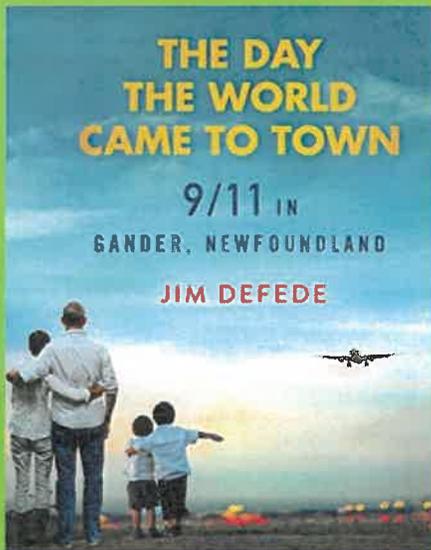
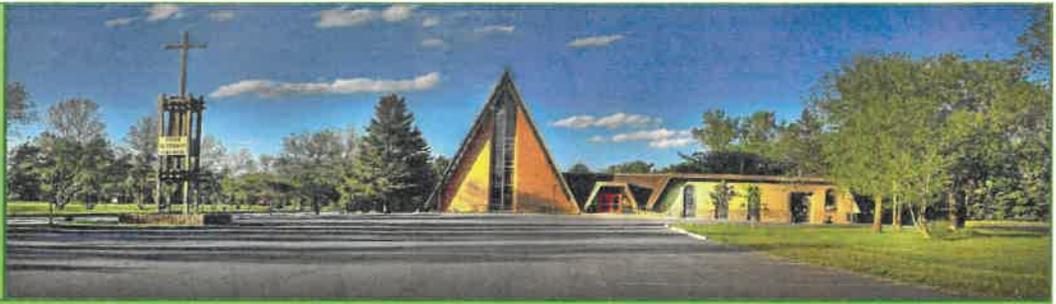


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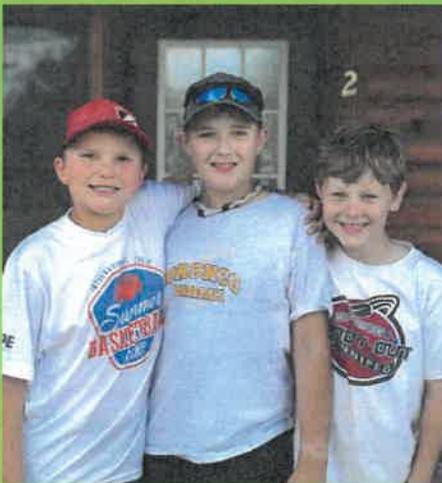
August 2023

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the
Northeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA



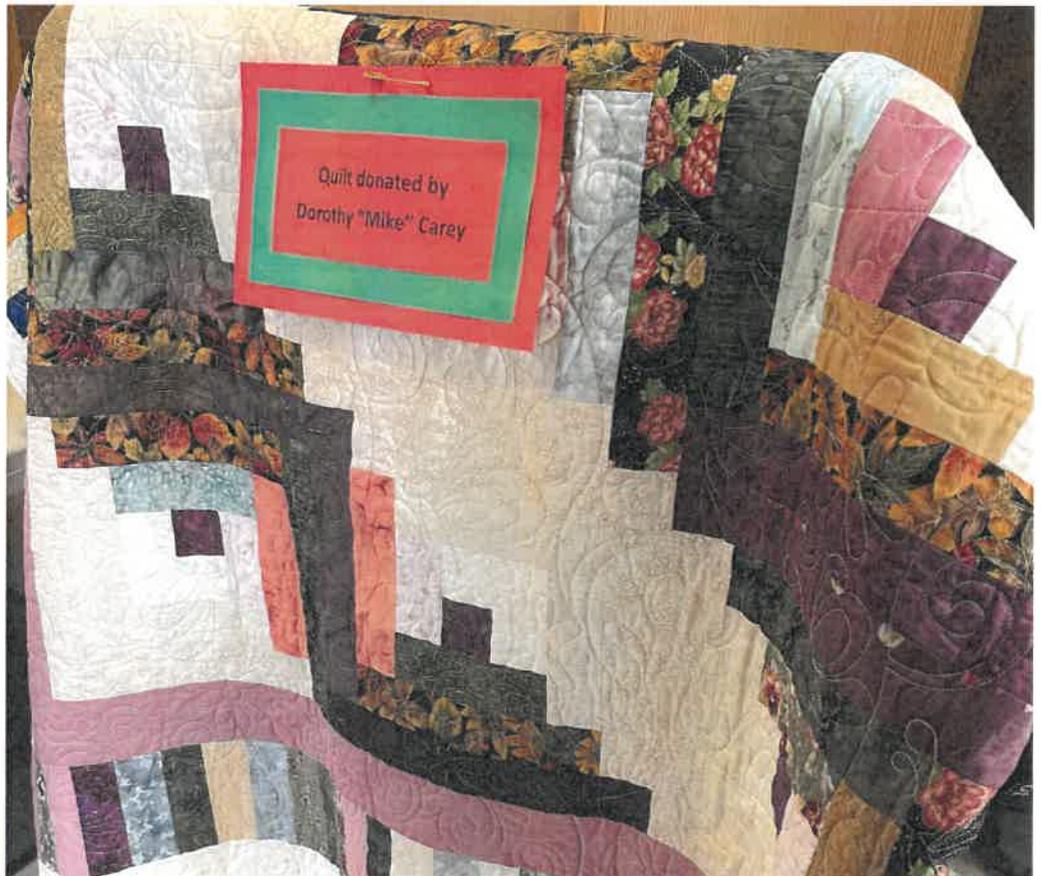
Book recommendation,
Page 9



What's Up, Youth?
Page 8



A happy kitchen crew prepares to serve the salad luncheon for this year's Christmas in July bazaar. The quilt below is a raffle item. Tickets will be available through most of August. (See page 5.)



From the Pastor's Desk

"August Already? ... Time Goes Fast!"

[Jesus] "He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. 32 And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves" (Mark 6:31-32).

Summer is almost over! I cannot believe how quickly it went. People tell me that as I age, time seems to fly by quickly each year.

Summer has a different pace and activities than the school year. A lot of us look forward to these summer months. Not only are the daylight hours longer, but we enjoy being outside in the sunshine. Whether it's being on the lake swimming, in a boat or pontoon, fishing or canoeing, we enjoy the summer warmth and weather.

Yes, there are summer storms and showers, but that is even a welcome guest to the dryness and heat. The good and the bad of summer is experienced throughout the country as various people are forced to deal with natural disasters.

Jesus often had to take time away from people and even his own inner circle of disciples. He would go off by himself to pray. Here are various reasons Jesus goes off to pray:

- 1. To Recharge (Mark 6:30-32).** Jesus sent the Twelve Disciples out to do ministry. Afterwards he encouraged them to separate from people to rest.
- 2. To Prepare for a Task (Luke 4:1-2, 14-15).** After Jesus' baptism he spent 40 days praying in the wilderness
- 3. To Work through Grief (Matthew 14:1-13).** After Jesus learns that his cousin, John the Baptist, is beheaded, Jesus went away to grieve.
- 4. To Work through Distress (Luke 22:39-44).** Before Jesus is arrested, he spends time in prayer.

We all need time to pray and meditate in our own lives. Whether it is in formal prayer or in the simple quietness of our own solitude. Summer is a time to take a vacation and rest a while ... away from the busyness of work and activities. To be in solitude is a welcome gift.

+++

Shalom

Paul J. Erdal, Interim Pastor



First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting June 15, 2023

Present: President Brian Briggs, Treasurer Brad Ettestad, Secretary Carol Bass, Worship & Music Nancy McBride, Building & Grounds Lloyd Skogstad, Service/Outreach Brenda Bertilson, Discipleship BettyJeanne Henrickson
Absent: Fellowship Cynthia Warren, Vice-President Hoa Sobczynski, Pastor Paul Erdal

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

Devotion – Cynthia Warren being absent there was no devotion, but meeting closed with “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Next month’s devotion by Cynthia Warren

Addition to Agenda: BettyJeanne asked if an update on a candidate for pastoral services could be included. This item was added under new business.

Minutes from May meeting: Copies provided to all.

A question was raised whether the minutes of the special meeting should be added to the body of the minutes. This was done.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the May 2023 meeting with the edition of the special meeting of June 5, 2023, to be included.

Made by: Lloyd Skogstad Seconded by: Brenda Bertilson
Carried

Treasurer Report: Copies provided to all. Income was down in the past month, and we are using cash reserves to meet expenses, Brad would like this information printed into the “Voice”, so everyone is aware. The elevator has been paid off.

Motion: to accept financial reports of May 2023

Made by: BettyJeanne Henrickson Seconded by: Carol Bass

Carried

Pastor’s Report: Pastor absent.

Committee Reports:

President- Spoke to June Caul of Ft Frances Zion Lutheran. More information on this under New Business.

Vice-President – Absent

Service/Outreach – 2 get thinking of you cards sent. 5 volunteers worked at Community Café. Was hoping to send out 4th of July cards, but there are none in town, so will send Thinking of You cards instead. Outreach considering delivering the prayer shawls that have been made.

Discipleship –Vacation Bible School was cancelled due to lack of participants, Betty met with Zion Lutheran and

said they would consider doing more projects with us. Fellowship – Cynthia absent.

Building and Grounds – Lloyd reported the concrete sidewalk by the door which needed patching has been done by Dwayne Dougherty. Steve Lindberg replaced a blower motor on a furnace that was making noise. Lloyd has inspected the rubber roof over the hall. The flashing has become loose and there is standing water at seam over office area. Range Roofing will come and give us a quote. Now that the elevator is paid off, we need to start a roofing replacement fund. Betty Jeanne will paint trim around the office door and could use some help with sanding the area.

Finance – Because of the late delivery of the church envelopes, we received a 30% discount. We will order earlier next year. Financial audit completed and all procedures are being followed.

Brian needs to sign a signature card to be added to the accounts.

There was income designated for choir fund of over \$1,000 from a company with which no one is familiar. Would like income rolled over to general fund. Nancy has no idea what this money is for but will contact the company and find out.

The new video system is working fine. Loading it is more involved than the old system so Brad will train those who will be setting it up.

Council (continued on page 4)

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
firstlutheranifalls@gmail.com

Council (continued from page 3)

Worship and Music – All is in place for church in the park. Nancy and Joe Belanger will provide music. There will be 3 stations for communion, one of which will be gluten free. There will be food after the service.

Old Business:

- a. Computer/video system (See under Financial Report)
- b. The next joint meet between our council and Zion Lutheran of I. Falls will be Tuesday, June 27th at Zion Lutheran from 5-7 PM.

New Business:

- a. Kris Jackson Yoga - Kris Jackson has made a request for consideration by the council. She would like to start pop-in (come when you like) Yoga classes to be held either in Memorial Hall or outside on lawn
 1. The cost would be \$10 a session with \$5 of that being donated to the church.
 2. Kris is a certified instructor and has conducted classes at Evolve Fitness.
 3. Every participant would need to sign a waiver relieving both Kris and the church of any liability.
 4. If there were special events, such as a funeral, classes would be rescheduled.
 5. She would like to begin this Saturday.

6. There would be the option of using your own mat or doing chair yoga.

Motion: To allow Kris Jackson to conduct yoga classes at First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Made by: Nancy McBride Seconded by Lloyd Skogstad

Passed

b. Update on Zion Ft Frances - Brian spoke to June Caul and they are interested in meeting with us and possibly looking into shared pastoral services. Their next council meeting is Wed (6/21) and if they agree we will be contacted to set up a meeting of our joint councils.

c. Candidate – A pastoral candidate has expressed interest in International Falls. At this point he/she has not contacted the Call Committee to make a request to be considered.

There is no further info at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

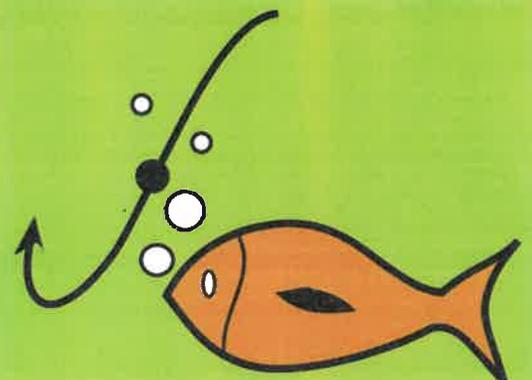
Next Executive Committee Meeting: July 18, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Next Council Meeting: July 20, 2023, at 5:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted by: Carol Bass, Secretary

Let's Go Fishing!!

The Borderland Churches are planning a youth fishing event for grades 9 through 12 on August 27. Time and location are still to be determined. Interested youth and parents please contact Marva Fairchild at Juhlke1@hotmail.com or 218-417-0960.





Shop for school kit needs

The FLW will be preparing school kits again this year for Lutheran World Relief. It may seem out of place to be thinking of school supplies at this time of year, but the best sales of these items are usually in August.

Supplies needed are 70-count notebooks, 24-count crayons, blue or black pens, pencil sharpeners, and blunt or semi-blunt edged scissors. When shopping, please consider picking up a few extras for these kits.



Christmas in July deemed a success

The First Lutheran Women’s Christmas in July bazaar was another success.

Hosted on a Saturday for the first time in many, many years, (if not for the first time?) the baked goods, handcrafts, and book donations were plentiful and people were happy to have the salad luncheon back.

Raffle tickets for the quilt, seen on the front page, and the “green supply basket” at left, are still being sold. Take a chance!

Many thanks to all who helped with the sale and luncheon.



GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL INFORMATION — AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

	CURRENT MONTH ACTUAL	CURRENT MONTH BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	VARIANCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
OPERATING INCOME	7,797	14,829	(7,033)	87,708	88,976	(1,268)
OPERATING EXPENSE	20,769	17,091	(3,678)	102,624	102,548	(76)
OPERATING INCOME LESS EXPENSE	(12,973)	(2,262)	(10,711)	(14,917)	(13,573)	(1,344)

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

YTD- OVERALL SHORT OF EXPENSES BY \$14,917

EXPENSES-

YTD—EXPENSES—6 MONTHS—BREAK EVEN (\$76) - GOOD JOB

The great news is that the elevator is paid off (we borrowed from ourselves)

Many thanks for helping to make that happen.

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!

A Call Committee Update

The Call Committee received a Rostered Minister Profile from the Synod office for a potential candidate. An interview with the candidate has been completed and a Candidate of Choice has been recommended to Council. The committee continues to follow the call process.

Please continue to pray for the people on this committee and for your church council as they work toward finding a pastor for us.

Announcements

Worship News

Deacon Brenda Tibbetts, Synod Minister for Leadership Support, will be preaching next Sunday as Pastor Paul will be at Camp Onamia. Please plan on attending to greet Deacon Brenda and to wish her Happy Retirement as she enters a new chapter in her life. Her retirement date is 9/1/2023.

Come to the program and picnic!

Attention: Church Ladies. Zion Lutheran Church is holding a salad bar picnic on Saturday, August 5th at 10:30 a.m. There will be a special program "Caring for Our Bodies" which will be presented by Sara McEldowney, a local massage therapist. Please bring yourself, and a friend. There is no cost for this event. If questions, call 218-283-9865.

**IT'S A PARTY!
AND YOU'RE INVITED!!**

The Fellowship Team is planning
a day on the water for all ages.

Weather permitting it will be Sunday, August 13th,
at Jon and BettyJeanne's house on County Road 94.

Come canoe, swim or sit on the dock.

There will be pontoon rides
and more.

Food and snacks will be
provided.

Mark your calendar and
watch for more information.



First Lutheran Youth: What's Up?



Summer camp is still a good idea

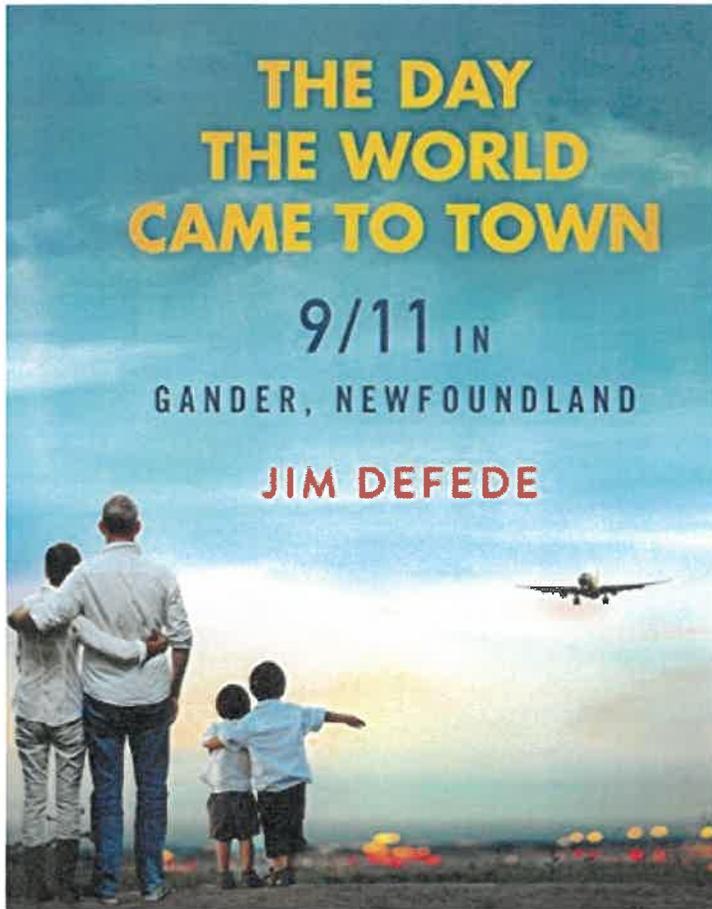
It's hard to fathom how many kids have passed through this portal into Camp Vermilion or a similar gateway into Camp Hiawatha, but what's certain is that most of those lives were changed for the better.

Ava Grover, Courtney and Max Youso, and Nick Schultz traveled to camp this past month and, judging from their grins, had great time.

Camperships are available to help anyone who wants to go to camp achieve that goal. Think about it for next summer.



Book Recommendations



The Day the World Came to Town **By Jim Defede**

Most people over the age of 30 remember where they were on September 11th, 2001. We watched the towers fall and many brave men and women lost their lives on that day and as a result of that day.

What we don't often think about is what happened to all the planes that were not allowed into the United States air space. Thousands of aircraft and countless numbers of people were not able to complete their flights as planned.

Some of those people ended up in Gander, Newfoundland and the surrounding area. And the Newfies took them in.

Whether or not you are familiar with the musical "Come From Away", this true story reminds us of the unconditional love shown to strangers in a time of unimagined violence. When 38 jetliners and their passengers and crews were welcomed into Gander and exemplifies kindness, and generosity.



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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 now at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings



To those who helped with worship in July, including: Carol Bass, Hoa Sobczynski, Linda Martin, Brian and Kallie Briggs, Whitney Bartholmy, Don Nuthak, Steve and Laurie Lindberg, Lloyd Skogstad
 To those who helped with fellowship, including: Ardel Henrickson, Cynthia Warren, Sherri Mannausau, BettyJeanne Henrickson, Kris Jackson, Kathi Henrickson, and everyone who donated to Christmas in July Luncheon.
 To those who helped with music: Kris Jackson, Sue Hewitt, Brad Ettestad, Ryan Skogstad, and Kathy Thureen.

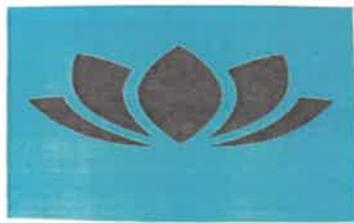
Prayer Chain

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.

August dates and times:

Tuesday, August 1, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Friday, August 4, 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Friday, August 25, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

August Birthdays

8/2—Betty Bergstrom
Elisha Boelk
Ryan Julien

8/3—Maureen Jackson

8/6—Lynda Tilander
Bryanna Wichner

8/9—Brady Strand

8/10—Paul Golnick
Havyn Pelland
Jackson Reinars
Maci Zaren

8/12—Adrion Mannausau
Teri Zub

8/14—John Cowman
Ronna MacKay

8/15—Brenda Dault
Zach Youso

8/16—Ellen Lindvall
Michael Pelland
Kya Scholler

8/17—Craig Bernath
Greg Harris
Kaeden Rostie

8/18—Knut Boerger
Anthony Cole

8/19—Mikala Hansen

8/20—Marissa Meyer

8/21—Reid Hanson
Lauren Rautio
Christopher Scofield

8/22—George Boe

8/23—Rachel Hasbargen-Glowack

8/25—Carter Jensen
Tammy Lyon

8/27—Thomas Arason

8/28—Stacy Harris
Robert Roeder

8/29—Cassie Thompson
Michelle Trappe

8/30—Tanya Kennedy
Donald Olson

8/31—Timothy MacKay

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**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 July's volunteers: Carol Bass, Barb Bergh,
Brenda Bertilson, Nancy Johnson, Penny Wakeley,
and Sue Mathews**

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

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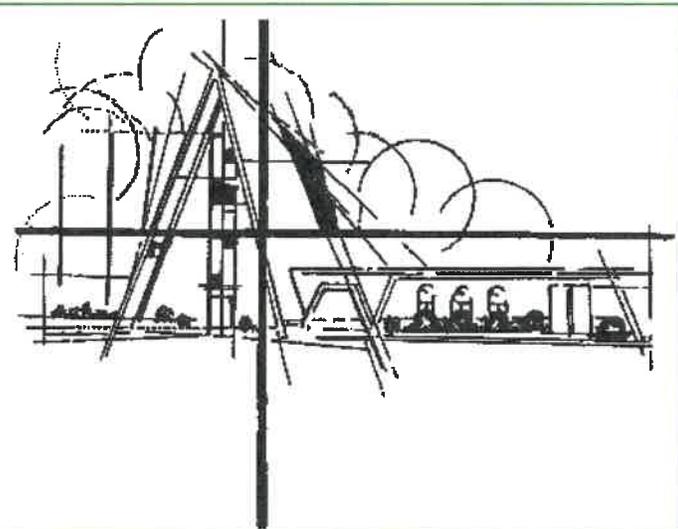
August 2023
NEWSLETTER

(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 9:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS

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

Check out our Website!
www.firstlutheranifalls.org

Look for us on Instagram and Facebook.