



The Messenger

March 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
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www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. Isaiah 54:13



Happy EASTER!!

Life-Altering Alleluias! Christ is Risen!

Dear Friends,

This month we move from Lenten reflections to Easter actions and alleluias, ones that have shaped us and captured the meaning of life in full color. We encourage you to invite friends, relatives, neighbors, and coworkers on this life altering journey.

Palm Sunday (March 24):

Palm Sunday leads us into Holy Week with shouts of Hosannas and cheers for our Savior. We wildly wave palm branches that will turn into next year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. The parade chases after the dreams of a strong ruler like King David, yet as we follow we discover the suffering servant king of Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus' triumphal ride on a donkey or colt stands in stark contrast next to the mighty war horse or gallant steed Caesar might have chosen. Jesus rides plain-clothed, sandals and leather belt, devoid of any armor or sword. His followers don't hold dignified titles and land. Jesus' followers hold onto faith, knowing this Passover will be like none other.

Moving towards Maundy Thursday on March 28th:

First Communion Class happens when students prepare their chalice for Maundy Thursday's first taste of the Lord's Supper. The intent of the shaping of the clay, attention to detailing the grapes or a loaf of bread on the stem, and turning out the top lip of the cup is all so purposeful in these youthful hands. They choose glazes that reflect faith and hope for this moment that gathers all ages and the ancestors together around Jesus' table. We become a part of the Last Supper.

Good Friday on March 29th:

Few people want to face death, much less the death of our Savior. Yet, most people say this is one of their most treasured worship experiences of the year. The depths of Christ's Passion on the Cross remind us how Jesus the Christ takes on sin, death, and the devil. When it seems like evil has won, we wait... for a glimmer of hope.

Happy Easter on March 31st!!!!

The Hope of the Resurrection bursts forth with life altering Alleluias! Against all odds, Jesus Christ is Risen! Whenever it seems like death has won in the world, look out. This is where Jesus works at bringing forth new life. Pay attention to the signs of new life. Blades of grass, crocus' breaking through, signs of unfolding newness all around us point to resurrection. We witness this in poignant ways as our dusty, brown landscape awakens into life once again.

May this life-altering journey bless you as we continue following the living Christ.

Peace,

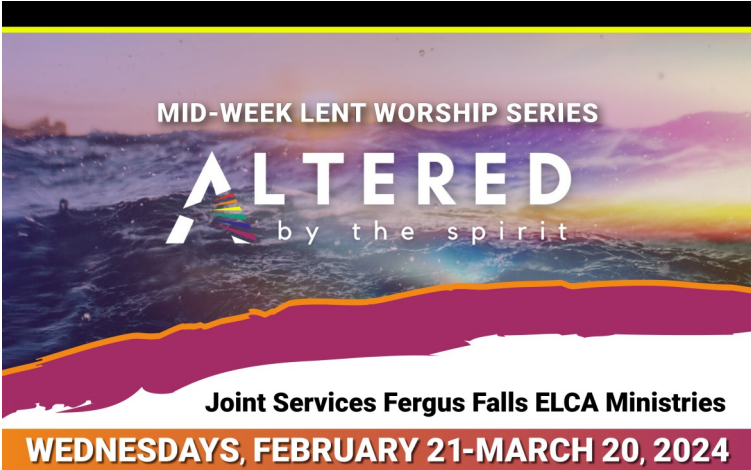
Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org



He is risen! Hallelujah! The season of Easter (or the Paschal season) focuses on celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season traditionally lasts forty days to commemorate the time Jesus remained on earth before His ascension. Ascension is on a Thursday, but most churches observe that day the following Sunday. In our Lutheran church, the Easter season ends with Pentecost, bringing the season to fifty days. The Paschal candle is lit for all services during the Easter season, ending with Pentecost. It will then be lit at each celebration of baptism and at funerals, reminding us that we live and die in Christ and are raised with Him to eternal life.



12:10pm Worship followed by Lunch • 5:30pm Meal • 6:30pm Worship
 Theme: "ALTERED BY THE SPIRIT"

FEBRUARY 21 Augustana Lutheran Church www.augustanalutheran.org	MARCH 13 Zion Lutheran Church www.zionlutheranff.org
FEBRUARY 28 Hope Lutheran Church www.hopeff.org	MARCH 20 Bethlehem Lutheran Church www.bethlehemff.org
MARCH 6 First Lutheran Church www.Firstlutheranchurchff.org	• 6:30pm* services will be live-streamed & on KBRF AM 1250 • Visit Church website for live-stream links

join us for
HOLY WEEK
 remember the story

PALM SUNDAY Victory Altered 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Palm Sunday Festival and Brunch	MAUNDY THURSDAY Love Altered 6:30 pm Worship Service & First Communion
GOOD FRIDAY Violence Altered 6:30 pm Tenebrae Worship Service	EASTER Life Altered 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Worship Service

Ways to Worship with Us



KJK 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL & FLY K-6

March is the Minnesota Food Share campaign to help food shelves state wide. Our Sunday School and FLY kids are helping our community by collecting food items to donate to our local Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf. Please bring non-perishable food items to the shopping cart in the Education wing. Our students will be delivering the food and helping to restock the shelves at the end of the food drive. Let's "build" up our neighboring food shelf and bring in those food items.

This month we will be diving into how God is generous, God is comforting, and God is mysterious. We will enjoy the nice weather when possible, and continue making cards for shut ins.

- Sunday, March 3rd- Library**
1st Communion Pottery & Instruction for 5th graders 10:30-12:30
- Sunday, March 24th- Palm Sunday Festival & Brunch**
No Sunday School/Butterflies
- Wednesday, March 27th- NO FLY**
Bread Making with 5th graders 5:30-6:30
- Thursday, March 28th- Maundy Thursday Service**
First Communion for 5th grade 6:30
- Sunday, March 31st- Easter**
No Butterflies/Sunday School

DAY CAMP/VBS

REGISTER
for
Day Camp with Luther Crest

Cost: \$30/child (maximum charge \$75/family)
Registration forms are available at any of the ELCA Churches in Fergus Falls.

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

It's time to register for Luther Crest Day Camp and Butterflies VBS! Registration forms and fees should be handed in to your home church. If you are not affiliated with a church, this day camp is still for you! Please pick up and return registration forms and fees to any of the ELCA churches in Fergus Falls. We are excited to see YOU there!

FERGUS FALLS ELCA CHURCHES PRESENT

BUTTERFLIES VBS
JULY 22-25
9:00- 10:30AM

AGES 0-5 YEARS & FAVORITE ADULT

ENJOY A MORNING OF PLAY, STORIES, SONGS & DANCE, TREATS, AND FUN WITH FRIENDS!

BUTTERFLIES REGISTRATION FEE \$10 FAMILY

Zion Lutheran Church
202 E Summit Ave, Fergus Falls

Please register at participating churches: Augustana, Bethlehem, First, Hope, or Zion Lutheran Churches by Sunday, July 8th.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES



“Building” Update

Youth Connection – You won’t want to miss Sunday March 3rd. Game master Brian has another great game planned for you. Grab any 7th-12th grader and be ready to play!

Palm Sunday Brunch during the festival— plan to come to the Fellowship Hall for delicious caramel rolls and fruit. There will be a free will offering which will be used to support our confirmation and senior celebration events and help start our youth pantry.

CPR Certification Class- offered by Ringdahl Ambulance- \$60 per person. Sunday, March 17, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided but sign up is needed. Please see Jen E.P or contact the church office.

Please be praying for our 15 seniors and 11 confirmands as they prepare for a busy and exciting spring. We are so thankful for them and their families and are honored to be celebrating them in the months ahead.

Jen Enstad-Petersen



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

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



Thanks to donations and fun friends to assemble them 13 care packages went out to some recent graduates for Valentine’s Day to remind them that they are loved by their church family.

Confirmation



**MOVIE
MAGIC**

**FAMILY FUN!
SAVE THE DATE!**

- Costumes
- Popcorn
- Cotton Candy
- Lemonade

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

Easter Flower Garden

Spring flowering plants are needed to decorate the church on Easter. If you would like to purchase a plant, please get a check for \$25 to the church office by Monday, Mar. 18. Those who have purchased a plant may take it home following the 11:00 am service on Easter Sunday or pick it up during church office hours on Tuesday, April 2. On Wednesday the remaining plants will be delivered to shut-ins.

Women of the ELCA

Love Days Quilters

Quilting resumes Monday, March 4 at 9:00 am. We meet each Monday in the Quilter's room, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Bring a lunch if you are there over lunch time. You are welcome to come as your time permits!

Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 at 10:00 am in the narthex.

Hannah Circle

We will meet on Wed., March 20 at 1:30 pm in the narthex. Come for fellowship and refreshments, with Bible study found in the March/April Gather magazine. Copies can be found on shelves by the office if you don't have a subscription (includes enjoyable articles as well).

Note date & time changes due to Holy Week.

Caregiver Support Group

Do you provide the primary care for a family member who is older or has a disability or chronic condition? If so, this support group is for you! We offer a safe space to discuss experiences and build a supportive network by connecting with other family caregivers. You will also receive training, tools and resources to help with your caregiving journey. Fees for this service are based on a sliding fee scale.

First Lutheran Church
1st & 3rd Wed. @ 10:30a-12p

Pre-registration required.
Cassi: 218-220-7517



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.

LENTEN OFFERING

The Church Council has decided that our Lenten offering will be **designated to the Matthew House and Barbara House** here in town.

We all know someone who has fought for freedom from chemical dependency. Lack of a stable living environment can be a serious obstacle to sustained abstinence. Matthew House and Barbara House each offer transitional housing that is safe, sober, and stable to those individuals.

Use the coin folders for your Lenten offering, write Lent in the memo line of a check, or put cash in an envelope with Lent written on it to help support the efforts of these organizations.

March "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 March we are collecting children's clothing, particularly for young girls as the need is great.

All sizes, new or gently used.

Thank you—FLC is blessed to be a blessing!



The Blessing Closet



Meals by Wheels of Fergus Falls

In 1971 the Social Services Department and Lake Region Hospital put out a call for help to local churches to deliver meals to the elderly, shut-ins, and those unable to prepare their own. Ever since that time First Lutheran has made it their mission to reach out to people in need by delivering a hot meal 5 days a week on a rotating bases with other churches and other volunteers.

Knocking on a door and handing a hot lunch to a person who needs it is quite a humbling experience. Some are shy or reserved and some are profoundly grateful. It brings to mind Jesus' words, "I was hungry and you fed me." Amazing! And it only requires about 1 1/2 hours of a volunteer's time.

Here's how it works.

1. Sign up at church for a shift.
2. Arrive at the Senior Center between 11:00 and 11:30 am on your assigned day to pick up the meals.
3. Follow the route you are given and knock on the door. Hand over the food and wish the person a good day.
4. Return the food coolers to the Senior Center's back door.
5. Return home and thank God for your many blessings.

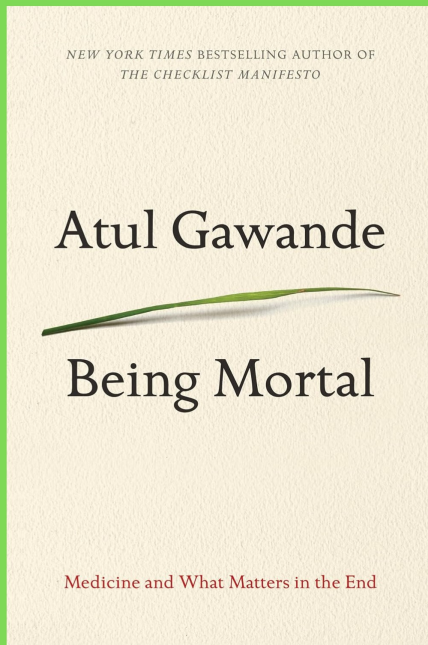
If you feel you would like to help (even occasionally) please call the church office. Our next turn is the week of April 1-5. We generally go in pairs and it is truly rewarding!

Woore Family Habitat Home Dedication



Adult Education

March 2024 Book Study



MONDAY, MARCH 18, 11:45 ~ KAIROS ROOM
LUNCH AND DISCUSSION
Everyone is invited!

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.

A very big **thank you** for your puzzle donations. You have provided our community with a great variety of puzzles ranging from 20 to 1500 pieces with an amazing selection of themes and artwork. The puzzle corner is open for all to browse and take a puzzle. There is no check out procedure and you may keep the puzzle as long as you like. Then, feel free to donate it back or share with a friend. The selection of puzzles on the shelves will be refreshed monthly, so be on the lookout for new choices. ***Please continue to donate gently used and new puzzles to add to our puzzle corner rotation.***

For those looking for a puzzling opportunity at church, check out the family room for an ongoing community jigsaw puzzle. And watch for future puzzling events!

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 book is in the church office. Cost is \$45 for altar flowers and \$100 for radio broadcast. Please plan to make payment at the time of sign up.

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.



As of January 31, 2024

OFFERINGS

\$44,758

EXPENSES

\$41,483

Call Committee Update

As of February we have interviewed two candidates and worked towards extending a call to one of the candidates. This candidate however is working towards accepting a call with another church.

We continue to work with the synod to obtain additional potential candidates that will provide guidance and support that follow the values and beliefs of First Lutheran Church.

~Connor West

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!

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

Steve Fitz-Personnel

Kris Werner-Stewardship

Harriet Wicklund-Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>3</p> <p>9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 1st Communion Pottery & Instruction Outreach Committee Meeting 11:45 am CYF Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5</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>10</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School/Butterflies Youth Connection 12:00 pm CPR Certification Class</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 11:45 am FLC Book Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Palm Sunday Festival NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection 7:00 pm NO Adult Conversation Evening</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>31 Easter Sunday</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship NO Sunday School/Butterflies NO Youth Connection 11:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>Our Calendar is Online! Click Here for the most up-to-date information.</p>	

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2
6 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 12:10 pm Lenten Worship at First 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 5:30 pm Lenten Meal at First 6:30 pm Lenten Worship at First Confirmation at First 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	7 4:30 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg	8	9
13 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:10 pm Lenten Worship at Zion 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship at Zion Confirmation at Zion 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16
20 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 12:10 pm Lenten Worship at Bethlehem 3:30 pm FLY K-6 5:15 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 6:30 pm Lenten Worship at Bethlehem Confirmation at Bethlehem 7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23
27 3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:30 pm 5th Grade Bread Baking NO Confirmation 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 Maundy Thurs- day 6:30 pm Worship Service First Communion	29 Good Friday 6:30 pm Worship Service	30
MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250			

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

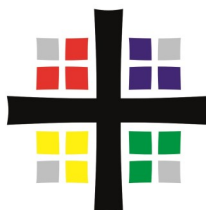


Staff Directory

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