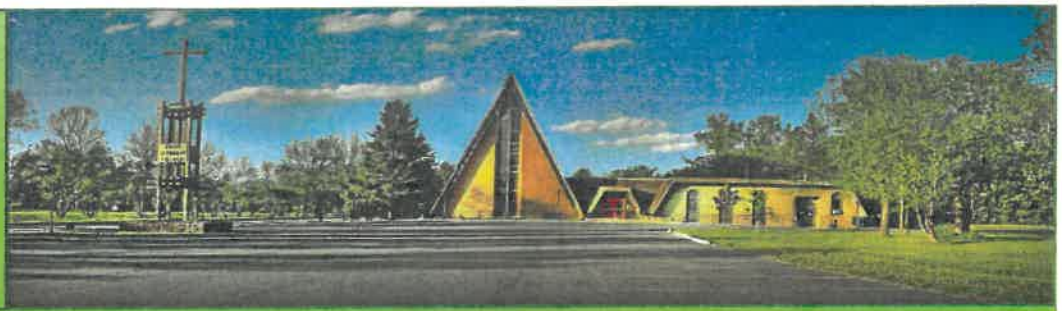


The Voice

October 2023



A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA



FLW projects planned
Page 5



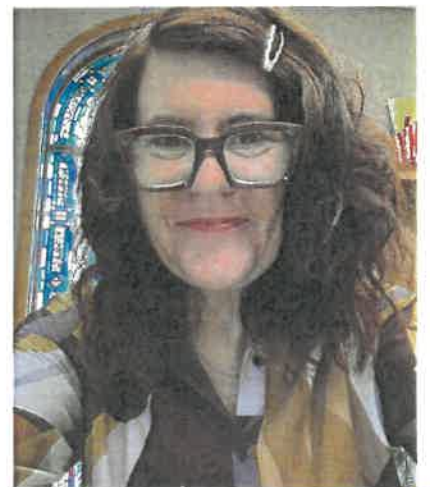
Release Time and
confirmation info
What's Up, Youth?
Page 8

A message from our new pastor

Hello everyone! I am so excited to be writing this from my "brand-new-to-me" office here at First Lutheran Church in my very first week of being Pastor here! It is a delight and a great privilege to be serving here and I am very much looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks. My hope is to find a way to have one to one conversation with as many of you as possible! Part of what makes ministry so much fun is all the amazing folks that are part of it all! So, to facilitate this I'll be giving you a call or an email. I promise I'm not coming with any agenda other than to say hi, to introduce myself and to get to know you a bit in part so I can know how to best serve the people of this place. You can help with this! If you have time, stop by the church office and say hi! My door is most always open! My office hours will be Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm and unless I have meetings that take me out into the community, I'll be here, and we can have a cup of coffee and chat. If you'd rather meet at another time or another place, feel free to drop me an email at: pastorchristieflc@gmail.com. You can also let me know if you'd rather NOT chat with me—that is fine as well.

So, some of you may know my husband Steve and I have been living for the past several weeks at Camp Vermillion in Cook, MN. We have been there thanks to the generosity of the VLM leadership who welcomed us in and offered us a place of safety and solace as we transitioned from our previous call. It has afforded us a time of rest and re-acclimation as we have been soaking in the beauty of the Northwoods. It has been an adjustment to be sure because we quite literally moved from one of the most urban, loudest, most populated places on earth to one of the least populated and quiet places, especially right now where on most days it is a surprise to run into another person as the busy summer

(Continued on page 2)



From the Pastor's Desk

(Continued from page one)

programming at camp has ended. Being in an intentional quiet space has however been a delight and a healing balm for our travel weary souls and has allowed time for a lot of gratitude to surface as we reflect on what was and look forward for what is to come. We are so thankful for our friends and colleagues in Cairo, this new call at First Lutheran, the ability to live closer to our family, starting life in a brand-new community and so much more. This gratitude has also been a welcome companion on a deeper level as we have been processing our time in Cairo and with ELCA Global Mission and our work in accompaniment and solidarity with so many displaced individuals who had been forced from their homelands. Along with gratitude, grief and myriad other emotions have also surfaced, which of course are part of leaving any place, but as I'm finding, after working in a place touched so deeply by war and violence, the emotions are present in a more prominent way than we've experienced in past transitions. In this time, I have also been thinking of and am grateful for our Armed Service members and others who come home after experiencing combat situations, individuals who face and have faced even more acutely the kind of transition that I'm talking about. Even if you haven't had these kinds of experiences, I think all of us have been touched by grief, transition, and times when we just need to process hard things. There are so many things all of us face daily and for some of us stuff may even begin to pile up so much that after a while we might to begin to wonder if that's just how it is--this world is hard, and things are bad and maybe we even worry that nothing will be right again. So, I'm also mindful that gratitude can sometimes feel impossible especially amidst loss and fear. But at least as I've been reflecting on it, gratitude isn't about ignoring what is hard or putting on a rosy face when you really aren't feeling it, it's the good news that even when we can't see it, even when we aren't feeling it, there is so much that surrounds us that really is good and love and light in this world shared with us by God who is always there hanging out right at the intersection of the easy and the hard in our lives--encouraging us when we need it, weeping with us when it's all way too much, and holding us when we wonder if anything will be right again. God who gives us the free gift of forgiveness and salvation, which will never leave us no matter what. We are loved deeply by our creator who calls us good and wants good for us.

So that's where I am today. Grateful for what is good and even grateful for a few of the things that are hard. How about you? Are there hard things you are facing—and by the way you don't need to be grateful for those things—not if you aren't ready and sometimes not ever and it's ok to ask for help with hard things—there's a lot of folks out there who are excellent at helping. Are there things that are bringing you joy? What are you grateful for on this day? If you feel like it, stop in and share some of this stuff with me!! I'd love to hear about it. And if I don't say it enough in the coming days, thank YOU. For who you are, for the ministry you do in this place, for the love you share in your life, for the hard work you do and for the joy you bring to so many around you. I am grateful for you (yes, you, even though I haven't even met you yet!)

Your friend in Christ,
Pastor Christie



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 17, 2023

Present: President Brian Briggs, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Secretary Carol Bass, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilson, Discipleship BettyJeanne Henrickson, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski

Absent: Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Fellowship Cynthia Warren

Meeting called to order by President Briggs at 5:00 PM.

Devotion – Group recited “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Next month’s devotion by: Hoa Sobczynski

Motion: To accept the minutes of the July 2023 meeting.

Made by: Hoa Sobczynski
Seconded by: BettyJeanne Henrickson
Carried

Motion: to accept financial reports of July 2023

Made by: BettyJeanne Henrickson
Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson
Carried

Committee Reports:

President- Thanked everyone who helped make the visit by Christie Manisto and her husband a success. The tentative start date if the congregation approves the call will be September 18th. Her first Sunday at the pulpit would be September 24th.

Motion: That the tentative start date for Pastor Christie Manisto will be September 18th with her first day on the pulpit to be September 24th, depending on a positive vote by the congregation on August 20th, to call her.

Made by: BettyJeanne Henrickson
Seconded by: Lloyd Skogstad
Carried

Lloyd and Brad will go down to the Twin Cities on Friday to help move Pastor’s things. Pastor and Steve have been offered a place to stay at Camp Vermillion until they find housing and Laurie Lindberg has also offered a bedroom at her home.

Suggestion that Nancy McBride be asked to provide pulpit supply the first 3 Sundays in September.

Spoke to June Caul of Ft Frances Zion Lutheran and Bishop Amy. Per the Bishop we could contact for pastoral services for Zion Ft Frances but not establish a joint parish. The Zion Council of Ft Frances does not meet in the summer, so nothing further in discussion until September.

Vice-President – The Borderland churches have planned a youth fishing event for August 27.

Service/Outreach – 3 get well cards sent. 5 volunteers worked at Community Café. Three prayer shawls were delivered.

Council (continued on page 4)

Rev. Christie Manisto,
pastor

Monday to Thursday

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Friday

9 a.m. to noon

218-283-2208

www.firstlutheranifalls.org

firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council (continued from page 3)

Discipleship – Confirmation classes will begin in early October. Pastor and Nancy will be teaching. Unsure what Zion is planning.

Fellowship – Cynthia sent information. She is planning to have a Meal and Movie night in October. She also submitted 3 names as potential candidates for the Exploration Team.

Building and Grounds – Lloyd reported that committee met on August 8th and discussed the following:

Completed items – repaired shingles above main door (thank you Dwayne Dougherty)

- Lloyd had photos of the roof area needing repair.

- New bulbs have been installed in the craft room.

- Canoes are licensed until 2025 and ready for use. Steve Early had shown interest in youth activities with canoes.

In progress projects:

Scraping/painting office door, front doors, and office window facing parking lot.

Future projects:

New flooring in Memorial Hall

New main entry flooring.

These 2 items may be done together or separately. Looking into costs and best option.

Finance: Due to a new MN law, businesses must offer insurance benefits to employees. Brad will investigate this. Brad has received an invoice from Lutheran Trust Insurance and will check with Laurie to see if this is building insurance. We have received two large financial gifts, one in August and a tentative gift of the IRA of Janet Nelson. Brad recommends that a portion of this money be put into a CD for possible roofing fund money or for other large expenditures. Border Bank was suggested as giving the best rate of interest.

Bill Mio has offered to donate an AEG and have it installed if we don't have one. (We don't).

Motion: That we accept the AEG donation and installation from Bill Mio and Lloyd Skogstad will be his contact person.

Made by: Betty Henrickson

Seconded by: Brad Ettestad

Carried

Old Business: Borderland Churches' next meeting will be here on Sept 19th from 5:30-7 PM.

New Business:

Pulpit Supply: Nancy will take the 3 services in September until Pastor Christie is here.

Sunday Vote: Both items will be on ballot and voted on separately (whether to call our candidate of choice and whether to approve the financial package for that candidate) A 2/3 vote of the members present is necessary for passing. The council will count the first vote ballots while the second item is being voted on and the results can be announced to the congregation immediately. Then the results will be sent to Bishop Amy, and she will send an official letter to the candidate. Reminder that the Gideons will be here Sunday, as well, to give a short talk and take up a collection.

Appreciation Farewell Get-Together for Pastor Paul: This will be on August 27th after the service. There will be refreshments and Pastor will be presented with a farewell gift. The office staff has volunteered to help with this, and Carol will speak to them about arrangements.

Motion: That Pastor Paul be given a gift of \$500 at this farewell get-together.

Council (continued on page 9)

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL INFORMATION — AS OF August 31, 2023

	CURRENT MONTH ACTUAL	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
OPERATING INCOME	29,205	14,829	14,376	126,269	118,634	7,635
OPERATING EXPENSE	20,716	17,091	(3,625)	140,884	136,731	(4,153)
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSE	8,489	(2,262)	10,751	(14,615)	(18,097)	3,482

In 2023, we need to focus on our year-to-date (YTD) information so that we understand if we are getting behind (or eating into our cash). **Yes. We are now.**

Income—First 4 months, strong giving. Thank you very much.

May—income short of expense by \$6,994)

June— income short of expense by \$12,973—LARGE shortfall

July — Income short of expense by (\$8,235) — LARGE shortfall

August—Income over Expense by 8,489—Good Month—thank you!

YTD— OVERALL SHORT OF EXPENSES BY (\$14,615)

EXPENSES-

August—Expenses over Budget by (3,625)

YTD—EXPENSES—6 MONTHS—OVER BUDGET (4,153)

Now we need to get our giving to the general fund back in line.

Elevator cost \$46,241.95.

PAID IN FULL.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FIRST LUTHERAN MINISTRIES!

Next summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering is scheduled for New Orleans this time around and we are hopeful that many of our young people grades 9-12 will attend.

Watch for fundraising opportunities and more information about how you can help bring this dream to fruition.

First and Zion form parish exploration team

We are meeting with Zion Lutheran Church Council to explore how we can be the church in new ways. We have chosen to do this because the following needs have been identified: strong, stable, and innovative ministry leadership, congregational vitality, and financial stability. Our councils have worked together to develop an exploration team with members from both congregations to do this work and are working with synod staff to help us have the resources we need to make this exploration successful. The team will meet once or twice a month to engage in an exploration process. We will share information about the progress of these conversations through monthly announcements during worship services and The Voice. The information that is shared will be the same information shared at both congregations. In order to make sure that the congregation's hopes and desires are best represented, please share openly with the exploration team when you see them or when you are approached by one of the team members.

The exploration team members are:

- Sheryl Peterson – Zion
- Garner Wiley – Zion
- Jaci Nagle – Zion
- Kathi Henrickson – First
- Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack – First
- Sherri Mannausau – First

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to reach out to our council president, Brian Briggs at 218-340-9795.

Choir is scheduled for Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

All voices are welcome!

**We hope to sing for the Installation
on Sunday, October 8th.**

**Sunday morning Bible Study
has resumed**

Please join us at 9 a.m. in Memorial Hall

**Worship is at 10:30
See you there!**

First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

**Release Time begins October 4th, 2:30-4 p.m.
A family potluck is in the planning stage...
Watch for more information here and at church!**



Confirmation scheduled for Oct. 29th

The Affirmation of Baptism, sometimes referred to as the Rite of Confirmation, is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 29th. This will be for this year's ninth grade confirmands. Confirmation classes for grades 6-8 are scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7 beginning October 4th.

Confirmation schedule for October all classes at 7 p.m.

- October 4 — Orientation for all confirmation students and parents
- October 11 — First confirmation class for grades 6-8
- October 18 — No class (MEA)
- October 25 — Class for grades 6-8

Confirmation students are required to sign up for 5 worship leadership slots throughout the year.

Each student is required to turn in a minimum of 10 worship notes. (You are welcome to do more!)

**The First Sunday Funday is scheduled for
November 5th at 5!
All young people grades 9-12 are invited!
Watch for more information!**

Council (continued from page 4)

Made by: Betty Henrickson

Seconded by: Hoa Sobczynski

Carried

Names for Exploration Committee: Decided the committee could be formed before Pastor Christie arrives as there is preliminary work to be done and she will need to settle in before getting involved. The council is asked to meet after service this Sunday with names for consideration.

Backus Membership: Council asked to consider becoming a Backus member as we have been using their facilities for meetings and it is a beneficial organization.

Motion: That we become a Sponsoring member of Backus at the \$150 level.

Made by: Betty Henrickson

Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

Hoa felt that as a Backus employee this

would be a conflict of interest so abstained from voting.

At this point in the meeting, Pastor Christie called checking on plans for tomorrow's pick up of her possessions. She agreed that she would be able to come to set up her office on September 18th and preach for the first time the next Sunday and we may tell everyone her name after the vote.

Pastor Paul's letter: Pastor has said that his last day will be Sunday Aug 27th and he is taking his last 2 weeks' vacation.

Next month's meeting will be led by Hoa as Brian will be travelling.

Next Executive Meeting: September 19th at 5 PM

Next Council Meeting: September 21st at 5 PM

Adjourned at: 6:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Carol Bass



**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**

**Worship at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
is at 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings**



Many thanks to all the people who have helped to bring Pastor Christie and Steve to First Lutheran, from the Call Committee to the Synod, from the Church Council to the prayerful hearts of our congregation. And a special thanks to those who traveled to bring the pastor's belongings to their new home.

Thanks to the people who provided food for fellowship for all the gatherings leading up to Pastor's installation, and thanks to all the people who join us on this auspicious occasion.

And thanks to God for making it all work.

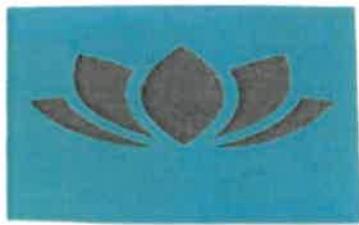
Prayer Chain

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. People will be on the list for one week only, unless you ask that they remain on the list. In that case, please call back when they can be removed.

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

Good Samaritan: Margi Roeder

Littlefork Nursing Home: Betty Steinbach



YOGA

POPPIN

Yoga with a certified instructor. \$10 fee with half going to FELC.

October dates and times:

Thursday, Oct. 5, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 9, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 19, 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 23, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Bring a mat or use a chair and stay as long as you like.

October Birthdays

10/2	Deborah Scofield	10/22	Cullen Rein
10/3	Annika Amdahl	10/23	Jayne Rein
	Jack Cook		Deacon Schultz
	Erik Lassila	10/24	Eric Hebner
	John Willmarth	10/26	Tony Welchel
10/4	Denise Hall-Atchley	10/27	Michele Bergstrom
	Michelle Willmarth	10/29	Aleisha Mason
10/6	Alyssa Bergstrom	10/30	Joshua Wuollet
	Blake Museta		
	Taylor Wilson		
10/7	Kathryn Thureen		
10/10	Joseph Kapla		
10/12	Bradley Ettestad		
	Ryan Jensen		
10/14	Jake Froemke		
	Deb Nash		
10/16	Susan Nickelson		
10/17	Sue Mathews		
10/19	Bob Smith		
	Isabella Willmarth		
	Landon Zub		
10/20	Becca Schultz		
10/21	John Boerger		



BACKUS COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES FREE, HOT MEALS TO EVERYONE

**Call 218-283-7225 to reserve meals for you and your family for
pick up from 5-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

There is no charge, but donations are greatly appreciated.

**Thank you to September's volunteers: Carol Bass,
Jim Jackson, Maureen Jackson, Brenda Bertilson,
Nancy Johnson, and Laurie Lindberg.**

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

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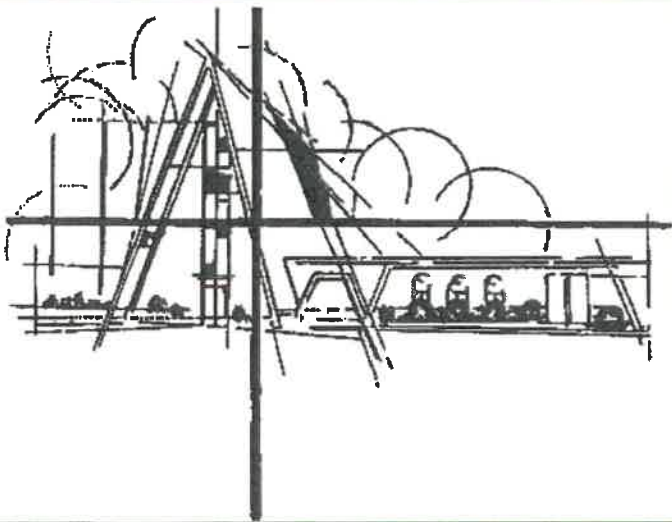
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October 2023
NEWSLETTER



First Evangelical 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.

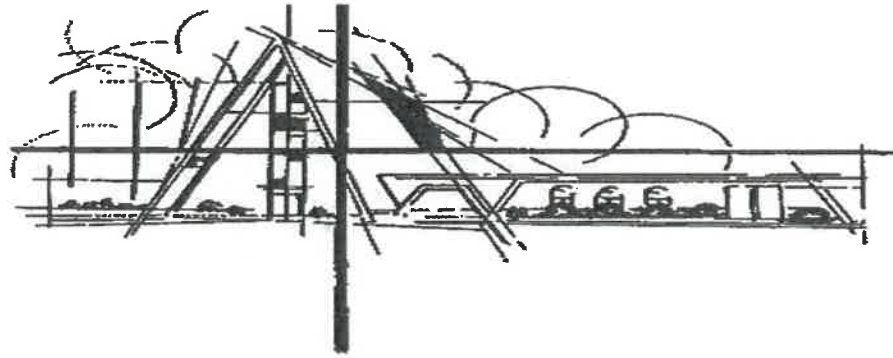
WORSHIP SERVICE
Available on our website
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!
www.firstlutheranifalls.org

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	2	3 11 a.m. Bette's Knitters 5 pm Community Café	4 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Drop Off 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Confirmation	5 10 a.m. 1 pm Clothes Shop 5 pm Community Café 6-7:30 p.m. YOGA POPPIN	6	7
6 p.m 9-12 th grade mtg re: Youth Gathering in New Orleans						
8 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship Installation of Pastor Christie	9 8:30 -10 a.m. YOGA POPPIN 5 p.m. Ruby's Pantry	10 10:30 a.m. Building & Grounds Mtg 5 p.m. FELW Mtg 5 p.m. Community Cafe	11 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 5 pm Finance Mtg 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m. Confirmation	12 5 p.m. Community Café 5:15 p.m. Service & Outreach Mtg	13	14 2 p.m. Robert Julien funeral
15 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	16 2 p.m. Northern Lights Quilt Guild	17 11 a.m. Bette's Knitters 12:30 p.m. Endowment Mtg 2 p.m. Care Corp Mtg 5 p.m. Executive Mtg 5 p.m. Community Café	18 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Drop Off 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice No Confirmation - MEA	19 8:30-10 a.m. YOGA POPPIN 10 a.m.-1 pm Clothes Shop 5 p.m. Community Café 5 p.m. Council Mtg	20 VOICE INFO DUE	21
22 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	23 6-7:30 p.m. YOGA POPPIN	24 5 p.m. Community Cafe	25 2:30 -4 p.m. Release Time 6 p.m. Choir Practice 7 p.m Confirmation	26 5 p.m. Community Cafe	27	28
29 9:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship 9 th Grade Confirmation/Affirmation of Baptism	30	31 5 p.m. Community Cafe				



CHRISTMAS Bazaar & Bake Sale

Saturday, December 2nd, 2023

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Handmade Crafts & Home Décor

Christmas Cookies & Candies

Lefse - Swedish Meatballs – Toffee

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

123 Wayside Lane (A-frame across from Falls High School)