



The Messenger

January 2024

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**

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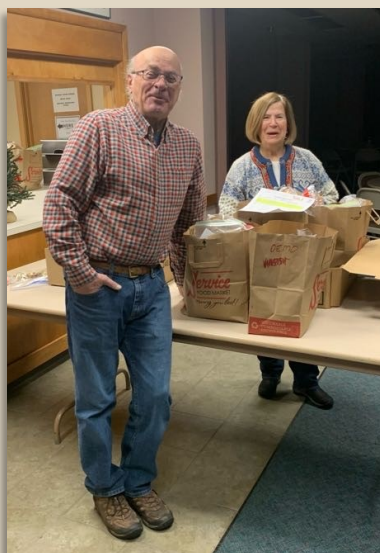
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www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Christmas Food Baskets



30 Christmas Baskets were made up and delivered in December. At least 60 people benefited as they were able to make a tasty Christmas dinner for themselves and their families. Thank you to all who organized, made phone calls, packed baskets, and delivered them.

☆ It truly does "take a village".



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Season of Christmas lasts a full 12 days, and if you have taken down the decorations inside, keep the lights shining outside. Why? I will give you two reasons.

1. When it is cold and blustery outside and someone drives by your place, you lift their spirits up.
2. Epiphany! This is our season of light that begins on January 6th and continues to shine through our lives all through January. The light of Christ shines so brightly through you all. We've been together for nearly two years and your love, kindness and generosity continues to grow stronger and stronger.

Shine your lights! During the Civil War, people would put lights in their windows to guide their loved ones home again. It showed a yearning for peace and reuniting again with loved ones, hoping beyond hope that they survived another day. Living in Gettysburg, PA during seminary, many houses still shine a candle in every window. The warm glow brings hope, promise, and a reminder of the abiding presence of God.

Here's a plan.

- Let's put a **light** in our windows to shine our light which yearns for peace in the Holy Land, peace in our homes, peace in our hearts.
- Let's shine the **light** of welcome for our new members joining us on January 14th. (If you would like to be a new member sponsor, give me a call!)
- Let's radiate **light** at our annual meeting on January 28th and anticipate the vision for 2024.
- Let's **enlighten** our prayers by praying for the next senior pastor who will join us sometime in 2024.
- And let our hearts beam with the **light** and love of our Savior.

Thank you for already promising to support the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church in 2024. We can do more together than we ever could do apart. Your light brings hope to Fergus Falls and we have more light to share. Blessings as we begin a new year in the name of Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org



The first indication we have that Jesus' ministry will not be only for Israel, but for the people of all nations, is that the Magi were not Jewish, but recognized something special in the infant Jesus. Epiphany is so important to the church because it was when Jesus began to be revealed as the Messiah for the whole world. It is no wonder that light is such an important part of Epiphany. Something bright, new, different, and exciting was to happen through Jesus. What a realization! God made flesh for all.

~the Worship Committee

May the faith of God
be with you this year.
May the peace of God
surround you, ✈
and may you be blessed
each day!

Happy New Year



Ways to Worship with Us



Sunday Worship Service
9:30 am
Wednesday Dinner Church
5:30 pm



KJK AM 1020, Channel 977,
FM 97.7



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



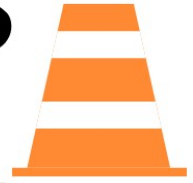
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE
WE ARE BUILDING

A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.



SAVE
the
DATE

JOINT ELCA VBS
*Day Camp with
Luther Crest*

JULY 22-25, 2024
at Augustana for K-6th grade

SIGN UP TODAY FOR SUMMER CAMP AT LUTHER CREST!

Join LC for a summer of learning who God created us to be! Summer programs are available for people of ALL ages. **Register before Feb. 14 for an early bird**



discount. Plus, the First Lutheran Foundation will pay for part of your registration and scholarships are available through Luther Crest and the Foundation. Check it all out at luthercrest.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank you to everyone that participated, helped, and attended the Stellar Christmas Program. We really shined Jesus' Light and I hope you continue to shine that light everywhere you go!

FLY K-6

This month we will be diving into how God speaks, God is real, and He values people. Fingers crossed for some snow for a little snow fun!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES



“Building” Update

Happy New Year!

Working with youth and family makes you feel like you are always celebrating something, and fresh starts happen often.

Confirmation students finished the Lord’s Prayer, and we are currently taking a fresh look at the 10 Commandments.

Youth Connection continues to explore tough questions with Brian Becker, and we will wrap up looking at the church’s-stained glass with Jen. Both studies are helping us look at things with fresh eyes.

In December **E.P.I.C.** had a trivia afternoon party with Brian and he had us all thinking. In January, this group will be celebrating with some **“Olympic”** games. While the real Olympics don’t typically use shaving cream, cotton balls and serve ice cream, we like to put a fun and unexpected spin on things here.

All adults are welcome to our **Valentine’s Craft and Chat (and Chocolate) Evening**. We will look at different ways to show love this year to friends and family. We also will be making little care packages for our recent graduates, so they feel the love. Grab some friends and meet in the Kairos Room on January 28 at 7:00 pm.



Jen Enstad-Petersen
Director of Youth & Family Ministry
youth@fjcf.org
(218) 288-7584

Our program is new in many ways, but we celebrate the rich traditions that come from being a part of this congregation. What a JOY to head into a NEW YEAR together!





Committee Update

Christmas was made merrier for those people who have a bit of a hard time getting out. Cookies were baked and delivered by both adults and kids. Gifts from the Giving Tree were delivered to A Place to Belong and were much appreciated. About 60 individuals received food baskets so that they wouldn't go without a festive Christmas dinner. Load of toys, games, and puzzles were delivered to the Blessing Closet where they were offered to parents who needed help making their children's Christmas stockings burst with fun! Thank you to all who helped spread God's love through these endeavors.



January "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 January we will be collecting Men's casual pants like jeans and khakis. All sizes, new or gently used.

Thank you—FLC is blessed to be a blessing!





OWLS

Older Wiser Lutherans

Age 55+

“ARTRAGEOUS”

Friday April 12, at 7:30 a performance at Center for the Arts “ARTRAGEOUS” is a troupe of multi-talented live performance artists, world-class singers and recording artists, highly trained dancers, audience motivators, and veteran musicians. Their high energy performance is a combination of all the Arts on ONE STAGE, combined with humor and interaction in a frenzy of movement and color.

Artists, using hands, brushes, and other objects, create visual art pieces making lines and shapes on giant canvases while the audience is guessing what each painting will become. The tickets are \$30 each.

This is part of the Center Series so we need to purchase our tickets now. Please make your decision, sign up, and pay in the church office by January 15, 2024.

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 sign up for 2024!

The sign-up book is in the church office. Please plan to make payment at the time of sign up.



Altar Flowers \$45

Radio Broadcast \$100



Need Funding for a Church Project?

First Lutheran staff members and committee chairs are welcome to make monetary requests from the First Lutheran Foundation. If you or your committee need assistance to fund your church project, you have just 2 steps to complete. First, get permission from the Church Council to make the request. Second, get a written request to a Foundation Board Member. If you presently have a need, please make your request by January 15, 2024 for it to be considered at their annual meeting.

First Lutheran Foundation Board Members: Vicki Hannamen, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Tim Johnson, Brad Larson, Jennifer Smestad, Linda Mellon, and Barret Wicklund.

Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing. ~Nicky Gumbel

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.



Love Days Quilters

The quilters are on a break for January and February. Find out how to join us by contacting Joanne Peterson at 218-205-1189.

Hannah Circle

All women are invited to Hannah Circle
Wednesday, January 24
1:00 pm in the Narthex

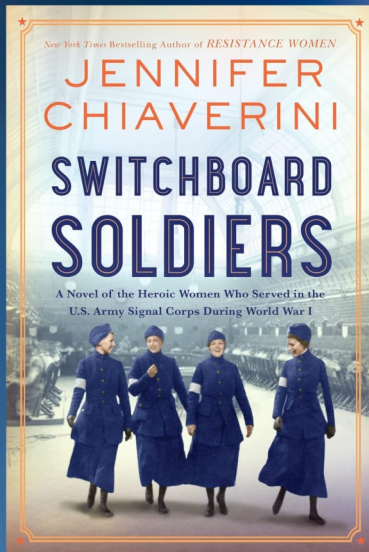
If you are interested in coming just to see what Circle is, please contact Gayle Fitz (218-736-3058 or Donna Quam (218-736-4294).
We welcome you!

BOARD MEETING

No meeting in January.

Adult Education

JANUARY BOOK STUDY



Monday, January 15
11:45 a.m.

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.

Call Committee Update

The interview process for a new pastor at First Lutheran Church marks a significant milestone in the ongoing call process. Call Committee members gathered over Zoom to meet and interview a potential candidate, seeking someone who aligns with the values and vision of the church community. As the committee posed questions, there was an air of anticipation and hope and a collective desire to find a pastor who will inspire, guide, and nurture the congregation. The discussions were open and thorough, exploring not only theological perspectives but also the candidate's approach to community engagement and pastoral care. The Call Committee is committed to ensuring a thoughtful and prayerful process and hopes to continue this journey with other candidates in the near future. We look forward to welcoming a new pastor who will play a vital role in the church's continued growth and service to the community.

In Christ, Elizabeth Abrahams -Secretary



WE ARE SO CLOSE! As of December 29, we have received \$74,514 of the \$81,260 needed to meet our expenses for 2023. It's not too late to contribute, just have your offering for 2023 in to the church office by Wednesday, January 3 for it to be counted toward the Wrap It Up Total. Thank you for all the ways you support FLC.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL



Officers

Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents

Vacancy, 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

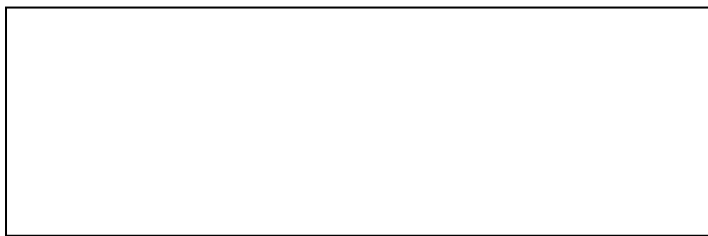
Harriet Wicklund-Worship

Sue Toso-Community Life

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	<p>1 New Year's Day Church Offices Closed 9:00 am NO WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>2 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>7 Baptism of our Lord 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection Outreach Committee Meeting 10:45 am New Member Orientation 11:45 am CYF Committee Meeting E.P.I.C Trivia Party</p>	<p>8 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>9 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p>14 New Member Sunday 9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection</p>	<p>15 Martin Luther King, Jr Day Church Offices Closed 11:45 am FLC Book Study</p>	<p>16 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection 11:30 am E.P.I.C. Winter Olympics</p>	<p>22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study</p>	<p>23 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>28 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School/Butterflies Youth Connection 7:00 pm Valentine's Craft & Chat</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</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 Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm NO Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4:30 pm Stewardship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of our Lord</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Dinner Church Confirmation 6:30 pm NO Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>17</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>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>24</p> <p>1:00 pm Hannah Circle 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>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>31</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>MORNING WATCH</p> <p>(15 minute devotional program)</p> <p>MONDAY— FRIDAY</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>KBRF AM 1250</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

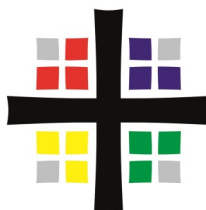


Staff Directory

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