



The Messenger

July 2023

First Lutheran Church

402 South Court Street • Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-739-3348 • office@flcff.org • www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

First Lutheran Cemeteries Honor Veterans

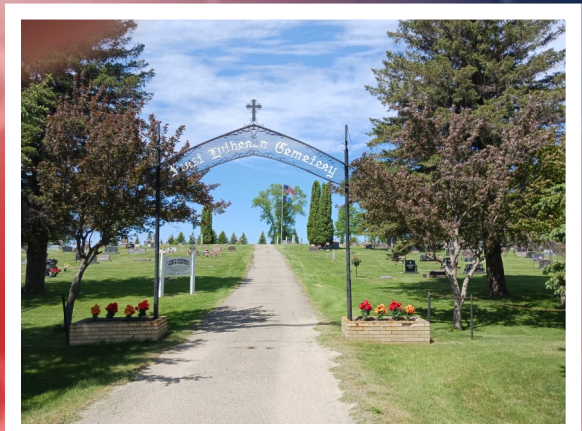


Gerry Toso, a veteran himself, prepares flags for placement on veteran's graves.



A volunteer committee provides for the management and care of both of FLC's cemeteries. Their goal is to maintain the First Lutheran Cemeteries as serene resting places. Current members of the committee are: Terry Gervais (President), Mary Johnson (Vice President), Mark Hermes (Secretary), Leonard Hatzenbuhler (Treasurer), Steve Leitte, Gerry Toso, Keary Toso, Mark Toso, and Lowell Wendell.

The cemetery committee would like to thank Steve Leitte for 40 years as our president! Thankfully, he still remains on our team, just stepping down as our president. Thank you Steve for all you've done.



Dear Friends,

July is for seeing a need and meeting a need.

The apostle Paul shares....

“Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[j] to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[k] and ate their food with glad and generous^[l] hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.” Acts 2:43-46

Did you know that followers of Jesus were called people of the WAY? Why? Because they lived in a weird way compared to everyone else. Look at the scripture above and we get a glimpse of why. Jesus’ followers made sure they fed the hungry, gathered for worship, helped those in need, and did many other wonders. They lived that “Way”. When people encounter Jesus, they experienced grace, gladness, and generosity. If you think about this past week, where have you seen Jesus? And how did you experience grace? Jesus helps us open our hearts and minds to our neighbors around us. We hear stories about what is happened in Biblical times, but it is still happening today.

Jesus helps us see a need and meet a need through Habitat for Humanity’s Faith Build! Jennifer Woore and family, members of FLC, work on the house each day.

- \$150 blocks are available to raise money towards out \$7,000 goal. We are committed to purchasing the lumber needed for the home. We have \$1,186 raised so far!
- FLC will be building on site on July 12th! Sign up for working with a hammer or sign up for making a meal to bring to the site. Sign ups are located in the church narthex or call the office at 218-739-3348.

Jesus helps us see a need and meet a need through VBS happening July 24-27 and is free of charge due to donations from generous people like you. Please register by July 3rd.

- Butterflies are birth-5 years old with their favorite adult from 9-10:30am.
- Day camp with Luther Crest Bible Camp is 8:45 am- 3pm and is full of fun worship, arts and crafts, community Bible Study and so much more for Kindergarten-6th grade.

Jesus sees a need and meets a need as we welcome our new

Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Jen Enstad-Petersen! We prayed for this day to come and now it is HERE! Welcome Jen! Take a look inside to learn more about Jen and her incredible leadership skills and love for youth ministry.

When you see a need, wonder about how Jesus is showing up through you to meet it. God still lives and breathes in the world through YOU. Enliven the week and meet each day with the Spirit of the Living Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany

P.S. Thank you for recognizing and celebrating my 25th anniversary of ordination. Being useful and making a difference together for God means the world to me. The gift cards have helped people in need. They have provided gas money to doctor's appointments, money for laundry, resources for prescriptions that were too expensive, money for things usually not found at a food pantry, and a bit of rent assistance. This is what brings joy and meaning my life because none of us are on earth very long. We share what we have been entrusted in God's name. Thank you for sharing so much joy with me and my family.



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org



FLC has Hired a Director of Youth & Family Ministries!

We welcome Jen-Enstad Petersen to this position.



It's so fun to be introducing myself to you but we already know each other from being in church together BUT we are going to be getting acquainted in a different way as I transition in- to your director of youth and family!

Basics are that I grew up in the Twin Cities- went to Concordia College- moved to Nebraska to be in youth ministry full time- moved back here to be closer to family. First Lutheran was our holiday church because this was my grandparent's church. Merald and Jeanette

Enstad loved this church and I am forever thankful for the faith legacy our family has because of it.

Tim and I have a youth group of our own. Katie and her husband Gryphon with their sons Archie and Teddy live here in Fergus. Caleb and his wife Emily are also in Fergus. Sloanne just graduated and will be headed to North Carolina for college and Sofia will be a sophomore at KSS.

Pastor Tiffany let me answer 5 questions so here goes-

Coffee or tea? I am a total coffee person but it has to be fru fru coffee so let's meet for coffee. PS- watch for a youth hang out room that will have some snacks and beverage options too!

What's one thing I'm really bad at? Any game that requires hand eye coordination- like it's almost comical so definitely challenge me to ping pong in the youth room if you need an ego boosting win.

What's one thing I'm really good at? Planning events is my joy! This year we had all 4 of our kiddos have major life events and we also hosted lots of smaller events too. LOVE IT- I'm all about themes, decorations and activities. So consider yourself warned youth of FLC- I have some great events headed your way!

Do you like roller coasters? In real life at an amusement park- nope. I used to ride them to try to show people I was cool and the great thing about being over a certain age is you don't have to do that any more because you are so at peace with not being cool. BUT in life- yes because God is so cool in the ups and downs of life and I don't want to miss the thrill of seeing God in the journey.

What's my idea of a perfect day? Coffee on the deck at the lake, family and friends arriving to hang out together, a boat ride, a big table filled with people for dinner and a nice fire as the sun sets (naturally no mosquitoes !) Thankfully I get lots of days like this except for the bug part!

Thank you for the opportunity to come alongside the youth and families of FLC. I am so excited to see the connections that will come between the congregation and our youth. I promise to keep you in the loop as we add programs and events but please feel free to reach out and brainstorm - I promise we can have a fru fru coffee- Jen

Get ready for VBS!!!



Registration for Fergus Falls Joint ELCA's Butterflies VBS and Day Camp with Luther Crest is **due by Monday, July 3rd!** These events are FREE and OPEN to the public. We are going to have a BLAST! Register at any of the participating churches: Augusta, Bethlehem, First, Hope, and Zion Lutheran Churches of Fergus Falls.



Play at the Park

Dr. Allen Magnuson Park

Wednesdays
9:30-
10:30am

Wednesdays in July from 9:30-10:30am, come out to the park with your littles to meet up with friends from First Lutheran Church. Kristy will be there with her littles, and feel free to invite your friends. Let's enjoy the summer and let the children play!

Ways to Worship with Us



KJKK AM 1020, Channel 977,
FM 97.7



**Sunday Worship Service
with Holy Communion at
9:30 am**



Go to the First Lutheran website:
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org.



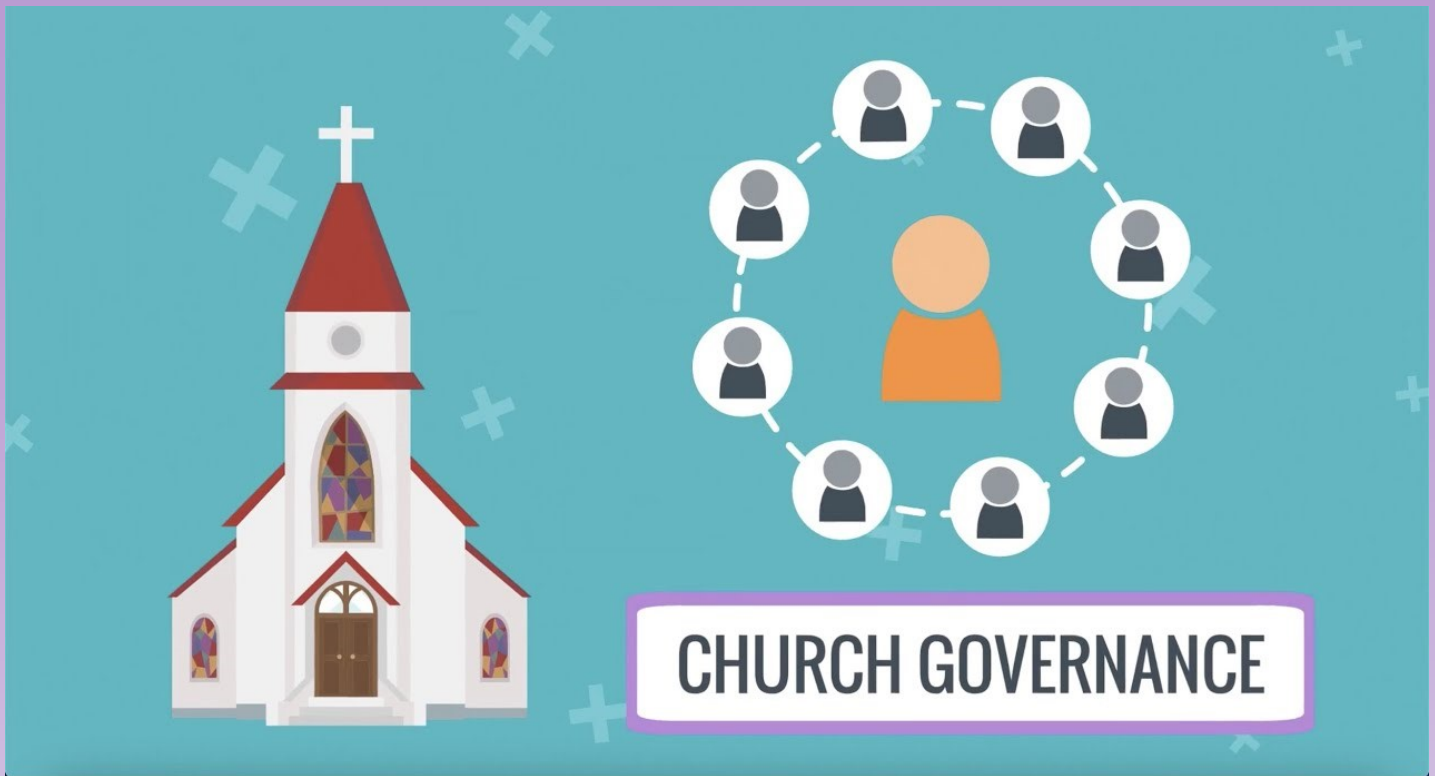
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The Worship Corner
by the
Worship & Music Committee

Four sets of small transom-style windows lead up the ramp to the sanctuary, offering our supplications to God. Themes of faith, hope, love, prayer and forgiveness woven into the design are taken from scripture. Visually, the windows contain traditional Christian symbols expressed in a contemporary style. In the faith windows, the earth's central orb is flanked by elements of creation. Three fruits reinforce the theme of faith, hope and love and suggest the presence of the Trinity. A simple butterfly, wings spread, suggests the hope of eternal life through Christ's resurrection; while with open and uplifted hands we receive God's grace, given through his love.

Our response to God's grace is accomplished through prayer and the desire for forgiveness. These windows reflect the earth and God's glory in the universe, depicted by a rainbow—another sign of God's promise— and the stars and planets endlessly radiating outward.



What is Church Governance?

Church governance is the basis on which churches are organized and operate. This especially includes the structure of ministries and their leadership. For ELCA churches governance is outlined in their governing documents including their Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions. The ELCA is made up of 65 Synods. First Lutheran Church is one of the 221 congregations in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. The ELCA, each synod, and each congregation has its own Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions.

Why do we need Governing Documents?

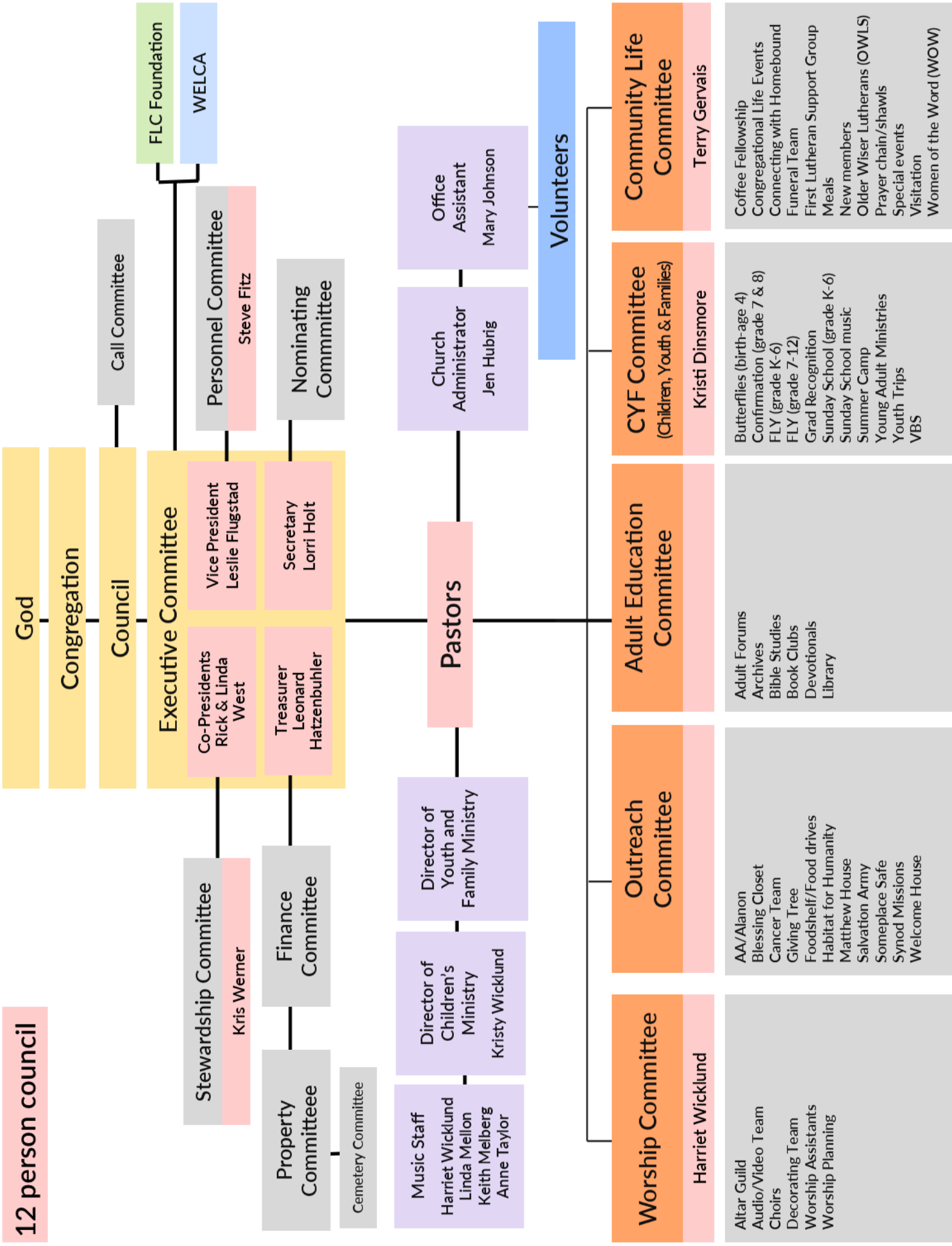
Governing documents reflect the theology and polity of the church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news, and share the love of God in the world. The Church is an organization just like any other institution and therefore needs rules and procedures for its administration. A church's constitution can safeguard the integrity of leaders while expressing the will of the congregation and give both guidance, principles, and procedures to follow.

Why are we Changing our Documents Now?

The NW MN Synod recommends that our constitution be updated once every three years to keep it current with the ELCA Model Constitution, or if there are significant changes in the congregation. Our last update was in 2019. We have also undergone some changes that warrant a review of our structure.

This is obviously a process that takes some time and consideration. A Congregation Constitution Revision Committee will be appointed by Church Council to complete this task but in the meantime **the Church Council has approved a temporary organizational structure** for us to try before we recommend any changes (see next page). A copy of the temporary organizational structure is also posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex and a copy can be obtained at the Church office. Please provide any comments that you may have to the Church office staff.

This proposed organizational structure creates opportunities for members to get involved with creating ideas and making decisions about their church. It allows for the congregational committees to review information and make recommendations to the Church Council regarding decisions that apply to their areas of ministry. Finally, it supports a clear and consistent line of communication between the congregation and the Church Council.



12 person council

God

Congregation

Council

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents
Rick & Linda West

Stewardship Committee
Kris Werner

Property Committee

Cemetery Committee

Vice President
Leslie Flugstad

Treasurer
Leonard Hatzenbuehler

Finance Committee

Music Staff
Harriet Wicklund
Linda Mellon
Keith Melberg
Anne Taylor

Director of Children's Ministry
Kristy Wicklund

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Pastors

Church Administrator
Jen Hubrig

Office Assistant
Mary Johnson

Volunteers

Worship Committee

Harriet Wicklund

- Altar Guild
- Audio/Video Team
- Choirs
- Decorating Team
- Worship Assistants
- Worship Planning

Outreach Committee

- AA/Alanon
- Blessing Closet
- Cancer Team
- Giving Tree
- Foodshelf/Food drives
- Habitat for Humanity
- Matthew House
- Salvation Army
- Someplace Safe
- Synod Missions
- Welcome House

Adult Education Committee

- Adult Forums
- Archives
- Bible Studies
- Book Clubs
- Devotionals
- Library

CYF Committee
(Children, Youth & Families)

Kristi Dinsmore

- Butterflies (birth-age 4)
- Confirmation (grade 7 & 8)
- FLY (grade K-6)
- FLY (grade 7-12)
- Grad Recognition
- Sunday School (grade K-6)
- Sunday School music
- Summer Camp
- Young Adult Ministries
- Youth Trips
- VBS

Community Life Committee

Terry Gervais

- Coffee Fellowship
- Congregational Life Events
- Connecting with Homebound
- Funeral Team
- First Lutheran Support Group Meals
- New members
- Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS)
- Prayer chain/shawls
- Special events
- Visitation
- Women of the Word (WOW)



Love Days 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.

Please note: Love Days Quilters will not meet on Monday, July 3.

WELCA Board will meet next on August 8 at 10:00 am.

Rise up and Build!

Get involved with the

2023 Habitat for Humanity Faith Build!

This spring/summer the area faith community is joining forces with Habitat for Humanity to live out their mission as disciples of Jesus Christ in

providing safe, affordable housing for the **Woore family** here in Fergus Falls. First Lutheran Church has committed to sponsor the Lumber & Wall Sheeting for the house. **Help us reach our goal to raise \$7,050. So far we have collected \$1,336.**

We have a **Work Day for the Habitat Faith Build!**

Wednesday, July 12 from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm. Water, tools, and lunch provided. Please sign up in the narthex to be on the FLC Work Team. Wear closed toes shoes and prepare to get dirty! People are also needed to make and serve lunch from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



FIRST LUTHERAN OWLS ARE GOING ON A TRIP



THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

PARK RAPIDS



JASPER THEATER SHOW

MUSIC LEGENDS OF THE 50'S

**BUS WILL LOAD AT 8:00 AM
COST FOR FLC MEMBERS IS \$30
FOR NON-MEMBERS IS \$40**



SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX BY AUGUST 1



Call Committee Update

There have been a few changes to the members of the committee, the members are: Elizabeth Abrahams, John Demuth, Joe Ellig, Jen Enstad-Petersen, Noah Link, Bob Ronning, Siiri Smestad, and Connor West.

Please keep these members in your prayers as they walk through this process.

Learn more about the call process [here](#).

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Visit us at firstlutheranchurchff.org for more information.



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.

Altar Flowers

CHURCH COUNCIL



Officers

Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents

Leslie Flugstad, Vice President

Lorri Holt, Secretary

Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Treasurer, Property/Finance

Council Members

Kristi Dinsmore-Children, Youth, & Families

Steve Fitz-Personnel

Terry Gervais-Community Life

Kris Werner-Stewardship

Harriet Wicklund-Worship

Vacancy-Adult Education

Vacancy-Outreach

Need Some Support?

The First Lutheran Support Group will be meeting Wednesday, July 12, at 10:30am 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.

