



# The Messenger

December 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  
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www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

## HARVEST DINNER 2023



## Happy Advent, Friends!

When I stepped into the empty sanctuary and saw the large wooden cross, I slipped into a side pew and began to pray. The beginning of this Advent started later than most and without missing a beat a child walked in and asked what I was doing. "Praying," I said. "What about?" was his quizzical question. "Thanking God for our church and community," I responded. "Then I will pray, too." And the determined elementary age boy sat in the pew, closed his eyes, and began to pray.

I am grateful for our church, and I am sure you are too. As we enter Advent, we reflect on this past year and give thanks for God's abundance. We give thanks for:

- Pastor Kate joining our staff in January as she visits our homebound members every 4-6 weeks, preaches hope, teaches God's love, sings joyfully in the choir, and works for peace.
- Jen Enstad Petersen who joined our staff in July as Director of Youth and Family Ministry. We've witnessed starting Sunday School for middle and senior high students, Friendsgiving, conversations with parents, care packages, and more.
- An emerging Adult Education Committee that seeks your input in a survey to offer the best Bible Studies, current topics and book studies that will enrich our faith journey, relationship with God and one another.
- Our renewed Outreach Committee that helped feed nearly 500 people at the Harvest Dinner, helped us build a Habitat for Humanity Home, facilitated the coat collection for the Blessing Closet and local schools, coordinated Christmas Food Baskets for those in need, invite us to participate in the Giving Tree set up for A Place to Belong, and so much more.
- The entire staff, volunteers, congregational members, visitors, donors, those who have gone before us and those who are among us sharing Good News in the World!

We also look forward to what is coming in 2024! Building upon the strengths of expanding Children's Programming that has doubled. Welcoming New Members in January. Preparing for a new Senior Pastor and the gifts they bring. Leading generosity in Fergus Falls. Together, we celebrate Christ's presence and promise by participating in the life-giving ministries of First Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your generosity that reflects our Savior, God with Us. May the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of this Holy Advent Season bless you abundantly.

In Christ,

Pastor Tiffany

### Advent Candle Names and Corresponding Sundays

First candle/Sunday: HOPE (The Prophecy Candle) December 3

Second candle/Sunday: PEACE (The Bethlehem Candle) December 10

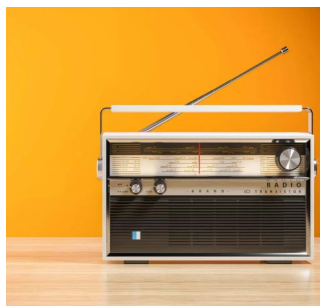
Third candle/Sunday: JOY (The Shepherd's Candle) December 17

Fourth candle/Sunday: LOVE (The Angel's Candle) December 24



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen  
pastortiffany@flcfc.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](http://www.firstlutheranchurchff.org).



PEG Access Channel 8



### Christmas at FLC

#### Sunday Worship Services at 9:30 am

First Sunday of Advent-December 3

Second Sunday of Advent-December 10

Children's Christmas Program-December 17

Fourth Sunday of Advent-December 24

#### Wednesday Worship Services at 5:30 pm

Holden Evening Prayer Service-December 6, 13, & 20

#### Christmas Eve Worship Services at 3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Nativity of our Lord-December 24

#### Christmas Day Worship Service at 9:30 am

Lessons & Carols-December 25

First Lutheran Church  
402 S Court Street  
Fergus Falls, MN

During most of the early history of our faith, literacy was a privilege reserved for the elite. Stained glass windows created for the great cathedrals of Europe offered stories and symbols in picture form to believers who for the most part couldn't read or write. Today, stained glass windows still illuminate through visual story telling. Each of us tries to understand what the Bible says to us in a personal way, and our windows based on Biblical themes offer new translations of our faith. Our stained glass speaks to us today as it did in times of old; a story that endures and will not be lost, but transcends generations to offer its symbols and lessons of faith to all believers who worship here.

The Worship Committee wishes a blessed holiday season to all!



**The Worship Corner**  
by the  
Worship Committee



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE  
**WE ARE BUILDING  
 A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.**



## Spirit Sundays

Sun, Dec. 3 **Christmas Character Day**

Ideas include:  
 angels donkey wisemen shepherds Mary Joseph baby animals Santa reindeer Grinch



Sun, Dec. 10 **Pajama Day**

Get all comfy and come in your warm pajamas.



Sun, Dec. 17 **Star Day**

It is Christmas Program day and you are all the stars of the show. Plus, you are all pretending to be stars in our night sky.



FLC Sunday School presents



DECEMBER 17  
 AT 9:30 AM

First Lutheran Church  
 402 S Court St  
 Fergus Falls, MN



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## FLY K-6

Luther Crest Summer Camp Registration is Open. **Early bird** before Feb. 14.

Dec. 3- Butterflies/Sunday School/Christmas program practice  
 Spirit Sunday- Christmas Character

Dec. 10- Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal 10:30-11:30  
 Spirit Sunday- Pajama Day

Christmas Movie & Pajama Party 11:30-1:30

Dec. 17- Christmas Program Rehearsal 8:30-9:15am  
 Stellar Christmas Program 9:30am  
 Trowbridge Petting Zoo & Christmas Cookies 10:30am

Dec. 24-January 1- NO Children Programs

This month we will be diving into how God is our defender and Jesus is humble. We will be making Christmas cards for shut ins and we will be celebrating Jesus birth with a party.

**FLY Christmas party  
 December 20th.**

**There will be NO FLY K-6 on  
 December 27th .**



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

Did you know we have about 20 kids at confirmation every week? They are amazing coming from a full day of school and often rolling into dinner church right from after school activities. Then after being here it’s home to homework. Talk about a long day! It’s an absolute joy for us to offer them a fun drink from the HQ fridge and a fun snack during our time with them. If you would like to help make the day of these great kids it’s as simple as picking up a pack of anything drink or snack related when you are at the store. (Gatorade & Bubbl’rs are favorites and no nuts in the snacks please) thank you for supporting our program in this way.

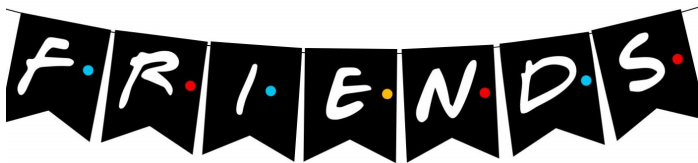
**E.P.I.C. (9th-12th grade):** put on your thinking caps for a Trivia Party with host Brian Becker on Sunday Dec. 10 from 11:30 am -1:00 pm in the Kairos Room. It’s our Christmas party so come hungry for lunch. This trivia will have you thinking but also have you celebrating with AMAZING prizes (one for the most festive Christmas wear).

**Youth Connection (7th-8th grade):** Cookie Crew– we will be making cookies December 10 during Sunday School. What an honor to be able to be a part of the delivery plates that our congregation gives.

### Youth Connection is on the Move

You may see our group out and about with clipboards during the Sunday School hour. We are learning about the stories of our stained-glass windows for 4 Sundays and will let you know our reflections in the January messenger.

Until then feel free to ask us about favorite ones!



## December “Blessing Box”

Many items are needed by people going to the Blessing Closet located at 201 North Union. The Outreach Committee has decided to help by collecting a specified item each month in the Blessing Box located inside the canopy entrance. For December we will be collecting new and gently used, toys, games, and puzzles for those in need of Christmas gifts for children. Please bring this type of item to the Blessing Box by Sunday, December 17.

Thank you—FLC is blessed to be a blessing!



## 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.



Calling all

## Cookie Bakers

We will be delivering plates of Christmas cookies to our homebound members again this year. Please bring any cookies you want to share to the church narthex by

**9:45am on  
Tuesday, Dec. 12**

If you can deliver cookies, please contact Sandy Pearson at 218-205-8336 and plan to arrive at 10:30am.



## Giving Tree

There will be a Christmas Giving Tree supporting a Place to Belong members. This is a simple way to make this Christmas season a little more “merry” for our community. Please take an ornament tag (or more) from the tree. Purchase an item listed on the ornament, wrap and return the gift with its tag to church before Monday, December 18th.



## OWLS

Older Wiser Lutherans

Age 55+

There is a performance, “Magical Medora Christmas” at the Center for the Arts on Monday, December 18 at 7:30 pm. The cost is \$36. If you would like to be seated as an OWLS group, please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex by Monday, November 27. Money can be left in the church office. We will get your tickets for you.



Trips we have taken this year. We went to the Jasper Theatre in Park Rapids for a fun day of shopping, visiting and music. We also went to the Campbell Tintah dairy farm . Very informative and interesting.



### 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.

## 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. It is time to start signing up for 2024! The sign-up book is ready and will be in the narthex on Sundays, Dec 3, 10, & 17. It is in the church office during the week. Please plan to make payment at the time of sign up.

**Altar Flowers \$45**

**Radio Broadcast \$100**



Make a craft while you enjoy  
Christmas Goodies

*Prepare Your Hearts*

# ADVENT FELLOWSHIP WOW EVENT

Monday, December 4  
6:30 pm

First Lutheran Church Narthex

Preregister at  
the sign-up table  
by the office



# Women of the ELCA

## Love Days Quilters All are welcome!

We will be quilting on the first 3 Mondays in December. Stop by to see & hear our happy quilters enjoying this meaningful activity! Find out how to join us by contacting Joanne Peterson at 218-205-1189.

## Hannah Circle

To all women of FLC

Oh JOY!

We invite you to our Christmas Gathering

Tuesday, Dec. 12

1:30 pm in the Narthex

Enjoy refreshments, special music, a Christmas message and conversation with our church women! Fill your hearts with the Christmas blessings of love & joy, and fellowship!

## BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 5  
10:00 am in the Kairos Room

Adult Education

*FLC Book Study*  
*Monday, December 18*  
*11:45 am - Kairos Room*



# MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Visit us at [firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://firstlutheranchurchff.org) for more information.



# Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has met 5 times at this point in the process. We have been in frequent contact with a synod staff representative to ensure everything proceeds accurately and in a timely manner. The Call Committee completed the Ministry Site Profile and it is available for candidates to view. Receiving names and Interviewing Candidates, is now underway. If you know of any potential candidates you can nominate them by filling out a Nomination form. The form is on the counter by the office and can be turned in to the office. If anyone has questions about the Call Committee or Call process please contact one of our co-presidents Joe Ellig or Connor West.

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](http://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.



Once again we invite you to participate in our **"Wrap it Up" Appeal**. The purpose of this appeal is to have our income meet or exceed our expenses for 2023. In order to do this we need to receive \$81,260 in regular and "extra" offerings by December 31. You exceeded our goal in 2022 which gave us a positive balance to begin the new year. Help us do that again! Look for the special Christmas tree in the narthex to see our progress.

## 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

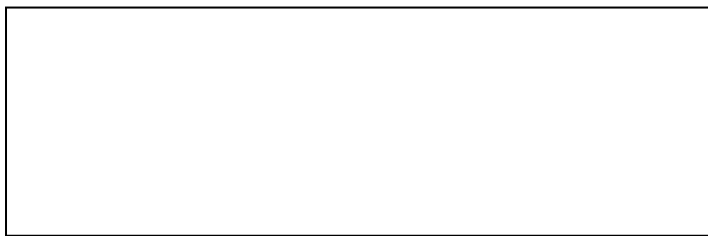
Harriet Wicklund-Worship

Sue Toso-Community Life

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
<p><b>3 First Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service            10:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                      Sunday School &amp; Butterflies                      Youth Connection            11:45 am CYF Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting            10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg            12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting            6:30 pm Advent Fellowship WOW Event</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting            12:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg            5:15 pm Finance Committee Mtg            6:30 pm Property Committee Mtg</p>
<p><b>10 Second Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>9:30 am Blended Worship Service            10:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                      Sunday School &amp; Butterflies                      Youth Connection            11:00 am Altar Guild Meeting            11:30 am Christmas Movie &amp; Pajama Party                      E.P.I.C Trivia Party</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study            9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>10:00 am WELCA Board Meeting            11:00 am Staff Meeting            12:00 pm Red Cross Blood Drive            6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p><b>17 Third Sunday in Advent</b></p> <p>9:30 am Stellar Christmas Program            10:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                      Cookies in the Courtyard                      Youth Connection</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting            11:45 am FLC Book Study</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p><b>24 Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve</b></p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service            10:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                      NO Sunday School/Butterflies                      NO Youth Connection            3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service            5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service</p>	<p><b>25 Christmas Day Church Offices Closed</b></p> <p>7:00 am NO Men's Bible Study            9:00 am NO WELCA Love Days Quilting            9:30 am Lessons &amp; Carols Christmas                      Worship Service</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p><b>31</b></p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service            10:30 am Coffee &amp; Fellowship                      NO Sunday School/Butterflies                      NO Youth Connection</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MORNING WATCH</b>            (15 minute devotional program)  <b>MONDAY—FRIDAY</b>            8:45 am            KBRF AM 1250</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 pm Private Event
<b>6</b> 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 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	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>13</b> 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 1:00 pm Hannah Circle Christmas Gathering 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Dinner Church Confirmation 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Confirmation Dinner Church 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>27</b> 3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:30 pm NO Dinner Church NO Confirmation 6:30 pm NO Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm NO Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
		<p><b>Our Calendar is Now Online!</b></p> <p>Click <a href="#" style="color: white; text-decoration: underline;">Here</a> 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

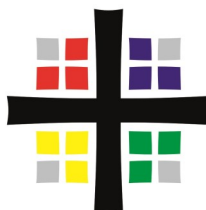


## Staff Directory

<b>Interim Senior Pastor</b>	Pr Tiffany Sundeen	<a href="mailto:pastortiffany@flcff.org">pastortiffany@flcff.org</a>
<b>Visitation Pastor</b>	Pr Kate Bruns	<a href="mailto:pastorkate@flcff.org">pastorkate@flcff.org</a>
<b>Director of Children's Ministry</b>	Kristy Wicklund	<a href="mailto:kristy@flcff.org">kristy@flcff.org</a>
<b>Director of Youth &amp; Family Ministry</b>	Jen Enstad-Petersen	<a href="mailto:youth@flcff.org">youth@flcff.org</a>
<b>Organist</b>	Keith Melberg	<a href="mailto:melberke@prtcl.com">melberke@prtcl.com</a>
<b>Choir Director</b>	Harriet Wicklund	<a href="mailto:wicklund@charter.net">wicklund@charter.net</a>
<b>Hosanna Handbells Director</b>	Linda Mellon	<a href="mailto:lindamellon@mac.com">lindamellon@mac.com</a>
<b>Worship Team Director</b>	Anne Taylor	<a href="mailto:annemltaylor@gmail.com">annemltaylor@gmail.com</a>
<b>Church Administrator</b>	Jen Hubrig	<a href="mailto:office@flcff.org">office@flcff.org</a>
<b>Office Assistant</b>	Mary Johnson	<a href="mailto:maryj@flcff.org">maryj@flcff.org</a>

## First Lutheran Church

402 S Court Street  
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218-739-3348  
[www.firstlutheranchurchff.org](http://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