



The Messenger

October 2023

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

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What a Wonderful Rally Sunday!



FLC was quite the construction zone with people of all ages working together to help build a solid foundation in Christ. Construction season comes and goes, but God is always at work in our lives and we are all a part of God's construction crew.

"For we are God's servants working together. You are God's field, God's building." - 1 Corinthians 3:9



¹¹ The gifts God gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” Ephesians 4:11-13

Dear Friends,

The excitement is building! Plans continue to be updated each week; supplies are being put to good use; and life-giving work is underway. Our **Children, Youth, and Family Committee** grows significantly each week, and we needed more space and could use four more teachers already for both Sundays and Wednesdays! Care packages went out to our 2023 graduates. Book studies, Bible studies, confirmation, coffee, and conversations on Owl’s trips are underway.

In October our 2nd graders will be receiving their Bibles, New Member orientation and New Member Sunday happens, Trunk & Treat festivities will be celebrated with the larger Fergus Falls community. Plus, our **Call Committee** will be hosting Listening Circles to hear your input as we call our next Senior Pastor. How does all this happen? Through YOU! We need each of you to make all these ministries possible.

Our **Outreach Committee** is preparing ways for us to share with the Blessing Closet, a local organization that receives gently used items such as clothes, kitchen pots and pans, utensils, and furniture to share with others.

Our **Adult Education Committee** is building a survey to ask what opportunities you would like to see soon in addition to the current offerings of book studies and Bible studies.

Our **Stewardship Committee** is building new ways to express our gratitude towards God as they prepare our hearts for the fall appeal. Did you know that recycling happens under our stewardship committee’s leadership?

Our **Property Committee** cares for the building and grounds. They caulked and painted all the windows in the education wing to extend their life and will soon be asking for help with fixing the “Jesus’ window” in the narthex because the wood around it is rotten. We could always use extra hands for projects.

Our **Finance Committee** builds spreadsheets and accurately accounts for your generous donations so that every dollar is accounted for. They turned your stored energy, a.k.a. money, into actions that build up the Body of Christ.

Our **Community Life Committee** builds us up through congregational connections. This team hosts meals for New Member Dinner and Dinner Church, oversees visitation ministry to homebound members and those hospitalized, coffee hour, any meal we have at church, funerals, and so much more.

Our **Personnel Committee** has assembled an excellent team of both paid and unpaid staff where we can see God’s light and life shining through. We are incredibly grateful for their time and diligence.

Our **Executive Committee** makes sure our plumb line is straight. Our council appointed a Constitutional Review Task Force to update our constitution. The intense, diligent work on organizational structure and attending to our governance during these last 12 months are due to the outstanding work of our Executive Committee and Church Council.

Our **Worship Committee** already planned through Christmas and the music ministry treats us weekly through bells and choir. They are exploring how to honor time issues. We will be hearing more in the next few weeks.

Let’s keep building momentum throughout this fall and invite others to join the team. We can do so much more together than we could ever do alone. What an honor to serve together in this Body of Christ. Thank YOU!

Blessings,

Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org

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.



PEG Access Channel 8

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

We will officially be welcoming new members on Sunday, October 15.

If you or someone you know is looking for a church home please contact Pastor Tiffany.

DINNER CHURCH RETURNS

New this year... ways to pray, art as worship, and remembering the small catechism.

**STARTING SEPT. 13
WEDNESDAYS | 5:30 PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**



The Worship Corner by the Worship & Music Committee

(staff topped by a patriarchal cross), Matthew (money bag), Jude/Thaddeus (long-handled lance), Peter (crossed keys over and upside-down cross), Andrew (Saltire cross), Matthias (axe) and Thomas (carpenter's square), Bartholomew (flaying knife) and James (pilgrim staff and seashells). The last two symbols, the sword on an open book and the torch, have been tentatively identified with Simon and James the Less. At the top of these windows are traditional Christian Symbols: a heart representing God's love, the lamp as light of the World, the anchor of hope and faith, scales of a just God, an hourglass, reminding us that our days on earth are measured, and the cross. Upper level windows represent the victorious life. We carry the cross not as a burden but as a part of the victory procession celebrating salvation. In this journey, Christ is our shield.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE

WE ARE BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.



Fleet Farm
Friday, Oct. 27
4:00-6:00pm

Candy donations welcomed!

2ND GRADE BIBLES

2nd Grade Bible Milestone on Sunday, October 1st. Our 2nd grade students will be asked to come forward and receive their Bibles. This is an important milestone in their faith journey as they are having the word of God put into their very hands. 2nd graders and their families are invite to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and class at 8:30 am. During the worship service, the 2nd graders will receive their Bibles.



October 1
8:30am
Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On October 31, 1517 a German monk by the name of Martin Luther started a movement that reformed the church. He nailed 95 theses/grievances on the All Saint's church door and changed Christianity forever. On Sunday, October 29th we will celebrate Reformation Day with a little costume fun. Feel free to come dressed up in a fun costume for Sunday School.

There will be NO Butterflies & Sunday School on October 22nd.



FLY K-6

As fall is upon us and temperatures start to fall, we will be spending some of our Wednesdays at the church in the Rec Room. This month we will be exploring how

God is giving, unchanging, and all powerful. We will also be having our annual Halloween party on Wednesday, November 1st.

There will be NO FLY K-6 on October 18th.




Kristy Wicklund
Director of Children's Ministries
kristy@flcfc.org
(218) 531-9544





YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY


7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES


“Building” Update Youth and Family Edition

 E.P.I.C. (Encouraging People In Christ) is our new name for youth grade 9-12. This group will be meeting 1st and 3rd Sunday evenings each month. In October that is the 1st and the 15th. Our focus is on building connections and what it means to be a part of the faith community.

 Youth Connection is what happens during the Sunday School hour. This is for 7th -12th grades and meets in our new youth headquarters known as HQ. Brian Becker is the leader twice a month and Jen the other Sundays. The focus during this time is conversations around faith questions-kids are encouraged to bring their own to discuss.

 Confirmation meets weekly starting with dinner church. It’s a great opportunity for family time AND no cooking time.

 Prayer Wall In youth HQ (located next to the library) is a prayer wall. You are welcome to come and leave a request for prayers or come in and pray over the requests that are there. There is a little sheet with more information next to the wall, but we would love to make this a part of your visit to church when you are coming or going. We want to be a multi-generational ministry, and this is a great opportunity.

 We have a goal of supporting families and so monthly there will group time for the grownups. October is a book conversation-this group will meet in the Kairos room. All are welcome and feel free to include friends.



What “building supplies” do we need for our new programs?

Prayers for our kids and families.

Support and encouragement, if you have a teen in your life, please encourage them to attend events.


Snacks, let’s be honest -kids love snacks, non-perishable snacks (nothing with nuts please) and Gatorades. If you leave them in the church office, we would be so thankful.

Mentors, if you have an interest in this area, please reach out to Jen or Pastor Tiffany. It’s a small-time commitment with huge long-term rewards.

Thank you for the commitment you have made as a congregation to this “building project”.

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future. ~Franklin D Roosevelt

RAISING GIRLS TO RESIST TOXIC TEACHINGS ON SEX, SELF & SPEAKING UP



SHE DESERVES BETTER

SHEILA WRAY GREGOIRE
REBECCA GREGOIRE LINDENBACH and JOANNA SAWATSKY

Conversation Evening
Sunday
October 29
7:00 pm
First Lutheran Conference Room

Come and discuss with us. Copies of the book available at FLC’s library and it is also an audio book.

You don’t need to have read the book to join in our conversation.

Open to all members of the community.

Please reach out to Jen Enstad-Petersen with any questions (218)288-7584



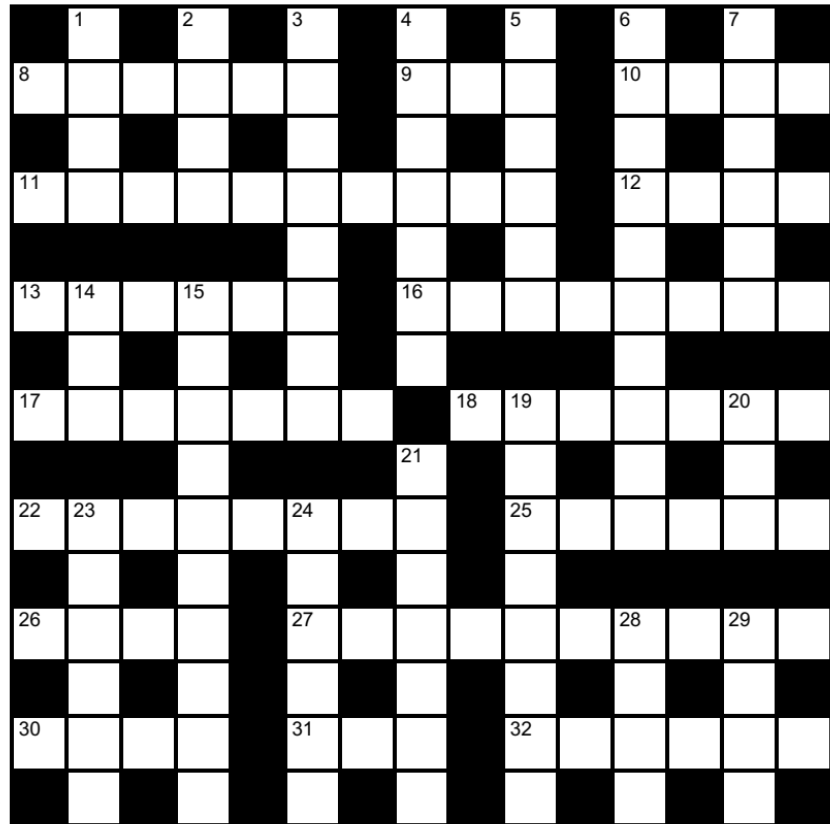
Need Some Support?

The First Lutheran Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of the month 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. If you have any questions, feel free to call Terry Gervais at: 952-250-0432.

BIBLE CROSSWORD II

Across

- 8 Religious service (6)
- 9 Vessel (3)
- 10 Drive forcibly (4)
- 11 Christ does this for us (10)
- 12 Bethesda was the name of this (4)
- 13 Servant of a prophet (6)
- 16 One who leaves the straight and narrow path (8)
- 17 Check the money (7)
- 18 Fragrant offering; make angry (7)
- 22 Come out from among them (8)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 25 Works with clay (6)
- 26 Main part of text (4)
- 27 Chucked it too far (10)
- 30 Treachery sealed with this (4)
- 31 Simon washed his (3)
- 32 Migratory grasshopper (6)

Down

- 1 Standard for the tribe of Judah (4)

- 2 Brother of James; Hardy book (4)
- 3 Choice by vote (8)
- 4 Evening glow (7)
- 5 All sing the tune (6)
- 6 To reduce deficiency (10)
- 7 Take no notice of (6)
- 14 Look at (3)
- 15 Alternative Revelation (10)
- 19 Son of Jacob (8)
- 20 The blind will (3)
- 21 Regrets; Serpent (anag) (7)
- 23 Angels by another name (6)
- 24 Decorates (6)
- 28 Say it and you will be in danger of the council (4)
- 29 Cleanse (4)

FLC Book Study



Spirit Car
JOURNEY TO A DAKOTA PAST
Diane Wilson

FLC's monthly book study will meet again on Monday, October 16, at 11:45 am for lunch and discussion. The October book is "**Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past**" by Diane Wilson. This book is "an exquisite counterpoint of memoir and carefully researched fiction, a remarkable narrative that ties modern Minnesotans to the trauma of the Dakota War. Wilson found her family's love and humor - and she discovered just how deeply our identities are shaped by the forces of history". - Minnesota Historical Society.

Check out a copy of "Spirit Car" from our church library and join us!

FLC Staff Goes Back to Kindergarten?



Kindergarten is "Otterly" Thankful!

McKinley Elementary teachers requested help with welcoming and directing the new Kindergarten class on their first day of school. FLC stepped up and went back to school! We are thrilled to support educators in their very important work.

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.



CHURCH GOVERNANCE

The work continues on church governance as we prepare to update our constitution and bylaws. A Constitutional Review Task Force is being assembled and will present revisions to the Council in October and the Congregation in November.

In the meantime **please consider becoming a member of one of the following committees:** Stewardship, Adult Education, Community Life, Outreach, or Worship. All you need is a willing spirit and a desire to help shape the ministry of your church.

Please contact Pastor Tiffany if you think you may be a fit for one of these committees. She will help you prayerfully consider the options.

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.



WELCA COINS, CASH & CHECKS CHANGE LIVES 2023 FALL CAMPAIGN

Each Fall, the Women of First Lutheran Church reach out asking you to financially help support Missions locally and globally that are important to all of us. Every "penny" you give goes directly to help change and improve the lives of others.

In 2022, your donations were sent to: **KBRF Morning Watch, Lutheran Campus Ministry, A Place to Belong, Someplace Safe, Meals By Wheels, Pioneer Care Foundation, LutherCrest, Camp Knutson, Operation Bootstrap Africa, and Haiti Medical Mission.**

By sharing God's Blessing with others we are sharing Love and Hope in knowing someone does care about them.

This campaign continues to the end of October. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church with WELCA Fall Campaign in the memo line.

We are grateful for your generosity!
WELCA of FLC



YOU'RE INVITED

"Women Supporting Women"

The Conference 7 Women in Action are having their 2023 Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 28 at 9:00 am at Augustana Lutheran Church. The guest speaker will be Marci Pfeifer, a survivor of domestic violence. Cost is \$12.

Please sign up by Sunday, October 15 on the kiosk in the narthex. Write your check to First Lutheran WELCA.

Hannah Circle

We are meeting on **Wednesday, October 25 at 1:00 pm** in the Narthex. Come & enjoy fellowship and refreshments followed by our Bible lesson led by Pastor Tiffany.

Reminder

We host Pioneer Sunshine Aide at PCC on Thursday, October 19 at 10:45 am, with a program and music. It's a lovely time with our elderly women!

Coming in November

WELCA Thankoffering! Get ready to let your dollars go where you cannot.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee continues to work on the Ministry Site Profile, step 6 of the process.

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](#).

Ways to give:



In Person

Whether it's cash or check, we appreciate your kindness. Please place your offerings in an envelope and drop them in the offering plate.



Online

Visit firstlutheranchurchff.org and click Offering to set up a one-time or recurring donation.



Mobile App

Download the Vanco Mobile app from your app store to set up a one-time or recurring donation. **Search Fergus Falls** and then choose **First Lutheran Church**.



QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.



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



Officers

Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents
 Leslie Flugstad, Vice President
 Lorri Holt, Secretary
 Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Treasurer, Property/Finance

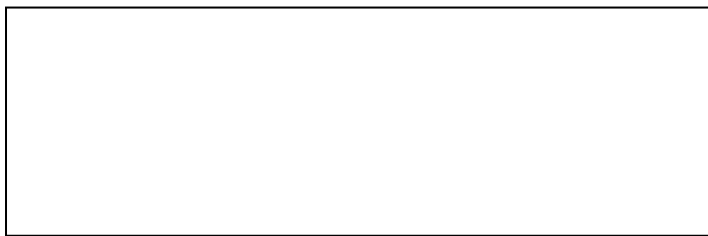
Council Members

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 am 2nd Grade Bible Presentation 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 11:30 am CYF Committee Meeting 7:30 pm E.P.I.C. Youth Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Mtg</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting 5:15 pm Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Property Committee Meeting</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p>15 New Member Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 7:30 pm E.P.I.C. Youth Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 11:45 am FLC Book Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>29 Reformation Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 7:00 pm Book Conversation Evening</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:00 pm Exec Committee Meeting 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Dinner Church Confirmation 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>11</p> <p>10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner Church 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30 pm New Member Orientation</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4:30 pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>4:00 pm Miller/Barry Wedding</p>
<p>18</p> <p>10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:00 pm Exec Committee Meeting 3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:30 pm NO Dinner Church NO Confirmation 6:30 pm NO Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm NO Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>25</p> <p>1:00 pm Hannah Circle 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner Church 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4:00 pm Trunk or Treat at Fleet Farm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 am Baptism of Theodore Richard Lillis</p>
<p>MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250</p>	<p>Our Calendar is Now Online! Click Here for the most up-to-date information.</p>		 <p>October</p>

After 5 days return to
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls MN 56537
Address Service Requested



Staff Directory

Interim Senior Pastor

Pr Tiffany Sundeen

pastortiffany@flcff.org

Visitation Pastor

Pr Kate Bruns

pastorkate@flcff.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Kristy Wicklund

kristy@flcff.org

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Jen Enstad-Petersen

youth@flcff.org

Organist

Keith Melberg

melberke@prtcl.com

Choir Director

Harriet Wicklund

wicklund@charter.net

Hosanna Handbells Director

Linda Mellon

lindamellon@mac.com

Worship Team Director

Anne Taylor

annemltaylor@gmail.com

Church Administrator

Jen Hubrig

office@flcff.org

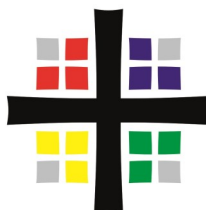
Office Assistant

Mary Johnson

maryj@flcff.org

First Lutheran Church

402 S Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-739-3348
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



Worship Times
Sundays at 9:30 am
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm