



First Lutheran Church

Welcome ~ We're glad you are here!

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

Sunday, December 15 · 8:30 AM · Third Sunday of Advent



Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW #257, vs 5 & 6

5. O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. **Refrain**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P/C: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MUSICAL MESSAGE

In the Bleak Midwinter - arr. Monika Durbin

Carla Hanson, Bells

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

R: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

C: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

R: And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

C: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

R: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

SECOND READING*Philippians 4:4-7*

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

ACCLAMATION/MUSICAL MESSAGE*Doug Langerud***GOSPEL***Gospel: Luke 3:7-18*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

SERMON

Pr. Matthew Engum

HYMN OF THE DAY*Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**ELW #244*

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.
3. The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.
4. Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

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

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

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.**

COMMUNION

Words of Institution

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.

Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW #267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SWEET SALE. The Women of FLC is hosting a Christmas Sweet Sale TODAY, 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.

ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS. Join us for our last Advent Mini-Concert on Wednesday, December 18, from 12:05-12:35 PM. A free will offering meal to follow the concert.

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, 18. Devotion books are available in the church office.

ANGEL TREE. All of the tags on the tree have been taken—thanks to everyone who took an angel tag. Reminder: *gifts are due back to the church, wrapped, with the tag, on or before December 20.*

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS. *The deadline to order poinsettias is, TODAY.* 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.

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 TODAY 4 pm in the sanctuary of FLC.

QUILTERS. The quilters will NOT meet on December 24 and 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.

VISITORS

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



GIVE ONLINE

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



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218-228-3228

Text your donation
amount to the
number listed
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First Lutheran Church | 56501 | Ph: 218-847-5656
email: flc@firstlutheranchurch.com



Christmas Eve Worship Service

Tuesday, December 24

3:30 & 5:00pm | Contemporary Service
7:00pm | Traditional Candlelight Service

8:00 PM | SERVICE BROADCAST ON
KDLM 1340 AM & 93.1 FM

ALL SERVICES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED

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



CREATION CARE NOTE

A reporter from Canary Media reports a new wave of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries is gaining traction in the electric vehicle industry, offering cost, safety and sustainability advantages over traditional options

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 Pat Bollig, Lorraine Tyberg and
Dory Pearson.*

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