

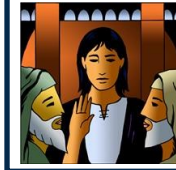


First Lutheran Church

Welcome ~ We're glad you are here!

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo | Associate Pastor: Matthew Engum | Music Director: Karen Bimberg

Sunday, December 29 · 8:30 AM · First Sunday of Christmas



On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN

Angels, from the Realm of Glory

ELW #275

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light. Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal
Three in One. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray. **C: Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL MESSAGE

*Mary, Did You Know? - Mark Lowry
Holly & Amanda Heisserer*

FIRST LESSON

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home. ²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 148

R: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

R: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

C: **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

R: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

R: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C: **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

R: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C: **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

R: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C: **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!****SECOND READING***Colossians 3:12-17*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL*Luke 2:41-52*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.****SERMON**

Deacon Yvonne Steindal

HYMN OF THE DAY*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

ELW #288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus
Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

STATEMENT OF FAITH*Apostle's Creed*

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

NOISY OFFERING*December: FLC Agape Fund***OFFERING****OFFERTORY HYMN***What Child Is This*

ELW #296, vs 3

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

BENEDICTION**SENDING HYMN***Angels We Have Heard on High*

ELW #289

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

SENDING

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUILTERS. The quilters will NOT meet on December 31.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT . Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to attend the Winter Youth Retreat at Luther Crest on February 7-9. Watch for more information in January!

FARGO FORCE GAME. Join us on January 17 @ 7pm for some frozen family fun at the Fargo Force game! Ticket are \$12 per person, pay on the FLC webpage or in the office. This is an all ages event— all are welcome!

JANUARY NEWSLETTER. Because of the upcoming holidays, the deadline for submitting information to the January newsletter has been extended to 12/31.

HIGH SCHOOL HANG OUT. There will be NO Hang Out in December—have a great break, have fun hangin with your parents and see you in January!

ANNUAL GENEROSITY STATEMENTS will be processed the week of January 20. A paper version will be sent to all donors in 2024. If you have not received your statement by January 31, please contact Paul in the church office.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKEDOWN! January 9 th at 1:00 we are looking for volunteers to help take down the Christmas decorations. We appreciate your help!

Prayers for God's People

*Brent Blake, Bill Wegschied,
Cole Woltjer, Joyce Gilbertson,
Jake Netland, Ryder Schmidt,
Doreen Tollefson*

*Prayers of comfort for the families
of Lorraine Tyberg, Pat Bollig,
Dory Pearson, and
LeAnn Hanson.*

Names are kept on the prayer list for 3 weeks; please update the office if you wish to remain on the list longer.

Christmas Break

December 25 & January 1

No Wednesday School /
Confirmation / Oasis

December 25-27 & January 1

Church office closed

**December 22, 29
& January 5**

No Sunday School



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Today's **radio broadcast** is given honor of Jerry & Dolly Cleveland's 68th wedding anniversary given by their children.



CREATION CARE NOTE

According to Euronews, a new "motionless" wind energy system, quieter and safer for birds, has been installed on the roof of BMW's MINI plant in Oxford, England, offering a scalable, renewable energy solution.

VISITORS

Thanks for joining us!
Want to know more
about FLC ?



GIVE ONLINE

Thank you for your
support of FLC's missions
& ministries.



TEXT TO GIVE

218-228-3228

Text your donation
amount to the
number listed
above & follow
instructions that are
texted to you

The **altar flowers** are given by
Karen & Cliff Bimberg, in
memory and honor of
December anniversaries.

