strom, Part-time  
Visitation Pastor on November 7

### *The Quilts that were blessed on November 14 & our quilters!*





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

I stepped outside and watched the sunrise. As the sun rose, so did my spirits.

It had been a tough weekend. On the farm, two cherished calves died suddenly and the combine full of soybeans became engulfed in flames. (No one was hurt.) At the river, a weasel got into the coop and killed two adored chickens and injured three more. I had just written a 10 page difficult, risky paper that contradicted the professor. And it was

November – a month when I have extra bills to pay and skimp along until the next paycheck. PLUS my back hurt. I felt depleted. Worn out. I needed God.

So I pursued God. I found God in the sunrise, in the trees, and river before me. I found God in my deep breaths and sighs too deep for words. God was with me in my struggles and my joys – but it is easier to find God amongst the joys.

The holidays are upon us and we are likely to be depleted and worn out by all that comes with the holidays. The decorating, the gifts, the meals, and the expectations we put on ourselves and others. It is okay to need God. I give you permission to seek out God.

*God is waiting for you.*

Blessings on your holidays. Serving Christ alongside you,



#### **NEW (but used) Materials to be Checked Out!**

The cart in the narthex has books that are new to the FLC Library. They are used, but not been on the library shelves. They include children's books, including board books, a few books for youth and of course adult books, both fiction and nonfiction. Look them over and check out any you would like to read.

All materials *needed* for checkout are also on the cart. If you don't find anything on the cart to read the library has many more books and DVDs.



If you still want to submit a photo for the church directory, you can.

It must be a printed photo.

Contact Robin Werner at 218-205-6541 or the office for additional details.





# Way to share Christmas Love



**DEADLINE is very soon** to order Christmas goodies from Luther Crest bakers! Please call 320-846-2431 or check website [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org).



**Orders must be placed by December 3!!!!**

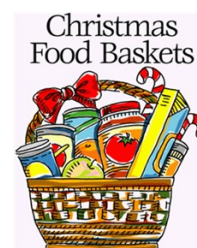


First Lutheran will be delivering Meals by Wheels **December 13—17**. We have drivers lined up for all of the routes!!!

Thank YOU for helping with this important service to our community!



Council leaders will be delivering Christmas food baskets on December 11 for those in need. Sponsored by the Discipleship Committee.



There was not a Harvest Dinner this year but we are accepting donations to provide Service Food Cards for those in our community who are in need. Please consider making a donation, marking "Service Food Cards" on your check. Thank you!



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 in the Narthex**. The ornaments will indicate items on the wish lists from Someplace Safe and other charities. Please take an ornament and purchase the requested item. These items need to be returned, unwrapped, to the church office **December 12**. Please consider giving generously to this very important ministry.



WELCA Board meets Tuesday, December 7th at 10 am  
in the Kairos Room.

No Hannah Circle meeting in December. Be sure to check out  
the Advent devotions in the *Gather* magazine.

No Love Days Quilting on December 27 or January 3.

The Love Day Quilters meet each Monday from 9 am to  
3 pm in the Quilting Room (no quilting on December 27 or  
January 3). 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!**



## Becoming A Prayer Angel



First Lutheran's Prayer Warrior Ministry is covered by 30 dedicated members who have taken on the responsibility to pray for others. Because there are so many people who are suffering with physical, emotional or spiritual health issues, the call for more members is timely. You are needed.

First of all, The Prayer Warriors Ministry will now be called The Prayer Angels Ministry- a softer title but the prayers will always be powerful.

Secondly, Pastor Gretchen, Vicar Lynn, Pastor David, and Katie Shallue- our office manager, generally receive the prayer requests. When one of them receives a request he or she will call Pamela Schroden or I, Vicki Hanneman, to follow through with the request. The first Angel on the Email List is called and the request follows down the list of those Angels. The same routine follows for the Text List and Phone List. When a Prayer Angel receives a request it is important to record it and save it. A notebook works well for this ministry. Then the first Prayer Angel notifies the next member on the list and it repeats itself all the way down the list. This way a Prayer Angel will only contact one other Angel. If you are unable to reach the Angel you are to call, you contact the next member on the list. Besides recording and saving a request, it is important to know that the business of being an Angel is confidential. Also, the request is to be repeated to another exactly as it is received. Some prayer requests are for immediate needs and some will be ones that may require weeks of prayers. Being a Prayer Angel is a true gift. It most certainly benefits the one who is hurting but also draws those who pray into a tighter relationship with God.

Finally, how does one sign up to help in this beautiful ministry? You can email, text or phone Pamela or me. If you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as we can. Our information is provided below.

Pamela and I thank you for considering to be a part of this vital ministry. If you are unable to help at this time you are welcome to do so at a later date.

Pamela Schroden 218-731-2954 [schroden@prtel.com](mailto:schroden@prtel.com)  
Vicki Hanneman 218-731-1531 [dvmjhann@charter.net](mailto:dvmjhann@charter.net)





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



Advent is a noun meaning “the arrival of a notable person, thing or event”.

In the church, Advent means the coming of Christ. It is the first season of a new church year, when we prepare our hearts to once again receive Christ in the form of God’s son. We wait expectantly for Jesus. But consider this, we wait also for His second coming. As you make your preparations for Christmas, consider a daily Advent meditation anticipating the coming of Christ from three perspectives...the nativity in Bethlehem, the coming of Christ into your heart and the glory of Jesus’ return at his second coming. We wait in darkness for a great light!

Come, Lord Jesus.

**Opportunity to Serve— We are in need of another person to help with calling for volunteers to help serve coffee/lunch for funerals at First Lutheran. Please consider helping! Call the church office at 739-3348 if you are interested.**

**Mark your Calendar—Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 30, 2022!**

**Make a Gift Tax-Free with an IRA**

If you are 70 1/2 years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit First Lutheran Church and receive tax benefits in return. You can give any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money. This popular gift option is commonly called the IRA charitable rollover, but you may also see it referred to as a qualified charitable distribution or QCD for short.

Next Steps:

- Contact our bookkeeper Doreen at 218 739-3348 or Doreen@flcff.org for additional information or questions on giving an IRA gift.
- Seek the advice of your financial or legal advisor.

You can ask your IRS administrator about making a direct transfer to FLC or have the administrator send a check from your account to us. (to be tax free, the donation must go directly from your account to FLC without passing through your hands).

Legal Name: First Lutheran Church

Address: 402 S Court St, Fergus Falls, MN 56537



**Executive Committee**

George Mathison, President  
*Term ending 2021*

Leslie Flugstad, Secretary  
David & Lorri Holt, Co-VP  
Suzanne Demuth, Treasurer  
*Term ending 2021*

**Council Members**

Michael Wicklund, Discipleship/  
Outreach

Leslie Flugstad, Finance  
Harriet Wicklund, Worship  
\*Youth

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

\* this is an open position on the  
Council. Please contact Council  
President or Pastor Gretchen if  
interested

