



The Messenger

February 2023

First Lutheran Church

402 South Court Street • Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218-739-3348 • office@flcfff.org • www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Mission Statement: "As faithful disciples, we serve God and welcome all people with open hearts".

UNFINISHED

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

The five ELCA churches in Fergus Falls are once again partnering to do joint Mid-Week Lent Worship services with each church hosting one Wednesday of worship services and meals. Each church will have their own Ash Wednesday worship services on February 22 and the rotations will be Wednesdays, March 1-March 29.

An offering will be taken at all the worship services, all designated checks and envelopes will go to their respective churches, so we ask that you please write out your checks or envelopes to First Lutheran Church. Loose offering (cash) will be given to a charitable organization.

This year we will explore the book of Jonah through a series called "Unfinished: Out of the Depths." A bit about the theme: *Jonah walks a Lenten path. Like all human beings, he is prone to wander from his Creator in favor determining the shape and scope of his own future. This temptation is especially powerful when God calls us to take on risky ventures, travel to strange places, and confront things inside of us that prevent us from seeing one another as God does. God meets us in those liminal, Lent-like spaces when we find ourselves somewhere between trust and doubt, courage and fear, anger, and empathy.*

We invite you to come and worship with us, and to join with our larger faith community in Fergus Falls, as we journey through the season of Lent together.

Worship Schedule for each Week:

12:10 pm Worship Service,
lunch to follow
5:30 pm Supper
6:30 pm Worship Service

Host Church

March 1	Zion Lutheran
March 8	First Lutheran
March 15	Augustana Lutheran, Fergus Falls
March 22	Hope Lutheran
March 29	Bethlehem Lutheran

Worship with us in February

Wednesday Dinner Church at 5:30 pm

Sunday Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 am

Services are also 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.

Unfinished Business: Discovering God's Call in the Not Yet

Dear Friends of First,

God's Call is ever before us as we prepare for the work of transition, nominating people for the call committee, and prepare for Lent 2023.

We get calls all the time. Friends, family, strangers often call, and we choose which ones to answer. Some calls are invitations to renew friendships over a meal. Some are calls to be open to new adventures such as serving on a new committee or ministry. Some are calls to openness for listening to coworkers or neighbors in need.

The **Good News of Jesus Christ calls us into unfinished business of the already and not yet.** As First Lutheran Church, we will be reflecting, listening and discerning God's Call in these next few months. This includes:

Our Church Council Structure: The church council is the governance of the church. FLC has been informally restructuring from 2020 onward. It is time to formally look at this and process what works best for FLC in the present. The council will be prayerfully and intentionally looking at different church council structures and transitioning to the one that works best for such a time as this. This process will take 3-4 months to find the best fit. It will also entail a congregational meeting to make the necessary changes in the constitution and bylaws.

Forming a Call Committee: Soon, the Church Council will be asking for nominations for a call committee. Our constitution states that the church council appoints the call committee. While this is true, the best practice is to have the entire congregation involved in this process.

Transition Team: This team will assist the call committee in arranging for listening circles and other research that needs to happen for the best overall picture of the congregation and the larger community.

Congregational Forums: As a part of this process, we want to have complete transparency. Please know my door is always open and my cell phone number is available from the office. We will be holding regular congregational forums to inform and update the congregation as well as provide a time for people to ask questions.

God's call is unfolding before us, and we will listen together for where God is leading the way. Together, we will faithfully answer the call and be sent forward by God's many blessings to be a blessing in this community and world.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcgg.org

'SUNDAY' SCHOOL

"Scoop up the Joy"



Mark Your Calendars

- Feb. 12- Luau Party 11:30-1:30
Youth Room
- Feb. 14- Luther Crest Summer
Camp Early Bird Registration Ends
- Feb. 19- No Sunday
School/Butterflies
- Feb. 24-26- 6th-9th grade Luther
Crest Retreat
- July 16-21- Fergus Falls Camp
week at Luther Crest
- July 24-27- Day Camp with Luther
Crest at First Lutheran &
Butterflies VBS

We have wrapped up the Fruits of the Spirit. And no, the Fruit of the Spirit is not a Pineapple, but rather it is joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. This month we will be taking a closer look at the Lord's Prayer.



Wednesday FLY K-6

We will plan on going to First Lutheran, unless you hear otherwise through Remind.

This month, we will explore the Lord's Prayer and will be making cards for shut ins.

Stay up-to-date on FLY K-6 communications, text @flyk6 to the number 81010.



Snow Fun!



LUTHER CREST WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

6-9 Grade Retreat: February 24-26, 2023

REGISTER ONLINE AT [HTTPS://WWW.LUTHERCREST.ORG](https://www.luthercrest.org)



LUTHER CREST Summer
**CAMP REGISTRATION IS
OPEN!**

FERGUS FALLS CAMP
WEEK IS
JULY 16-21

REGISTER ONLINE AT [HTTPS://WWW.LUTHERCREST.ORG/](https://www.luthercrest.org/)
EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14!

THE FIRST LUTHERAN FOUNDATION WILL PAY FOR HALF OF THE TUITION OF EACH FLC CAMPER. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

Two Opportunities for Thrivent Members

Through Thrivent Choice®, our clients with membership can contribute to organizations and causes they care about—and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funding through **Choice Dollars®**. Go [online](#) or call your local representative or the home office and they will help you get those directed!

Thrivent also offers what is called an **Action Team**. This is for members who would like to give back. Possibly one or two is available to you. The money for the program does not come out of your pocket, and can be used to give back to the community. Such as...a dinner at First Lutheran, the food shelf, the Giving tree, the humane society, the possibilities are endless!!

Call your local representative or the home office to get help with these items!



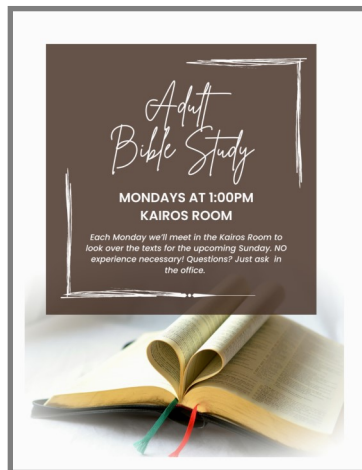
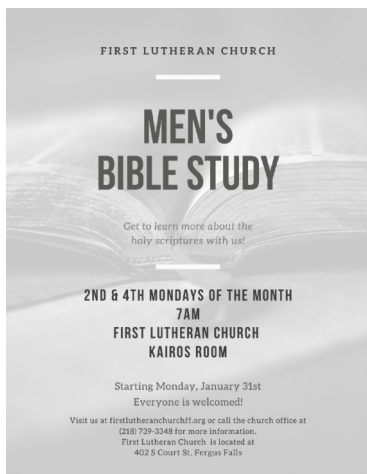
The Worship Corner by the Worship & Music Committee

Our audio/visual team is led by LeAnne Jaenisch. We need operators for the video presentation on YouTube and the sound board so that our worship is presented in a quality manner. This job offers an honorarium and LeAnne will train you! If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact the church office.

Need Some Support?

The First Lutheran Support Group will be meeting Wednesday January 11th, at 10:30 in the conference room. This group is for anyone who has lost and misses a loved one. Please come join us for supportive conversation and loving comradery.

We meet for an hour or so and then go out to eat a meal together wherever the mood strikes us. We will meet the second Wednesday of every month. Same time, same location. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, feel free to call Terry Gervais at: 952-250-0432.



FEBRUARY BOOK STUDY

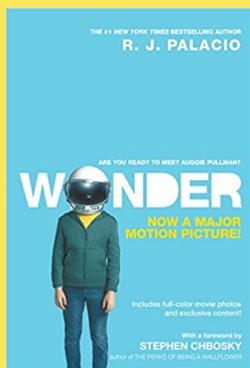
WHO: First Lutheran Church (FLC) readers - all are welcome to join any month!

WHAT: Light lunch and lively discussion. This month we will be discussing Wonder by R.J. Palacio. Copies are available in the church library for free check-out.

WHERE: FLC's Kairos Room

WHEN: Monday, February 20, at 11:45 am

For more information, please contact Susanne Ronning at 218-205-6370





Become a Sponsor

Each week there is an opportunity to remember a special person or honor a special event by sponsoring the altar flowers and the radio broadcast. The sign up for this is in the church office. Please plan to make payment at time of sign up. Flower sponsorship cost is \$45 and radio broadcast sponsorship cost is \$100.



CHURCH COUNCIL



Executive Committee

Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents

Leslie Flugstad, Vice President

Lorri Holt, Secretary

Leonard Hatzenbuehler, Treasurer, Property, Finance

Council Members

Kris Werner, Discipleship/Membership/Stewardship

Kristie Dinsmore, Education & Youth

Terry Gervais, Fellowship

Steve Fitz, Personnel

Harriet Wicklund, Worship



WELCA Board will not be meeting in the month of February

Love Day Quilters

All are welcome!

The quilters will resume on February 27.

See you then!

Call Joanne (218-739-4474) for more info.

Hannah Circle

Meets on

Wednesday, Feb 22

at 1:00 pm

in the Narthex

