



The Messenger

February 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**

402 South Court Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

218-739-3348

office@flcff.org

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



Lent is often a time of self-reflection, spiritual discipline, commitment, and community. We gather to sing the minor harmonies of the way of Jesus on the road toward the cross. This Lent, we are going to look at a kaleidoscope of stories. We'll see the ways the Spirit alters our perspective, transforms our communities, and consistently blazes a trail ahead of us. We'll catch up with the work of the Holy Spirit, finding ourselves altered. Because the Spirit is alive in, with, and under our ordinary lives, always calling us forward into transformation, nudging us into wholeness, and beckoning us forth into an alternative way.

Ash Wednesday

Week one

Week two

Week three

Week four

Week five

Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter

Altered in Witness

Altered Through God's Creativity

Altered on the Edge of Belonging

Altered Alongside our Enemies

Altered by Disruption

Altered Through Stories We Don't Trust

Victory Altered

Love Altered

Violence Altered

Life Altered

Please join us on this journey during the worship services in Lent.

Ash Wednesday

Feb 14 at 12:10 pm, 4:45 pm (child friendly), or 6:30 pm at FLC. *No meal served.*

Sundays

Feb 18, 25, Mar 3, 10, and 17 at 9:30 am at FLC.

Wednesdays

Feb 21 at Augustana, Feb 28 at Hope, Mar 6 at FLC, Mar 13 at Zion, and Mar 20 at Bethlehem at 12:10 pm or 6:30 pm. *There will be a meal at the 12:10 pm services and a 5:30 pm meal preceding the 6:30 services.*

Palm Sunday, Mar 24 at 9:30 am at FLC

Maundy Thursday, Mar 28 at 6:30 pm at FLC

Good Friday, Mar 29 at 6:30 pm at FLC

Easter Sunday, Mar 31 at 9:30 am or 11:00 am at FLC

Dear FLC Friends,

When our kids were all little, we engaged in the age-old tradition of making Valentine's Day boxes. We've made spaceships, cupcakes, castles, minions, racetracks, and more for these Valentine's Day boxes filled with messages of love and friendship. (It's the unofficial mom competition of who is most creative and resisting the temptation is crucial.) The endeavor becomes an adventure with glue, scissors, tape, and construction paper.

This Valentine's Day, love looks like the cross. No box needed, just a heart ready for the Lenten journey ahead. Messages of love will find their way to us through the Holy Spirit. We come together for the beginning here on February 14th/Ash Wednesday at 12:10 pm, 4:45 pm (children's service), and 6:30 pm to hear about returning to God with all our heart and soul. *There will be no meal at these services.* The services on 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, and 3/20 will be at 12:10 pm and 6:30 pm at the corresponding host congregation. *There will be a meal at the 12:10 pm services and a 5:30 pm meal preceding the 6:30 services.*

As we approach this Lenten season, how might we share the love Christ has first shone to us? We will have Lenten offering folders, blessing closet collections, meals by wheels deliveries, cards for our neighbors, and so much more. What are ways you can think of for sharing God's love each week?

Our weekly themes will be carried through both Sundays and Wednesdays. The love of God shared through the Holy Spirit changes us. It alters us. We will explore this through witnessing, through God's creativity, paying attention to those on the edge of belonging and coming alongside our enemies. We will be altered by disruption and stories we don't trust at first throughout Lent and deepen our walk with Jesus.

May this Valentine's Day remind us of the eternal love we all share through Jesus Christ. May God's love expand our visions and keep our hearts open to where God leads the way. May we show up for one another in this community with compassion and live out God's life changing love.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany





Psalm 100:1-5

Shout for joy to the Lord,
all the earth
Worship the Lord with
gladness; come before Him
with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us and
we are His; we are
His people, the sheep of
His pasture.
Enter His gates with
thanksgiving and His courts
with praise; give
Thanks to Him and praise
His name.
For the Lord is good and
His love endures forever;
His faithfulness
Through all generations.
~The Worship Committee

JOIN US FOR A LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Altered by the Spirit: Exploring the Book of Acts
Led by Pastor Tiffany Sundeen

**Thursdays in February:
February 1, 8, 15, and 22
Noon in Kairos Room
Lunch Provided
Come as available!**



All are welcome - bring a friend

Ways to Worship with Us



KJKK AM 1020, Channel 977,
FM 97.7



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



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



PEG Access Channel 8



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE

WE ARE BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.



Luau

Leave the cold behind and come and eat, dance, and play in a tropical paradise.

Toddler-6th grade families

Rec Room
Sunday, February 11
11:30-1:00pm

FLY K-6

This month we will be diving into how God values people, God is praiseworthy, and God is kind so we're kind. We will celebrate Valentine's Day and have a special kid friendly Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14.

Ash Wednesday

KID FRIENDLY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 14, 2024

4:45-5:00PM

CHAPEL

DAY CAMP/VBS



The Fergus Falls ELCA Churches are excited to host Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer for another awesome week of Day Camp!

Grab your calendars and save the date: July 22-25. Registration will start in March. Registration Fee per child: \$30 (Family maximum cost is \$75).

**No Sunday
School
or Butterflies
Feb. 18**

This great week can't happen without you! Take some time to consider how you might want to share of your time and resources to help share the love of Jesus with Fergus Fall's kiddos. Hope to see you and your family there!

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

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES



“Building” Update

Youth and Family Ministry at FLC- what’s not to LOVE??

- **Love the kids-** we wrapped up the 10 commandments in confirmation and look forward to attending Lent services together. Sunday Youth Connections is different every week and HQ is a great place for learning and connecting.
- **Love the Families-** we had a family faith night in January and it warmed our hearts to see everyone enjoying games, prayer stations and naturally a hot chocolate bar!
- **Love doing new things-** E.P.I.C. winter Olympics- who knew speed skating could be done in the education wing hallway?
- **Love making connections-** maybe it’s meeting family while cheering at a game, maybe it’s grandmas and moms sending Valentine care packages, maybe it’s just having conversations over a cup of coffee. Connections are being made and faith grows stronger when we are supporting each other.
- **Love God’s Love-** we can do all this and more because we are loved by God and FLC is giving us a place to show God’s love to others. It doesn’t get sweeter than that!

Thanks for all the ways you show LOVE FLC-
Jen Enstad-Petersen



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

Save the Date!
Confirmation Retreat
(current 7th- 8th graders)
April 12th&13th.



MOVIE MAGIC

FAMILY FUN!
SAVE THE DATE!

Hosanna Handbells will present a mini-concert on Sunday, May 12 from 10:45 to 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Wear your favorite character costume and hear movie theme music while enjoying movie treats. Spend a fun time with us as we present Movie Magic!



ESCAPE ROOM

E.P.I.C.
9th- 12th graders

Normally we really want you to COME and STAY at HQ but on Feb 25 come at 11:30 for lunch and then see if you can ESCAPE from our event in our very own Escape Room FLC style. Bring your friends so if you don’t solve the puzzles you won’t mind being trapped. We have two different themed experiences so multiple chances to escape. (Grownups if you don’t know what an Escape Room is Jen would love to tell you all about it).

FLC
LIBRARY
PUZZLE
EXCHANGE
KICK-OFF

EVERYONE IS INVITED

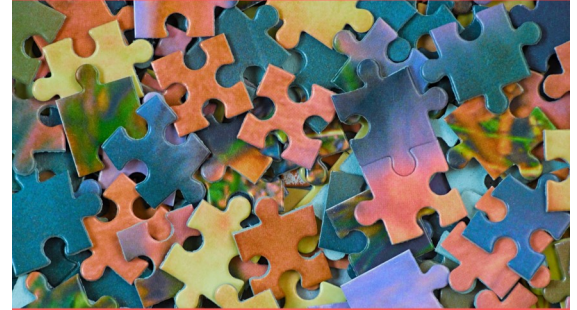


POPCORN
AND
PUZZLE
PARTY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
FROM 6:30-8PM
NARTHEX

*SURPRISES AND
PRIZES*

Help us build
First Lutheran Church's
Puzzle Exchange



Donate
Your
Puzzles

Bring your
new or
gently used
puzzles to
the drop-off
bin by FLC's
Library.

Thank You!

On behalf of FLC, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude for your pledge to our annual stewardship campaign. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

~Stewardship Committee

*"Honor the Lord with your possessions
and the first produce of your entire har-
vest." Proverbs 3:9*



OWLS

Older Wiser Lutherans
Age 55+

The Potter

On February 22, Jim Bjork will be in the church narthex to present "The Potter". He gives a biblical presentation and makes a bowl with clay. We will furnish lunch at 12:00 pm. We need to have a count of those that will be here in attendance for the lunch. Please sign up for the event on the kiosk in the narthex.



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.

February “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.

**In February we will be collecting men's warm shirts, sweatshirts, and sweaters.
All sizes, new or gently used.**

Thank you—FLC is blessed to be a blessing!



Lost and Found

Our lost and found is growing. If you recognize any of these items please pick them up right outside the church office. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity after February 14.



Women of the ELCA

Love Days Quilters

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

BOARD MEETING

No meeting in February.

Hannah Circle

All women are invited to Hannah Circle
Wednesday, February 28
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!

February Book Study

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Helen Simonson

"[A] beautiful little love story... told with skill and humor."
-THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand
A Novel

Monday, February 19, 11:45 - Kairos Room
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.

What's Happening in the Church Library?

The FLC Library is **GROWING** and **expanding**!

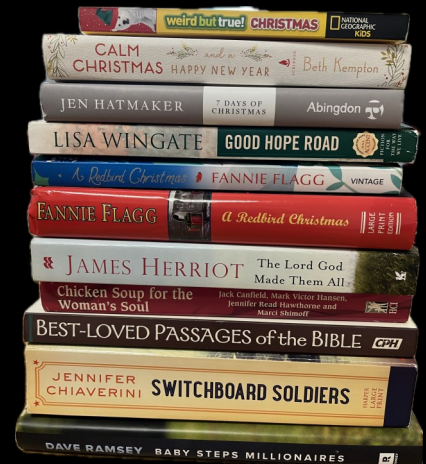
We are **GROWING** our collection of Large Print Books. This includes fiction, non-fiction, devotionals and Bibles. Please consider stopping by the library and checking out our new Large Print library selections. And, we welcome your donations of Large Print books.

We are **expanding** to offer a puzzle exchange. Down the hall from the library and near the top of the stairs, there are shelves ready for our new puzzle corner. Please consider donating your gently used or new puzzles. By February, puzzles will be ready for exchanging. There will be puzzles for all abilities and ages.

To kick off our puzzle exchange there is a **Popcorn and Puzzle** party on Monday, February 5, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Everyone is invited! Sign up in the narthex today!



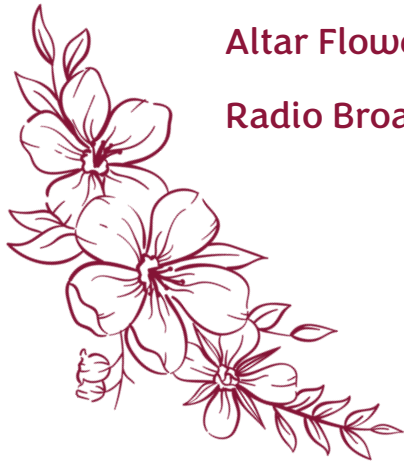
Featured Books



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



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.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is still in the process of receiving potential candidates. If you have any questions please contact Joe Ellig or Connor West, committee co-chairs.

Attention Thrivent Members

Have you thought about FLC for your 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.

The Thrivent logo, featuring the word "thrivent" in a lowercase, sans-serif font with a red heart symbol above the letter 'i'.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents

Jeani Trosvig, Vice President

Lorri Holt, Secretary

Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Treasurer, Property/Finance

Council Members

Vicki Berdan-Adult Education

Kristi Dinsmore-Children, Youth, & Families


Sue Toso-Community Life/Fellowship

Ann Mathison-Outreach

Kris Werner-Stewardship

Harriet Wicklund-Worship

Steve Fitz-Personnel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250
4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection Outreach Committee Meeting 10:45 am Pay Less to the IRS 11:45 am CYF Committee Meeting E.P.I.C Trivia Party	5 10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting 1:00 pm Adult Education Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Puzzle & Popcorn	6 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg 5:15 pm Finance Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Property Committee Mtg
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 11:30 am Luau	12 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	13 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting
18 9:30 am Worship Service Baptism of Harper Rae Stigen 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection	19 Holiday Church Offices Closed 11:45 am FLC Book Study	20 11:00 am Staff Meeting
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School/Butterflies Youth Connection 11:30 am E.P.I.C.-Escape Room 7:00 pm Adult Conversation Evening	26 7:00 am Men's Bible Study	27 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study 4:30 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg	2	3
7 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:00pm Executive 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	8 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	9	10
14 Ash Wednesday 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:10 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 3:30 pm FLY K-6 4:45 pm Ash Wednesday Kid Friendly Worship Service 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 5:30 pm NO Dinner Church NO Confirmation 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study	16	17
21 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:10 pm Lenten Worship at Augustana 3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 5:30 pm NO Dinner Church 6:30 pm Lenten Worship at Augustana Confirmation at Augustana 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 12:00 pm Lenten Bible Study OWLS Event	23	24
28 12:10 pm Lenten Worship at Hope 1:00 pm Hannah Circle 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 5:30 pm NO Dinner Church 6:30 pm Lenten Worship at Hope Confirmation at Hope 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	29	<p>Our Calendar is Online! 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

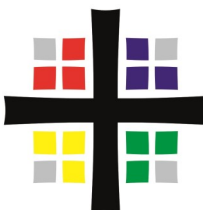


Staff Directory

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