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First Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ministers: All God's People at FLC
Beth Pottratz, Pastor
2100 Riverview Drive
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 632-6667
firstserv@flittlefalls.org
www.flittlefalls.org

Personal Care Kits:

During Lent we participate in Lutheran World Relief's Season of Hope appeal. We collect items and assemble Personal Care Kits that give people around the world tools to stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Last year we assembled 85 care kits—can we challenge ourselves to make more in 2021? We understand that LWR is experiencing great demand for kits and are struggling to keep up with demand for the kits which are shipped to areas of the world experiencing disasters.

Each kit contains:

Bath towel – lightweight, 27”X52” max, dark color if possible

Two bars of soap, 4-5 ounce, any brand in original wrapping

Nail clipper, metal, attached file optional

Toothbrush, adult size, in original packaging

Comb

Watch for a drop box can at the church entrance to deliver your donations. Note: We are supplied with combs and toothbrushes. Thank you for caring for others around the world who lack these basic necessities.



A story to tell Devotions for Lent 2021

This devotional book focuses on texts from the Gospel of Mark that show Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross. The gospel writer has a story to tell, moving quickly from one scene to the next. The urgent tone of the story grabs us and pulls us in, but all the action comes to a halt when those who see the empty tomb tell no one about this. Is this the end of the story?

This Lenten devotional contains 46 entries, one for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading contains a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer.

The devotional will be available to pickup on Ash Wednesday during the drive through time. If you are unable to pickup at that time, please call the church office to make other arrangements.

Confirmation Update

4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th grade confirmation classes have begun and the classes via Zoom have been a success!

Confirmation for grades 2, 6, and 9 planning is in the works. Stay tuned for details!

Contact Pastor Beth at 651-328-1834 or the church office at 632-6667, if you have any questions.



Ash Wednesday 2021 Drive through Ashes and Communion

*"Remember you are dust
and to dust you shall return."*

Experience prayer and receiving ashes as a sign of mortality, repentance, and trust in God.

Drive into the parking lot and be met by a minister who will pray with you and mark your forehead with ashes using a swab. Please wear a mask as you drive up.

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Worship Update

Holden Evening Prayer worship video, posts on Wednesdays during Lent on the church website: flittlefalls.org and the church Facebook page: First Lutheran Church, Little Falls MN. Video will air on Spectrum/Charter cable channel 180 on Wednesday's at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.



“First...Servants of All”

A note from the Pastor’s Desk...

In March 2020, when we first heard of Covid-19, we all went home to quarantine thinking that we would have been back to church in a matter of a few weeks. As a church we chose to be most mindful of the health risk to those in the highest risk categories if we were to return in person, leading our church council and smart team to choose to take a conservative approach to our in-person church life. Now a year later, the light at the end of the covid tunnel is getting bigger. The case rates in Morrison County, our guiding numbers, have been on a steady decrease and have reached a level of only moderate risk where the council has agreed that we are able to move to Phase 2 of our reopening plan.

Virtual church is by no means anyone's preferred way to worship and spend time in faith fellowship, but to make the best of all worlds, God has sustained us as a church through our virtual church, getting us to being able to return slowly to in person safely. This pandemic has changed us all, and will change the future of our church. God will guide us into a new era of church life together, integrating the tried and true with the new into a beautiful and faith-filled future.

—Pastor Beth Pottratz

Welcome Back to In-Person Sunday Worship! Resumes on Sunday, February 21

- **Reservations Required:**
*Call the church office or [rsvp.church/r/BRBnaC8Q](https://www.flclittlefalls.org/r/BRBnaC8Q)
- Special Music with a Cantor, no congregational hymns.
- Communion will be brought to everyone’s seats.
- Bulletins and Communion Cups placed in seats by Friday before the Sunday service.
- An usher will direct you to an assigned seats, given based on reservations so that distancing can be observed.
- 25% Capacity — Maximum of 50 people.
- One worship service at 9am, return to two services at 8:30am and 10:30am when attendance goes above 50 people.
- Worship will be recorded and posted to YouTube, Facebook and Spectrum/Charter Cable Channel 180
- Stoltz Hall available for overflow worship attendance.
- No coffee and treats.
- No Social Hour.
- Small groups: After 3-4 weeks of Sunday morning success, we will initiate a tiered opening plan to add small groups back into the building.
- **Masks or a Full Face Shield Required in the Building.**
- **Strict Social Distancing.**

“Children First” Christian Preschool

We are accepting 2021-2022 preschool registration for current preschool families and First Lutheran Church members. Community registration begins February 22, 2021. A \$50.00 nonrefundable registration fee along with the yellow registration form is required to hold your place. Registration forms are available on the church website at <https://www.flclittlefalls.org/children-first-christian-preschool.html> or by calling the church office. Classes are offered in a variety of combinations from 2-day class to 5-day classes. All classes are held from 8:30a.m.-11:30a.m. Please see registration form for specific cost. “Children First” is ready to partner with you to build and strengthen academic, physical, social emotional and spiritual growth. Registration questions may be directed to Gail Hittesdorf, Director, at 632-6667 or 320-291-4698. You may also email childrenfirst@flclittlefalls.org.



Thank you to all of our members and friends for the generosity and kindness you have shown to one another both in the congregation, in the community, and with friends around the globe. We are the church together in all seasons. You are what makes a wonderful community of faith—thank you and thanks be to God!

Council Highlights

- ✦ Council expressed thanks to outgoing members Tiffani Dahl, Cindi Habas, and Barb Stumpf for their service.
- ✦ Welcomed new council members: Tracy Hannah, Jane Knott and Mark Nagel, each serving a three-year term.
- ✦ Approved moving into Phase 2 for small in-person worship services.



Connect with First Lutheran at:

Worship services air on the following sites each Sunday. You can access as you are able.

Webpage: www.flclittlefalls.org

Facebook: First Lutheran Church, Little Falls MN

Public access television Charter/Spectrum #180 Sundays at 1:30 p.m., Mondays at 1:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.