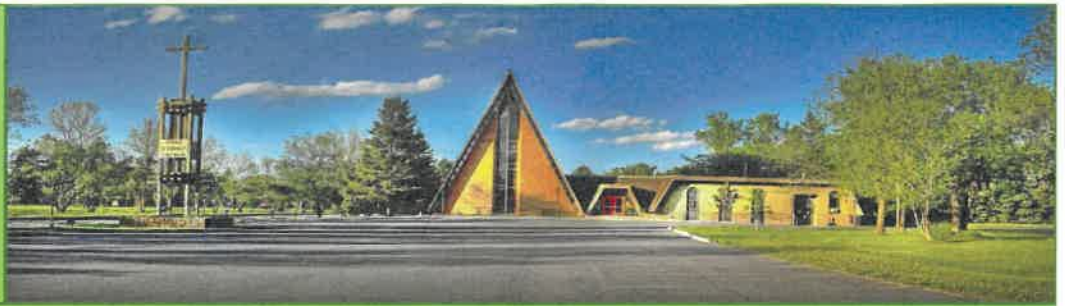


# The Voice

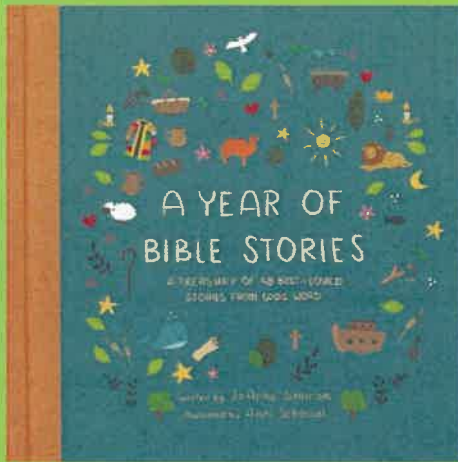
June 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Congregation of the  
Northeastern  
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*



**Above: Desperate times called for desperate measure when these young people were confirmed during COVID. They graduate from high school this year on June 4th. Shay Mannausau and Bailey Herberg received an FELC scholarship. Seen below are Kris Lassila and Shay at the awards ceremony.**



**Recommendations,  
page 9.**



**Meet our Seniors,  
page 8.**

## From the Pastor's Desk

### **"The Growing Season"**

*15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:15-17)*



This is one of my favorite Scripture passages ...

"... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ..."  
Just about every word in this passage from Colossians is rich and nurturing for our faith.

The first Sunday after Pentecost marks the beginning of our "Growing Season" in the church calendar year. The color for this season is green, to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Some assemblies use different shades of green throughout the Sundays after Pentecost, a lighter green in summer and a darker green in fall.

This growing season is also part of our spring and summer. Colorful flowers, perennials, annuals, shrubs, trees, vegetables and fruits all thrive in this season of growing. With plenty of sunshine, moisture, and fertilizer who prayer for a bountiful harvest. When I was serving in the rural small communities of Minnesota where there were beautiful rows of bean, corn, sugar beets, etc. we counted on good rain at appropriate times.

In these beautiful spring and summer months, may you consider the "growing season" and the words from Colossians 3:15-17 ...

- ◆ Remain Thankful to God
- ◆ Let the word of Christ dwell within you
- ◆ Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God
- ◆ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



**Shalom**

**Paul J Erdal, Interim Pastor**

## June Birthdays

6/1 Pacey Rousseau  
 6/3 Hazel Aasen  
 Joseph Glowack  
 6/4 Hannah Cook  
 Fred Smith  
 6/6 Tim Heinle  
 Steve Lindberg  
 Tara Long  
 Laurie Olsen  
 Charley Swanson  
 6/8 Ashley Shipley  
 6/9 Landon Basaraba  
 Lauren Basaraba  
 6/10 Terry Bounds  
 6/11 Stephanie Heinle  
 Robert Johnson  
 6/15 Jodi Herberg  
 Whitney Bartholmy  
 Nancy Johnson  
 Carissa Shipley  
 6/16 Christopher Steinbach  
 6/18 Savannah Olson  
 James Wood  
 6/19 Walter Green

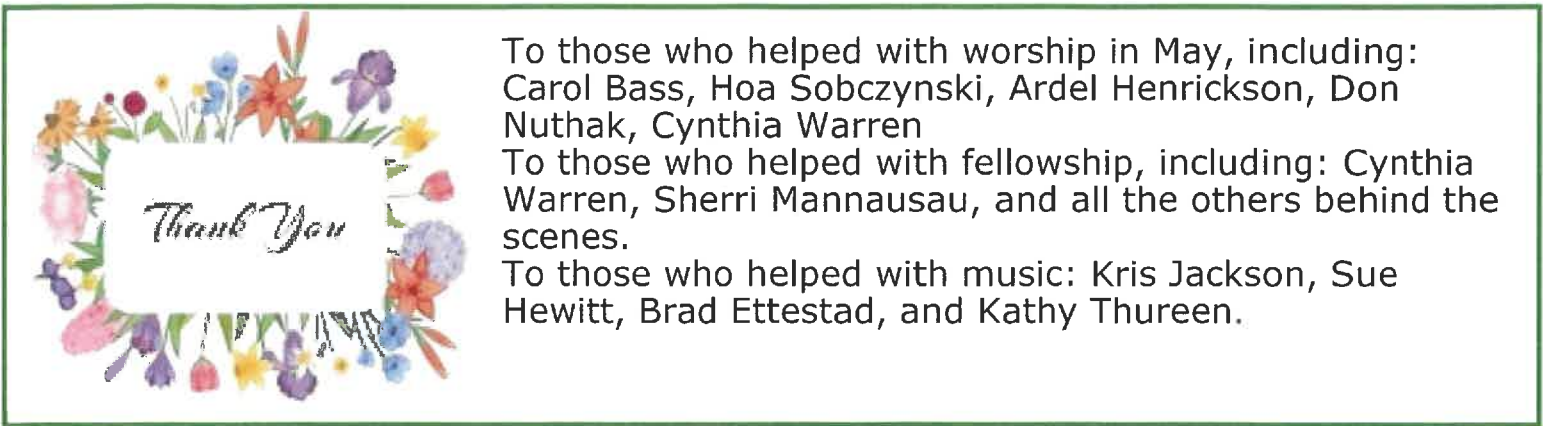
6/20 Kole Bernath  
 Carlene Blair  
 6/21 Adam Bergstrom  
 6/22 Ardel Henrickson  
 Courtney Klow  
 6/24 Clay Bergstrom  
 Justin Shipley  
 6/25 Grace Haanen  
 Will Haanen  
 6/27 Barb Albert  
 6/29 Hunter Sobkowicz  
 6/30 Catherine Christensen



**Vacation Bible School at First  
 June 19-21, 8:30–11:30.  
 Mark your calendars!!**

**BACKUS COMMUNITY CAFE SERVES  
 FREE, HOT MEALS TO EVERYONE**

**Thank you to May's volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh,  
 Brenda Bertilson, Nancy Johnson, Laurie Lindberg,  
 and Sue Mathews**



## 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

General Fund Financial Information							
As of April 30, 2023							
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	18,502	14,829	3,673		71,204	59,316	11,888
Operating Expense	18,937	17,091	(1,846)		66,154	68,364	2,210
Operating Income Less Expense	(434)	(2,262)	1,828		5,050	(9,048)	14,098

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting

### April 27, 2023

**Present:** President Brian Briggs, Pastor Paul Erdal, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Secretary Carol Bass, Fellowship Cynthia Warren.

**Absent:** Nancy McBride, Worship & Music, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski

**Also present:** Brenda Bertilson and BettyJeanne Henrickson - Discipleship (by phone)

**Call Committee:** Lori Lindberg, Marc Glowack, Dennis Martin, Pat Ettestad, & Harold Schumacher

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

Devotion - Devotion provided by Brian Briggs from "God Day By Day."

**Call Committee:** Would like directions. In January of this year, Deacon Brenda Tibbetts recommended by letter that the call process should be paused, due to the uncertainty of Bethany and other issues. Following her recommendation, the council agreed to pause the process until these questions could be clarified. It is now April, and the committee wishes to know the council's intentions. Lori contacted the synod, and our profile is still active. Do we wish to update profile and search for a new pastor? Are we open to a new candidate? Should we amend the profile to ask for a less-experienced pastor (less cost)? Per President Briggs a special council meeting will be called as there are several members missing tonight, to discuss these questions. Those present were in favor of pursuing the call process and updating profile. The special council meeting will be Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 4:30 PM here.

Motion to accept the minutes of the March 2023 meeting.

Made by: Cynthia Warren  
Seconded by: Carol Bass  
Carried

Financial Report from March meeting: Copies provided to all. Income is exceeding expenses. Overall, we are doing well.

Motion: to accept financial reports of March 2023 made by: Cynthia Warren  
Seconded by: Carol Bass

Carried

Brenda Bertilson has agreed to serve as head of Service/Outreach for the remainder of this year.

Motion: Brenda Bertilson will become chairperson of the Service/Outreach Committee for the rest of 2023.

Made by: Brad Ettestad

Seconded by: Cynthia Warren

Carried

**Pastor's Report:** Care Corps - Pastor continues to meet with them monthly. They pray for FELC membership and decide who needs special attention through a card, call, or visit from the team. Members of the team are: Betty Jeanne Henrickson, Brenda Bertilson, Linda Martin, Cynthia Warren, Darlene Fittje, and Kathi Henrickson (who will become chair of the committee once she completes training as a Parish Nurse through Concordia College of Moorhead, MN.) Pastor continues to visit and care for members of the congregation. Please inform the committee of any needs.

New Covenant for May 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. Now that we are no longer partnered with Bethany, the covenant has been revised to reflect the current status. The important items of covenant are in bold type. Focus of Pastor will be primarily on First Evangelical Lutheran Church with possibility of future partnerships with other congregations.

**(Continued on page 3)**

**Interim Pastor:**  
**Rev. Paul J. Erdal**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday—Thursday**

**10 a.m. –2 p.m.**

**Friday**

**9 a.m. to noon**

**218-283-2208**

**[www.firstlutheranifalls.org](http://www.firstlutheranifalls.org)**  
**[firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com)**

### (Council from page 3)

First Contact with Zion Lutheran of Ft Frances, Ont. Two members of their church council contacted Pastor and came over to meet with him on Wed, April 26th. June Caul, former mayor and city council member, presently conducts services. She was accompanied by Diane Maxey, church organist. Very pleasant meeting and they would like to discuss further possibilities. Pastor asked them to speak to their council and he would update our council tonight.

#### Other Items:

- Easter attendance was 166.
- Affirmation of Baptism attendance was 154.
- Pastor serves on Northeastern MN Synod Reference, Council, and Memorials Committee for a renewable one-year term. Committee makes recommendations on resolutions and memorials going to Synod Assembly.
- Looking forward to Synod Assembly at Craigs Resort this coming weekend. Our two voting members from the congregation are Carol Bass and Sue Mathews. Thank you for your willingness to participate and represent FELC in this important event.

#### Committee Reports:

President- Will communicate more with the Call Committee and could speak from pulpit to keep congregation up to date. Emails will be sent out about an upcoming special meeting.

Vice-President - Absent

Service/Outreach - 3 get well cards and 3 thinking of you cards sent. 4 volunteers worked at Community Café. FLW packed school kits in April and will do health kits next month. Had a brunch for women of Koochiching ELCA churches and had a good turnout. The summer gathering will be in Grand Rapids with Carol Bass and Kitty Sandstrom planning to attend.

Discipleship - (Betty Jeanne by phone) Confirmation went well with large family turnout.

Quilts presented to Confirmands. Plans underway for Vacation Bible School. Dates will be during the week of July 19th. We will be contacting Onamia as to possibly provide counselors to conduct as Vermillion can't this year.

Fellowship - Nothing new to report.

Building and Grounds - Lloyd absent.

Finance - New computer system - to be addressed under New Business

Worship and Music - Pastor reported that he had met with committee. Kris Jackson oversees Environmental Arts and will be offering her services as accompanist beginning this Sunday and will sub for Sue Hewitt. Another possible accompanist is a teacher who may be available this fall. Pentecost is in May and a decision needs to be made as to which liturgical setting to use. Considering a new hymnal and using setting 1 in Lutheran Book of Worship. The new hymnals would be \$30 apiece and we would start with 75. This money would not come out of the budget, but each family would be asked to buy one or two in memory or honor of a loved one.

**Old Business** - Fund-raiser Update. As of now we have reached almost \$9,000 and \$8,300 in donations have also come in, leaving a balance of roughly \$10,000 to pay. The auction will run till midnight this Sunday. Suggestion that fund-raising crew be thanked for their wonderful job!

#### New Business

a. New covenant for Pastor Paul  
Motion: The covenant running from May 1st through December 31st be signed as written.

Made by: Brad Ettestad

Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson

Carried

b. Update/Replace Computer System - Having issues with computer and video capacity. Freeze ups during taping services. Will not operate with the new version of Windows. Small Town Tech estimates a replacement cost of \$1,500 - \$2,000. There is \$1,100 in a dedicated media fund which would cover most of the cost. Because of the urgency of this, it will be decided at the special meeting on May 2.

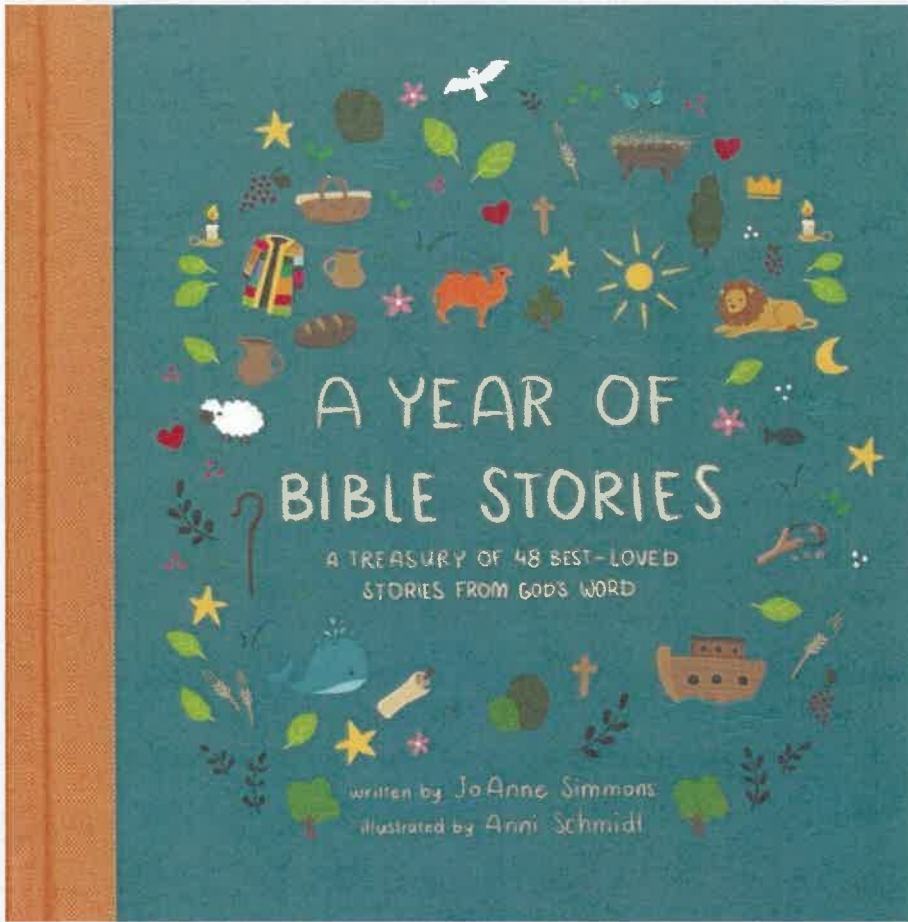
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: May 16, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Next Council Meeting: May 18, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Bass, Secretary

## Book recommendations



### *A Year of Bible Stories* by JoAnne Simmons

Celebrate all year long with this chronological collection of 48 beloved Bible stories! Arranged into a dozen monthly themes---including January "Beginnings," "Freedom" for July, and "Thanksgiving" in November---these colorfully illustrated narratives show kids how God was active in the lives of biblical men and women---and that he can work through them today.

Available in audio, as well as print, this would make a great bedtime tradition for young families, or for when the grandkids visit.



**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

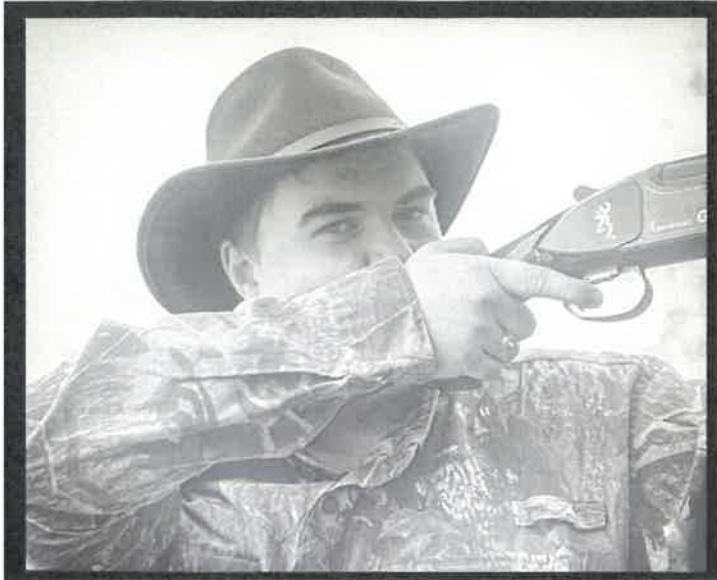


**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ELCA**

**The outstanding balance on the elevator, as of 5/5/23, was \$7305. Thank you!**

# First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?

## Meet First Lutheran's high school graduates



**Nick Bernath**



**Shay Mannausau**



**Above: Bailey Herberg**

**At right: Mya Gilbertson**





# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

## FLW Minutes May 9, 2023

The meeting was opened with Brenda reading "Steadfast Love" based on Psalm 89:1.

The mission and purpose statements were read.

The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Old business:

The FELW brunch on Sat., April 22, received good comments. It was an enjoyable time of fellowship.

Christmas in July is set for Sat., July 22. Ardel has agreed to chair the salad luncheon, serving from 10-1. Set

-up and pricing is set for Fri., July 21 at 10. Workers are needed.

New business:

Littlefork Lutheran Women have scheduled a guest speaker for Mon., June 5th. Her topic is smart shopping and coupons. More details to come.

Personal care kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief. These will be brought to the summer convention.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Harju



## The FELW are making big changes to Christmas in July this year!

**Christmas in July  
is scheduled for**

**Saturday,  
July 22nd!!**

**10 a.m.— 1 p.m.**

**Start your crafting now!**

**We are also happy to  
announce...**

**THE LUNCHEON  
IS BACK!!**





**Once upon a time in Naomi Circle...Can you name all of these familiar faces? The identification is on the bottom of the page. See how you did!**



**Planning for fun times ahead during Vacation Bible School June 19-21, 8:30 to 11:30. Call the office if you can help in any way.**

Names for Naomi Circle picture: Kathy Awe, Helen Router, Nyla Schneeweis, Betty Kline, Susan Erickson, Jerry Strieff, Joyce Tominato, Sandy Harju, Janice Berg, Arlene Julien, Helen Vold, Kathy Thureen, Pat Ettestad.

## *Announcements*

### **Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee has completed a review of our Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP has been updated to reflect the recent change of circumstances. The updated Ministry Site Profile was approved by Council on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and has been re-submitted to the ELCA for approval by Bishop Amy Ogren and posting for rostered Ministers. This MSP will replace the July 6, 2022 posted profile. The committee has remained in contact with the Northeastern Minnesota Synod and are awaiting to receive candidate profiles. No applications have been received in 2023.

### **Community Café**

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 at Backus Community Center.

### **Holy Communion**

If you have not participated in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a while, please contact the church office or Interim Pastor Paul. The pastor would be honored to bring and serve you Holy Communion.

**There will be no 10:30 service at First on June 18th.**

**A joint worship with Bethany, Zion, First, and Littlefork Lutheran churches has been planned for 9:30 a.m., June 18th, at Voyageurs National Park.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

*Please bring a lawn chair.*

*A sloppy joe lunch will be served following worship.*

For more information, call the church office at 218-283-2208.

Offering in church envelopes will go to the respective churches.

(In case of inclement weather, the 9:30 joint service will be at First Lutheran.)



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

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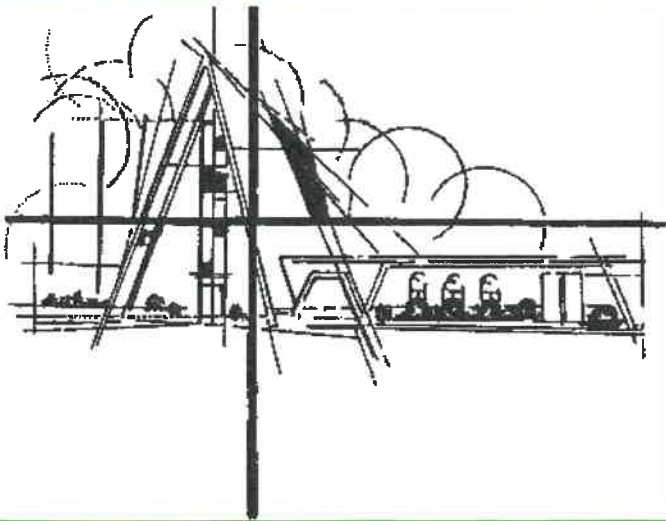
June 2023  
NEWSLETTER

(CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED)



# 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 HOURS

Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to noon  
Office: 218-283-2208

Check out our Website!  
[www.firstlutheranifalls.org](http://www.firstlutheranifalls.org)

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.