



# First Lutheran Church

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Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
we are nurtured, prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.

## *The Importance of Invitation*

At the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, it is fairly obvious that inviting people into a relationship with God (and with those who accept that invitation) is an important part of our life of faith. In fact, before he begins to even preach and teach about God's Kingdom, he calls certain individuals to follow him and they in turn invite others. We observe this very idea in John's Gospel, when Philip invites Nathaniel to come and see if anything good can come from Nazareth after he finds out where Jesus is from. We must also try and remember that after his death and Resurrection Jesus commissions his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, to baptize, and to teach them to obey everything he has commanded of them.

These days, I often wonder what is keeping followers of Christ from inviting other people to come check out the amazing and wonderful things God has to offer them through the body of Christ, which is made up of all believers. Is it because we are worried that they may turn down our invitation? Are we nervous or too timid to talk with others about the abundant life Jesus has graced us with, because we feel like we may be overstepping certain boundaries or intruding on an individual's privacy in some way? Do we fail to invite others into a journey of faith with Jesus, because we are worried about what to say or that we may be attacked for our beliefs? Is it because we don't think it is our responsibility or that we feel like others are more suited for the task?

Whatever our excuses might be, for our failure to follow the commission of Jesus to encourage others to join us in our communal relationship with God, we need to remember a few important things that God's Word teaches us about discipleship. First off, we have each been graced with the gift of the Holy Spirit in our baptisms and therefore we should try not to worry too much (I believe that all throughout Scripture we witness angels, and prophets, and Jesus telling people to not be afraid, to not worry, to not be troubled). Second of all, we should seek to be like the man (representing Christ) sowing seeds in the Parable of the Sower in Matthew's Gospel. He tosses the seeds (representing God's word) everywhere without a concern of how they will grow (the growth is in God's hands after all) in the different soils they land in. And finally, the situations we find ourselves faced with in life always change, so even if someone has said no to an invitation in the past, it doesn't mean that they won't change their mind at some point.

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*Continuing from pg. 1*

Now I don't know about you, but the faith God has graciously given to me, and the body of Christ (my church family) I belong to, have been two of the biggest blessings in my life. They have both helped me through the challenges and storms that I have had to overcome during my time on this earth. Not to mention the fact that some of my favorite memories, and the relationships I have cultivated, happened because a disciple of Jesus encouraged me to come and see what a life of faith is all about. And the amazing thing is that there are so many different things we can invite others to, when it comes to living our lives in God's Kingdom. We can invite them to join us for Sunday worship. And if we think that might be a bit intimidating for them, we can invite them to join us in a small group activity like: a book club, a bible study, a quilting group, or a social ministry project etc.

If we want our church to grow, and more importantly if we want God's Kingdom to grow and if we desire the people around us to discover the miraculous gift a life of faith can offer them, we need to invite others through our words and actions and leave the growth up to God. After all the members & friends of First Lutheran have a lot of love and gifts to share with people inside and outside our church walls, and our God has even more to offer them! So let us do all that we can to always be the inviting and welcoming individuals our Lord has created us to be.

God Bless,  
Pastor Ryan



### All Saints Sunday November 6

During our All Saints service we will commemorate the Saints of our church, who have died within this past year. You are encouraged to add loved ones, who have died this year, to the list of names read, by writing their names on the All Saints list in the narthex.

Worshippers will also be invited to light a candle in memory of anyone they consider to be a Saint in their lives.



### Reformation Sunday October 30

We will be honoring, Sadie Jones and Sam Thomas as they are confirmed during the Reformation Sunday service. Join us in the fellowship hall right after church as we continue to celebrate their confirmation while feasting on cake provided in their honor. Coffee, Tea and Juice will also be available. There will be an area decorated for them with baskets with their names on them for congratulatory cards and/or gifts.

*We are nurtured, prepared...*



## New Adventures in Music!

Beginning in November we'll embark on a new musical venture: learning new hymns each month. (It's been pointed out by some congregants that there are a lot of good hymns in the ELW that we never use, so why not...? For those of you who've been here for some years, you might remember that we did this for a while when Mark Johnson and Jennifer Lewison Schultz were our pastors.) The goal of course, is to enrich our ministry, both with the music and the words, by trying new-to-us hymns and repeating each hymn for consecutive Sundays in order to feel more comfortable with each selection than singing it only one time. For the first three Sundays in November, we'll be learning ELW 721, Goodness is Stronger Than Evil, a single verse hymn from An African Prayer Book, with inspiring words by Desmond Tutu. For the four Sundays in Advent (begins Nov. 27) we'll learn ELW 241, O Lord, How Shall I Meet You, anticipating Christmas Day.

Questions? Please call Pete (360) 391-0936 or mail [peterdonne@yahoo.com](mailto:peterdonne@yahoo.com).

## Hymn Sing

Come 15 minutes early & join us for a hymn sing before worship on November 6.

## Holden Evening Prayer Service

Join us for our late Fall Monday Evening Service on November 14th.



## Thanksgiving Eve Service

Weds, November 23rd 7pm

Join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship on November 23rd. Please join us for this meaningful time of worship as our country pauses to give thanks.

## First Lutheran

### Semi- Annual Mtg. Nov. 20th

Join us after the service on Nov 20th to discuss and vote on the 2023 Budget and to elect our 2023 officers.

We will also be holding the second of two votes to affirm the changes to our constitution, as approved by the \*2019 Churchwide Assembly.

We held our first (affirmative) vote at our Feb 27th 2022 Congregational Mtg. On November 20th take a 2nd vote, as required to make a change to our constitution.

\*If you would like a review of these changes click on the following link which will take you to the information page prepared for our initial vote last February. Click to see the [attached \(2 page\) document regarding our upcoming vote to affirm the changes to the model constitution, as approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.](#)



## Using Your Gifts to Serve in Worship

**Assisting Minister**- Read the Psalm, the Prayers of the People (If you sign up for them), and lead the liturgy if appropriate. Sign upon the serve sign-up sheet in the narthex or Contact Pastor Ryan (360) 424-6832

**Communion Assistant**- Serve the wine at communion. Sign upon the serve sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact Holly in the office. (Watch for Communion Assistants to appear on the serve sign-up sheet. We will be needing Communion Assistants again, when we go back to serving communion without the pre packaged kits.)

**Reader**- Read the lectionary text during worship. Sign upon the serve sign-up sheet in the narthex or Contact Holly in office for help signing up.(360) 424-6832

**Usher**- Hand out bulletins, help seat people, collect the offering, direct communion, take care of worship details as needed, and help worshippers with their needs. Sign up on the serve sign-up sheet in the narthex or Contact Holly in office (360) 424-6832

**Altar Guild**- Prepare the sanctuary for worship, this includes the meal, the space, the seasonal vestments, and needs for special services. Contact Barb Sneva or Jana Svendsen

**Special Music**- Play preludes, offertories, and special sermon hymn pieces. All instruments and voices are welcome. Contact Pete Olson (360) 391-0936

**Sound Board Volunteers**- operate the Sound Board iPad on a rotating basis, for Sunday morning worship. If you would be interested in learning how to operate the Sound Board iPad, please contact Pastor Ryan, or Bob Ramborger.

## Sunday School News

Just a friendly reminder that we now have weekly Sunday school at 9am and are always hoping for more children to join us. Pastor Ryan's newsletter article this month is a good reminder that inviting others to join us for worship, small groups, and faith based education programs, is an integral part of our lives as disciples. If you know of any families with kids, who would benefit from learning more about God and what it means to believe, please let them know they are always welcome to participate in our program. We begin at 9am with an opening featuring a fun song and a chance for kids to share their highs and lows for the week, we then have a lesson based on a Biblical story, and then we end with an activity or game to help students retain what they have learned that day. With your help promoting our program, it is our hope that more kids will grow in their faith and understanding of God's love for them.



### Coffee Hour

A reminder that coffee hour is back. If you enjoy this time of fellowship and would like to support this effort please remember to sign up to serve as coffee hour host.



### Glance at Stewardship (Year to date as of Sept. 2022)

<b>Giving</b>	\$153,282.00
<b>Expenses</b>	\$174,513.00
<b>Budget</b>	\$184,799.00
<b>Loss</b>	- \$21,231.05

*Sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*



First Lutheran is a consistent part of serving our homeless neighbors. Once per month, we gather supplies for a dinner to be served at both the *Friendship House Cafe* and now at *Skagit First Step* in Burlington. Thanks to your generosity!

Sign up here to help provide the meal on Oct 25th.



### Keep our Local Kids Warm and Dry

As fall moves in and the nights turn cool, we are reminded that some of our neighbors don't have adequate clothing to keep them warm - or dry - during the cold, rainy months. With inflation, this year has been harder than ever to stretch an already tight budget. Will you help us out by donating new hats, mittens and gloves, warm socks, and coats? The whole month of October, Social Ministry is gathering these items (focusing on kids' sizes: 4T through 11-12) for the elementary-aged kids in our community.

Kid-sized items will be donated to our neighboring elementary schools, Jefferson and Little Mountain. Any adult coats and accessories received will be donated to Community Action.

As always, thank you for your support and for your generosity. With your help we are spreading God's love to the community.

Heather Romano  
Social Ministry



### First Lutheran Presents Watercolors by Sandra

Nov. 12 & 13

First Lutheran will host Watercolors by Sandra the weekend of November 12—13. Local artist and church member Sandra Knapp demonstrates her love of Pacific Northwest landscapes and florals through her romantic paintings. From the simple starfish to goslings on the water, Sandra captures the beauty of our everyday surroundings and portrays them in soft watercolors. Mixed in with her northwest scenes are paintings depicting the lovely countryside of France and Italy, where she studied under the internationally-acclaimed Karlyn Holman.

Sandra is a member of the Stanwood/Camano Art Guild as well as the Anacortes Sketchers. Her art has been displayed in several galleries and art shows in the area. A painter since the age of 12, Sandra looks forward to sharing her art with the local community. The month of November her artwork will also be displayed in Stanwood's Art in Public Places and at La Conner's Arts Alive show.

Available for purchase are original framed paintings, including oil paintings from Sandra's mother, Claudine; Christmas cards; decoupage coasters; and keyholders. Cash or check will be accepted. Sandra is generously donating all proceeds to First Lutheran Church.

Date: Saturday, November 12, 10a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Sunday, November 13, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: First Lutheran Church MV



Artwork by Sandra (Sandy) Knapp

Please save the dates:

**Nov. 12 & 13**

Watercolors by Sandra

See pg. 5 for details

**Nov. 20**

Semi Annual Mtg.

See pg. 3 for details

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2015 E. Blackburn Rd.  
Mount Vernon WA 98274  
Mailing: PO Box 777  
Mount Vernon WA 98273

**Worship Services**

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

**Church Office**—office@firstlutheranmv.org

Website w/calendar [www.firstlutheranmv.org](http://www.firstlutheranmv.org)

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Church Phone: 360 424-6832

Direct number for Pastor Ryan Rouse— 360 603-6379

**To reach our Staff:**

**Pastor- Pastor Ryan Rouse**

Pastorryan@firstlutheranmv.org

**Holly Oliver,**

Parish Administrator-office@firstlutheranmv.org

**Pete Olson,**

Worship Accompanist-peterdonne@yahoo.com



**Newsletter Update**

With the luxury of a weekly e news to share information, we have been relying less on newsletters. We have adjusted to a more seasonal rhythm with our newsletter publications.

Our Next Newsletter will be an Advent Newsletter, publicized prior to the season of Advent, beginning on Nov. 27th.

The deadline to send articles for our Advent Newsletter is November 16th.

**First Lutheran**

All are created uniquely by God and all are welcome here.

Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/identity· Life Circumstances· Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here.

**Our Congregational Leaders**

**President**— Donn Hollenbeck

**Vice President**— Bob Ramborger

**Secretary**— Yvonne Carter, Sandy Simon

**Treasurer**— Brad Pickett

**Trustees**

Jeff May, Lowell Larsen, Vacant Position

**Deacons**

Heather Romano, Bob Ramborger, Bud Fish

**Parish Activities**

Frances Wraspir, David Jones, Ann May