



# First Lutheran Church

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

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

**Sunday, December 8 · 10:45 AM · Second Sunday of Advent**



Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

## GATHERING SONG

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*ELW #257, vs 3 & 4*

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **Refrain**  
**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel**
4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

## 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.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Glory (Let There Be Peace)*

One Star burns in the darkness, shines with a promise, Emmanuel.  
One Child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel.

**Refrain: We're singing, "Glory! Glory! Let there be peace! Let there be peace!"  
We're singing, "Glory! Glory!" Let there be peace! Let it start in me."**

One voice speaks for the voiceless. Hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel.  
One Love brings us together, now and forever, Emmanuel.

**Refrain**

Do not be afraid! His love is strong enough to save us. Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us. Do not be afraid! His love is strong enough to save us. Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us.

**Refrain 2 times**

Let there be peace! Let it start in me.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, **C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**RESPONSIVE READING***Luke 1:67-79*

R: Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

**C: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.**

R: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David,

**C: as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,**

R: that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

**C: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant,**

R: the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant

**C: that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear,**

R: in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days.

**C: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

R: to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

**C: Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

R: to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**SECOND READING***Philippians 1:3-11*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God for every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy <sup>5</sup> for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace,<sup>[c]</sup> both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL***Gospel: Luke 3:1-6*P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>3</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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

Pr. Joe Skogmo

**SONG OF THE DAY***My Soul Magnifies the Lord*

Good news of great joy for ev'ry woman, ev'ry man; This will be a sign to you; a baby born in Bethlehem. Come and worship, do not be afraid.

A company of angels, "Glory in the highest!" And on the earth, peace among those on whose His favor rests. Come and worship, do not be afraid.

**Chorus: My soul, my soul magnifies the Lord, my soul magnifies the Lord.  
He has done great things for me, great things for me.**

Unto you a child is born, unto us, a Son is giv'n. Let ev'ry heart prepare His throne, let ev'ry nation under Heav'n. Come and worship, do not be afraid. **Chorus 3 times**

Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father! Wonderful, Counselor, Everlasting Father! **Chorus**

## 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 HEALING

### 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 SONG

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

*ELW #473*

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you. My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God.  
*(Sing 2x)*

### 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 SONG

*He Shall Reign Forevermore*

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans,  
for a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.  
Light is breaking, in a stable for a throne.

**Chorus: And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of Lords.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.**

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.  
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part,  
but poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart. **Chorus**

Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies,  
this Baby born for sacrifice, Christ, the Messiah!  
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears,  
the Promise of eternal years. Christ, the Messiah!

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore. **Chorus**

He shall reign.  
He shall reign. He shall reign.

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

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS.** Join us for Advent Mini-Concerts on Wednesday, December 11, & 18. The concerts are from 12:05-12:35 PM with a free will offering meal to follow each concert. For a list of musicians, check out the flyer downstairs, the weekly email, or the newsletter.

**ADVENT DEVOTION HOUR.** Join us for a discussion of *The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope* led by Gary Goreham and sponsored by the FLC Adult Faith Formation Team. We meet in the FLC Library, 11-11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec 11, and 18. Devotion books are available in the church office.

**SWEET SALE.** The Women of FLC will be hosting a Christmas Sweet Sale on Sunday, December 15, from 9:30 am—noon. For a freewill offering, you can take home a plate of your favorite goodies, proceeds to benefit various local charities and FLC ministries. *If you would like to donate baked goods to the sale, you make bring them to the church on Saturday 12/14 between 11am –1pm or before 9:30am on 12/15.*

**ANGEL TREE.** The angel tree is up downstairs outside of the dining room! Please consider purchasing gifts for a child or family member in the area that is in need. When taking a card off the tree, please sign out the angel on the sheet next to the tree. Return the gift(s) back to the church wrapped, with the angel taped on the outside, before December 20.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS.** The deadline to order poinsettias is, Dec15. If you would like to share flowers, please complete an order form & return it to the church office. Forms can be found on the volunteer table, or **pay online** through the link on the church website. Cost is \$13.00 per plant.

**BLOOD DRIVE.** A blood drive will be held at FLC on Dec10 from 9am–1:45pm. To schedule your appointment call Catharine @ 218-841-4811.

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON EVENT.** All FLC Women are invited for a Holiday Luncheon hosted by Ruth Circle: Thursday, December 12th at 11:30 am. We look forward to treating you to delicious food!



**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.** The children's Christmas program is on Wednesday, December 18 at 6pm. Everyone is invited to attend!

**HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH.** Join us on December 19 at 11:30am at Pizza Ranch for Pizza with the Pastors.

**DENISE GAARD RETIREMENT PARTY.** We will celebrate Parish Nurse, Denise Gaard's retirement on Sun, Dec 22, during Fellowship Hour from 9:30 - 10:30 AM, in the dining room. Please come and wish Denise well and help her celebrate her retirement. Light breakfast will be provided. There will be a basket set out for cards. All are welcome to attend!

**A NOTE FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION & HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE.** We hope that you have noticed, the new gathering space upstairs, the new coffee table and conversation area near the steps, the new benches for resting on while waiting for your family, We have done what we are able to with the funds that were available. We do have a few more items needed to finish our updating. If you are interested in helping out with a donation we would be ecstatic! Be sure to earmark your contribution with "Beautification Team". We appreciate you!

**LAKES AREA COMMUNITY BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT.** The 50-plus members of the Lakes Area Community Concert Band will be presenting their annual holiday concert at 4 pm in the sanctuary of FLC.

<p><b>VISITORS</b></p> <p>Thanks for joining us! Want to know more about FLC ?</p> 	<p><b>GIVE ONLINE</b></p> <p>Thank you for your support of FLC's missions &amp; ministries</p> 	<p><b>TEXT TO GIVE</b></p> <p><b>218-228-3228</b></p> <p>Text your donation amount to the number listed above &amp; follow instructions that are texted to you.</p>
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### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us for worship on  
December 24!

Contemporary Service  
at 3:30 & 5:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Service  
at 7:00 pm.

#### CREATION CARE NOTE

According to The Associated Press, renters in aging affordable housing units are finally seeing a clean energy future as HUD wraps up its \$1 billion program to modernize buildings and cut carbon emissions.

### 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



#### 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 Jill Nyhus and Pat Bollig,  
Lorraine Tyberg.*

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