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First Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ministers: All God's People at FLC
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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

Families, have received postal mail regarding confirmation class plans for those with students in fourth grade, fifth grade and seventh and eighth grade. Planning will include other grade levels as the year progresses. Families may pick up books and supplies on **Wednesday, February 3, at Cocoa and Cookies** outdoor bonfire between 5:00-7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Contact Pastor Beth or the church office if there are questions after you receive the mailing.



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

Watch for Holden Evening Prayer services to air on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent, beginning Wednesday, February 24.



“First...Servants of All”

A note from the Pastor’s Desk...

1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light

It’s not often that I read from a King James translation of the Bible. But this phrasing “you are a peculiar people” has always stood out to me. The NRSV translation, among others, more modern translation uses the phrase “God’s own people”. Peculiar means strange, unusual, or odd, but also means special and distinctive. A peculiar people is God’s people who learn to live differently from the world’s ways—placing our faith and hope in God instead of in worldly things.

These days, we are living in a peculiar time. A peculiar time where we are living through, dealing with, and witnessing many once-in-a-lifetime moments happening in our community and across the world. Some

of these peculiar times bring us joy, but for many of us, these peculiar times bring stress and sadness.

These peculiar times call for us to claim our status as a peculiar people. A peculiar people who are special, distinctive, and unusual — because as a peculiar people, we are united in a shared joy and praise of Jesus, the one who called us out of the darkness into the light. In these peculiar times, we peculiar people are needed, needed to share our hope placed in God’s steadfastness and abundant love — to a world looking for hope, grace, and love in all the wrong places.

—Pastor Beth Pottratz

Happenings from the church office

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3

In this season at First Lutheran, we are rejoicing with Sue Gustner as she transitions out of being our office manager and into her retirement. We are learning to say goodbye to “Sue the Office Manager” and welcome back “Sue the Church Member.” Sue is retiring after 19 years of ministry in the church office. We thank you, Sue, for all of the ways that you have served and blessed this church over the years through the office.

And in this season, we excitedly welcome Angie Sanoski to our church as our new office manager. Angie recently began with us and is being trained in by Sue. As a church, we will be giving Sue a retirement present to take with her as a thank you. We invite you to share your words of retirement blessings with Sue, and to call the office to welcome Angie to our church.

Welcome, Angie!

Hello, I am a Pierz native and recently relocated back to the area with my husband, Jeremy, and little boy, Hunter. We are excited about returning to the area and I look forward to serving alongside of you all.

Outside of the office I enjoy traveling, fishing on our pontoon, bowling and spending time with family and friends.



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

FLC Little Falls Youth

Children First Christian Preschool

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



Thank you to all of our members and friends who share and show their concern for one another and willingly and carefully assist one another with day to day needs. You are what makes a wonderful community of faith—thank you and thanks be to God!

Annual Meeting Reminder Sunday, January 31, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Business items to be addressed are:

- Election of Council members, voting members, and other leadership positions
- Adoption of 2021 Mission Plan
- Annual Reports

Zoom Link:

Topic: First Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting

Time: Jan 31, 2021 10:00 AM
Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98676635520?pwd=UFJ0TXY2dzMxc5QZjVQM0pQUXNHZz09>

Meeting ID: 986 7663 5520

Passcode: 439048

Dial in: 1-312-626-6799

We will gather online via a Zoom link on Discussion will be available via Zoom and voting will be by ballot with Google forms.

For those unable to connect in this way, in-person attendance at the church is by reservation only. Reservations must be made by the end of the business day (5:00 p.m.) on Wednesday, January 27. Call the church office to make a reservation.