

The Voice

February 2022



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA**

Living Lutheran to be focus of midweek Lenten services at First

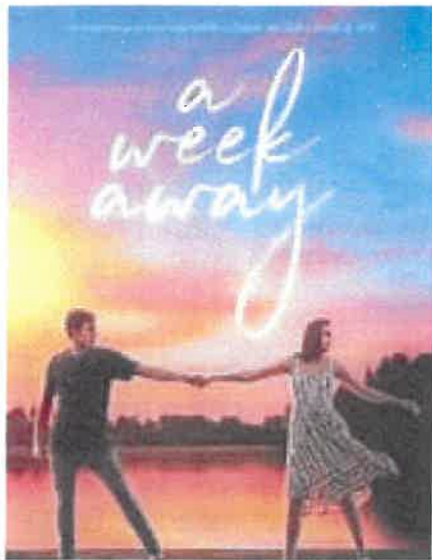
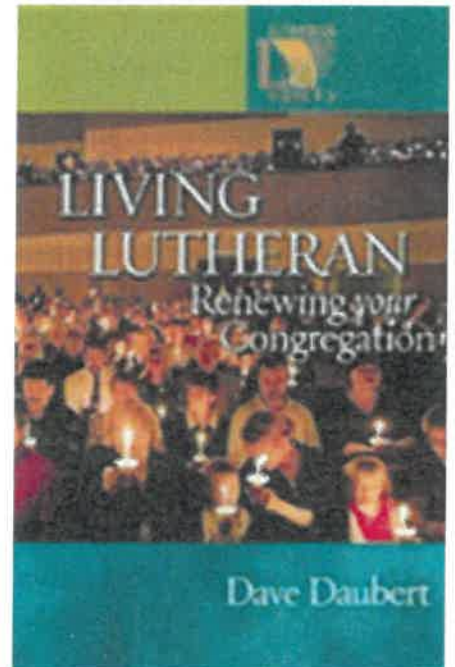
Living Lutheran: Renewing your Congregation by Dave Daubert will be used as the Wednesday evening midweek Lenten service preaching theme beginning March 9th continuing through April 6th.

We have ordered several copies for congregational use. You can pick up your copy in the narthex.

We encourage everyone to begin reading it now.

Creative and informative, the book provides a straightforward approach that helps congregations reclaim Lutheran tradition for the 21st century.

— Goodreads review



**Movie recommendations
See page 9.**



**Classes have resumed.
See page 8.**



February is perfect for snowshoeing Oberholtzer Trail in VNP.

From the Pastor's Desk

"Unity as a Church Family"

"¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Whenever I think of an Annual Meeting, I cannot help but think about our unity as a church family. I acknowledge our differences in the midst of our "Oneness in Christ." I am grateful that Jesus Christ holds us together. Even though we differ according to age, sex, economics, politics, etc., **we are held together as ONE Church, ONE People, God's People!**

It is not easy to be a member of a church where we are expected to be gracious, merciful, and loving our neighbors. Can we truly extend ourselves to another person in need? Can we make room for kindness, gentleness, mercy, and prayer? Can we do this to a stranger? I think we can ... for a short time. But to ALWAYS be this way is VERY DIFFICULT.

I am thankful for our Lutheran Worship Services that begin with the **Confession and Forgiveness**. Some congregations have done away with this practice. They feel that admitting our faults and failings or naming our sin, is too depressing. I feel it is an honest look at ourselves. We are NOT Perfect – Never have been and Never will be! We are **UTTERLY Dependent** upon God's grace in Jesus Christ. That is exactly what the words of forgiveness proclaims – It is Jesus Christ who died and rose again for you – who gives us life! I will never get rid of the Confession and Forgiveness. It is a faithful way to express our humanity to God. We fail ... we fall short ... No matter how hard we try. That is what it means to be human

I love the fact we get to come together as a church family – a family reunion of sorts! I have great memories of these family reunions ... the food, the smiles and laughter, sharing stories, and getting caught up. However, there are those moments that are awkward or uncomfortable. These are the ones you want to forget.

But that's how it is with families ... even the Church ... the People ... God's Family. We are **wonderful SAINTS** and we are also **terrible SINNERS**. But our interactions with one another is important. How we are held in Unity as a Church Family through our ONENESS in our mission and ministry together make ALL the DIFFERENCE!

Partner in Ministry,
Interim Pastor Paul J Erdal



Pastor Paul Erdal

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2021

Present: BettyJean Henrickson, Pastor Paul Erdal, Lloyd Skogstad, Brad Ettestad, Hoa Sobczynski, Huntz Wagner, Brenda Bertilson, Kathi Henrickson, Ardel Henrickson

Absent: Nancy McBride

Opening Devotional: "To Reveal" or "To Make Known"

Pastor's Report:

*Would like to deliver communion to those not attending service

*Bulletins will be available prior to Sunday Service

*Weekly Devotional on Facebook

*Transition/Transformation Team to look at current issues and future of ministry

*should be appointed by council – 4 to 5 members

*Discussed Living Lutheran: Renewing your Congregation by Dave Daubert

"Motion to purchase 75 copies for congregation"

Motion by: Hoa Sobczynski

Second by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

"Motion to approve minutes from November 18, 2021 with correction of Stacy Murphy's name"

Motion by: Brad Ettestad

Second by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

"Motion to approve financials from November 2021"

Motion by: Ardel Henrickson

Second by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

President's Report:

*Applied for Donate Now button on Facebook

*Website being updated and Donate Now button added. Nancy McBride and Stacy Murphy added as editors

*Christmas card – mailing Monday

12/20

Service/Outreach:

*Christmas cards sent to shutins

*Some families could use some meals

*Thrivent match for food drive was

\$1,000

*Tour of Trees did well

*three women from underprivileged countries were given money for tuition & school uniforms

*money to Food Shelf/Community Café & Servants of Shelter

*\$250 to school to purchase mittens and hats

Discipleship:

*Confirmation will just do First Lutheran students (7th – 9th)

*Pastor Paul wants to do bible stories with 7th graders & worship practices/sacrament with 9th graders

*Confirmation Sunday will continue to be in the fall on Reformation Sunday

Fellowship:

*Worried about missing fellowship with youth

*Will youth be able to help with Ash

Wednesday

*5th & 6th graders will start at Lent

*Bible Study

Worship and Music:

*Radio spot regarding Christmas Eve service "Save a Spot" should start running 12/14 thru 12/22 and have been paid for

Building and Grounds:

*Working on budget. Will be cutting some budget items

*Approved annual report

*Thanked people for all the work they have done

*Kayla Mindl will do shoveling

Finance: Budget is ready

Pastor: Paul J. Erdal

Office Hours:

Monday—Friday

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

218-283-2208

www.firstlutheranifalls.org

firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council minutes continued from page 3

Smart Team:

*Christmas Eve service – limit 75 in Sanctuary. Can use Memorial Hall if necessary

Old Business:

*Bethany is resuming pre COVID payment of \$1,583.33 per month or \$19,000 per year

*Bethany would like to meet to discuss how their money is spent

*Partner Client Program through Small Town Tech - \$132 month

"Motion to approve Client Program through Small Town Tech"

Motion by: BettyJean Henrickson

Second by: Huntz Wagner

Abstain: Hoa Sobczynski

*Call committee: Jack Bartlett, Laurie Lindberg, Denny Martin, Kitty Sandstrom, Harold Schumacher. We need one more member. Kathi will call potential members

*Casey Olson asked if she could be on call committee to represent Bethany

*Casey Olson asked if she could be on call committee to represent Bethany

"Motion to have Casey Olson participate as a nonvoting member of Call Committee representing Bethany"

Motion by: Hoa Sobczynski

Second by: Lloyd Skogstad

Carried

New Business:

*Copier agreement with Marco \$630.58 per month

"Motion to purchase agreement with Marco"

Motion by: Hoa Sobczynski

Second by: Brad Ettestad

Carried

*Motion to purchase cyber insurance for"

Motion by: Ardel Henrickson

Second by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

*2022 budget

*Recommendation from finance committee to present budget at Annual Meeting

"Motion to recommend 2022 budget to congregation at the Annual Meeting"

Motion by: Huntz Wagner

Second by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

"Motion to approve discussed Christmas gifts for Pastor Paul and staff"

Motion by: BettyJeanne Henrickson

Second by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 18, 2022

Next Council Meeting: January 20, 2022

Current guidelines for worship at First Lutheran

- ♦ **Please wear a mask during the worship service as the safest way to prevent any possible spread of Covid.**
- ♦ **Social distancing is also encouraged as a way to care for others in our congregation.**
- ♦ **Individual packets are being used for communion.**

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about these changes, please contact the office at 283-2208

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we safely move forward during this difficult time.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

The FLW will not be having a regular business meeting in February in an effort to avoid driving in the snow and ice when the days are so short. Please mark your calendars for the March business meeting on Tuesday, the 8th.

The FLW is hopeful that the summer months will be favorable for a return to normal activities, perhaps including Christmas in July that everyone enjoys so much. Watch for it!



Help the FLW compile toiletry kits

Components include:

- 1 regular size bottle shampoo
- 1 regular size bottle conditioner
- 1 regular size bottle lotion
- 2 deodorants—men's or women's
- 1 regular size bar of soap
- 1 large pack of feminine pads

Or

- 1 package of razors and regular can of shaving cream
 - 1 regular size toothpaste and toothbrush
 - Comb
- Please ensure these are not travel-sized, but regular-sized units.

Helping Hand Hotdish!

Make a little extra and stick it in the church's freezer. Label the container with main ingredients and the date. It can help out someone experiencing a tough time. Chili and stews freeze really well! Thanks in advance.



Check out the new Donate button on the First Lutheran website. It makes it easy to support the church when you are not able to attend in person.

Donate

Thank you in advance!



Young Adults in Global Mission offers opportunities of service

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and

children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs include: Argentina/ Uruguay, Cambodia, Central Europe, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal and United Kingdom.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Come, imagine yourself in the world!

To learn how you can support Young Adults in Global Mission, visit their sponsorship page. [Young Adults in Global Mission - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org/young-adults-in-global-mission)

— excerpted from NEMN Synod Website

'SOUP-ER' SUNDAY

In lieu of a Soup and Chili Challenge this year, Sunday February 13th will not only be Super Bowl Sunday, but also, 'Soup-er' Sunday.

The challenge is to bring cans of soup or packages of soup mix to church from now until the 13th to fill the bowls of hungry people.

All soups collected will be included with our donations to March Food Share.



Announcements

Community Café Volunteers

The Community Café is once again asking for volunteers. If you are able to volunteer one evening a month, please call the church office at 283-2208.

If you are in need of Community Cafe meals, call 285-7225 by 4 p.m. on Cafe day. Meals can be picked up between 5 and 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from the kitchen window.

Bible Study

You are invited to a Bible study with Bette Simon at 11 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at her house. The Bible study is from the *Gather* magazine. If anyone wants to participate but doesn't have a subscription to *Gather*, there are a few extra copies at the church that people can pick up and use. For more information, please call the office at 283-2208.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion available in a disposable container may be delivered by Interim Pastor Paul. Call the Church Office if you would like the disposable container containing the Bread and Wine delivered to your place of residence prior to Sunday worship services. OR if you have not participated in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a while, please contact the church office or the Interim Pastor Paul. **The pastor would be honored to bring and serve you Holy Communion.**

Sunday Bulletins

Copies of Sunday Bulletins are available prior to Sunday Worship. These will always be available to you prior to our worship services. Especially with COVID-19 being a concern, we are willing to mail our bulletins to you. Call the church office **before Noon on Thursdays prior to Sunday's Worship Service.**

Transition Team to be formed

A Transition Team will be set up to help First Lutheran Church address current ministry issues and looking into the future of ministry. Pastor Paul will work with the church council to help implement and lead the transition team. Look for more information in the upcoming months.



You're Invited!!

**Please join us for Bible Study
Sunday mornings at 9**

**Beginning February 13th
In Memorial Hall**

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

WEEK OF	CAMP HIAWATHA	CAMP VERMILION
June 18-24	Hockey Camp (thru Saturday)	Sojourners LOST WILD
June 26-July 1	Seekers Trekks LOST (cont.)	Reserved WILD (cont.)
July 3-8	Discoverers (7/6, 7/7) Discoverer Overnight (7/6, 7/7)	Discoverers (7/6, 7/7) Discoverer Overnight (7/6, 7/7) Ventures (7/6-7/8)
July 10-15	Discoverers (7/12, 7/13, 7/14) Discoverer Overnight (7/11-7/12, 7/13-7/14) Ventures (7/11-7/13)	Seekers Trekks Explorers Sr. High Canoe Camp
July 17-22	Venturers (7/18-7/20) Rendezvous (7/17-7/18) NEW On-Site Day Camp for 3 rd -8 th graders	Seekers Trekks Explorers Jr. High Canoe Camp
July 24-29	Open for Rental	Seekers Trekks Elementary Canoe Camp
July 31-August 5	Family Camp	Seekers Trekks Explorers
August 7-12	Family Camp (S-W)	Rental



Thinking about going to camp this summer? It's not too soon to register for 2022! If you are interested, talk to Pastor Paul about available camperships.

Information about confirmation classes at First

Confirmation classes have resumed.

Seventh grade students are studying the Bible with Pastor Paul, learning about the books of the Bible and some of the foundational stories.

Eighth grade students are focusing on Luther's Small Catechism, including the ten commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the sacraments.

Ninth grade students, also with Pastor Paul, will focus on what happens in worship, Martin Luther and the Reformation, and faith formation.

When the ninth graders become tenth graders in the fall, before they are confirmed, they will consider "What this faith means to me."

When the 5th and 6th grade students meet, they will be working on service projects, perhaps making and serving soup for Lent.

At this time, the schedule for confirmation is:

Seventh grade: 5:30 to 6:30

Eighth grade: 6:00 to 7:00

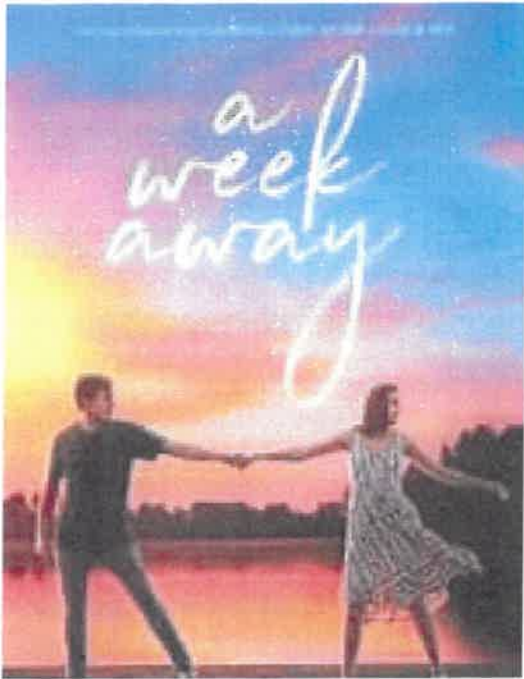
Ninth grade: 6:30 to 7:30

From January through August, confirmands will be requested to prepare a minimum of ten worship notes, preferably while attending Sunday worship in person with their family. If this is not possible, notes from an online service are acceptable.

Confirmands will also be requested to participate in the worship service acting as acolyte, crucifer, communion assistant, usher, or reader. This may be a family activity with parents and siblings taking part in the service, as well.

Confirmation is important to help develop a meaningful faith life. We are excited to be a part of this journey with our young people.

Movie recommendations



Loads of people plan a party around watching the Oscars and the Tony Awards, but not everyone pays attention to the Dove Awards.

The 2021 Doves included an inspirational musical film called *A Week Away*. Juvenile detention or camp? With nowhere left to go, Will Hawkins finds himself at camp for the first time. His instinct is to run, but he finds a friend, a father figure, and even a girl who awakens his heart. Most of all, he finally finds a home.

“Sometimes someone finds themselves just a week away from an experience that changed everything for them.”

Starring roles: Kevin Quinn, Bailee Madison, Jahbril Cook, Kat Conner Sterling .



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Did you know... If you are a Thrivent member, you can contribute to First Lutheran Church through Thrivent Choice Dollars and Thrivent Actions Teams.

Log into your Thrivent account online, call 1-800-847-4836 or speak with your personal Thrivent representative for more information.

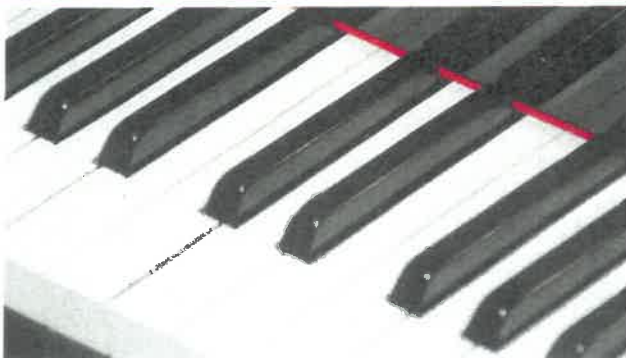
let's be friends



@FIRSTLUTHERANC



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA**



Church Organist Needed

Interested? Please call the church office at 283-2208 for more information.



Thank you to our readers and ushers, including Cynthia Warren, Huntz Wagner, and Kathi Henrikson
 Thank you to those who helped with fellowship: including Brenda Bertilson, and Sandy Harju
 Thank you to the musicians who shared their talents: Sue Hewitt, Summer Froemke, Kathy Thureen, Joe Belanger.
 Thanks to Brad Ettestad and Ryan SKogstad for their technical assistance.
 Thank you to the people responsible for snow removal!

Prayer Chain

Please consider serving as a member of the Prayer Chain.

First Lutheran Church has four active prayer chains. If you have prayer requests for someone, or yourself, call either the church office at 283-2208, or Brenda Bertilson 283-2144; 240-4939. You must have permission to put someone on the chain, either from the person, or from a close relative. To put someone on the list for Sunday prayers, call the office at 283-2208. Please call back when they can be removed.

Remember in your prayers, those in need and those in care facilities.

Good Samaritan: Bunny Katrin

Littlefork Nursing Home: Marlene Erickson and Betty Steinbach

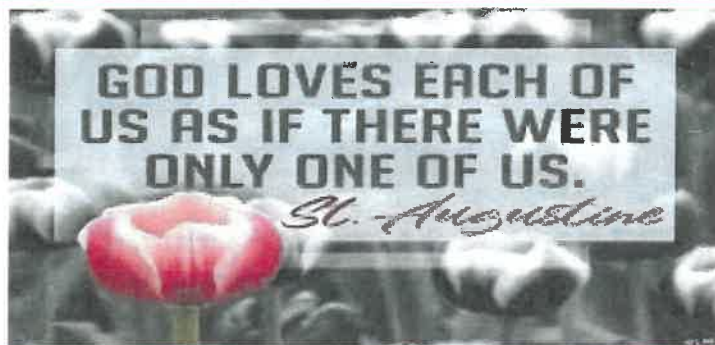
General Fund Financial Information							
As of December 31, 2021							
Thank you for supporting First Lutheran Church!							
	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Variance		Year To Date Actual	Year To Date Budget	Variance
Operating Income	26,758	16,362	10,396		157,460	196,348	(38,888)
Operating Expense	27,811	16,362	(11,449)		150,508	196,348	45,840
Operating Income Less Expense	(1,053)		(1,053)		6,952		6,952

February Birthdays

2/3	Kaitlyn Droba Trevor Plasky	Emmitt Olson GeorgieAnne Slatinski	2/25	Melissa Marcotte	
2/5	Gage Bergstrom Madilyn Lorenson Linda Pelland	2/14	Hailey Fentem Garrett MacKay	2/26	Brady Hasbargen Eldon Voigt
2/8	Duayne Johnson Parker Rousseau	2/15	Rachel Amdahl Howard Bixby	2/27	Allison Bergstrom Bette Simon
2/9	Don Hale Erika Rautio Breana Shofner	2/16	Barb Owen-Boerger	2/28	Jaxon Germain
2/10	Stella Sandager Olivia Trask	2/17	Ashley Germain Pat Nash		
2/11	David Mannausau	2/18	Kim Rasmussen		
2/12	Michele McDonald	2/19	Simon Palm		
2/13	Tyler Fentem Regan Hanson	2/21	Evan Holenko		
		2/22	Jeraldine Streiff		
		2/23	Alyce Mannausau		
		2/24	Floyd Christianson Mary Jane Haanen		



H A P P Y
Valentine's Day



COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES FREE, HOT MEALS. TO EVERYONE.

- Serving a free, hot, nutritious dinner from 5 to 6 pm.
- Meals are pick-up only; there is no in-house dining at this time. Come to the east door of Backus (the door that faces St. Thomas Church). It's door #3. We'll have dinner ready to go!
- EVERYONE is welcome.
- There is no charge for meals, but donations are gratefully accepted.

Thank you to January's volunteers:

Sandy Harju, Denise Hall-Atchley, Steve Earley, Brenda Bertilson, Barb Bergh, Carol Bass, and Kimberly Atchley.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
123 Wayside Lane
International Falls, MN 56649

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
INTL FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 52

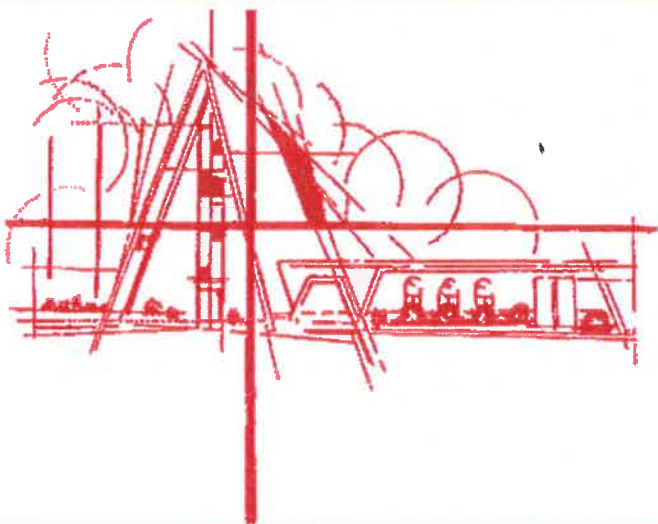
February 2022
NEWSLETTER

(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)



First Lutheran Church, ELCA

WHEREVER YOU ARE ON YOUR JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



First Lutheran's Mission Statement *Sharing God's Grace*

First Lutheran's Vision Statement
*First Lutheran Church will be a congregation
that shares God's grace by:*

- + Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ with integrity.
- + Welcoming all to active involvement in ministry.
- + Offering a non-judgmental encounter with God through the celebration of liturgical worship with word and sacrament.
- + Responding faithfully to the Great Commission of Matthew 28 -- to grow.
- + Committing ourselves to serving the needs of our congregation and the community at large.

WORSHIP SERVICE

Available in person and on our website
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!

www.firstlutheranifalls.org

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.