



First Lutheran Church JANUARY 2022

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".



Vicar's Thoughts.....

I am feeling bittersweet as I write my last Vicar's Thoughts. I am excited to have met my internship goals and am moving to another learning site. I am sad because December 27th was my last day at First Lutheran. I will miss each of you.

My internship at First Lutheran has been more fruitful than I could have imagined. God sent me to a church that knows how to share deep love, navigate the weirdness of COVID and walk alongside me in my faith journey and pastoral learning. For that, I am grateful.

First Lutheran showed me love and care over the last 18 months. You were there for me when my father passed away. You were also there for me when I married Rob. You also shared your love with me in countless little ways – your encouragements, compliments, and comments are dear to me. I have grown both as a person and pastor under your tutelage. Thank you.

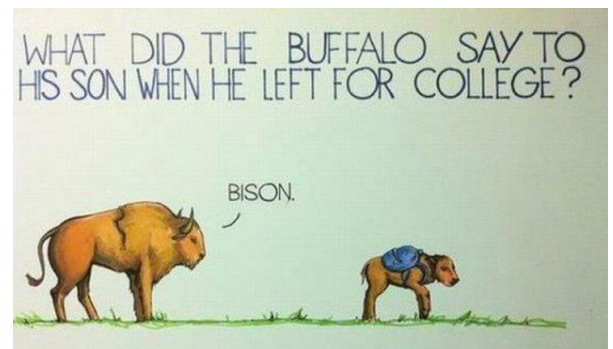
I want to especially thank the Formation Intern Team (FIT), led by Vicki Hanneman, First Lutheran Council, and the entire staff I was lucky enough to work with. I also want to give a big thank you to my supportive, hardworking, and caring supervisor, Pastor Gretchen. I learned so much from you! I enjoyed working with each of you and will miss you.

I pray that whatever the future brings, you deeply hold onto the fact that you are a child of God. While we may not be in the same physical location, remember that we are all working towards the same goal: serving God in His mission to restore the world.

I leave you with a blessing that has brought me peace. I hope it does the same for you:

*Go with God,
Go with grace,
Go with mercy from this place,
Let the heavens with joy resound,
All the earth is holy ground,
All the earth is holy ground.*

P.S. I could not resist one more joke....



May God be with you always,

Vicar Lynn





Sunday School

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



What's coming up!

Wednesday, Jan. 5- FLY K-6

Sunday, Jan. 9- Sunday School/Butterflies

Wednesday, Jan. 12- FLY K-6

Sunday, Jan. 16- Sunday School/Butterflies & "24 Days of Giving" envelopes are due

Wednesday, Jan. 19- FLY K-6 Community Food Shelf stop

Sunday, Jan. 23- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/BUTTERFLIES

Wednesday, Jan. 26- FLY K-6

Sunday, Jan. 30- Sunday School/Butterflies

Blessings to you,
Kristy Wicklund
(218) 531-9544 Kristy@flcff.org



**Pop Up Christmas
Pageant!
December 19th**



More Pop Up
Christmas Pageant
Fun!



FLY K-6
Christmas
Party!!



January



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:

- Bringing the "24 Days of Giving" donation to the Community Food Shelf
- Learning God is loving, forgiving, and forever!



Movie & PJ Party!!!



7-12

FLY 7-12 will meet for some fun at the church on Wednesday January 5 and Wednesday January 19 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

Please join us!!!!

Also available for First Lutheran Youth: Young Life Wyldlife. Please watch for updates to the club schedule , or check the Young Life website.



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



Be sure to check out early bird registration for Luther Crest Summer Camp



Coming this summer:
National Youth Gathering
in Minneapolis

July 24-28, 2022





The Worship Corner
by the Worship & Music Committee

Epiphany is equated with light. The magi braved the darkness to follow a star to the newborn king. We recognize at Epiphany the physical manifestation of God in Jesus. We also celebrate the Baptism of our Lord the Sunday after Epiphany. Epiphany means “revelation” and both the arrival of the three kings and Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist are times when Jesus was revealed to be very important. Epiphany represents God revealing His light and presence through Jesus to the world. The liturgical color for Epiphany is white.



Creative Fun at Christmas Flower Arranging Class on December 7th!

Office & Activity Closure Reminder

First Lutheran follows the Fergus Falls School District #544 for closures, late starts, early dismissals and after school activity cancellations. This information can be found on the school website or Facebook page, and local radio and news stations.



**Reminder: Information for the Annual Report is due in the office by January 10.
Finance Open Forum on Sunday, January 23, 2022 after worship.**



Annual meeting is Sunday, January 30, 2022 after worship in the Sanctuary. Masks are recommended. We need 3% of voting members to constitute a quorum for voting.



WELCA Board meets Tuesday,
January 11 at 10:00 am in the Kairos Room.

Hannah Circle meets Wednesday, January 26 in
Fellowship Hall. Wear your mask, thank you!



The Love Day Quilters gather each Monday (starting again on January 10) 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!



On Thanksgiving Eve, over \$886.00 was raised for the **United Way!** Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with donations for the **Giving Trees**. 45 gifts were
purchased! Thanks to all who contributed, and to the First Lutheran Foundation for
helping to finish the final bit of shopping.

23 Food Baskets were delivered to families in need this Christmas. Thank you to all who
helped prepare and deliver these baskets.



Sponsorship sheets for 2022 Radio Broadcasts and Altar Flowers are on the kiosk in the
Narthex. You are welcome to stop by to select a Sunday you would like to sponsor, or you
can call the office at 739-3348 to check on availability.

Radio Broadcast \$100 Flowers run about \$45.

The Library Committee is ordering NEW materials. They include fiction
with new authors, some highly recommended nonfiction and new
VEGGIE TALES DVD'S for the kids. When they are ready for checkout they
will be on a cart in the Narthex and/or in the Library. Look for them.



Enjoy!

The Library Committee

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11



Whenever my family and I approach the end of the calendar year and look ahead into a new year, we experience a variety of feelings. Laurie thinks a lot about her Mom who is in Memory Care locally and is 91 years of age; wondering if she will be around at the end of the year to come. She also wonders aloud if she will become a Grandma. She also thinks ahead to projects that I should consider taking on. Sometimes there are so many that I can't get started with any of them. Evan, my adult son, is the eternal optimist. He looks forward to continued workouts at the Y, and hoping against hope that the Twins will sign some top notch free agents. My daughter Katie and son-in-law Adam are always looking ahead to potential new opportunities in their work life and staying in touch with family and friends. I tend to look forward to the new year with hope and anticipation, but with also a tinge of sadness and apprehension. I guess I have borderline Scandinavian personality disorder; which is characterized by thinking if something bad could happen it probably will.

But then I read God's promise to the nation of Israel and to us in Jeremiah. God's plans for us are designed to help us to relax and to give us hope; even though we will face our fair share of challenges and perhaps sadness in the coming year. Yet still, it is a comfort to know that God's intentions for us are good; good for me and good for you. I'm not sure what form God's gifts to us will take, but He deals in life and bestowing His gifts to us. He does not cause us harm. He deals in life; not death, for His death has made it possible for us to have life today and in the future.

In addition, when I think of this verse from Jeremiah, I think back to a time when Laurie and I were without children and I was leaving my first call to return to grad school in Iowa to earn my Masters in Music Education. It was a scary time. I felt in many ways that I was without much support from family and friends for the decision which I felt compelled to make. It was tough. We were living in New York state at the time, and at our farewell; a couple who had become our good friends gave us a gift with Jeremiah 29:11 printed in calligraphy and beautifully framed. I don't know if they realized then or even today what an encouragement that was at the time and as we transitioned to a new place in a new role in a different state. But I have never forgotten that verse, especially when facing challenging transitions.

As a congregation, we would like to think that we have our plans all mapped out and as long as we execute them successfully, the church will be in good shape by the end of the next year. I am all for detailed planning; but sometimes life happens; changes occur and we are unsettled and become anxious as a result. Planning needs to be adaptable and above all, we need to realize that tasks and projects are secondary to meeting the needs of people when they are in crisis.

In terms of our leadership at First Lutheran, I firmly believe that our Church Council is comprised of extraordinarily gifted and compassionate people. All of us on staff feel fortunate to be led by this extraordinary group of talented and empathetic leaders. Yet I know that since they are also human and have their own unique vulnerabilities, they may wonder from time to time if they are up for the task. But then again, my confidence is reassured when I realize that they rely upon God's wisdom, along with the pastors and staff and yourselves.

I would encourage you as members and friends of First Lutheran to pray for your pastors; your staff; and your Church Council as we close out 2021 and embark on a new adventure which is 2022. It is my goal each day to pray for at least one person in our congregation. Some days I get distracted, but on the majority of the days that I do remember, I am reminded that we are a part of God's family and families love, correct, and serve each other because we ARE family. God knows the plans He has for us. As we move forward, may we do so relying upon Him to point the way.

In Christ's Love and Compassion: Pastor David



Christmas Eve 2021



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



First Lutheran Church 1872 - 2022

150 Years of Spiritual Growth

*A monthly Messenger feature as we head
towards the 150th Celebration of First Lutheran Church
First Settlers*

In the late 1860s large settlements had been made by Norwegian Lutherans in the area. Simon Olson was the first to settle in the vicinity around Fergus Falls, settling near Pebble Lake in the fall of 1869. Many families began to settle in the area, including the Slettos, Sampsons, Olsens, Lundes, Haaves, Harris, Aurdals, Hammers and Dahls.

Pastors were scarce in those days, and travel was difficult. The first Norwegian Lutheran Pastor in the area was Rev. Olaus A. Normann. He was with the first group of Norwegian American students to graduate from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. In the spring of 1872, Rev. Johan A. Bergh became involved in bringing the settlers in the village of Fergus Falls and the surrounding territory together to organize a congregation. His goal was to have only one Norwegian Lutheran congregation in Fergus Falls, wanting to be independent from synodical connections, and that a pastor be called directly from Norway.

However, the partisan idea could not be overcome and two congregations using the same language and same faith were organized. Those two congregations have had neighboring church buildings for many years!

On October 10, 1872, the supporters of the Norwegian Synod met to organize themselves into a congregation under the leadership of Rev. T. Vetleson, therefore October 10, 1872 marks the date when "Den Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Kirke", the First English Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls was organized. Rev. T. Vetleson was called as the first pastor, and the Presbyterian church was leased for a place of worship.

From the Cemetery Committee

If you are thinking about purchasing a cemetery lot in either the North or South Cemetery, you may want to do so before

March 01, 2022. At that time prices of lots will go up.

If you are interested in purchasing a lot, please call Leonard Hatzenbuehler at 218-731-0304 for more information.



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 positions on the Council. Please contact Council President if interested



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.**