



# First Lutheran Church

February 2022

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".**

Dear Friends at First Lutheran Church,

**Have you ever heard God calling you?** Growing up, I was positive I was going to be a doctor. This was not a strange idea when you grow up in Rochester, MN and have the Mayo Clinic in your backyard. But I knew before Rochester, as a 10-year-old who almost died when we lived in Lake Crystal, MN and Dr. Dobson saved my life. I knew in that moment, I wanted to be a lifesaver.



So, when Pastor Carl Lee was preaching at chapel and I started feeling nudged, "Tiffany, you could be doing that." And the feeling turned to an intense demand, "Tiffany, you should be doing that!" I started getting queasy. I came out of the womb with a 5–10-year plan, I kid you not! It was the end of my junior year in college, and I was set to be a psychologist. Tests were scheduled, classes were taken, graduate school was chosen, and it felt like God was "messing" with my plan!

I went to try and find Pastor Carl, but Pastor Phil was the one I found. Sitting down in front of his worn, wooden desk, I blurted out, "How do you know if God is calling you?" I told him what happened. He shared this piece of wisdom, "It might be God calling or it might be something you had for breakfast! Simmer down and wait to hear more. So, I set up a summer internship at a halfway house for mentally ill clients and an internship at my home church. *I discovered that EVERY gift can be used at church.*

As we begin our time together at First Lutheran Church, we are called to listen to how God is calling us together as Church. I realize the pandemic, a pastor leaving, and perspectives that are all along a spectrum mean we are literally and figuratively are not all at in the same place. It is at times like these that we are called together, not to separate. You are a crucial part of this journey. **Your gifts, your skills, your insights, and presence are valuable.** First Lutheran Church's ministry speaks to this community.

We are called together and now is the time. You could be an important lifesaver to someone in the community.

**As I begin ministry with you, I am asking for your help.** Tell me how God is showing up in your life. Share your faith story by stopping by the church office or give me a call and I can stop over. Have a hockey or basketball game? I will cheer you on. Worshipping online right now? Invite over friends you have in your "circle" and take a photo after worship and tag #firstlutheranlc. Let's share what God is up to and listen during this epiphany season to how God is shedding light on our path forward in the name of Christ.

Peace, *Pastor Tiffany Sundeen*



*Welcome interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen!*





# Sunday School

text @flcss18 to the number 81010 for notifications



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

Join us on Sundays for Butterflies (ages 0-3) and Sunday School (ages 4-6th grade). All classes are in the lower level of the education wing. During the month of February we will be exploring:

- We are strong with God (Judges 6-7)
- We need God's guidance (2 Samuel 5:17-25)
- We each have a purpose (Esther snippets)

Blessings to you,  
Kristy Wicklund  
Director of Children's Ministry  
(218) 531-9544  
Kristy@flcff.org



What's coming  
up!

Wednesday, Feb. 2— FLY K-6

Sunday, Feb. 6— Sunday  
School/Butterflies

Wednesday, Feb. 9— FLY K-6

Sunday, Feb. 13— Sunday  
School/Butterflies

Wednesday, Feb. 16—  
FLY K-6

Sunday, Feb. 20—  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/  
BUTTERFLIES

Wednesday, Feb. 23— FLY K-6

Saturday, Feb. 26— Sledding  
and Skating at  
Cleveland

Sunday, Feb. 27— Sunday  
School/Butterflies

## Sledding and Ice Skating

When: Saturday, February 26th  
2:00-3:00 p.m.

Where: Cleveland School Hill and  
Ice Rink

Who: First Lutheran Families and  
Friends

Bring your sled and ice skates and  
have some winter fun with friends!

Thank you to all the families that participated in the FLC Sunday School "24 Days of Giving" service project. We were able to raise \$891.00 for the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf! Way to Go! The FLY K-6 students delivered the money to the food shelf.



Thank  
You



### To Our First Lutheran Family:

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, kind words, boxes sent to the troops and love that you have showered our family with over the last year during CJ's deployment. He has recently returned to the United States and we hope to have him back in MN within the next couple of weeks. We are humbled beyond words by the continuous love that our church family has shown us, thank you and we love you.

The Wards





**FEBRUARY**



**7-12**

FLY 7-12 will meet for some fun at the church  
on February 2 and February 16  
from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Please join us!!!!

Early bird registration for Luther Crest  
Summer Camp ends February 14. Check the  
Luther Crest website for



details. First Lutheran  
Foundation will cover  
25% of  
registrations for Luther  
Crest this summer.  
Thank you Foundation!

**Coming this summer:**

**National Youth Gathering  
in Minneapolis**

**July 24-28, 2022**



Also available for First Lutheran Youth: Young Life and Wyldlife. Please watch for updates to the club  
schedule , or check the Young Life website <https://ylofc.younglife.org/events/>

**WYLDLIFE CLUB SCHEDULE GRADES 6-8**

**6 TO 7:30 PM AT THE UNDERGROUND (225 W CAVOUR)**

**FEBRUARY 6 AND FEBRUARY 27**

**YOUNG LIFE CLUB SCHEDULE GRADES 9-12**

**7:37 TO 8:37 AT THE UNDERGROUND (225 W CAVOUR)**

**FEBRUARY 6, 13, 20, 27**



**Hey Confirmation Students!**



Confirmation meets on February 9 (note: Feb 9 is Family Faith  
Night—see info below!) and February 23 this month, at either  
4:30 pm or 6:30 pm. Pizza at 5:30 pm!!!!

See you there!

**NEW! CONFIRMATION FAMILY FAITH NIGHT!**

Both 4:30 p.m. and the 6:30 p.m. sessions are Family Faith Nights!

Pizza will be served between 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Who: Confirmation students and their parents

What: Family Faith Night is a time when you bring one or both of your parents with  
you to confirmation time.

When: **February 9<sup>th</sup>** at your scheduled confirmation time

Where: Narthex

Why: We want to make a connection to faith in our homes.

Family **faith** NIGHT!



## The Worship Corner

by the Worship & Music Committee

Two occasions bracket the season of Epiphany...the Baptism of our Lord, which is celebrated the Sunday after Epiphany and the Transfiguration of our Lord on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Both occasions clearly reveal who Jesus is: the divine Son of God. On both occasions the voice of God spoke from Heaven saying, "This is my Son!"



## Masking Update

While Omicron numbers continue to rise, we are strongly recommending masks be worn in the building. We especially request your masking consideration in the sanctuary as we worship. The intent is to care for our neighbors and for our healthcare community who are facing difficult decisions as hospitalizations rise. Together, we can make a difference on the rising infection rate and look forward to literally breathing easier in the near future.

Gratefully, The SMART Team with Pastor Tiffany



## Vicar Lynn with some members of the Formation Intern Team (FIT)

Thank you to the FIT Team—Al Jensen, Denny Hystead, Vicki Hanneman, Jennifer Smestad, Cindy Larson, Curt Rotto & Pam Western.

**December 26, 2021**

Celebrating Vicar Lynn at coffee hour at the conclusion of her internship.



*Thanks to Valerie Clark for the cake!*







## Women of the ELCA



WELCA Board meets on Tuesday, February 8 at 10:00 am in the Kairos Room.

Hannah Circle meets Wednesday, February 23 at 1:00 pm in

Fellowship Hall. Wear your mask, thank you!

*All are welcome!*



The Love Day Quilters gather each Monday from 9 am to 3 pm in the Quilting Room (except for Presidents

Day, February 21). 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!

*Last year 54 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief, 10 to the Salvation Army, 9 to Lutheran Social Services, and 5 to Slumberland for their 40 Winks Foundation, which provides beds to families in need.*

*Also, 27 school kits were sent to Lutheran World Relief in 2021!*

### NEW BOOKS

Newly ordered books are ready for checkout and are on the cart in the narthex. Included are some by favorite authors and some HIGHLY RATED nonfiction. They can be checked out after church or during the week. New VeggieTales DVDs will be brought to Sunday School classrooms by Miss Kristy. Of course the Library has many more books and DVDs.

Enjoy!



First Lutheran is scheduled to deliver Meals by Wheels beginning Monday, February 28 through Friday, March 4.

If you can help with one of the routes, please contact

Katie in the office at 739-3348.

*Thank you!*





First Lutheran Church 1872 - 2022

## 150 Years of Spiritual Growth

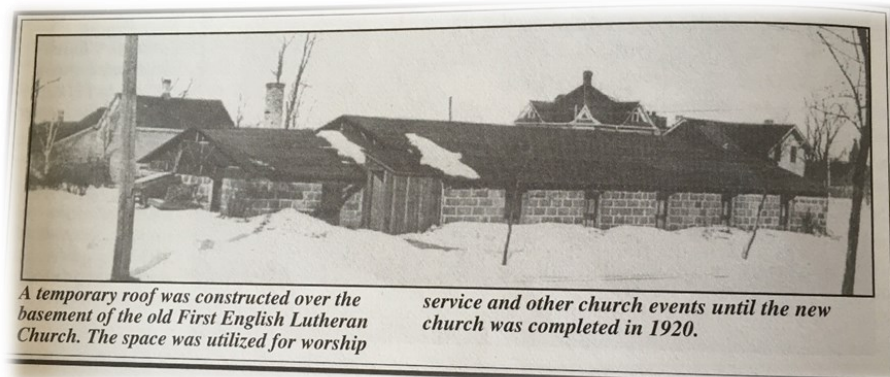
A monthly Messenger feature as we head towards the 150th Celebration of  
First Lutheran Church

### The Great Cyclone

The devastating cyclone that struck Fergus Falls in 1919 touched the lives of all the residents. 50 people were killed and over 400 houses, a quarter of the businesses, and all but two of the 24 churches in town were demolished. The church and parsonage of First English Lutheran Church were victims of the cyclone. The cyclone flattened the church building, and left only one of the parsonage walls standing. A horse barn behind the parsonage was left standing. This 60 foot long building could hold up to 15 teams of horses, and was used in the winter when parishioners rode horse drawn buggies to church.

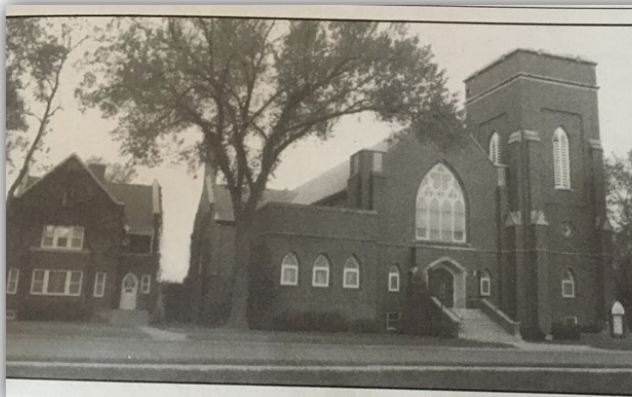
Within days of the cyclone, an ecumenical service was held outdoors at the high school, with each pastor speaking, including Pastor Ylvisaker. He cheered the assembly by relating that the sky, like life, holds both sunshine and clouds, and that both were needed for proper growth and development.

A special meeting of the church Board of Trustees was held on July 18, 1919, centered on the question of what the future would hold for the congregation left without worship space and a home for their pastor. Plans were made to clear the wreckage by asking for help from the congregation. A temporary roof was set across the exposed church basement. The damaged parsonage was eventually sold and a new house constructed.

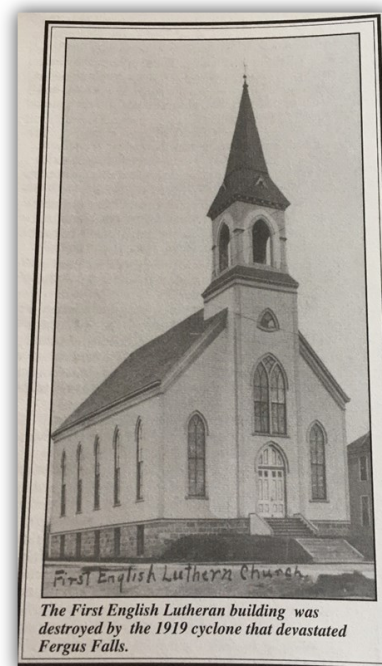


During the winter of 1919—1920 the congregation worshiped at the Cozy Theatre; one of the few surviving downtown structures. A joint service with Bethlehem Lutheran was also held at Park Region College, and . Some of the services were in English, and some in Norwegian, and the two churches worked together with a joint board of trustees to continue the joint services.

The bell from the demolished church was found in the middle of the intersection of Junius and Court after the cyclone. Undamaged, the bell was retrieved and later hoisted into the tower of the new church, which was built in 1920. The new church was dedicated on the church's 50th anniversary, and an estimated one thousand people attended the new church dedication and fiftieth anniversary on November 26, 1922.



*A Gothic design was chosen for the new First English Lutheran Church constructed after a cyclone in 1919 destroyed the former church building, which was built in 1880. The church parsonage, partially destroyed by the cyclone, was sold in 1920 and a new pastor's residence was constructed.*





We would like to present Pastor Gretchen and Kirby with a “showering of farewell cards”.

If you would like to participate in the “shower”, please have your card in to the church office by February 14. Thank You!



### 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 Hatzenbuhler at 218-731-0304 for more information.

New furniture is being purchased for the Narthex! Some of the items currently in the Narthex, and the chairs from the conference room will be available soon. Donations for these items are appreciated. Please contact Property Chair Tedd Steenbock at 218 360-7070, or let the office know at 218 739-3348 if you are interested in these items.



*Also, donations are being accepted for the new furniture that is being purchased. Please indicate “Narthex furniture” in the memo line. Thank you!*



### Men's Bible Study with Pastor David

We hope you will join Pastor David in the Kairos Room February 14 and February 28 at 7:00 am for Men's Bible Study. The study will continue every other Monday at 7:00 am.

No need to pre-register.

### 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 KJJK 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 (NO Sunday School/Butterflies Feb. 20)**