



The Messenger

May 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

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www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

2024 Confirmation Retreat



20 Confirmation 7th and 8th graders took part in a retreat on April 12 and 13. Our goal was to focus on keeping ourselves healthy, supporting our family, and serving our church and community. Here are some of the highlights:

- Created custom pottery and ceramic pieces.
- Learned how to decorate cakes and cupcakes with Laurie Strom.
- 8th graders made their stoles for their Confirmation.
- Made plant creations with Amanda Biederman
- Delivered cupcakes to the Matthew House, Barbara House, & Blessing Closet
- Completed service projects



These activities were made possible by support from your offering, the FLC Foundation, parents' donations of time and food, leaders donations of their time, and the amazing kids of FLC.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord. –Leviticus 19:18b

And who is my neighbor? –Luke 10:29b

Hi Friends,

Going for a walk around FLC, I wondered who lives around us. How about you? Think of all the homes, apartments, shops, and condos within walking distance of our congregation. Now ask, how do we connect with these neighbors? Does our congregation understand their lives? Their issues, joys, opportunities, and challenges? How can we love them as ourselves?

FLC, you have so much love to share in Fergus Falls and beyond!

Though God has filled the world with neighbors for us to love, we have a special opportunity and responsibility with neighbors who are near us. They form our immediate community. Many congregations narrowly define “community” or “neighbor” as people who are already part of the church, but God calls us to broaden our vision. I like the definition of neighbor: anyone who isn’t myself/us.

Let’s go meet our neighbors and invite them on these dates and beyond!

- **May 5th:** We purposely connect with **new members** on May 5th as they renew our energy and perspective. Each one brings their own blessings to share.
- **May 12th: Mother’s Day:** We give thanks for our families and remember that at FLC, we become family to one another in Christ. No one is alone any longer. We show up for one another in powerful ways.
Movie Magic: Enjoy the thrilling sounds of movie favorites shared by our Hosanna Handbell Choir. Dress up like your favorite movie character, too! We share our talents with our neighbors.
- **May 19th: Senior Sunday and Last Day of Sunday School:** Milestones are living memories in the making.

* “It’s within our power to become good neighbors, to care for the people around us and to be cared for by the people around us,” write Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon in *The Art of Neighboring* (2012, Baker Books, p. 22), a handy guide for a church to start a neighboring movement. “There really is a different way to live, and we are finding that it is actually the best way to live.”

Let’s meet people where they are at and invite them to FLC. As spring and summer unfolds, let’s commit to finding ways to be better stewards of our community, engaging our neighbors, especially those who live closest to our congregation. May we learn together how God is speaking to us.

Peace,

Pastor Tiffany

**Theme of neighbor borrowed from Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod and. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.*



MOVIE MAGIC

A HOSANNA HANDBELLS MINI-CONCERT
OF CLASSIC MOVIE FAVORITES

SUNDAY, MAY 12

10:45 AM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

FUN FOR ALL AGES
COSTUMES WELCOME!

PLUS...

POPCORN

COTTON CANDY

LEMONADE

PHOTO BOOTH



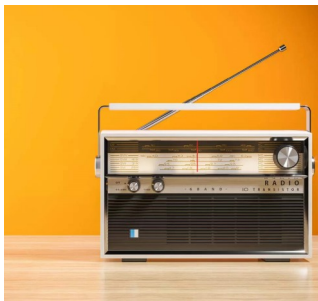
First Lutheran Church

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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name was first published in 1779. It has been called the "National Anthem of Christendom", declaring in its text the majesty and glory of Jesus Christ. The hymn was written by Edward Perronet. "All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem and crown Him Lord of All!" Bing Crosby included this hymn in his 1951 album titled *Beloved Hymns*. We have a rich tradition of hymnody in our church. Do you have a favorite that you would like to sing or learn more about? Leave your titles in the church office and we'll try to incorporate them in worship and in this Worship Corner! Soli Deo Gloria!

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.



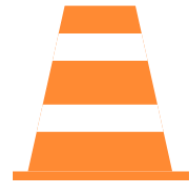
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

BIRTH- 6TH GRADE

**WE ARE BUILDING
A SOLID FOUNDATION WITH CHRIST.**



SUNDAY SCHOOL & FLY K-6

This month we will be wrapping up our Sunday School year with music and fun. Families are invited for the last day of Sunday School on May 19th for you-build it snacks and fun outside following a short class. It has been a wonderful year of building a solid foundation with Christ and building relationships with each other. Please keep an eye out for upcoming Children's Ministry events this summer and get your registration in for Day Camp and/or Butterflies VBS.

During Wednesday FLY, we will continue to enjoy the spring weather as much as we can with outside games and visits to MP Park while continuing to Dig In with God. We will wrap up our FLY school year on May 22nd with a trip to the bowling alley.

Thank you for inviting us to walk beside you and your child(ren) as you journey through life and your faith.



VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

22-25 JULY
8:45am - 5:00pm

DAY CAMP WITH LUTHER CREST
FOR CHILDREN GRADES K-6TH

ACTIVITIES:

- Games
- Arts & Crafts
- Bible Dives
- Snacks
- Water Play

DAY CAMP REGISTRATION FEE
\$30 Per Camper
\$75 Family Max

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

Augustana Lutheran Church
508 E Douglas St, Fergus Falls

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.

What's Up in May

5/1- NO FLY

5/5- Sunday School sings with Adult Choir in worship
Library Day

5/12- "Movie Magic" Mini Bell Concert 10:45-11:30 for the whole family!

5/19- Last Day of Sunday School/Teacher Appreciation Outside Party for the whole family!

5/22- Bowling for FLY

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES

“Building” Update

Things are aMAYzing in the youth and family department!

We have finished our confirmation season confirming 11 students. Huge thanks to our group leaders for the year: Linda West, Melissa Babolian, and Erin Warren.

This has also been a year of Youth Connections and E.P.I.C. Senior High events. Brian Becker has a gift of games and great conversations as well.

We had our confirmation retreat. The theme was that we need to focus on our own health, supporting our family, and then giving back by serving. We decorated cakes, did pottery, created plant gifts, helped at the Welcome House, cleaned at church (with the property committee), attended a yoga session, did group exercise, played games, and made memories!

Looking ahead we have our first lock-in for Senior High and we are partnering with Bethlehem for this shared event.

We have had a great first year and we know that God's blessings over these kiddos go with them into the summer.

Jen Enstad-Petersen

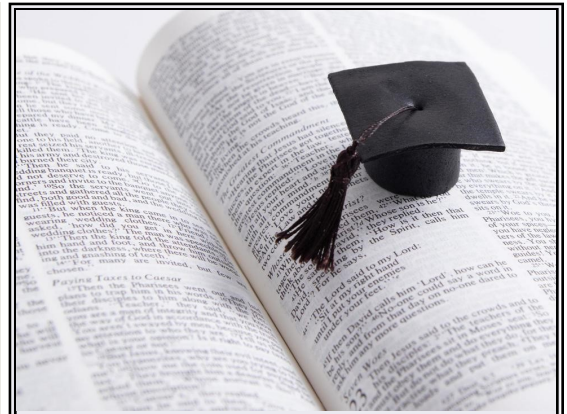


Change the World Night

Three Confirmation Groups were given 45 minutes and \$50 to find some small way to change the world. They bought food for the foodshelf, donated to Daycamp Dollars, made care packages for people in need at the Salvation army, gave away gift cards



from Taco Johns, and created day brighteners for residents at Pioneer Home. This won't be the last time these kids change the world and make a difference.



Senior Recognition Sunday

May 19, 2024

9:30 am

Preparations are underway for recognizing this important milestone. During worship we will come together to bless these students as they transition to new chapters in their lives.

There will be a light brunch for families of the graduates following the service.



Fleece blankets are made for every graduate using funds from the FLC Foundation. If you would like to help with this project next year please contact Judy Mouritsen.





The Cancer Team is at it again!

Fighting for a Cure Spring Fundraiser

Bake Sales

Every Sunday in May
10:30 am in the narthex

Memorial/Honor bags

will be available for a suggested
donation of \$10.

If you would like to donate baked goods please contact
Sue Toso at 218-770-5156.

All proceeds will go to the
Lake Region Healthcare Cancer Center in honor of
Marilyn Berg. Please make any checks payable to First
Lutheran Church with "Cancer Center" on the
memo line.



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!



The property committee has a "Building Work Request" Form for people to use to alert them about maintenance and custodial needs in the building. The requests will be reviewed and prioritized by the committee. If you see something that needs attention, please turn a form in to Jen Hubrig. The forms can be found on the counter by the church office.



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.



The Blessing Closet

May "Blessing Box"

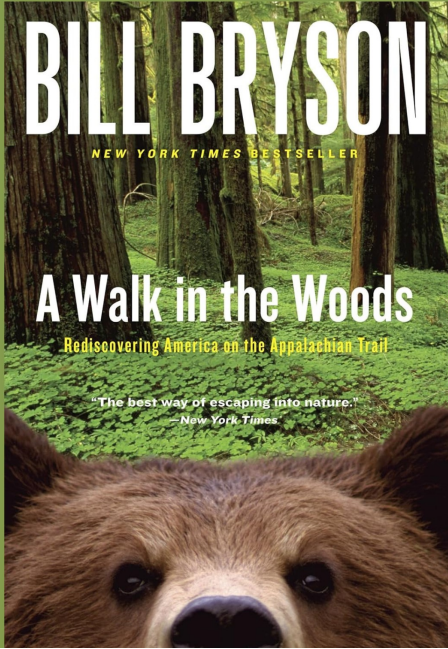
Many items are needed by people going to the Blessing Closet located at 201 North Union. The Outreach Committee has decided to help by collecting a specified item each month in the Blessing Box located inside the canopy entrance.

**In May we are collecting
Toys!**

Thank you—FLC is blessed to be a blessing!

Adult Education

First Lutheran Church
May Book Study
11:45 a.m. Monday, May 20
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.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



JOIN US!

LUNCH BIBLE STUDY

WITH PASTOR TIFFANY

DEMYSTIFYING THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Thursday May 2
Kairos Room at noon
Lunch Provided - Free Will Offering

Women of the ELCA

Love Days Quilters

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, May 14 at 10:00 am in the narthex.

Hannah Circle

Wednesday, May 22, 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the narthex. Join us for fellowship & refreshments, and our Bible Study from the March/April issue of the Gather magazine."



Call Committee Update

A candidate was recommended to (and affirmed by) the Church Council. A date for a Special Congregational Meeting will be set very soon. Thank you for your continued prayer and patience during this important period of discernment.

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.

Altar Flowers \$45
Radio Broadcast \$100



As of March 31, 2024



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.




Officers

- Rick & Linda West, Co-Presidents
- Jeani Trosvig, Vice President
- Lorri Holt, Secretary
- Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Treasurer, Property/Finance

Council Members

- Vacancy-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>MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250</p>
<p>5 New Member Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Sunday School & Butterflies Youth Connection 11:45 am CYF Committee Meeting</p>	<p>6 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg</p>	<p>7 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>12 9:30 am Blended Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship 10:45 am Parents Day at Sunday School Youth Connection Movie Magic Hosanna Handbells Concert</p>	<p>13 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 5:00 pm North Cemetery Clean Up</p>	<p>14 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting</p>
<p>19 Senior Recognition Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship Last Day of Sunday School Last Day of Youth Connection Senior Breakfast 11:00 am Altar Guild Meeting</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 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am NO WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>28 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 3:30 pm NO FLY K-6 5:30 pm LAST Dinner Church until Fall Last Day of Confirmation 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	2 12:00 pm Lunch Bible Study 4:30 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg	3 8:00 pm Sr High Lock In	4
8 10:00 am Outreach Committee Meeting 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting 3:30 pm FLY K-6 6:30 pm Hosanna Handbells Rehearsal 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11
15 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 3:30 pm FLY K-6 7:45 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	16	17 NW MN Synod Assembly	18 NW MN Synod Assembly
22 1:00 pm Hannah Circle 3:30 pm FLY K-6	23	24	25
29	30	31	<p style="text-align: center;"> 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

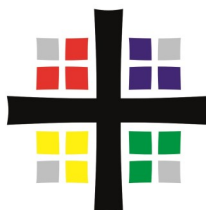


Staff Directory

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

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Worship Times
Sundays at 9:30 am
Wednesdays at 5:30 pm

Office Hours
Mon–Fri, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm