First Lutheran Church



2022



In-Person Worship Sunday at 9:30 am Listen on the radio 1020 am or FM 97.7 www.channel 977.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".

Dear Friends of FLC,

Are you ready for the Road Back to God?

The road is rarely straight and narrow. For most of us, the road back to God includes a few detours and bumper to bumper traffic. Sometimes we break down or get stuck in a ditch. Occasionally we need a tow truck because we cannot even get things started.



We do not travel alone on the Road Back to God. We

have siblings in Christ who are with us. When we are together, we can remind each other how to navigate things like potholes, debris, or obstacles. We accompany one another and have conversations along the way.

Think about those conversations. The ones where we wonder about whether we count in God's eyes or marvel at the meaning of grace. Or we start down the path of whether we believe in God in the first place and need reassurance that it's true. Maybe we talk about going to church again after Covid or rediscover hope or wrestle with why is there suffering in the world.

As we move through Lent, we will grow in understanding, deepen our roots, and walk this road together. We will work through tough topics and worship on Sundays and Wednesdays.

So start the car or pile in the van. Put on Willie Nelson's song, "On the Road Again." We are ready to travel the Road Back to God.

Peace,
Pastor Tiffany

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. 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 March 27)

Sunday School

text @flcss18 to the number 81010 for notifications

Joseph and "I at the children come to me" Matthews 10:14

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

First Communion Classes:

Faith Milestone for 5th Graders



A unique faith experience begins for 5th graders and their parents this month. This class with the students, the parents, and the Pastor provides an opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The classes begin with a pottery making day as they mold a chalice for their First Communion. It continues with instruction and bread making. These tactile lessons are meant to help kids reflect on the things they've felt and

learned about communion. After the instruction, students will experience their First Communion at the worship service on **Maundy Thursday**, **April 14th at 6:30pm**. Grandparents and God-parents are encouraged to attend the service as a wonderful family celebration. Following the occasion, have these special adults share what the sacrament means to them. When we find an opportunity, take the time to discuss and affirm each of the gifts given in Holy Communion; Being together with Jesus, receiving forgiveness, celebrating, giving thanks, receiving strength to serve receiving Jesus, and growing in faith.

Pottery and First Communion Instruction Classes

Sunday, March 6th 10:45-12:45 p.m.

-or-

Thursday, March 10th 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Road Back to God

A Lent Journey

Here we go on a road trip! Get your Lent Bag and join First Lutheran on a trip on the "Road Back to God" It is a journey that starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter with stops along the way that provide something to pray for, reflection to help you get to know yourself, and learning about what it means to be without. There may be some bumps in the road, but your Survival Kit will help you along the way. Kits will be available on Sundays and Wednesdays at church. Otherwise, contact Kristy (218-531-9544) to arrange pickup or drop off.



Wednesday, March 2- FLY K-6

Sunday, March 6- Sunday School/Butterflies

1st Communion Class 10:45-12:45

Wednesday, March 9- FLY K-6

Thursday, March 10– 1st Communion Class 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 13— Sunday School/Butterflies

Wednesday, March 16- FLY K-6

Sunday, March 20— Sunday
School/Butterflies

Wednesday, March 23- FLY K-6

Sunday, March 27– NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/BUTTEFLIES









FLY K-6 students delivered \$891.00 to the Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf. Thank you to all the families that participated in the FLC Sunday School "24 Days of Giving" service project.

Family Movie Night
Time to leave winter behind and think warmer weather. Join Ms. Kristy in the youth room for a movie that takes place in the tropical country of Colombia. We will hear the story of a extraordinary family and the magic that has blessed them. Rated PG and premiered in 2021.

Due to licensing we cannot advertise the title of the movie, but feel free to ask.

Think tropical and make sure to dress for the Colombian weather!

Say "Goodbye" to Winter Movie in the Youth Room Saturday, March 19 3:00-5:15 p.m.



7-12



Available for First Lutheran Youth: Young Life and Wyldlife. Please watch for updates to the club schedule, or check the Young Life website https://ylotc.younglife.org/events/



WYLDLIFE CLUB SCHEDULE GRADES 6-8

March 6 and March 22
Also, March Moonlight Madness TBA
6 TO 7:30 PM AT THE UNDERGROUND (225 W CAVOUR)
YOUNG LIFE CLUB SCHEDULE GRADES 9-12

March 6, 13, 20, 27
7:37 TO 8:37 AT THE UNDERGROUND (225 W CAVOUR)
March 14 8:30 pm Free apps at Applebee's

Hey Confirmation Students!

During Lent, we will meet at First Lutheran at 5:30 pm for pizza and then carpool over to the Wednesday worship site.

In March, we'll see you on:



March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30



See you at First Lutheran @ 5:30 on Wednesdays!!

Greetings First Lutheran Church!

I'm a son of the congregation who is serving as an ordained pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA, in Montevideo, MN. I received a phone call from Linda Mellon this week informing me that the First Lutheran Foundation was sending a check to help pay down part of my seminary student loans debt and it was such a joy (both the chat and the generous news)! In response, I wanted to share with all of you a little of what that means to me — as well as what it means for you and me *together*.

Seminary was really expensive. I'm married and we have four children. When I quit a youth ministry position 13 years ago so we could move for seminary, that choice significantly reduced our income while simultaneously increasing our debt (due to the student loans required). I trusted God to see us through the years of study and debt accumulation, but it was scary. After receiving my call to Trinity Lutheran and moving I was immediately reassured that I was indeed where I was supposed to be, in the vocation I was meant for. I love being a pastor and I know my family and I are thriving in this community! Nonetheless, the burden of all the student loan debt has been a constant source of anxiety.

Here's where you, the First Lutheran Foundation and I all come together. We are the Church, the Body of Christ, active and alive together. Before I was a pastor I was raised in the faith at First Lutheran. I heard the grace and love of God preached and taught at First Lutheran. I knew and experienced Christian community at First Lutheran. Now, years later, I'm still knowing your love and support through a joyful phone call where one of your members checked in with me and informed me that the Foundation was sending a payment to my student loan servicer to help pay down my seminary debt. Incredible! It's a small act for a large congregation with such a successful Foundation, but it makes a huge difference in my life and ministry. To know that the people who raised me in my faith are still carrying and encouraging me in my vocation as a pastor honestly makes all the difference. On the hard days, on the days I worry about finances, on

the days I wonder if I'm worthy to be in this sacred role, I remember your love, your support, your prayers, your financial assistance and I experience what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, with all of us together, all supporting one another, all living as children of God as best we know how. You have done this for me, one of your own, yet the ripple effect is a blessing of my family and my congregation too. Thank you for your support and kindness.

But it can't stop with me. We've got work to do, personally, as members of local churches, and as members of a national church body. Please give financial gifts to the First Lutheran Foundation while also encouraging the Foundation to give more to support seminary students, pastors, and deacons – both daughters and sons of the congregation as well as those you don't personally know. Reach out to your synod office and to regional seminaries and ask how you can help provide scholarships. Ask pastors and deacons you call to serve First Lutheran if they have seminary debt and if you can help pay it down. Fewer candidates are going to seminary because it can be a terribly expensive journey. We, the church together, can help fix this through our shared financial generosity. You've proven that with me personally!

Thank you, again, for your support. I pray God's blessings you and on all God's Church. Amen!

Pastor Jeff Fitzkappes, Montevideo, MN

(Pastor Jeff is the son of Steve & Gayle Fitz, members of First Lutheran)



Ash Wednesday
March 2
First Lutheran
402 South Court Street
12:10 pm and 6:30 pm

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 9 First Lutheran 402 South Court Street 12:10 pm and 6:30 pm

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 16 Zion Lutheran 202 East Summit Ave 12:10 pm and 6:30 pm Lenten Service Wednesday, March 23 Bethlehem Lutheran 102 West Junius Ave 12:10 and 6:30 pm

Lenten Service Wednesday, March 30 Augustana Lutheran 308 East Douglas Avenue 12:10 pm and 6:30 pm

Lenten Service Wednesday, April 6 Hope Lutheran 1309 Stony Brook Road 12:10 pm and 6:30 pm

The Lenten services at 6:30 pm will also be by radio broadcast 1250 AM KBRF The Devotional "The Road Back to God" will be the basis of the Lenten services.

Looking ahead to worship during Holy Week at First Lutheran



Palm Sunday, April 10, 9:30 am worship Maundy Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm worship Good Friday, April 15, 6:30 pm worship Easter Sunday, April 17, 9:30 am & 11:00 am worship

Why is Lent forty days long? It commemorates the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert fasting before beginning His public ministry. During that time Jesus endured the temptation of Satan. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday at sundown.

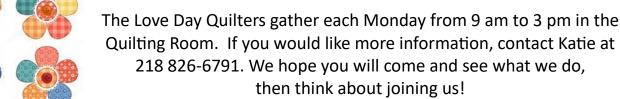
Lenten worship services are an opportunity for us to prepare and go deeper in our relationship with God; a time for personal reflection that prepares our hearts for the death and resurrection of Jesus. The ashes on Ash Wednesday symbolize our grief for our wrongdoings and our division of imperfect people from our perfect God.



Women ELCA **

No WELCA Board meeting in March. Hannah Circle meets Wednesday, March 23 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Masks are appreciated.





The NW MN Synod Conference 7
Gathering for Women of the ELCA

"We All are One in Mission"

Saturday, April 30, 2022 1:00 to 3:00 pm

First Lutheran Church Fergus Falls



We look forward to hosting this shortened version of our Annual Spring event, since it was postponed in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID.

Mark your calendars!

Watch for details in the April Messenger.



150 Years of Spiritual Growth

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

First Lutheran Church 1872 - 2022

Pastoral Leadership at First Lutheran

Rev. T. Vetleson(1872-1875) conducted the first service on October 10, 1872. The service was conducted at the only church building in town, the First Presbyterian Church. That evening, a meeting was held to organize a congregation under the leadership of Rev. Vetleson. This marks the date "Den Norske Evangeliske Lutherske Kirke" or the First English Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls was organized. During this time the first church edifice was erected.





Rev. D.J. Growe (1875-1878) was called direct from Norway at an annual salary of \$400 for the first two years. The call was made in 1873 but Rev. Growe was doing inner mission work in Bergen, Norway and so didn't arrive until 1875. During this time the congregation built the first parsonage and started on second church building.

Rev. O.N. Fosmark (1878-1908) also started Park Region Luther College in Fergus Falls. The college division of Park Region was transferred to Concordia College in Moorhead and in 1932 the college closed, a victim of the Great Depression. In 1935 the Church of the Lutheran Brethren purchased the campus for \$26,000 and moved their Lutheran Bible School from Grand Forks, ND to Fergus Falls. The building, now known as Hillcrest, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.





Rev. S.J.N. Ylvisaker (1908-1928) moved to Fergus Falls in 1908 with his wife and 6 children. Rev. Ylvisaker led the congregation through the cyclone disaster of 1919 and the subsequent building of the present church building. The cost of the completed church edifice was about \$140,000. He is credited with establishing the church's first formal Sunday School program.

Rev. S.L. Tallakson (1928-1946) was remembered by church members as being of large stature, being 6 foot 4 inches and probably weighing 240 pounds. He was not only physically strong, he was also a strong leader. He led the congregation through the disastrous 1930s. Other descriptions of Rev. Tallakson are that he was sincere and dedicated. He also started the church's first radio ministry and was involved in the founding of "Morning Watch" in 1939.





Rev. Christian K. Preus (1947-1974) was involved in the installation of the permanent marble altar and the completion of the church lighting project, adding fixtures designed for a Gothic style church. He also started the Couples Club, the Altar Guild and found that pastoral duties of preaching and teaching provided much enjoyment. Pastor Preus acquired a piece of property in 1950 called Fossen Woods, which was leased to the church for 99 years for use by church groups and families as a place for outdoor recreation and meeting. He served on the 1961 committee for merger of the American Lutheran Church (ALC). He retired from full-time ministry in 1974, saying "The church is a fellowship, first and foremost, or it is nothing. It is not just a matter of our associations with one another, pleasant as they have been, but of our oneness in Christ."

Rev. Jack Hustad (1974-1979) began his service when the church had its largest membership, around 2,000. The introduction of the "green" worship book, replacing the "red" book occurred during this time, and some members had a hard time adapting to the change. Pastor Hustad recalled his first days at First Lutheran in a final letter to the congregation in the Messenger, saying, "The Hustads will cherish the memories from our first days with you. You received us lovingly."





Rev. John Westby (1979-1984) was familiar to members of First Lutheran as he had served a yearlong internship at the church in 1961. He and his family moved to Fergus Falls in 1979 and were the first minister's family to live in a privately owned home rather than a parsonage.

Rev. Duane Tollefson (1985-1998) interned under Pastor Chris Preus at First Lutheran in the 1950s and returned in 1985 to be senior pastor of First Lutheran Church. Pastor Tollefson (Pastor T) organized the church's prayer chains in 1989 and was the pastor when the dedication service for the expanded and refurbished church building, including the new narthex, was held in 1990.





Rev. Saul Stensvaag (1999-2016) was instrumental in building our FLC relationships with Tanzania and our missionaries, leading many of our youth on mission trips to this area. Pastor Saul also started our Lenten and Advent Themes and Task forces to help celebrate these two very important church seasons.

Rev. Gretchen Enoch (2018-2021) was the first female senior pastor at First Lutheran Church. She served when the COVID-19 pandemic started, and was involved in working with area ELCA churches to provide an on-line worship experience during the pandemic.



FILL THE CUP LENTEN OFFERING!

Pick up a mug and fill it up. Let it overflow for outreach!
We are filling the cup <u>WEEKLY</u> during Lent and bringing it each
SUNDAY or WEDNESDAY to reach our goal.



\$10,000 by EASTER SUNDAY

Where does the money go to?

Your support helps local and global ministries including:

Food Assistance, Community meals, Day Camp, VBS, Benevolences, Salvation Army, Someplace Safe, Youth Outreach, Churches United for the Homeless Shelter, LPGM (Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry), ELCA World Hunger, Homeless Veterans Housing,

Emerging Young Adult Ministry and more!

It is a great way to teach giving and make a difference together.

Make donations via check, loose change, cash, dollars, and larger gifts are greatly appreciated.

Together we make a difference!

P.S. We welcome matching donors for the Sundays in Lent! See Katie for more information or call the church office at 218-739-3348.



Please be sure to complete a Time & Talent sheet. There is a copy in the March Messenger, or you can pick one up in the church office. We hope you will share your talents and time with the congregation. Thank YOU!

Also, some of the council committees are looking for additional members to join their team. Please contact the chair of the committee you are interested in joining for more information.









Executive Committee

David & Lorri Holt, Co-Presidents Leslie Flugstad, Secretary Rick & Linda West, Co-VP *Treasurer

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

* These are open positions on the Council. Please contact Council President if interested. Note: Leonard Hatzenbuehler is temporarily filling in as Treasurer.



Men's Bible Study with Pastor David

We hope you will join
Pastor David in the
Kairos Room at
7:00 am March 14 and
March 28 for Men's
Bible Study. The study
will continue every
other Monday
at 7:00 am.
No need to pre-register.

2022 Gifts for Living the Mission (Time & Talent)- ADULT (1 per person)

WELCOME – If you enjoy being with people & bringing them together, this ministry may	transportation & programs of spiritual support for members)	Play Instrument for Services
be for you.	Serve on <u>Discipleship Committee</u>	Sacristan (See that details are taker
Greeter	(foster	care of on Sunday morning before
Coffee Server	Stewardship consciousness	worship.)
Assist with New Member	throughout the year, and direct the	Lector (scripture reader)
Class/Hospitality	sharing and caring outreach of the	Cantor (liturgy song leader)
Usher	congregation to others)	Communion Assistant
Sunday Morning Transportation	Serve on the <u>Fellowship</u>	Bible Bearer
NOURISH – Use your gifts to help nourish &	Committee (plan & help develop fellowship	Incense Bearer Run PA system
grow people in faith & discipleship	activities in the life of the church &	Provide special music for summer
Christian education, stewardship of our	oversee monthly Action Unit)	worship
resources, and youth ministry are included	Serve on Worship Committee	InstrumentVocal
here.	(work with Senior Pastor to foster	Artwork for posters, bulletins,
Sunday School	the worship life of congregation)	brochures
Teacher or Team Teacher	Serve on Finance Committee	decorating (narthex area)
Assistant Teacher	(supervise	Decorating
Substitute Teacher Children's Music Leader	Church financial activity & prepares annual budget)	Outdoor Worship Service Planning MANAGE, MAINTAIN & SUPPORT – Many
Piano Accompanist (20 min on	ailitual buuget)	hands make light work and here is where
Sundays)	Serve on Personnel Committee	you can help & support.
or for special occasions	(assist	Office
Butterflies Vacation Bible School (one	Senior Pastor in selection of non-	Collate Bulletins (Thursdays)
week in summer)	pastoral	Collate Messenger (monthly
Planning	Staff – review staff performance &	newsletter)
Worship Leading and Music	concerns)	Volunteer in Church Office
Teacher (Crafts, Games,	Serve on Property/Management	(Answering phones, help with
Drama) Snacks (prepare)	<u>Committee</u> (oversee equipment, building, and land)	mailings) History Records/Archives
Luther Crest Day Camp	bullulity, and failu)	Council Members, New Member
Snacks	OTHER COMMITTEES	pictures
Pack lunch for counselor	Serve on the Library Committee	Grounds Upkeep (Volunteer)
Helper	<u> </u>	(Mowing, Raking)
Seasonal Children's Programs	Serve on <u>Cemetery Committee /</u>	Pruning Bushes, Planting
Rally Sunday	Maintenance	Cemetery Maintenance
Advent and/or Lent Event	Serve on First Lutheran Foundation	General Handyman/Carpenter
Christmas Program Assistants	Board Serve on First Lutheran Altar Guild	Plumbing Electrical Work
Youth Ministry Confirmation Small Group Leader	Committee (setting up communion,	Electrical Work Painting
Communication official Group Leader	baptisms, care of Paraments, robes,	Sewing
FLY Leader/Assistant	etc.)	Other
K-4 th gr5-7 th gr8-12 th gr.	,	()
Short Event Assistant	SERVE – If you like reaching out & serving	,
(Movie Nights, Short	others with the gospel of Christ, this is your	
trips)	area of ministry.	GROUPS I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:
Trip Leader/ Assist.(Retreats, Camping)	Prayer Chain (from your home)Special Friends (visit home-bound)	Love Days (mission) Quilters & Lutheran World Relief projects
National Gathering Leader	Special Fine its (visit nome-bound) Wedding Coordinator	Women of the ELCA Bible Study –
Church Van Driver (after school	Meals by Wheels	Once/month "Circles"
Wed.)	(Pick up and deliver meals to	Small Groups (led by lay people)
Prayer Partner	homebound adults. Individuals or	Pastor-led Bible Studies & Adult
Pray for one of our youth	teams can drive.)	Classes
Nursery Care Givers	Food Shelf (assist 1 or 2	Softball team
Clean toys	afternoons/month)	"Fun Team" Relay for Life
Help with Family Ministry	Christmas Basket Assembly	Relay for Life
COUNCIL COMMITTEES	Christmas Giving Trees Help Serve Funeral Lunches	Name:
Serve on Education Committee	Freip oct ve Farietal Earlones	Name.
(Oversee & help develop ed.	WORSHIP - How is God calling you to use	Address:
ministry)	your special gifts as we gather for weekly	Address.
Serve on Youth Committee	worship?	Email:
(Help to plan the youth ministry of	Choir Member	LIIIGII.
our church)	Bell Choir Member	Phone:
Serve on Membership Committee	Worship Team Member	i none.
(assist with support of members – new member orientation, arrange for	InstrumentVocal Play organ/piano for services or sub	Forms also available in the office.
greeters & Sunday morning	for organist	i offits also available lift the office.
grootors a banday morning	ioi organist	

2022 Gifts for Living the Mission (Time & Talent)- YOUTH!! (1 per person)

WELCOME—If you enjoy being with people & bringing them together, this ministry may be for you. Greeter Usher NOURISH—Your chance to help	WORSHIP -How is God calling you to use your special gifts as we gather for weekly worship? Lector (scripture reader) Cantor (sing liturgy responses) Communion Assistant (10-12 graders)	Ski Trips Concerts Winter Retreats Movie Nights Lock-ins Other
others grow in the faith by being a <u>leader or helper</u> with Sunday School, VBS, FLY, the Nursery, or serving on a committee!	Crucifier (cross bearer) Bible Bearer Incense Bearer Liturgical Dance Instrument	NAME:
Sunday School (9-12 th Graders) Teacher (Workshop leader) Teacher Assistant (Shepherd) Children's Music Leader Piano Accompanist	Instrument () Drama Artwork for bulletins, brochures, etc Worship Team Member (Praise	PHONE: (Home) EMAIL:
Solo/Speaking Part for Special Programs Luther Crest Day Camp (Four Days in	Band) Instrumentalist Vocal	ADDRESS:
summer) Helper F.L.Y. (First Lutheran Youth)	Vocal Choir Member Perform Summer Special Music Vocal Instrumental	Other gifts I would share:
Participate in FLY K-4 57 SR FLY(8-12) Group or Assistant Leader for K-4 57	Accompanist (children's choir) Decorating Run PA System during Worship Take Pictures and/or Video of Events Special Lighting for Advent/Lent Serve on Nominating	
COMMITTEES Serve on Youth Committee (works with youth	Committee Serve on Church Council MAINTAIN & SUPPORT - Many hands make light work and here is where you can help & support our staff Grounds Mowing Weeding Planting Courtyard	Please prayerfully consider how God is calling you to use your gifts for the mission of Christ's church here at First Lutheran.
SERVE -If you like reaching out & serving others with the gospel of Christ, this is your area of ministry. Adopt A Park Food Shelf Meals by Wheels	Painting Other Carrivities I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN:	
(Pick up and deliver meals to homebound adults. Individuals or teams can drive.) Service to Congregation Members (raking, shoveling, grocery buying, chores, etc.) High School Leader at Confirmation Retreats (Must be 11th or 12th grade)	Summer Camps (at a Bible Camp site) Adventure Camping (canoes, kayaks, hiking) Junior High Youth Gathering Senior High Youth Gathering National Gatherings (9-12) Every 3 years BBC SJS (Breakfast Bible Club) 10, 11, 12	FORMS ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.