



The Messenger

August 2023

First Lutheran Church

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

VBS & DAYCAMP 2023!



We had an AMAZING time at VBS and Day Camp last month. We had 60 Day Campers and 20 Butterflies that spent the week playing, singing, learning, and sharing God's love. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the volunteers and staff from Augustana, Bethlehem, First, Hope, and Zion Lutheran Churches. We could not have done this without all of you!



How good and pleasant
it is when God's people
live together in unity!

-Psalm 133:1

PsalmsQuotes.com



Dear Friends,

Grace! Remember how long winter was this past season and how we promised not to complain how hot summer would get? There are blessings in the diversity of seasons and rhythms in life. Such grace! We need differences to thrive and grow. ALL ages need one another. Intergenerational relationships strengthen our perspective, lives, and appreciation for how God is at work in the world.

We know these summer rhythms are galloping all too fast towards fall decorations and football season, sports practices and school pictures, college move in days and confirmation orientation, mentoring and meaningful conversations at coffee hour and Bible study, plus so much more! Let these energy-filled breezes inspire our relationships with God and one another.

Breathe together! Get to know someone of a different age. En JOY as we receive the witness children from VBS teaching us God's grace, stop by lemonade stands along with farmer's markets, and recall your baptism as you splash in cool waters.

Serve together! Our church council works diligently and transparently, inviting your ideas and participation. Deliver Meals by Wheels, volunteer at the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, invite neighbors over at the lake to worship with you via our live stream. Serve coffee, greet or usher with someone you meet from a different generation.

Spend time together! We also have unique times like with our OWLS (Older and Wiser Lutherans) who will be traveling to Jasper Theater and enjoying fellowship together and our Youth Group is gathering after we host worship at 6:30 pm on August 23rd. Explore your Bible, especially the Psalms that reflect such truth about our human experience. Pray for someone who lives on either side of you.

We will keep exploring this GRACE God shares abundantly with us. May the Holy Spirit stir our holy imaginations in how we live out faith together.

Peace,
Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Birth- Preschool Butterflies

SUNDAYS 10:30-11:30am

Join Ms. Vicki in the lower Education Wing for Butterflies. During this time children accompanied by their favorite adult can play, sing, and explore as they grow in their faith and learn what it means to find Joy in our lives. Snacks provided. Friends are welcomed to join!

4 years old-6th grade Sunday School In-person & Online

SUNDAYS 10:30-11:30am

Join us as we dig in and explore: the Bible and God's character. Children will learn what it means to reflect God's love in their everyday lives. We will be using "Dig In's The Heart of God" Sunday School Curriculum as we build a relationship with God. This curriculum is adaptable to in-person and at home exploration. Friends are welcomed to join!

Kindergarten - 6th grade Wednesday FLYK-6

WEDNESDAYS 3:30-5:00pm

Wednesdays after school, meet up with Ms. Kristy for FLY K-6. During our time together we have a blast playing games, serving our community, learning about God, and exploring how God's teachings apply to our daily lives. Kristy will meet the children at Kennedy school and then they will walk over to Roosevelt Park or ride in the church van to church if weather doesn't permit us to be outside. Friends are welcomed to join!

7th & 8th grade Confirmation

WEDNESDAYS

Confirmation classes are taught in 7th and 8th Grades on Wednesdays. Friends are welcomed to join!

FLY 7-8 & 9-12

First Lutheran Church provides active and vibrant activities for youth throughout the year. Weekly meet ups, bible studies, games, and service projects allow youth to grow together in their faith and to see God's love in our everyday lives.

Family Ministries

First Lutheran Church provides activities and events for families to get together, grow in their faith, share and learn along their parenting/grandparenting journey, and to connect with one another. Friends are welcomed!

Contacts:

First Lutheran Church
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Kristy Wicklund
Director of Children's Ministries
(218) 531-9544
kristy@flcff.org

Jen Enstad Petersen
Director of Youth and Family Ministries
(218) 288-7584
youth@flcff.org

[Click here to Register](#)

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We are in a construction zone for our youth program. Just like any construction zone it can be messy, take longer than you think it will, and go through some design changes. BUT it's always so worth it! So let's start building...

***building new relationships.** We would love to have you involved, if you are in 7th-12th grade or know someone who is please reach out to the church office or stop by the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the narthex to be sure we have all the info to keep you in the loop.

*** building new opportunities.** We will be adding Sunday School opportunities, youth group activities and travel experiences. Our goal is a multi generational youth group so please let me know if you have an interest in being a part of any of these things.

***building a new space.** Our current youth room will become the REC ROOM, a shared space with our younger kids and a space that we use for large group sessions and game time. The conference room located next to the library will become our Youth HANGOUT Room. A comfortable safe place for small group gathering and for teens to come and have a space of their own. Adult leaders will be available for conversation, activities and naturally snacks.

*** building a strong faith foundation based in the Bible, covered in prayer, and carried out with JOY!**

Excited to BUILD with you,

Jen Enstad-Petersen

Kristy Wicklund

Director of Children's Ministry

kristy@flcff.org

218-531-9544



Jen Enstad-Petersen

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

youth@flcff.org

218-288-7584



All 7th-12th graders
Friends Welcome
Wednesday, August 23
7:30-9:00 pm
(following the worship service)
FLC's Rec Room

Join the Worship Team

The Worship Team is always looking for new people to join the group. Young or old or somewhere in between, you will be welcomed into a fun, caring group that helps to lead the blended worship service once a month (typically the second Sunday of each month).

Why join the Worship Team?

- participate in a musical group with minimal commitment (once a month)
- enjoy a small-group experience with great people
- share your talents (singing, playing a musical instrument)
- lead the congregation in contemporary and traditional music
- honor God through music
- have fun!

For more info, contact Anne Taylor, Worship Team Director, at 218-770-4612 or annemltaylor@gmail.com.

Ways to Worship with Us



KJK 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.



PEG Access Channel 8



The Worship Corner
by the
Worship & Music Committee

As we enter the sanctuary, the altar window depicts many of the major teaching of our faith—symbols of the Trinity, including a triangle. Our risen Savior is the window's focal point; arms reaching out to all the people, God's Son invites us in the words beneath the figure: "Come Unto Me." Christ's passion is depicted by the Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God, carrying a traditional resurrection banner to symbolize Jesus' victory over death. God the creator reaches his hand down to the world and the Holy Spirit descends as a dove. Above the baptismal font, the dove again descends as the Holy Spirit's presence at baptism. A chalice, wheat and grapes symbolize the sacrament of Holy Communion, and the gift of God's word is represented in the open Bible and the tablets of the Ten Commandments. God is of all things the beginning and the end—represented at the top of the window by the Greek symbols for alpha and omega. God's word calls us to be witnesses, and the burning torch is a reminder of that commission.



BELL BASH 2023

Thank you to the Hosanna Handbells Choir for sharing your musical gifts with FLC.





September Book Study

The **FLC Monthly Book Study** will be back in September. If you enjoy reading, we welcome you to join in any month you are available. The book selection for September's discussion will be announced mid-August. If you would like to get added to the email list for updates and reminders, please contact Susanne Ronning at 218-205-6370 or sronning24@gmail.com



Rise up and Build!

The 2023 **Habitat for Humanity Faith Build** is well underway! 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 \$3,750 plus a \$1,000 match donation.**

Volunteer Opportunity!!!



FLC is scheduled to deliver Meals by Wheels
Monday, August 21 through 25
If you can help with one of the routes,
please sign up in the narthex today.



Lutheran World Relief School Kits

The quilters have made drawstring backpack style bags and the following supplies are needed for each Lutheran World Relief School Kit:

- Four 8 1/2 x 11 inch wide-ruled notebooks (70 sheets in each)
- One 30 centimeter ruler (inches on one side, centimeters on the other)
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors
- Five ballpoint pens (NO gel ink)
- One box of crayons (16 or 24 count)
- Five pencils
- One Eraser

The help of the congregation is appreciated!

There is a collection basket in the Narthex.
Monetary donations are also welcome.



**WELCA Board will meet Tuesday,
August 8 at 10:00 am in the Narthex
to plan our Fall Calendar.**



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.

NW MN Synod Staff is Coming to You



**Monday, August 28th
@ Foxhome Lutheran
in Foxhome***
101 Richmond Ave.



Synod Road Trip '23

The Synod Staff is coming to you;
mark your calendars now!

- 5:15 PM - 5:55 PM: Registration
 - 5:30 PM: Meal Served
 - 6:00 PM: Road Trip Content Begins
 - Devotion
 - Synod Updates
 - Hear Conference specific Updates
 - Q&A Time
 - 7:30 PM: Sending Blessing
- *Not ADA Accessible

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has begun their work and are meeting regularly. They have elected Joe Ellig and Connor West as co-chairs and Elizabeth Abrahams as secretary. Please continue to keep these members in your prayers.

Elizabeth Abrahams	218-998-2535
John Demuth	218-731-9422
Joe Ellig	701-741-5147
Jen Enstad-Petersen	218-205-0151
Noah Link	
Bob Ronning	218-736-6399
Siiri Smestad	
Connor West	218-205-9639

Learn more about the call process [here](#).
We are currently at Step 6.

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.

Need Some Support?

The First Lutheran Support Group will be meeting Wednesday, August 9, at 10:30 am 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.



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

Vicki Berdan-Adult Education
Kristi Dinsmore-Children, Youth, & Families
Steve Fitz-Personnel
Terry Gervais-Community Life
Ann Mathison-Outreach
Kris Werner-Stewardship
Harriet Wicklund-Worship