



# First Lutheran Church

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.

## Life-Long Discipleship

Anytime we observe or experience extraordinary weather, or some rare celestial event taking place on our planet, it isn't hard for us to imagine that rumors will fly that perhaps it was a sign of a forthcoming apocalypse or God's judgment upon our nation. And I can somewhat understand, that for the conspiracy theorists out there, it isn't too much of a stretch for them to see something like a solar eclipse as a symbol of the darkness in our world extinguishing the light. After all, with the recent protests by hate groups in our Country, and the numerous threats from terrorists and countries like North Korea, China, or Russia warning us of an inevitable nuclear attack, it isn't too hard for panic and anxiety to cause people to wonder if the end of the world is at hand.

In the *Word for Everyday* Alvin Rogness writes, "We live with an uneasy feeling that catastrophe may be just around the corner. We are human, and as such are dependent and independent beings. We know that we don't have everything under control. In a twinkling of an eye our lives can be changed or gone." He goes on to remind us that although we can't be sure what will happen today or tomorrow, we are to remember that as Disciples of Christ we need to continually remind ourselves that our lives in God are sure! It is only in our Heavenly Father that we can find strength and certainty. He has shown us that he loves us unconditionally and that his ultimate desire for us is to have a loving relationship with Him and with each other.

To make this even more clear, in the Gospel of Matthew when Jesus is teaching a crowd of people about their inability to serve two masters (God and Wealth) he reminds them that they need not worry about their life because God knows what they need and will provide for them and for us. In fact, not only does he provide us with the basic necessities of life such as air, food, and water, he has also taken care of our eternal future through the death of Jesus on the cross. Our eternal existence with the creator of the universe is assured, and instead of worrying we are called to participate in the kingdom of God as we seek to be disciples who not only spend a lifetime learning about God, but who also put into practice all the wonderful things we are taught by Him.

As September begins there will be a number of wonderful opportunities for us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Lord. We will kick off our Fall ministry programs and Sunday school with a Rally day on September 11<sup>th</sup>, our Confirmation program will begin with an orientation for parents and children on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm, Bible study will continued to be held on Wednesday morning at 9am (we will be going back to studying the weekly lectionary, join us and maybe you will help inspire a sermon or two), and there is a new committee focused on outreach and evangelism called Community and Congregational Care Committee that is looking for participants.

God Bless,  
Pastor Ryan

## Upcoming Events Late Summer & Fall

**Please stay for the church BBQ/Potluck we will be having on Sunday, 8/28/2022 after church.** Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Buns, Condiments, and beverages will be provided. Please feel free to bring a salad, chips, dessert or yes, even Jell-O, we are Lutherans after all! Bring enough to share with about 20 people. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex to give you an idea of what others will be bringing. The sign up sheet will also allow you to sign up to help put this fun event! We need helping hands to help set up, serve, BBQ and clean up.

We are looking forward to our **Sunday School Rally on Sunday, 9/11/2022 right after church.** There will be activities for kids (young and old) We will also be hosting an ice cream social during this time. We will supply the ice cream along with a few toppings. Bring your imagination and your favorite toppings to share, such as crumbled cookies, diced up fruit, crunched up candy bars, let your tastebuds be your guide. It will be fun to see the yummy concoctions we each come up with as we build our own sundaes. It will be a great way to kick off the new Sunday School year as we gather together in celebration for our new Sunday school year!!

### **Put Sunday, 10/30/2022, on your calendars!!!**

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 purchased 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 to enable you to place congratulatory cards and/or gifts in.

In Christ,  
Ann May, David Jones and Frances Wraspir  
(Board of Parish Activities)



### Hymn Sing

Come 15 minutes early & join us for a hymn sing before worship on Sept. 4th & Oct. 2nd.

### Holden Evening Prayer Service

Join us for our Fall Monday Evening Services Sept 12 & Oct 10th at 7pm.



### Book Discussion Group

Join us for a Book Discussion of *West with giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge Thursday, Sept. 22 @ noon in the chapel.



## Sunday School Rally Day Sept. 11

On Rally Day we will kick off our Sunday school program on September 11<sup>th</sup> with an orientation featuring registration and a special activity at 9am. This year there will be a class each week beginning with a special welcome and an opening song at 9am, and we will end by 9:50am before worship begins. Please note that we will be combining grades and using faith-based education materials that will work for multiple age groups. And if the teaching our kids about the importance of faith and having God in their lives is important to you, we encourage you to consider helping this year in some way. Our teachers can always use assistants to help with setup, collecting needed materials for a craft or lesson, and even to help chaperone the kids.

### “Drop in” Choir

You are invited to give the “Drop in” Choir a try! Simply put, any and all interested singers will meet with me (Pete) before church to practice an easy/favorite/familiar hymn from one of the hymnals, do a brief practice and sing for the congregation during the service. Easy, simple, no particular skill needed except a desire to enrich our regular Sunday services.

We plan to sing the 2nd and 4th Sundays. The next opportunities to join us will be September 11 & 25th.

## Confirmation

If you have a child in your home who is entering into 7<sup>th</sup> grade this year, you are encouraged to attend the Confirmation orientation on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm. We will meet to go over expectations, and this year’s curriculum, and we will also play some games so that we can get to know one another. As you consider whether your child will participate, you are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the vows that were made when your child was baptized. For example: A promise was made that you would nurture them in faith and prayer, that you would teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments (this is taught in Confirmation) and that you would place in their hands the Holy Scriptures (they receive a Bible.)

## First Lutheran Brunch Bunch

Are you someone who enjoys going out for lunch or breakfast on Sunday mornings after church, but aren’t a fan of eating alone? Perhaps you might consider joining the pastor for brunch on the last Sunday of every month? After all, one of the best ways to get to know other people is by sitting down with them and sharing a meal together. Think about all the times in the Bible that Jesus sat down at meals with his followers and those who needed to be in his presence. Not that Pr. Ryan is comparing himself to Christ, but he is hoping that it might be a fun way to become more acquainted with the friends and members of First Lutheran. Please note that a sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board at the beginning of each month, and you are encouraged to sign up one time at first (to give others a chance to attend), but on the day of Brunch if there is a free spot you can always fill it. The goal is to get to know each other, and to also try a different restaurant in our area each month (the name of the place will be posted on the sign-up sheet). Also, we will each receive an individual check & cover the cost of our own meal.

## Congregation and Community Care Committee

Perhaps you've seen the poster of Jesus standing outside a door and, presumably, knocking. I suppose most people think Jesus is knocking on the door to ask if He can come in. Have you ever thought that He is knocking to ask us to come out with him in ministry?

A big part of doing ministry is reaching out beyond our church walls to the people in our community by sharing our faith. We often do this through our words, but we can also do that through our actions, such as those endeavors of our Social Ministry Committee, like providing school supplies for neighborhood kids, or items for moms and babies. But another important way to do so is what we call Evangelism, which is formally defined as "the spreading of the Christian gospel by public preaching or personal witness," but which we might call "God's Work. Our Hands." And, after all, Evangelical is our middle name!

While Social Ministry does a wonderful job addressing needs in the community, our new Congregation and Community Care Committee is looking to offer opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and also tend to some of our own. We might, for example, have a water station on Blackburn Road during a 10K run, providing hydration for those literally running by the church. What about a special welcome to new families moving into our area, or welcoming students back to school by greeting the drivers of the cars who pass our church as they pickup their kids from Jefferson?

There are also things we can do to support the folks who attend First by doing things like helping people who can no longer drive find a ride to church or perhaps a doctor's appointment. Maybe we'll get some meals together for someone who has lost a loved one or for a family who has welcomed a new baby. I'm guessing you have some ideas you can share with us, because we welcome your input, your help, and we could definitely use some members to be a part of our committee.

Please contact me at your convenience so you can be part of this exciting new part of First EVANGELICAL Lutheran church! Email is probably best: [luteman74@hotmail.com](mailto:luteman74@hotmail.com) or call 360.630.5976.

Did you hear that? I think someone's knocking on the door!

David Johnson

## Using Your Gifts to Serve in Worship

Have you ever thought about volunteering to help with worship, but you decided against it because you weren't quite aware what a certain role or position entailed? If that is the case, consider joining us for one of our training sessions in the fall. We will be training Ushers on Sept. 18 and will be doing training for Readers on Sept. 25th. Also, if you haven't had a chance to take the spiritual gifts assessment, perhaps you might consider picking up a copy near the church bulletin board. You might be surprised by the gifts you discover and it may inspire you to find a new passion for participating in the life of our congregation.

### ***Usher Training***

*September Sept. 18th following worship*

### ***Reader/Worship Assistant Training***

*September 25 following worship*

## **Additional ways to serve...**

**Altar Guild**— Prepare the sanctuary for worship, this includes the meal, the space, the seasonal vestments, and needs for special services. Contact Barb Sveva , Jana Svendsen or email the church office [office@firstlutheranmv.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranmv.org).

**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 Pr. Ryan.



## Friendship House

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. We usually feed 35-40 men, women and children at the Cafe and 45 people living at First Step for a total of **90+ meals**, all thanks to your generosity! **[Sign up here to provide for the meal on Aug 30th.](#)**



Dear church family,

Our family sends a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone for all of the prayers, cards, phone calls and visits over the past 6 years of Scott's health journey. It has brought us much comfort and strength.

Thank you to Pastor Ryan for all of your visits with the family and such a meaningful memorial service for Scott.

We thank Pete for his beautiful music - Bob for handling the sound system. The ladies of the funeral committee for the lovely reception. And to Holly- for the countless duties you helped us with and printing such a beautiful program.

Most sincerely  
Jennifer Sutherland  
Kelsey, Katelyn, Kevin and families

## NW WA Synod- a Reconciling in Christ Synod

The NW Washington Synod has a long history of supporting the LGBTQIA+ community. In 1992, Rev. Lowell Knutson, while Bishop founded Open Door Ministries in response to a need he saw in the church to fulfill its roll to be inclusive and welcoming to members of the LGBTQIA+ community and the churches they are served by. Open Door Ministries ceased operation as a separate ministry in December 2021 and indicated they are looking forward to what God has in store for this ministry in the future and the commitment that the Synod has for the LGBTQIA+ peoples. The NW WA Synod's website has LGBTQIA+ resources, shared in the hope they will help answer questions and address issues raised. The NW WA Synod is a Reconciling in Christ synod. **[Learn more about Reconciling in Christ.](#)**



Dear First Lutheran Scholarship Committee and Congregation,

Thank you so much for selecting me for two very generous scholarships. It will make it easier for me to afford PLU this Fall. I've appreciate all of the guidance, prayers, and support you have given me while growing up at First Lutheran,. I cant imagine a better church family. I am very lucky. Thank you so much!

Sydney Reisner

## Church Calendar

Remember that we have a calendar attached to our website **[www.firstlutheranmv.org](http://www.firstlutheranmv.org)**

We do our best to keep it updated with all the church happenings & community building use. If you would like to add a meeting or event to the calendar, please email the church office at [Office@firstlutheranmv.org](mailto:Office@firstlutheranmv.org)  
Thank you for helping us keep the calendar up to date!





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Pastorryan@firstlutheranmv.org)

#### Holly Oliver,

Parish Administrator-[office@firstlutheranmv.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranmv.org)

#### Pete Olson,

Worship Accompanist-[peterdonne@yahoo.com](mailto:peterdonne@yahoo.com)

## Newsletter News

Because we have the luxury of a weekly e news to share information, we have been relying less on newsletters. You may have noted we are getting into a more seasonal rhythm with our newsletter publications. Because of the more sporadic nature, we wanted to share when the next newsletter will be published.

**Our Next Newsletter will be a Late Fall Newsletter. The deadline will be Oct 7th.** The Late Fall Newsletter will be published mid October and will contain information about Reformation & All Saints Day along with happenings through mid November. In Mid November we will be sending out an Advent Newsletter, as the season of Advent begins on Nov. 27th.

## First Lutheran

You are created uniquely by  
God and you 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