



The Messenger

July 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

Fighting for a Cure

"Thank you, thank you, thank you!" from the FLC cancer team. On June 11 we delivered our check to the cancer center. The check was for \$5,525. It was in honor of Marilyn Berg, and she was able to be there. Because of all of you, this was possible. What a great FLC family we have. Thank you again, Sue Toso, captain.



Thank you Pastor Tiffany
Our prayers go with you!



Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ROSTERED MINISTERS DEPARTING COVENANT

It has been my privilege to serve the mission and ministry of First Lutheran Church Church/Parish as Pastor/Deacon during these past 2 years 5 1/2 months/years. As God called me for a time to serve among you, God now calls me forth to serve in a new way, in a new place among a new people though still one in the body of Christ.

In prayerful conversation with the Congregation/Parish Council of First Lutheran Church have discussed the policies and expectations of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and I enter into the following covenant.

I agree:

- to pray for the ongoing mission of the congregation and for their new rostered minister;
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and in conversation, the terms of the covenant, which terminates this called relationship;
- to not be involved in any leadership or advisory role (public or private) in this congregation and to refrain from behaviors that seek in any way to control the transition process, including any attempt to influence the choice of a successor;
- to refrain from language or behavior that could undermine the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new rostered leader (interim or successor), including social media;
- to refuse to offer support or advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement;
- to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, visiting the sick and homebound;
- to consult with the current rostered minister regarding my attendance at worship and special events;
- to encourage my family members to support me in maintaining this covenant and to support the ministry of the congregation's new rostered minister.

(Other items may be added that are consistent with the particular relationship and mission of this congregation).

It is understood that this covenant does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation.

Signature of Rostered Minister: Tiffany Sundeer. Date: 6/12/2024

Witnessed by President (Vice-President): Judge West/Dick Date: 6-12-2024

After sharing this covenant with the congregation, please e-mail a photocopy of the completed and signed document to genellenetland@cord.edu, where it will be kept in the departing rostered minister's file.

01/22



I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry is a love song between God and us. The hymn addresses us from God’s point-of-view. He created us, loved us from the beginning, and through all the seasons of life. John Ylvisaker wrote the tune and text. A native of Fargo and graduate of Concordia College, he also studied at Luther Seminary, the University of MN, and St. Cloud State College. He taught voice lessons, worked as a church music director, and served in the communications division of the ALC, the predecessor body of our ELCA. The ballad style of the song reflects his interest in folk song.



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



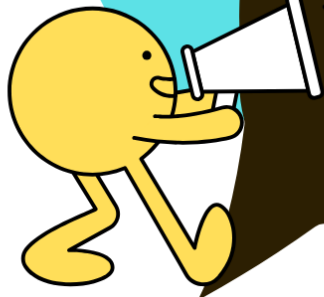
Sunday Worship Service
9:30 am



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



PEG Access Channel 8



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUMMER

PARK & ART

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.

JULY 15TH

AUGUST 19TH

UPCOMING EVENTS

MON. JULY 8- VBS REGISTRATION DUE

WED. JULY 10- FLY 1-3PM

TUES. JULY 16- PARK & ART AT ATHLETIC PARK 6:00PM

JULY 22-25- DAY CAMP W/ LUTHER CREST 8:45-3PM

BUTTERFLIES VBS 9:00-10:30 AM

VACTION BIBLE SCHOOL

GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR VBS!
REGISTRATION IS DUE JULY 8TH.
REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT AUGUSTANA, BETHLEHEM, FIRST, HOPE, & ZION CHURCHES.

BUTTERFLIES VBS- JULY 22-25, 9:00-10:30 FOR BIRTH-5 YEARS W/ADULT AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH. THIS YEAR WE WILL FOLLOW JESUS AND RIDE ABOARD THE PEACE TRAIN!

DAY CAMP WITH LUTHER CREST- JULY 22-25, 8:45-3:00PM FOR GRADES K-6TH AS OF 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR AT AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH. THE THEME THIS YEAR IS "CREATED TO BE."



WEDNESDAY FLY

JOIN US FOR SUMMER FLY ON JULY 10TH FROM 1-3. WE ARE CROSSING OUR FINGERS FOR SOME NICE WEATHER TO CHECK OUT THE NEW SPLASH PAD AND GET SOME ICE CREAM.

IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS TRANSPORTATION TO OR FROM FLY, PLEASE CONTACT KRISTY.



KRISTY WICKLUND
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

KRISTY@FLCFF.ORG

(218) 531-9544

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

7TH - 12TH GRADE
YOUNG ADULTS
FAMILIES

Happy New Year! It's the new year for our youth and family department and we are ready to celebrate. Our theme is FIRM FOUNDATION. We want youth to have a firm foundation, and the best way we can support that is with a program focused on building a firm faith foundation. Isaiah 33:6 "He will be a firm foundation for your time, a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. Respect of the Lord is the key to this treasure."

Looking ahead-

- We have 25 confirmation students. 5 small group leaders, 2 senior high mentors, AND our congregation is supporting these kids with each of them having a prayer partner. Students will meet weekly and have service opportunities and a retreat .
- E.P.I.C. (Encouraging People In Christ) is our 9th-12th graders. This group will have Bible studies, Youth Connection on Sunday mornings, monthly special events, and an E.P.I.C. lock-in.
- Amidst the Chaos is our new group name for any adult who is looking for a safe place of encouragement as they parent or care for any age kiddos.

But before we rush to fall programming let's have some summer fun!

GAME NIGHT- Following Wednesday worship at FLC July 17 from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm for all students going into 7th-12th grade in the fall. Meet in the REC room.

BIBLE STUDY- a 5-week Bible study for all 9th-12th graders. Starting Monday July 29 from 7:30pm to 9:00 pm at Pastor Eliza's house (Jen will get you the details). Come for smore's, fireside chatting, and study. This is a combined group with Bethlehem and friends are welcome.

What a joy to have these things to look forward to.

Blessings,

Jen Enstad-Petersen



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 July.

Hannah Circle
Will not meet in July.

Fill the Cup for Habitat

Food and shelter are two of the necessities in life. These things are not given a lot of thought by most of us. However, that is NOT the case for all!

In OTC there is a shortage of 323 starter, single family homes. HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S goal is to alleviate much of the stress this causes and to help extremely low-income people find a way to own a modest home in which to live and raise their families.

We at FLC can help! We are blessed to know God's love for ALL His children, and Jesus has directed us to respond to the needs of His "flock". Exterior doors for a habitat house cost about **\$3,000** which is an attainable goal. We have placed blue cups in the narthex for you to take home and fill as you see fit with coins, dollars, or checks. Please make checks payable to FLC with Habitat in the memo line and return your cups by **Monday, July 29**.

We are truly blessed to be a blessing! Peace and Joy, Ann Mathison (on behalf of the Outreach Committee)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Looking for an opportunity to make an impact in a family's life? Lutheran Social Services is in need of in-home respite volunteers in the FM Area. Our volunteers work with those who have chronic illnesses, providing non-medical, companionship for isolated individuals while giving the Caregiver a break. No experience necessary. Flexible schedule, mileage reimbursement, and training is provided.

Interested?
Questions?

Cassi Walsh 218-220-7517



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



Welcome

PASTOR TIM

Come meet our new pastor on
Sunday, July 14 at 9:30 am

Please bring a dish to share at the
potluck after worship in the
fellowship hall.



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.



You're never too old for a parade!
Happy Summerfest Gert Larson.

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.

Repairs Needed?



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.

Audits & Accountability

In May the finance committee arranged an audit of the 2023 books. We’d like to thank the audit team for their work in making sure our financials are in order.

Here is their report...

Finance Committee Members,

As requested, audit team members met with the Church Administrator on May 21, 2024 to conduct an audit of the church’s 2023 financial materials. In accordance with provided FLC Audit Guidelines, team members:

- evaluated no fewer than two months of account reconciliations,*
- confirmed two signatures on checks over \$2,500,*
- reviewed weekly offering counts for two sampled months to validate deposit amounts and confirm two individuals verified the count prior to deposit,*
- reviewed special account records and traced a sample of deposits to confirm correct fund allocations,*
- discussed current payroll processes and responsibilities for church-affiliated accounts with the Church Administrator.*

During the review, the Church Administrator was knowledgeable and readily able to answer team member questions. Further, team members involved in prior audits of the church finances noted improved levels of quality and transparency in the available records. Based on this review, we believe there is reasonable assurance the processes reviewed are operating as intended.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Johnson, Kris Werner, and Charles Wicklund



Exterior Brick Repair

You may have noticed that the plaster is coming away from the walls in a few places in the sanctuary. It turns out that the brick exterior is actually the problem. It needs to be tuckpointed and sealed which is an expensive endeavor. The property committee has met with a contractor to make a plan for these repairs. Church Council has authorized spending \$20,000 from the Building Improvement Fund to address the worst area first which is on the northwest wall of the choir transept. These repairs will begin late this summer. Once the outside is repaired we can move on to repairing the plaster.



FLC Cemeteries

Not everyone likes to plan ahead, but pre-planning your funeral arrangements not only gives you peace of mind about your final wishes being honored, but alleviates some of the stress and burden your loved ones are going through as they experience the grief associated with the loss. One piece of the plan is choosing your final resting place. The FLC cemeteries have plots available for just \$350 (a price increase to \$450 will go into effect on January 1, 2025). There are also vaults available in the columbarium at the North Cemetery for \$1,500. Contact Leonard Hatzenbuhler today to learn more. 218-731-0304

SUMMERTIME

and the givin' is easy.

The ministry of First Lutheran church is a 24/7, 365 days 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.

BECOME A SPONSOR

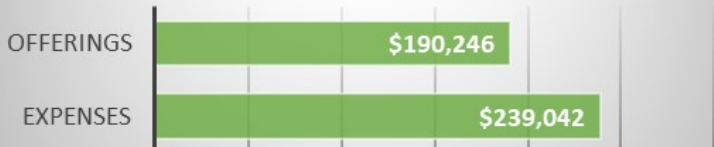
Each week there is an opportunity to remember a special person or honor a special event by sponsoring the altar flowers and the radio broadcast. The sign-up book is in the church office. Cost is \$45 for altar flowers and \$100 for radio broadcast. Please plan to make payment at the time of sign up.



Altar Flowers \$45
Radio Broadcast \$100



As of May 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 style="text-align: center;">MORNING WATCH (15 minute devotional program) MONDAY—FRIDAY 8:45 am KBRF AM 1250</p>	<p>1 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>2 12:30 pm Staff Meeting</p>
<p>7 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>8 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>9 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>14 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Pr Tim's Welcome Potluck CYF Committee Meeting</p>	<p>15 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting 5:15 pm FLC Foundation Meeting</p>	<p>16 11:00 am Staff Meeting & Calendaring 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting Park & Art at Athletic Park</p>
<p>21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>22 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 8:45 am Joint ELCA Daycamp at Augustana 9:00 am Butterflies VBS at Zion 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>23 8:45 am Joint ELCA Daycamp at Augustana 9:00 am Butterflies VBS at Zion 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>
<p>28 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship</p>	<p>29 9:00 am WELCA Love Days Quilting</p>	<p>30 11:00 am Staff Meeting</p>

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS	4 Holiday Offices Closed	5 Holiday Offices Closed	6
10 10:30 am First Lutheran Support Group 12:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting 1:00 pm FLY K-6 6:30 pm Midweek Summer Worship at Zion	11	12	13
17 10:30 am Caregiver Support Group-LSS 6:30 pm Mid Week Summer Worship at First	18	19	20
24 8:45 am Joint ELCA Daycamp at Augustana 9:00 am Butterflies VBS at Zion 1:00 pm NO Hanna Circle 6:30 pm Mid Week Summer Worship at Augustana	25 8:45 am Joint ELCA Daycamp at Augustana 9:00 am Butterflies VBS at Zion	26	27
31 6:30 pm Mid Week Summer Worship at Bethlehem			<p>Our Calendar is 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

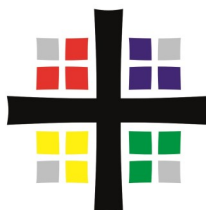


Staff Directory

Senior Pastor	Pr Tim O'Shields	pastortim@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

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