



# The Messenger

March 2023

**First Lutheran Church**

402 South Court Street • Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218-739-3348 • [office@flcff.org](mailto:office@flcff.org) • [www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org)

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



## **Worship with us in March**

**NO 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 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.

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

Dear FLC Friends,

We are invited to focus on God's call to experience renewal throughout this Lenten season and the invitation matches our season of life at First Lutheran Church. We are between "no longer and not yet" in terms of calling a senior pastor. The same is true of our individual and communal ministry. During these "in between times," we are changed.

On Sundays from 10:45-11:15 am, (Lent 2-Palm Sunday), we will have a devotional time to reflect on the Vocare or Call of the day in the Conference Room. Our focus will reflect ongoing spiritual practice designed for us to embrace various callings so we can more intentionally live life on purpose for the common good.

We are beginning to gather nominations for the Call Committee. If there is someone you feel would be a good candidate, please submit their nomination to the church office. Our Church Council Co-Presidents will then reach out to candidates for the next step of the interview process.

Fill the Cup throughout each week and bring it in on Sundays. We have matching funds set up for at least two Sundays. Our **FIRST MATCHING SUNDAY IS MARCH 5, and it is an UNLIMITED MATCH** for funds brought that Sunday. So, keep filling those cups to give a hand up to neighbors in need. Our goal is \$10,000 by or on Easter Sunday.

As we continue our Lenten Journey of renewal, I leave you with a prayer and questions to reflect upon.

**Prayer:** O God, guide us in the unfinished business of life when we are in-between the already and not yet. Focus our hearts on your call for our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

What life values are preset for you in this experience of renewal?

How does this experience of renewal invite you to be open?

What voices are calling to you through this experience of renewal?

As you consider this experience of renewal, what holds your attention?

What regrets does this experience of renewal does this bring to mind for you?

Where and how in this experience of renewal do you need to lean into who you are called to be and what you are called to do? \*

As we continue to worship and pray together, may we return to God without whole heart. May God renew in us a right spirit and lead us from death to life in the name of our Savior, Jesus.

Peace,

*Pastor Tiffany Sundeen*

Pastor Tiffany Sundeen

\*parts adapted from Lent in a Box 2023 by Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen  
pastortiffany@flcgg.org





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

It is difficult to describe our church without touching on the glorious stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary, narthex and gathering spaces. Over the coming months, we'll take a look at the meanings of those beautiful windows. Our faith is highlighted so many times through the arts, and our windows are a classic example of the stories of our faith. The explanations over the coming months will come from the booklet that was put together twenty-five years ago in honor of the 125th anniversary of First Lutheran Church. There are copies available for you on the shelf just outside the church office!

**UNFINISHED**  
OUT OF THE DEPTHS

A sermon series based on the Book of Jonah

<p><b>MARCH 1</b> Zion Lutheran Church <i>"Intercepted and Redirected"</i> <a href="http://www.zionlutheranff.org">www.zionlutheranff.org</a></p> <p><b>MARCH 8</b> First Lutheran Church <i>"God in the Depths of Chaos"</i> <a href="http://www.Firstlutheranchurchff.org">www.Firstlutheranchurchff.org</a></p> <p><b>MARCH 15</b> Augustana Lutheran Church <i>"Obedience and Preservation"</i> <a href="http://www.augustanalutheran.org">www.augustanalutheran.org</a></p> <p><b>MARCH 22</b> Hope Lutheran Church <i>"Faithful and Unfinished"</i> <a href="http://www.hopeff.org">www.hopeff.org</a></p> <p><b>MARCH 29</b> Bethlehem Lutheran Church <i>"Jesus, a New Jonah"</i> <a href="http://www.bethlehemff.org">www.bethlehemff.org</a></p>	<p><b>MID-WEEK LENT WORSHIP SERIES</b></p> <p>HOSTED BY FERGUS FALLS ELCA MINISTRIES</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>-29<sup>TH</sup>, 2023</b></p> <p>12:10 pm Worship <i>followed by lunch</i></p> <p>5:30 pm Meal</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship</p> <p>6:30pm* services will be live-streamed &amp; on KBRF AM 1250. Visit Church website for live-stream links.</p>
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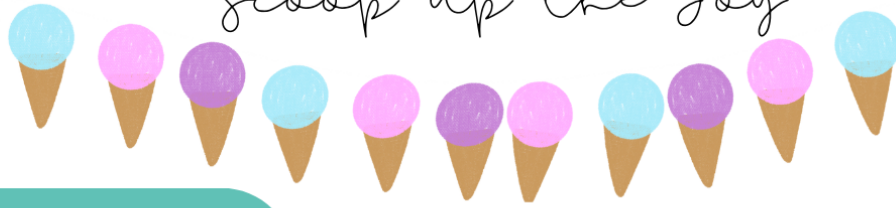
## Easter Flower Garden

Spring flowering plants are needed to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please send a check for \$20 to the church office (or put in a pew envelope marked "Easter Plant" and place in the offering plate. Those who have purchased a plant may take it home following the 11:00 am service on Easter Sunday. Any plants left after Easter Sunday will be delivered to shut-ins on Monday.



# 'SUNDAY' SCHOOL

"Scoop up the Joy"



## Mark Your Calendars

- March 19- 10:30am-12:30pm First Communion Pottery and Instruction Class (lunch provided)
- March 20- 5:00-7:00pm First Communion Pottery and Instruction Class (supper provided)
- April 2- Palm Sunday Festival  
9:30-11:30  
  
No Sunday School/  
Butterflies
- April 5- First Communion Bread Baking 5:30-6:30pm
- April 6- Maundy Thursday Service  
6:30pm
- April 9- Easter 9:30 & 11:00am  
Easter Egg Hunt 10:40am  
  
No Sunday School/  
Butterflies
- July 24-27- Day Camp with Luther Crest at First Lutheran & Butterflies VBS

This month we will be learning about the 10 commandments. We are also in the season of Lent. There is a Lent at-home kit for each family to explore and engage with during this season as we move toward Easter. April 2nd, we will parade with palms and have a festival. All are welcomed!



## FAITH MILESTONE: *First Communion*

A unique faith experience begins for 5th graders and those that are ready to move to this faith milestone 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 6th 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 19th 10:30am-12:30pm

-or

Monday, March 20th 5:00-7:00 p.m.





## FLC Foundation News

*The Foundation was recognized for their contributions to the community. If you missed the article in the December 21, 2022 edition of the Fergus Falls Daily Journal here is a reprint.*



### Generosity at its finest

#### Local church donates \$27,000 to area organizations

By Tor Anderson, Daily Journal

The board of directors for the First Lutheran church Foundation in Fergus Falls met in early December to decide where to direct their annual community giving.

The foundation was able to provide a total of \$27,000 across 10 organizations that provide services to those most in need this season and throughout the year.

“The board always looks forward to our December meeting where we get to make these selections,” explained Tim Johnson, board president. “We don’t seek external funding requests, so that allows us as a board to determine where best to focus our resources for the year. This year, we decided to focus much of this year’s support on organizations that provide food to those in need.”

The organizations that received the funding were: A Place to Belong, Salvation Army, Someplace Safe, Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf, Otter Cove Children’s Museum, Shop With a Hero, Meals on Wheels, Jail Inc., Young Life and United Way, including the Weekend Feeding Backpack program and the Imagination Library.

“I want to thank First Lutheran Foundation for their generous donation,” emphasized Summer Hammond, the executive director of the United Way of Otter Tail and Wadena counties. “The Weekend Feeding Backpack program provides food bags to students throughout Otter Tail County. The food bags provide an extra boost for children over the weekend that might otherwise be going without.” Hammond noted that the program serves approximately 500-800 children a year.

First Lutheran Foundation of Fergus Falls provides support to the First Lutheran Church of Fergus Falls and various organizations aligned with the mission of the Church; more information can be found at the following: [firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org).

## Wednesday FLY K-6

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

This month, we will explore the story of Jonah along with showing some appreciation to our emergency workers.

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



# Women of the ELCA

WELCA Board will meet on Tuesday, March 14 at 10:00am in the Kairos Room.

## Love Day Quilters

*All are welcome!*

Quilters meet each Monday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the quilting room.

Join us!

We need those who sew, iron fabric, cut fabric, tie knots, and more.

Come for all day or as time permits for you. Enjoy some good conversation, coffee and treats (bring your lunch if you'll be there during lunchtime).

Call Joanne Peterson at 218-205-1189 for more info.

## Hannah Circle

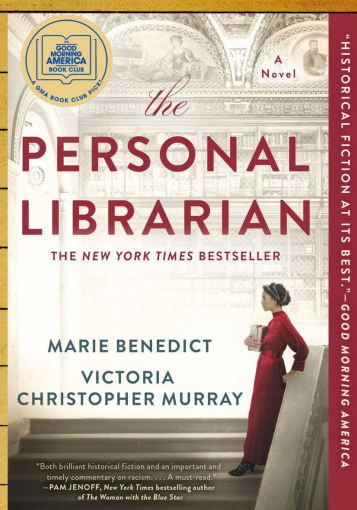
We gather again in the Narthex on Wednesday, March 22 at 1:30 pm (note time change). Join us for refreshments, fellowship and share the Bible lesson found in the March *Gather* magazine, led by Pastor Tiffany.

There are extra *Gather* magazines on the shelves by the office, or just come and listen.

**SPRING**  
*gathering*

The Conference 7 Spring Gathering will be held in April. Watch for details coming soon.

## March FLC Book Study



**Date:** Monday, March 20

**Time:** 11:45 a.m.

**Place:** Kairos Room

*Join Us!*

## Book Reviews



Our church library has received donations of books written by author Kristen Heitzmann. After reading them I eagerly read every book of hers that I could find! She weaves in some romance, some mysteries and always the love and trust in God. Check them out. ~ Zelda Sund

I recently have been re-reading books from The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Series by Alexander McCall Smith. He is a terrific author that generously dishes up humor and kindness in his books. While reading this series, you will also enjoy a sunny escape to Botswana, the home of the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency. ~ Susanne Ronning



## From the Archives Committee

### Carol Roehl's 1998 Tanzania Adventure

Carol joined Operation Bootstrap Director Dana Miller, and four Rift Valley Walkers- one from Bethlehem in Fergus Falls, two from Mpls. and one from Denver, for a 16 day trip to Tanzania. Carol wanted more people to become informed and involved in Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA), which she had supported for 8 years along with many First Lutheran Church and community members. Operation bootstrap had been created by David Simonson, an African Missionary with connection to our First Lutheran Church. Carol had an inner desire to go to Tanzania, this led her to apply for the 1998 trip, and was selected to become a part of the group. She gave an informative talk to her First Lutheran congregation before she left, and after she returned Carol gave several presentation about her time in Tanzania hoping to raise interest and funds to support OBA. Carol continues to be eager to talk about her experiences.

Carol's 1998 itinerary:

Friday, July 24– departed from Mpls.

Saturday, July 25– arrived in Amsterdam, and then off to Arusha

Sunday, July 26– joined a Maasai Congregation for church in Arusha, drove to Tarangire National Park and stayed at the lodge in a thatch covered tent

Monday, July 27– went on a Game Safari Drive at Tarangire, then to the Ngorongoro Crater and camped in the extinct crater along with hundred species of wildlife

Tuesday, July 28– visited 2 OBA Primary Schools

Wednesday, July 29– visited another OBA Primary School

Thursday, July 30– now Carol and Deana separated from the 4 Rift Valley walkers. The walkers would spend the next 6 days hiking The Great Rift Valley Trek guided by Missionary David Simonson's two sons who had also provided all supplies for the approximately 50 mile adventure. (The 4 walkers had each raised \$15,000 to help build schools in Tanzania)

Friday July 31—August 7- Carol and Deana spend their days touring Primary Schools, the MaaSae Girls Secondary School, hospitals and churches, recording information and experiences to share with churches and organizations back home. They spent time with David and Eunice Simonson at their home in Arusha. When they visited schools, David would often be walking in and around the properties making sure everyone and everything was in order. Carol and Deana spent time with Dr. Mark Jacobson at the Selian Hospital in Arusha. (Before Mark died in 2022, he had spent 4 decades in Tanzania stiving to provide the people with medical care and build exceptional medical facilities.)

Saturday, August 8– all 6 travelers left Arusah at 9:20 pm

Sunday, August 9– arrived back at Mpls., MN at 12:55 pm

Be sure to stop by the Chapel and look at the Tanzania items in the glass display case and also view some in the Narthex, on the west wall in the glass cabinet.



First Lutheran's Archives Committee would like to generate a list of our members-past and present, men and women, who have served or are serving, in our United States Armed Forces. We would also like to generate a list of our members-past and present, men/women/children, who have or are, in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Campfire Girls of America.

For each of the two lists we would like to have full names, and dates of service or participation. A photo of your loved one would be most welcomed.

Please get this information to the church office by Friday, March 31. Soon after this date the congregation will be invited to view a display of gratitude to these mem-



## 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 Hatzenbuhler, Treasurer, Property/Finance

## Council Members

Kris Werner, Discipleship/Membership/Stewardship

Kristie Dinsmore, Education & Youth

Terry Gervais, Fellowship

Steve Fitz, Personnel

Harriet Wicklund, Worship

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Get to learn more about the holy scriptures with us!

2ND & 4TH MONDAYS OF THE MONTH  
7AM  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
KAIROS ROOM

Starting Monday, January 31st  
Everyone is welcomed!

Visit us at [firstlutheranchurch.org](http://firstlutheranchurch.org) or call the church office at (218) 739-2348 for more information.  
First Lutheran Church is located at 402 S Court St., Pergus Falls

## Adult Bible Study

MONDAYS AT 1:00PM  
KAIROS ROOM

Each Monday we'll meet in the Kairos Room to look over the texts for the upcoming Sunday. NO experience necessary! Questions? Just ask in the office.



## Need Some Support?

The First Lutheran Support Group will be meeting Wednesday March 8, 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.



## Volunteer Opportunity!!!

First Lutheran is scheduled to deliver Meals by Wheels beginning Monday, March 20 through Friday, March 24. If you can help with one of the routes, please sign up in the narthex today.

