



The Messenger

June 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

FLC Calls Pastor Tim O'Shields

Greetings to all of you at First Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls! This is Pastor Tim. I am counting the days until I get over there to serve First Lutheran, and to get to know all of you in person. Until then, I have heard that many of you want to know more about me.

I was born in Greenville, South Carolina. When I was 9 years old, we relocated to the Augusta, Georgia area, where my grandparents had a thriving business. My parents transitioned to take over that business. The "store" was like Hobby Lobby, Joanne's Fabrics, and a Home Interiors Store all combined. I have one brother (an entrepreneur), who lives with his wife (surgeon specializing in GYN), and their rescue dog (Lacey). They live on a large reservoir that splits the border of South Carolina and Georgia, and spills into the Savannah River. They love food and drink, travel, boating, and fishing. My father passed away too soon, but my mother is alive and stirring things up in the Augusta area also. She has been many things, including a world traveler, sky diver, competitive ball room dancer, and a Zumba fanatic.

Growing up, I studied a lot and always had good grades to prove it. I was also very interested in music. I played the piano from a very young age. In my middle school years, I began to study organ. I studied music until my post-college years. I still play piano. My music provided a way to serve in churches, even as a young and growing child. I love worship, and have much experience in that department. In fact, when I was a child, I would rather stay in the house and plan and carry out a worship service in the living room (with every detail), instead of playing outside. It seems like destiny that I would ultimately be a Pastor and be involved in planning and carrying out worship services.



This sound part sounds ‘made up’, but it is the truth as I can tell it! When I was a small child (about 5 or so, and throughout my childhood), I would pray, “God, don’t make me be a preacher, I don’t want to do that.” Wow! God gave me much latitude in that, and ‘let’ me explore many interests and avenues before coming back to the call that I had since childhood—the call to be a Pastor.

I was the Salutatorian of my high school, won a couple of prestigious scholarships, and went on to study chemistry at the University of South Carolina, and later advanced chemistry studies at Furman University (google it!). I began a career in the environmental sciences. Describing that journey can get pretty technical (and maybe boring), so I will make it quick! I specialized in analytical chemistry (primarily organic chemistry) using very, VERY high-tech equipment and techniques. When I have watched NCIS on TV, and they say, “we will have to analyze that by GC/MS”, I actually know what those letters stand for and have extensively analyzed water, soil, air, haz waste, fish (and other animals) using GC/MS and other methods. I have worked on some “top secret” things, including, space shuttle crashes, World Trade Center/911 related things, explosive “stuff” for the government, and some nuclear affairs at Hanford, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River Site DOE sites.

I moved on from the ‘hands-on’ chemistry into a management role. For about a decade, I worked for a British company on a corporate management team. My responsibilities and “assignments” were very diverse. I was often a “fixer”. I would go into offices/laboratories, and work with the management group and team-at-large for quality, process improvement, custom service, and financial affairs. I traveled all over, logging 100,000 to 150,000 airline miles a year. The travel was fun but brutal. I poured more and more into my career, and my personal life suffered. I have lived in South Carolina, Maryland, Colorado, Minnesota, Washington, and Montana. I have also “lived” in other places in extended residency situations, including, Ohio, Nevada, California, Tennessee, Florida, and New Jersey. My life “came to a head” in 2011. During a time of challenges, trials, and discernment, in a most unlikely journey God led me to First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea, MN. I worked there for six years as the Minister of Worship and Music. I was on the pastoral team of 3 with 2 other Pastors. During that time, I also studied full-time at Luther Seminary, while I worked full-time. I earned a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. I worked very hard in seminary (especially juggling full-time work with school AND the commute up I-35). I excelled and found that my call was indeed to Word and Sacrament—to be a Pastor in a church. I served churches in Minnesota, Washington, and Montana.

I am passionate in my life and work. Many people throughout my life’s adventures have used that word “passionate” to describe me. I am a committed ELCA Lutheran and have been ordained in the ELCA and hold fast to the Lutheran Confessions. I am a “meat and potatoes” preacher. There is no greater responsibility of a Pastor, than to stand before people and proclaim the Word of God, and to preach. I never take it lightly. I literally spend hours to days each week in open discernment and prayer about the “sermon”. I am a teaching preacher also. I work hard to bring the Word so that everyone, regardless of their age or faith journey, can find a ‘nugget’ or message every week.

I love people and want to know every one of you! I will learn your names and learn about your life’s adventures. I promise that I will always “be present” when you need me. I tell everyone, “I don’t care if it is 1:00 AM, 3:00 AM, 5:00 AM, or whenever. If you need me, call me. I look forward to joining forces with Pastor Kate in visitations, pastoral care, etc.

I love every member of our staff. We have a powerhouse team, and I can’t wait to work together. We have so many opportunities as we look for the future.

I want to thank the Call Committee (Connor and Jen as leaders!), and Rick and Linda and the Council, the Personnel Committee, and **ALL OF YOU** for opening the door and calling me to serve at First Lutheran Church.

Let’s work to celebrate the heritage and traditions of First Lutheran Church, as we bind together in prayer and action in the direction that God is leading us for FUTURE CHURCH at First Lutheran. These will be exciting and amazing times, as the Spirit continues to empower us and move us into the future. **To God Be the Glory—GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!** Again, I am counting the days until I get there. Please keep our church, our Council, our Staff, Pastor Kate, and yours truly in your prayers as we join together in mission and ministry! Peace to you all!

Dear FLC Friends,

As our time together comes to an end on June 30th, I want to say thank you x 3000 for an incredible 2 1/2 years together. We've moved through many transitions from saying goodbye to Pastor Gretchen to beginning our time together, seeing the end of Covid masking and strict covid protocols. We witnessed small committee participation and cloudy policies and procedures, decreased numbers in worship and limited communication flow along with grappling with how to minister to our middle and high school youth.

Today we have a bursting Sunday School and FLY Wednesday program and confirmation group, and now groups for middle and high school youth, a group for parents, and collaboration with area churches thanks to Kristy Wicklund, Jen Enstad Petersen, and the CYF committee's dedication.

We've tried new things in worship, celebrated the 150th Anniversary of FLC, and enjoyed the incredible choral and handbell music thanks to Linda Mellon, Harriet Wicklund, the Worship Committee and Altar Guild.

Our space reflects the intentions of the season because of the hard work of the Liturgical Arts Team(formerly known as the Decorating Committee).

Property Committee has made incredible progress caring for the the building and grounds. This includes the HVAC system, the parking lot, brick work restoration project, grounds, and more.

Adult Education Committee debuted with bible studies and book club, and so much more. We are looking for a chairperson for this healthy committee, so if this is you, please call the church office!

Outreach leads us in awareness about the Blessing Closet's needs. We even had the first Harvest Dinner two years ago (since Covid started). Support for Salvation Army, Food Shelf , Welcome House, Matthew and Barbara House and so much more.

Stewardship Committee is expanding their invitation through recycling, the Volunteer Appreciation Sunday, Fall Appeal, and plenty more to come.

Finance keeps us financially sound and this year we routinely see an increase of \$10-12,000 in giving.

Personnel updated our Employee Handbook, reviews job descriptions, keeps up to date on policies, benefits, and salaries.

And do get me started on WELCA! They prepare for Bible Study, outreach, conventions, and offerings that help others. Love Days Quilters take scraps of material and make blankets that help people survive, school kits that help children thrive, and friendships that endure.

We've learned how to end well and start strong. This is my prayer for this present time in FLC's life. It means that I love you from afar and will keep my ear to the ground in my prayers, but we need to end our normal communication. I cannot come to FLC in a pastoral capacity. The space is the healthy way to make space for Pastor Tim who is the pastor of FLC now. We are all grateful for his call and the future you have together in ministry at FLC.

And every time I think of you all, I will thank God for each of you. You, FLC, bless this community, this county, this region, state, country and world. Remember that! You represent the Kingdom of God breaking into people's lives in life-giving ways. Your words, actions, choices may be the only Bible people ever read.

Blessings in your ministry and know I will be cheering you on from Fargo.

Peace,
Pastor Tiffany



Interim Pastor Tiffany Sundeen
pastortiffany@flcff.org



Inspired by the humble people he met during his ministry, Cesaro Gabarain was one of the best know liturgical writers of Spain after the second Vatican Council (1962-65). *Fisher of Men* is the original title of the hymn we know as *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*. The hymn asks us to follow Jesus with the same commitment of the disciples. The tune is reminiscent of the rocking of a boat. The hymn has been translated into more than eighty languages, and was used in the 1993 movie *Alive*, about the survivors of a plane crash in the Andes. "Lord, you have come to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy, but only asking for me to follow, Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes, kindly smiling you call out my name, on the sand I have abandoned my small boat, now with you I will see other seas."



MEETING OUR ANCESTORS IN FAITH, ONE STORY AT A TIME

Joint Fergus Falls ELCA **2024 MID-WEEK**
SUMMER WORSHIP
 WEDNESDAYS AT 6:30PM JUNE 12-AUGUST 14

- JUNE 12** Kick-Off Cookout at Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter ~ 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- JUNE 19** Augustana Lutheran Church
- JUNE 26** Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- JULY 3** No Worship
- JULY 10** Zion Lutheran Church
- JULY 17** First Lutheran Church
- JULY 24** Augustana Lutheran Church
- JULY 31** Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- AUG. 7** Zion Lutheran Church
- AUG. 14** First Lutheran Church



Worship Time Change

Coming September 8, 2024

Sundays 9:00 am



First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

Ways to Worship with Us



KJK AM 1020, Channel 977,
 FM 97.7



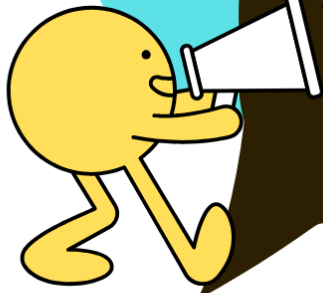
Sunday Worship Service
 9:30 am



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



PEG Access Channel 8



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUMMER

FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO MEET UP THIS SUMMER FOR SOME PLAYTIME, ART, AND FELLOWSHIP AT ATHLETIC PARK. JOIN US ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAYS AT 6:00PM.

JUNE 18TH

JULY 15TH

AUGUST 19TH

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED., JUNE 12- FLY

TUES., JUNE 18- PARK & ART

WED., JUNE 26- FLY

VACTION BIBLE SCHOOL

GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR VBS!
REGISTRATION IS DUE JULY 8TH.

BUTTERFLIES VBS- JULY 22-25, 9:00-10:30 FOR BIRTH-5 YEARS W/ADULT

DAY CAMP WITH LUTHER CREST- JULY 22-25, 8:45-3:00PM FOR GRADES K-6TH AS OF 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT AUGUSTANA, BETHLEHEM, FIRST, HOPE, & ZION CHURCHES.



WEDNESDAY FLY

WE HAD SO MUCH FUN THIS SCHOOL YEAR THAT WE JUST DON'T WANT TO STOP! THIS SUMMER WE WILL BE HAVING A VERY CASUAL FLY ON THE 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH FROM 1PM-3PM. COME IF YOU CAN, AND IF NOT, WE WILL CATCH YOU ANOTHER TIME. TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO AND FROM IF NEEDED, PLEASE TALK TO KRISTY.

STARTING IN SEPTMEBER, FLY WILL BE CHANGED TO *F3 (FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN)* FOR K-4TH, AND *ELEVATE* FOR GRADES 5TH & 6TH.



KRISTY WICKLUND
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
KRISTY@FLCFF.ORG
(218) 531-9544

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES

“Building” Update

Our building year is coming to an end, but it’s just the beginning. I joked many times that I didn’t know what I didn’t know this year. Youth and family ministry does not come with a clear step by step building plan. God built so many moments and memories this year it’s even better than we could have planned.

- *E.P.I.C. – our senior high had monthly events and a lock-in, all using a new space called HQ (next to the library).
- *Our Seniors planned and served the Palm Sunday brunch. They were also honored in May with cozy blankets and brunch after helping lead the service.
- *Confirmands- we had 21 over the year who did weekly lessons, service projects and had the best retreat EVER (just ask them). Eleven finished confirmation in their April service.
- *For our adults and families, we have had conversation evenings, care package assembling, and a space dedicated to them.

Thank you FLC for a beautiful building year, I can’t wait to see how God will lead us in the coming year as we work together to be a safe place for youth and families in our community.

Jen Enstad-Petersen



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



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

No board meeting in June or July.

Hannah Circle

Will not meet in June or July.

Please Note

Women’s Week at Luther Crest is June 22-27.
More info to come, watch the bulletins.

The Synodical Annual Convention will be held in Moorhead at Christ the King Church, on September 20 and 21.
More details will be posted during the summer.



We will not be collecting items during the summer but please feel free to take items directly to The Blessing Closet. They are needing clean, usable clothes that are in season for kids, women, and men. They also need items that are used in setting up a home, such as dishes, cookware, bedding, towels, etc. They are located at 201 North Union Avenue (lower level of the old Trinity Lutheran Church), and are open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. They also accept usable furniture, but request that you call ahead to let them know what you have as they have a list of requested items needed at that time. Phone 218-731-1479.

OWLS

Older Wiser Lutherans
Age 55+



It's time for another trip! We are going to the Theatre L'Homme Dieu in Alexandria on **Thursday, August 8** to see the play "Once".

On the streets of Dublin an Irish musician and a Czech immigrant are drawn together by their sacred love of music. Based on the Oscar winning Top 40 hit "Falling Slowly". This musician is about to give up on his dream of music until the young woman takes and interest in his haunting love songs. Music is the connective force between us all.

We are leaving on a coach bus at approximately 3:45 pm. We will be eating at the Pike and Pint in Alexandria when we arrive.

Please sign up on the kiosk in the narthex **by Monday June 24**. Cost for the trip is \$49. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church and put OWLS in the memo line.

North Cemetery Columbarium

Thanks to an anonymous donor the North Cemetery now has a columbarium. A columbarium is a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns. If you are interested in purchasing a vault please contact Leonard Hatzenbuhler at 218-731-0304. There are many burial plots available as well.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The Hosanna Handbells thank each and every one who assisted in making our Movie Magic concert such a wonderful event. It takes many hands to attend to all the details! And thank you to all of you who came to support the performers! It was the BEST morning of music, friends, food, and fellowship! Your continued support of the music ministry at First Lutheran is so greatly appreciated!



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.



From the Archives Committee

From time to time questions come up about things we see around church.

What is the meaning of Kairos, as in Kairos Room?
Kairos means "God's Time". The room was designed to be a place to spend time remembering God's promises. Bible Studies, Confirmation Classes, book club, Al-Anon, and Sunday School classes have used this room. The original name (used up to 1987) was "The Parlor".

Do you have a question about the history or meaning of something you see at church? Contact Vicki Hanneman to see if she can dig up the answer.

MOVIE MAGIC



SUMMERTIME

and the givin' is easy.

The ministry of First Lutheran church is a 24/7, 365 day a year operation. Even while we are at the lake or on the road this summer, the mission of the church is going forward. Now is a great time to use electronic giving and ensure that the church can use all its resources for its many ministries.

It's safe, secure and you have complete control when to start, stop or even increase your giving.

Our goal is to make the givin' easy so you can support FLC this Summer and all year long.

Thank you, from the Stewardship Committee.

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.**

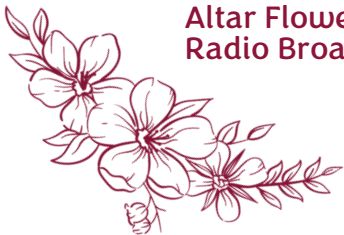


QR CODE

Scan the QR code to visit our online giving page.

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



CHURCH COUNCIL

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

As of April 30, 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		
<p>2 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>3 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>4 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>9 9:30 am Worship Service Baptism of Sophia Lydia Foster 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship CYF Committee Meeting</p>	<p>10 Meals by Wheels 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 10:00 am Community Life Committee Mtg 12:00 pm Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>11 Meals by Wheels 9:00 am Outreach Committee Mtg 11:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Worship Committee Mtg 4:30 pm Stewardship Committee Mtg 5:15 pm Finance Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Property Committee Mtg</p>
<p>16 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>17 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>18 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting Part & Art at Athletic Park</p>
<p>23 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>24 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>25 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>30 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Pr Tiffany's Farewell Coffee & Fellowship</p>		

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY— FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250</p>			1
<p>5 8:00 am Kitchen Clean Up Day 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS</p>	6	7	8
<p>12 Meals by Wheels 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting 1:00 pm FLY K-6 5:30 pm Summer Worship Kick-off at Pebble Lake Picnic Shelter</p>	13 Meals by Wheels	14 Meals by Wheels	15
<p>19 Church Offices Closed 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 6:30 pm Mid Week Summer Worship At Augustana</p> 	20	21	22
<p>26 1:00 pm FLY K-6 6:30 pm Mid Week Summer Worship At Bethlehem</p>	27	28	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

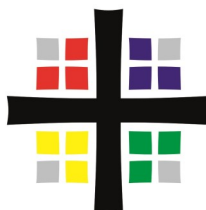


Staff Directory

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
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www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



Worship Times
Sundays at 9:30 am

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