



The Messenger

November 2023

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

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A publication of
First Lutheran Church
ELCA
 402 South Court Street
 Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 218-739-3348
 office@flcff.org
 www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

The Harvest Dinner is Coming Soon!



This is First Lutheran's gift to the community. We need the help of the congregation to provide this free dinner.

Please sign up to bring food items for the dinner.

The sign up sheets are located in the Narthex.

Thanks SO much!!

HARVEST DINNER

Free Dinner for the Community

ALL ARE WELCOME

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9
5PM - 7PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP HALL
402 S COURT ST





They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:8

Dear Friends,

This time of year reminds us of bonfires, brilliant falling leaves, bountiful crops harvested, and sharing the abundance. Neighbors share conversations and cocoa/coffee, peppers and pep fests, all because we are Rooted in Abundance. Sharing the abundance becomes like breathing. Beefy slicing tomatoes and oblong squash appear on our doorsteps as if it is as natural as morning dew or frost.

FLC lives being Rooted in Abundance. Our fall stewardship appeal (of the same name) reflects how this “rootedness” is second nature at our church. FLC shares abundance whenever possible. Our giving tradition at FLC has always focused on how we share all our gifts – not just our financial gifts. A church needs innovative ideas, creative people to lead, individuals who know how to solve complex problems, and volunteers to keep our ministries focused on our neighbors. We can talk about this in a three-fold way: wealth, work, and wisdom. If any one of these areas is missing from our community, we are diminished.

Each of us has a gift; some have many: for some it is cooking and baking, others might have beautiful singing voices, we praise those who have an administrative gift of balancing books or counting the collection, we admire those who offer hospitality, who serve at the altar, who help us find a seat as the service begins. Whatever your ministries are, we could not be who we are without you.

As we learn through this year’s “Rooted in Abundance” theme, we experience the freedom to share our gifts. We offer our tithes and offerings that empower visitation of homebound and the sick, choir and handbells, celebrating milestones like our 2nd graders receiving their Bibles, and confirmands learning the catechism. Our life together points towards God’s abundance meant to be shared, not stored up.

This month we share God’s abundance by:

- * honoring the legacy our loved ones who have died have left us on All Saints Sunday, 11/5.
- * preparing turkeys, potatoes, bars and serving the Harvest Dinner on Nov. 9.
- * continually sharing our financial abundance to help our church finish 2023 strong.
- * celebrating Promise Sunday, Friendsgiving, and Family Fun Day at Otter Cove on 11/19.
- * worshipping on 11/22 at the joint Thanksgiving Eve service and singing in the pop-up choir directed by Harriet Wicklund.
- * joining Bethlehem by going to the Concordia Christmas concert together the first weekend in December. (Sign up outside the church office.)

Together, let us live out being Rooted in Abundance every day in the name of Christ. Your gifts make all the difference, and we are eternally grateful that we celebrate God’s abundance daily.

In Christ,

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

**Joint Fergus Falls ELCA
Thanksgiving Eve
Worship Service**

Wednesday, Nov. 22
6:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran

Speakers from the Salvation Army
ELCA Pop Up Choir
Dessert Following Worship

DINNER CHURCH

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

WEDNESDAYS | 5:30 PM
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



The Worship Corner by the Worship Committee

The beautiful windows in the chapel were given as a memorial when the education wing was built in 1954. The altar windows appropriately remind us “Let the Children Come to Me”, as Jesus commanded. Jesus and children are the central theme of the three windows on the west wall. In the center window, Jesus holds a child in his left arm and a bird in his right, representing love for all creation, of which God is the king, symbolized by the crown above his head. Below sits a child, holding flowers to give to Jesus—a reminder that serving God is the highest work we can do. Fluttering near the child, a beautiful butterfly reminds us that God has given us creation to enjoy. In

the left window, a mother brings her daughter and baby to Jesus; below them a father brings his son. This “Parents and Children” window depicts parents teaching children to pray. Three young people bow to Jesus in the right window, affirming the dedication of young lives to Christ through confirmation. Below, a mother presents her infant for baptism.

The north windows represent the means by which we receive salvation, a gift from a living God, through word and sacrament. In the first window, water flows from a shell, symbolizing the ancient manner of baptizing. On the right a dove with rays of light flowing downward to the font and the crown of life symbolize the Holy Spirit’s presence at baptism and remind us of Jesus’ words: “No one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit”. “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it”, is the theme of the second window with the word represented by an open Bible and cross—set in an orb, as God’s word is brought to the world—the sword of justice, a candle to show enlightenment, birds suggesting the spiritual being and the tablets of the Ten Commandments with three proclaiming trumpets. A fleur de lis, a stylized lily, has long been the flower of annunciation, showing obedience to God’s word. In the third window, a sheaf of wheat, a cluster of grapes, a chalice and a wafer suggest the bread and wine, the body and blood of the Lord’s Supper. Fishes and loaves remind us of the feeding of the five thousand. The traditional crusaders cross, a cluster of five crosses, represent the five wounds of the body of Christ. The overturned vessel shows manna falling from heaven, with Christian life, nourished by the sacrament—growing as a lovely rose.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE

WE ARE BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.



FLC
Family Day
at

OTTER COVE
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

SUNDAY, NOV. 19
1:00-3:00PM
\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION

WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

It is that time of year to get the winter weather gear out. As you go through your outerwear (coats, snow pants, boots, hats & mittens), we would love to take your gently used or new, too small or out of date gear. Let's make this a family stewardship project! God provides for us, so that we can help provide for others. Have your child help you find items to donate. When you come to church, have your child put the items in the donation basket. Explain that these clothes once helped to keep you warm and now they will go to help keep another person warm. We will be donating the items to the public schools and the Blessing Closet to help keep our community members warm during the winter months.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This month we are thinking about Christmas. During Chapel we will be learning songs for our Christmas Program and offering parts to any children that would like to narrate or be an actor/actress. Mark your calendars and invite friends and family, the **FLC Sunday School Christmas program is on December 17th.**

There will be NO Butterflies & Sunday School on November 26th.

FLY K-6

The cooler temps and wet weather has chased us inside, so for the rest of the fall and winter, we will be in the Rec Room at FLC. This month we will be exploring how God is loyal, special, and he is our defender. We will also be doing some community service, by helping set up and decorate for the Harvest Dinner, a FREE community meal put on by FLC.

There will be NO FLY K-6 on November 22nd.

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



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES

“Building” Update—Youth and Family Edition

What a JOY it has been to get to know more of the youth and families at FLC. These humans are amazing, leading very busy lives and adding our programs to those busy lives. November has more opportunities for FLC to come alongside them.

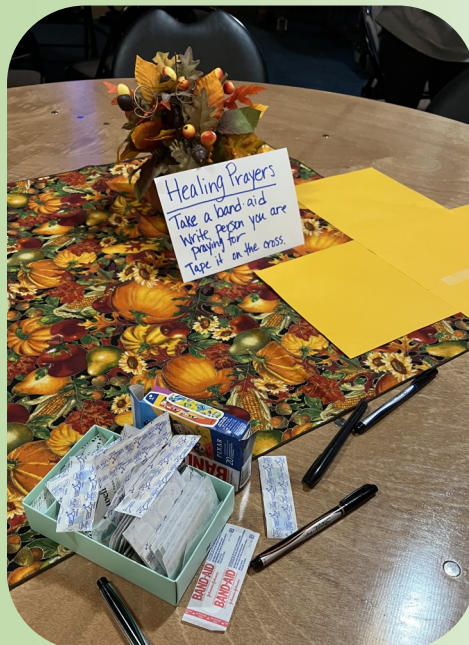
- 🚧 Our E.P.I.C group (9th- 12th graders) will be hosting our first ever “FRIENDS”giving on Sunday, November 19, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Please bring an “All Kinds of Potatoes” (anything potato) to share and Jen will bring the rest. RSVP to Jen by Friday, 11-17-23, text 218-288-7584.
- 🚧 Youth Connection is what happens during the Sunday School hour. This is for 7th -12th grades and meets in 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.
- 🚧 We have a goal of supporting families, so monthly there is Group Time for the Grownups. This month is a conversation “parenting through the holidays, positive ways to navigate the most wonderful time of the year” (that comes with a TON of stress and more) - this group will meet in the parent room (room #8) on Sunday, November 26 at 7:00 pm. All are welcome and feel free to include friends.
- 🚧 Parent Room during Sunday School - Sunday mornings can be stressful getting kiddos out the door. There is a hang out room just for you to have a moment to exhale and recharge. Plus, there are snacks and coffee waiting for you.



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 (no nuts please) and Bubbl’r (drinks found at Service Food and Walmart - any flavor) .If you leave them in the church office, we would be so thankful.
- Thank you for the commitment you have made as a congregation to this “building project”.**

Confirmation Prayer Stations





Volunteer Opportunity!!!

FLC is scheduled to deliver Meals by Wheels November 6-10. If you can help with one of the routes, please sign up in the narthex today.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

This years Christmas Food Baskets coordinated by the Outreach Committee and the Church Council will be delivered on Saturday, December 16, 2023. If you know of someone who may need a basket please call the church office by Wednesday, December 6, 2023.



OUTDOOR WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

ALL DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE BLESSING CLOSET DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.



Hats, mittens, gloves, winter coats, snow pants, and winter boots. Children & adult sizes wanted!

Donations collected in the Narthex and at the Family Resource Nook on the first floor of the Ed Wing.



AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

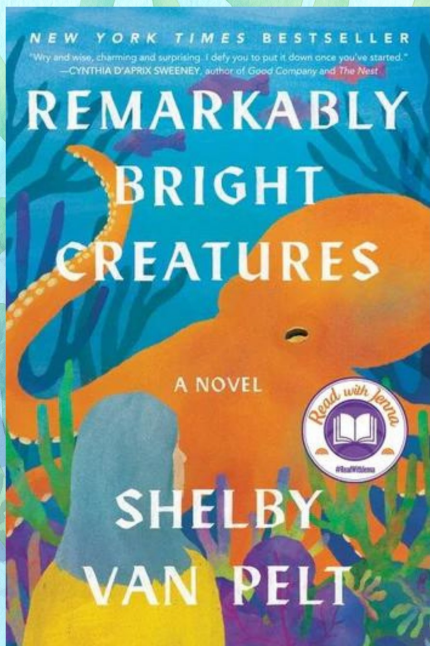
Volunteers are still needed to help with the Blood Drive on Tuesday, Nov 14. Please check the signup sheet in on the kiosk in the narthex for times.



The Blessing Closet

The Blessing Closet is a Christian Based thrift store in Fergus Falls focusing on helping our neighbors obtain clothing and household items without cost. As part of our Outreach Program, we are encouraging our congregation to consider donating items to this worthwhile cause. They are needing clean, usable clothes that are in season for kids, women, and men. They also need items that are used in setting up a home, such as dishes, cookware, bedding, towels, etc. They are located at 201 North Union Avenue (lower level of the old Trinity Lutheran Church), and are open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. They also accept usable furniture, but request that you call ahead to let them know what you have as they have a list of requested items needed at that time. Phone 218-731-1479

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
MONDAY BOOK STUDY ~ NOVEMBER 20, 2023
11:45 AM ~ KAIROS ROOM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
PLEASE JOIN US
FOR LUNCH AND DISCUSSION



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.

Attention Thrivent Members

Have you thought about FLC for you Thrivent Financial CHOICE DOLLARS or your ACTION TEAM directed dollars? If you don't know what they are or how to use them, call your local Thrivent Representative! Or talk to FLC member Jennifer Woore at 218-770-1011 here at church.



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.



CHURCH GOVERNANCE

The work on church governance as we prepare to update our constitution and bylaws is going to be slowed down a bit. A Constitutional Review Task Force will continue to work on this through 2024.

In the meantime **please consider becoming a member of one of the following committees:** Stewardship, Adult Education, Community Life, Outreach, Worship, or Children, Youth, & Families. 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.



Thankoffering

November is here- which means it's time to collect monetary donations to be sent to our national offices.

Countless women and children are in dire need of safe drinking water, food, medical care, a safe place to live, education, and much more.

Let your dollars go where you cannot.

Open your hearts with your prayers and donations.

This project ends Nov.30.

Your check should be made to First Lutheran Church with WELCA Thankoffering written on the memo line.

Please mail or bring to First Lutheran Church, 402 South Court St, Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

Thank you!

FLC WELCA



BOARD MEETING

No WELCA board meeting in November



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.

Hannah Circle

There is no meeting in November. We are planning for a Christmas Gathering in December. Watch for details later in November.

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.



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
 Ann Mathison-Outreach
 Kris Werner-Stewardship
 Harriet Wicklund-Worship
 Vacancy-Community Life

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
|--|---|--|
|  <h1 style="font-size: 4em; color: #C85130; font-family: cursive;">November</h1> | | <p>MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250</p> |
| <p>5 All Saints Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 11:30 am CYF Committee Meeting</p> | <p>6 Meals by Wheels 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p> | <p>7 Meals by Wheels 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>12 9:30 am Blended Worship Service Baptism of Jeffrey Milton Christenson V 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection</p> | <p>13 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p> | <p>14 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p> |
| <p>19 Commitment Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 11:30 am E.P.I.C. "FRIENDS" giving 1:00 pm FLC Family Day at Otter Cove</p> | <p>20 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 11:45 am FLC Book Study</p> | <p>21 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p> |
| <p>26 Christ the King Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection</p> | <p>27 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p> | <p>28 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p> |

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 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>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>8 Meals by Wheels</p> <p>10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:00 pm Exec Committee Meeting 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>9 Meals by Wheels</p> <p>5:00 pm Harvest Dinner</p> | <p>10 Meals by Wheels</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 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>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:30 pm NO Confirmation NO Dinner Church 6:30 pm Joint ELCA Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at Bethlehem NO Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm NO Adult Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p>23 Holiday-Church Offices Closed</p> | <p>24 Holiday-Church Offices Closed</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>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>30</p> | <p>Our Calendar is Now Online!</p> <p>Click Here for the most up-to-date information.</p> | |

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

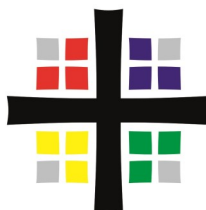


Staff Directory

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--|
| 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