



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Watford City

The Clarion

FEBRUARY 2024



**First Lutheran Church
February Worship , Sunday School &
Confirmation Schedule**

Sunday February 4

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am Sunday School/ Fellowship

Sunday February 11

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School/ Fellowship

Sunday February 18

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am No Sunday School/ Fellowship

Sunday February 25

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School/Fellowship

Confirmation Classes to be held each Wednesday at
6:00 pm with supper and instruction to follow.

Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 @ 6 PM

Lenten Services

6:00 PM Soup Supper

6:30 PM Service

7:00 PM You are invited to join the
confirmation kids to dig deeper into the
scripture after service.



The First Lutheran LYO kids will be putting on a Seafood Boil dinner Mardi Gras Style on February 13th, 2024 at 6PM at the Church. You can purchase your tickets at the office or one of the LYO kids. This is a big fundraiser for their trip to the National LYO Convention in New Orleans in July. Please have your tickets purchased by

February 7th.



The January 21st and 28th service were dedicated
by Jennifer & Curtis Sorenson in honor of their
parents anniversaries.

Vernon & Grace Lee 78 yrs,
Elmo & Ellinor Sorenson 76 yrs





A WORD FROM MINISTER MATTHEW

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Grace and Peace to You,

The Lord works in mysterious ways. These words come to me when I find myself up at the Pulpit on a Sunday morning. God and others saw something in me that I did not see in myself, and I thank all who put me up here. I told Pastor Paul that, if it was not for his guidance, I would not be here. However, it

was more than Pastor Paul; it is the continued support from my family and this church community that has strengthened my call to be here with you.

My path as Minister for First Lutheran started in the Fall of 2022 when I took on the Job of Youth Minister. My Hope was to give the youth the same experiences I had at their age. Now in 2024 I am trusted to lead worship services. It is a trust in this faith community I did not fully understand until I served communion. A trust I did not fully understand until I officiated a funeral. The trust I did not fully understand when I talk with families. Believe me I have started to understand that trust and will do everything in my power to keep it and earn it every day.

I have a strong love for this community, and I believe in the mission of First Lutheran Church. May the goals of building a path for our Lord Jesus Christ never be forgotten in any of the work we do. As we come into the new year, let us build upon our programs. Let us find our weaknesses and make them strengths. Bible studies will return, youth programs will get stronger, and community care teams will go out to those in need. The Ministry of First does not stop at our four walls. We go out to the doors of members and serve them. Doors that only became open because congregation members opened them for this Ministry. A Ministry that will continue because neighbors continue to be neighbors and open them.

First Lutheran Church has been around for 108 years. It is a rich history of perseverance. Generations gave us the worship area we have today. The Bells are ringing again for the past and welcoming the future. The table is set with new communion wear for the hungry and thirsty. May the next 100 years be filled with the same perseverance as the years before. The Church is the people who make it. May we continue to be neighbors to our neighbors united in Christ and together serve.

Yours in Christ! Minister Matthew Rolfson



Sent in by

Jan Dodge

Honey-Almond Granola with Yogurt & Fresh Berries

3 c rolled oats

1 c shelled raw pumpkin seeds

1 c shelled raw sunflower seeds

1c raw almonds

1/2 c lightly packed brown sugar

3/4 c honey

1/2 c extra virgin olive oil

1 teaspoon salt

1 c dried sour cherries or other dried fruits

Yogurt for serving

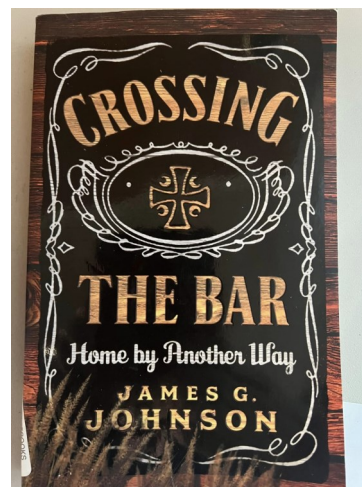
Fresh berries for serving

1. Preheat oven to 300 and spray a baking sheet with nonstick cooking spray
2. In a large bowl, combine the oats, pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, almonds and brown sugar
3. In a large glass measuring cup, combine the honey, oil, and salt. Microwave for 30 sec, stir and then pour wet ingredients over the oat mixture. Stir until everything is coated. Spread the granola out on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 45 min, stirring every 15 min or until the granola is golden.
4. While the granola is baking, place a piece of parchment paper on a clean baking sheet and set aside.
5. Remove the granola from the oven and immediately scrape it onto the parchment paper lined sheet. Spread it out and let it cool. It will be very sticky when it first comes out of the oven, but will crisp up as it cools.
6. When the granola is completely cool, crumble into small chunks with your hands, then mix in the cherries. Serve with the yogurt and fresh berries. Store in an airtight container up to 10 days.



Join the Book Club!!

So these two guys walk into a bar and stop in their tracks: "Oh no, by bartender's a preacher!" one thinks, while the other is thinking, "oh no, my pastor's a bartender..." If you want to sit in on a conversation with a bartender who is a pastor, this book is for you. If you want to take a journey filled with stories and insights born of the joining together of these two worlds, you will find such things contained in these pages. *Crossing the Bar: Home by Another Way* is written for the church, yet for the sake of those beyond its well established boundaries. It is a book about God's love, our freedom within that love, and hope yet to be established in the lives of people the church often ignores, but who are precious to God, and for whom God never ceases to seek.



We will have the club on Tuesday's at 5:30 starting February 20th either in person or via Zoom. We currently have 8 books ordered and will get more if needed. Please let the office or Marcia Hellandsaas know if you are interested in attending.

Meet your 2024 Church Council

President— Jennifer Sorenson

Vice President—Joy Patten

Secretary—Lynn Haugeberg

Worship Committee: Marcia Hellandsass, Jennifer Sorenson

Youth & Ed Committee: Joy Patten, Marcia Hellandsass

Stewardship: Cindy Geiger, Lynn Haugeberg

Finance Committee: Kevin Sullivan, Ardyce Alvashere

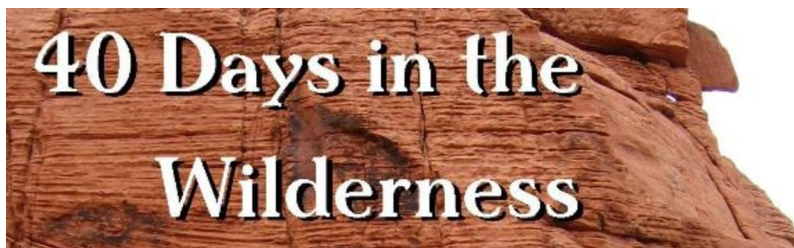
Property Committee: Robin Schwartz, Cliff Wenstad



Each New Year offers time to reflect and move forward in God's purpose and promises. This past year may have brought plenty of unexpected challenges & blessings. The beginning of a new year offers a time of renewed hope and commitment. Looking forward to the coming year we can recall God's love and faithfulness. Instead of focusing on resolutions, let us focus on our relationship with God!

At our last council meeting Laura gave the devotion. She proposed a resolution 'word' rather than a commitment! The word for the year for her is '**listen**' How often do we visit with people and as they are talking, we are unintentionally thinking about how we are going to respond!? I invite you to borrow this idea and intentionally **listen** as we go through this year sharing with each other.

We will move forward with new council members in February. Thanking God for the service and vision of Laura Dahl and Gretchen Stenehjelm. They have been faithful servants in their roles of property, youth & ed and finance. Thank you, ladies! Keep FLC mindful in your prayers as we, as council and congregation, seek out Gods plan and do his work in 2024. As we move into a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger, and our pains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.



[Mark 1:12-13](#): *"At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him."*

Hence the reason for the 40 days of Lent. It gives us a time to pull away from the busy nature of the world and to listen to God's word



A huge shout out to our volunteers for January

Marcia Hellandsaas

Kevin Sullivan

Donna Slais

Cindy Geiger

David & Celeste Berg

Glen & Anne Beard

Tarri Wenstad

Jennifer Sorenson

Don Stenberg

Carol Sanford

Val Williams

Jim Riely

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Teri Taylor **02/01**
 Jean Wold **02/02**
 Lea Arndt **02/03**
 Amelia Bulzomi **02/07**
 Tillie Haugen **02/07**
 Steven Johnston **02/07**
 Dale Kleppen **02/07**
 Valerie Williams **02/10**
 Tim Jorgenson **02/11**
 Angelyn Kostad **02/11**
 Laura Riely **02/12**
 Brett Wold **02/13**
 Tel Sorenson **02/13**
 Brian Alex **02/14**
 Jaryn Homiston **02/14**
 Celeste Berg **02/16**
 Nevin Dahl **02/16**
 Faith Langford **02/16**
 Delores Quale **02/16**
 Cordell Wold **02/17**
 Melany Sanford **02/18**
 Joyce Tveter **02/18**
 Richard (Rick) Jore **02/20**
 Marco Pelton **02/20**
 Steven Williams **02/20**
 Taryn Johnson **02/23**
 John Yale **02/24**
 Karen Broderson **02/27**
 James Christenson **02/27**
 Erick Leiseth **02/27**
 Carolyn Levang **02/29**

There are no Wedding Anniversaries this month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Calendar of Events

Feb 2— 11:30 am Property Mtg
 Feb 4— 9:30 am Worship
 10:30 am Sunday School/Fellowship
 8:00 pm NA Mtg
 Feb 5— 1:00 pm Quilting
 Feb 6— 5-7 pm Food Pantry
 5:00 pm Stewardship & Evan Mtg @ Teddy's
 Feb 7— 9:00 am Worship Mtg
 10:00 am Youth & Ed Mtg
 Feb 11— 9:30 am Worship
 10:30 am Sunday School/Fellowship
 8:00 pm NA Mtg
 Feb 12— 1:00 pm Quilting
 2:30 pm Welca
 Feb 16-19— LYO Ski Trip
 Feb 18— 9:30 am Worship
 10:30 am No Sunday School/Fellowship
 8:00 pm NA Mtg
 Feb 19— 1:00 pm Quilting
 Feb 20— 2-4 pm Food Pantry
 Feb 21— 6:00 pm Lent Service/Soup Supper
 Feb 25— 9:30 am Worship
 10:30 am Sunday School/Fellowship
 8:00 pm NA Mtg
 Feb 28— 6:00 pm Lent Service/Soup Supper

Happy
Valentine's
Day