



# Connecting people to God and to each other.

## FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CONNECT** We warmly welcome and invite everyone to participate and engage in ministry, with a special focus on hospitality, small group ministry, and service.

**WORSHIP** We strive for worship to be invitational, contagious, and relational. We want more people to hear the message of Jesus, and we will do anything to erase any barrier that prohibits people from a spirit of worship.

**IMPACT** We will make a difference in this world as Jesus-followers. We will engage in impactful acts of service, encourage generosity, and strive to leave a long-lasting impact on the next generation.

CONNECT | WORSHIP | IMPACT

*Welcome!*  
*We are glad you're here.*

619 Broadway N, Fargo ND | 701.235.7389  
flcfargo.org | info@flcfargo.org  
Wi-Fi: FLCGuest, password: FLC@0619

## WELCOME TO CELEBRATION WORSHIP

SUNDAY - 9 & 10:30 A.M. | FEBRUARY 22, 2026

### WELCOME

### TEMPLE TALK

### SONGS:

*God So Loved*

*Lord I Need You*

### CONFESSION

**SONG:** *The Jesus Way*

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 15:11-32

**MESSAGE:** Pastor Marty Tollefson

### OFFERING

**SONG:** *Come Home Running*

### PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### BENEDICTION

**SONG:** *Child of Love*

### BAPTISMS

***Lamya Liberty and***

***Yasmeen Wisdom***

*daughters of*

*Julia Moses*



# WELCOME TO SANCTUARY WORSHIP

SUNDAY - 9:30 A.M. | FEBRUARY 22, 2026

## PRELUDE:

*Five Short Settings of Amazing Grace*  
– arr. Raymond Hann  
Bill Tweten, organist

## WELCOME

**TEMPLE TALK:** Eric Monson

## OPENING PRAYER & INVOCATION

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

**(Green Hymnal Pg. 77)**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Moment for silent reflection*

L: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN: (Green Hymnal #315)

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

## CATHEDRAL CHOIR ANTHEM:

*Assurance* – John Ness Beck  
Kathy Ferreira, conductor; Bill Tweten, accompanist

### GREETING & KYRIE: (Green Hymnal pg. 78)

### HYMN OF PRAISE: (Green Hymnal pg. 79)

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: Let us pray,

**C: Heavenly Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet, I know your love is greater than my failings. When I wander far into shame, regret, or selfishness, remind me of your open arms and grant me the courage to turn back to you, trusting in your unconditional love and grace. In Your name we pray, Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 103:1-13

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Green Hymnal pg. 83)

**GOSPEL:** Luke 15:11-32

**MESSAGE:** Pastor Marty Tollefson

## OFFERING

### HYMN OF THE DAY: (Blue Hymnal #734)

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

### APOSTLES' CREED (Green Hymnal pg. 85)

## SPECIAL MUSIC:

*God So Loved the World* - John Stainer  
Kate Moe, vocalist; Bill Tweten, accompanist

### OFFERTORY HYMN: (Green Hymnal pg. 96)

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Create in me a clean heart, oh God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CONTINUED...

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN: (Green Hymnal #469)

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

### POSTLUDE

*Toccata Giocosa* – Gilbert Martin  
Bill Tweten, organist



**\*Large print bulletins available (see ushers)**



## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Sunday, February 22

- 9 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Book & Bake Sale, Gathering Space
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
- 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Micah's Mission Food Prep, Kitchen
- 10:30 a.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Education, Adult Ed. Room

### Monday, February 23

- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Quilters, Adult Ed. Room
- 6 - 8 p.m. Feed My Starving Children FargoPack, Butler Arena (must be registered)

### Tuesday, February 24

- 8 - 9 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Luther Room
- 1 - 3 p.m. Knit and Crochet Group, Bethany
- 2 - 3:30 p.m. Fit & Strong Exercise for Seniors, Gym
- 5:30 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, Gym
- 5:45 - 8 p.m. Church Council Meeting, Luther Room
- 6:30 - 8 p.m. BeFriends Meeting, Luther Room
- 7 - 8:30 p.m. Women's Group, Adult Ed. Room

### Wednesday, February 25

- 12 p.m. Lenten Book Study, "The Walk", Dr. Luke's Pharmacy (Lower Level)
- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Weds. Fellowship, Chapel, Great Hall
- 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Book & Bake Sale, Gathering Space
- 4:45 - 5:45 p.m. Wednesday Supper, Great Hall
- 5 - 5:45 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 5:30 - 6 p.m. Crusader Choir, Choir Room
- 5:30 - 5:55 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir, Chapel
- 6 - 7 p.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
- 6 - 7 p.m. 56ers, Adult Ed. Room
- 6 p.m. Worship, Celebration Center
- 7 - 8 p.m. Confirmation, Great Hall
- 7:10 - 8:10 p.m. Cathedral Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 7:15 p.m. Lenten Book Study, "The Walk", Dr. Luke's Pharmacy (Lower Level)
- 8 - 9 p.m. Young Life/High School, CrossTalk

### Thursday, February 26

- 9 - 11 a.m. Helping Hands, Great Hall
- 12 - 1 p.m. Small Group Bible Study, CrossTalk
- 1 - 3 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fireside Room
- 2 - 3:30 p.m. Fit & Strong Exercise Program for Seniors, Gym

### Friday, February 27

- 9 - 11 a.m. First in Mission: Friday Lunch Pack, Ktichen

### Sunday, March 1

- 9 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
- 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Marketplace for Mission, Gathering Space
- 9:30 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Celebration Center
- 10:30 a.m. Kids@First (age 3 - Gr. 4), Lower Level
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Education, Adult Ed. Room

Calendar also available at [flcfargo.org/calendar/](http://flcfargo.org/calendar/)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

# THE WAY TO JESUS

“I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.  
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME” JOHN 14:6

## YOUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

### YOUR PASTORAL TEAM

**Pr. Stephanie Tollefson** [stollefson@flcfargo.org](mailto:stollefson@flcfargo.org)  
**Pr. Marty Tollefson** [mtollefson@flcfargo.org](mailto:mtollefson@flcfargo.org)  
**Pr. Jessica McEvers** [jmcevers@flcfargo.org](mailto:jmcevers@flcfargo.org)  
**Rollie Johnson** [rjohnson@flcfargo.org](mailto:rjohnson@flcfargo.org)

### COUNCIL OFFICERS

**Karen Carlson**, President  
**Brad Keller**, Vice President  
**Jon Erickson**, Treasurer  
**Carole Schalow**, Secretary

### GENEROSITY



**In-Person Giving:** offering plate during worship  
**Online Giving:** [flcfargo.org/generosity/](http://flcfargo.org/generosity/)  
**Text to Give:** Text "Give" to 833.890.5248  
**Mail a Check:** 619 Broadway N, Fargo, ND 58102  
**Scan to Give:** Scan the QR code

### CELEBRATE PRAYER

We believe in the power of prayer. As God's people, please pray for these publicly-requested individuals and their families:

*Bill Parker, Bonnie Lyczewski, Brian, Brian Tessman, Bruce Jorgensen, Chet Leverson, Claryce Iverson, Cora Lieb, Curt Tjon, Dallas Boatright, Darrell Moon, David Anderson, Dawn, Del Herrmann, Donna, Faith Simonson, Gene, Jan Baldner, Jan Stoffel, Janice Ames, Jim Hulberg, Joanne Herrmann, J.R. Gentz, Kay Maden, Kristie Sundell, LaMae Friskop, Laola Rakotomahenina, Larry, Laurie Bjornson, Linda Johnson, Lea Vacha, Lois Altenburg, Makenna Mattesi, Mary Ann Berg, Maika Knudson, Matt Walters, Mavis Bennett, Mike, Naya, Patrick, Paul Hulberg, Phyllis and Donald Sutherland, Ruth, Ruth Dunnicliff, Sean, Selso, Solen, Susan, Thomas Berg, Todd McComb, Tracy*

### RADIO

The Radio Broadcast today is given in memory of **George Berg**, from Don and Ellen Berg and Ron and Mary Alice Bergan.

### SYMPATHIES

First Lutheran Church sends sympathies and prayers to the friends and family of:

**I. Morris Rasmussen**, father of James Rasmussen



FLCFARGO.ORG

# CONNECT - WORSHIP - IMPACT

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sundays

9 a.m. - Celebration Center

9:30 a.m. - Sanctuary\*

\*The FLC radio broadcast is on KFGO AM790 and FM104.7 at 9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Celebration Center

### Wednesdays

1:30 p.m. - Wednesday Fellowship

6 p.m. - Celebration Center

## SERMON SERIES: THE JESUS WAY

The early Christians referred to themselves as followers of "The Way," underscoring their belief that faith was centered on Jesus, who said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"**

(John 14:6). This is a central tenet of Christian theology and is deeply rooted in the Hebrew Scriptures, which often speak of walking in the ways of the Lord (Psalm 25:4). For believers, the Jesus Way has profoundly practical implications for how we live a life of discipleship. The Jesus Way is an invitation to be transformed in body, mind, and spirit: to recognize our sin, repent, and live in the freedom and forgiveness of God's amazing grace. It is a way of connection— to God and to one another. In the New Year, we'll journey together through the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus' teachings are expressed through parables.

## LENTEN BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR MARTY TOLLEFSON

Feb. 25 - Mar. 25

Wednesdays at 12 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.,  
Dr. Luke's Pharmacy, lower level

Join Pastor Marty for a Lenten study of *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. The book explores five essential spiritual practices rooted in Jesus' life and taught throughout the New Testament. Communities of Conversation are open to both men and women. **Sessions are limited to 15 people - don't forget to sign up!** Register by scanning the QR or visiting the Welcome Desk. Pick up your book at the Welcome Desk and read Chapter One before the first session.



## YOUTH CEREAL DRIVE

From **February 1 - 28**, our youth are collecting cereal for the Emergency Food Pantry! Healthy options like Cheerios, Life, or Chex are appreciated. Youth can bring donations to class; all others can drop them off at the Welcome Desk!



## LENT SERMON SERIES: THE WALK

Beginning February 18

Walk with us this Lent as we follow the Jesus Way, stepping toward the promise of Easter hope. On Wednesday evenings, we'll hear from former First Lutheran Church pastors.

### Guest Preachers During Lent

(Years indicate their time of service):

**February 25** - Pastor Bill Rindy (1998 - 2008)

**March 4** - Pastor Corey Fuhrman (2000 - 2006)

**March 11** - Pastor Craig Hanson (1987 - 2006)

**March 18** - Pastor Rick Foss (1977 - 1979)

**March 25** - Pastor Kristine Carlson-Wee (1998 - 2000)

## GUEST PREACHER: PASTOR BILL RINDY

Wednesday, February 25  
1998 - 2008 (served at First Lutheran)

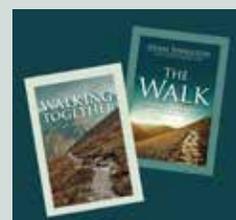
Ordained in 1992, Pastor Bill has spent most of his ministry in eastern North Dakota, serving in Lisbon and Fargo, as well as the Synod office as Bishop.

He and his wife, Louise, served nearly seven years at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Mesa and Gold Canyon, AZ. Since 2021, he has been senior pastor at Good Shepherd in Bismarck. One of his greatest joys in ministry is watching scripture come to life in worship and Bible studies. "The Word still becomes flesh in the lives of people as they live out their God-given callings. Helping them to discover and live out those callings is deeply rewarding." Pastor Bill enjoys fixing just about anything. When given the choice, he can be found playing with the "grands", golfing, doing projects, or trying to be a Vikings/Colts/Twins fan.



## FREE LENT RESOURCES

Two free resources are available to support your Lenten journey: *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton, generously provided by the FLC Foundation, and *Walking Together*, a 40-day devotional booklet featuring daily scripture and reflections. Both are available at the Welcome Desk.



# News YOU CAN USE!

Connecting people to God and to each other.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT — BREATHE: MAKING ROOM...

March 20 - 22,  
Mount Carmel Ministries  
Alexandria, MN

Get away from the noise, deadlines, and endless checklists and step into a sacred space with God. This women's retreat is an invitation to breathe and to prepare yourself to make room for what God already has planned for you. Together, we will explore rest as a gift, an intentional time rooted in complete trust in God as our provider and sustainer. We'll make room for reflection, worship, meaningful conversation, and rest for both body and soul. Come as you are and allow God to meet you there. Scan the QR to find out more information (including details about transportation, lodging, and meals!)

**Cost:** \$200. Register and Pay at the Welcome Desk.

**Questions?** Contact Alyssa Holmen: [aholmen@flcfargo.org](mailto:aholmen@flcfargo.org)



## WOMEN'S GROUP WITH ALYSSA HOLMEN

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. | January 13 - March 24

Join Alyssa for a Beth Moore Video-Based Study - *Jesus: The One and Only*. Come along on a life-changing journey which will lead you through the hills of Galilee with the Teacher, across the lake with the Master, and finally, on the road toward the cross with the Savior. Get to know Jesus intimately, as though you had walked with Him during His days of earthly ministry. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR.



## MEN'S GROUP WITH PASTOR MARTY TOLLEFSON

Tuesdays, 8 - 9 a.m.

Join Pastor Marty Tollefson for a weekly gathering designed for men who want to grow stronger in their faith and connect with others. No registration required.

## ADULT ED. WITH DR. SEAN BURT

Sundays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Adult Ed. Room

Join Dr. Sean Burt, associate professor of religious studies at NDSU, for a study on the history of the interpretation of the Bible.



## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN FARGOPACK

Feb. 23 - 28

Butler Arena, West Fargo

It's almost time! If you signed up to volunteer with First Lutheran at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) FargoPack,

we can't wait to see you there as we work toward packing **2 million meals** for children around the world!

**FLC Volunteer Times:**

Monday, **Feb. 23** (6-8 p.m.)

Wednesday, **Feb. 25** (Youth only)

Thursday, **Feb. 26** (6-8 p.m.)

Saturday, **Feb. 28** (9:30-11:30 a.m.)

Saturday, **Feb 28** (12:30 - 2:30 p.m.)



## YELLOW SHIRT SUNDAY & WEDNESDAY

Tomorrow kicks off FMSC FargoPack! If you're volunteering this week, be sure to wear your **yellow FLC t-shirt** to church **today** and again on **Wednesday, February 25** - and when you come to serve at the pack! Don't have a t-shirt? Pick up your free t-shirt at First Lutheran. We now have more adult sizes available!

## BOOK & BAKE SALE TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S ECUADOR MISSION TEAM

Today - Sunday, February 22

(9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 25

(4:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

Gathering Space

April 18 - 26, 11 women from our church will travel to Ecuador to serve alongside our mission partners. You're invited to be part of the mission too! Stop by our Book and Bake Sale today (or Wednesday). All proceeds will go toward their mission experience. The team couldn't do it without you - your generosity, prayers, and encouragement make this mission possible. Thank you!



## ADULT ED. WITH PASTOR JESSICA MCEVERS

Sundays: Jan. 25 & Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Adult Ed. Room

Join Pastor Jessica McEvers for a 5-week in-depth study on the parables found in the Gospel of Luke.

**THE NEXT GENERATION** is not only the future of First Lutheran Church (FLC), but the vibrant heart of our ministry today. We are committed to nurturing a strong, faith-filled community where youth can grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and develop into leaders who carry God's love into the world. To ensure the continuation and growth of this vital ministry, we are excited to announce the NextGen Endowment Fund—with a goal of raising \$2,000,000 to provide sustainable, long-term support for our youth.



# NextGen **ENDOWMENT FUND**

LENT "ABOVE AND BEYOND" GIVING OPPORTUNITY

## PURPOSE

- Guarantee a strong foundation for NextGen Ministry with **stable, long-term** funding.
- Support retreats, Bible camps, mission trips, special events, and **scholarships**.
- Provide flexibility to **expand and strengthen** youth engagement in the Christian faith.

## \$2,000,000 WILL ALLOW US TO

- **Offset the costs** of camps, retreats, and mission trips.
- Provide scholarships so **every youth** can participate.
- Resource and staff **youth ministry** for long-term strength and stability.

## IMPACT

- Ensure consistent funding for youth ministry **regardless of financial climate**.
- Open doors for **transformative faith experiences**.
- Create a **lasting legacy** that empowers future generations to lead with faith.

## HOW TO GIVE



Give between February 18 & March 29 by scanning the QR or at the Welcome Desk. Please make checks out to Lent Above and Beyond NextGen. **Thank you!**

## Contact:

**Eric Monson**,  
Generosity Consultant  
701.368.8403  
emonson@flcfargo.org

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US** in supporting the NextGen Endowment Fund. With a goal of \$2,000,000, **your gift helps ensure the future of our youth ministry**. Contributions can be made as one-time gifts, ongoing donations, or planned giving.

In addition to financial support, we ask you to **pray for the success of this fund**, for the youth whose lives will be shaped by it, and for the continued growth of our ministry. Also, consider sharing this opportunity with others because every supporter brings us closer to our goal.

**WITH YOUR HELP**, we can reach our \$2,000,000 goal and provide our youth with the tools they need to succeed. Thank you for considering a contribution to this essential cause, and for your ongoing commitment to supporting the faith and future of our church community.

