

† *Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome here. We invite you to journey with us as we explore the life of faith together. At First Lutheran all are welcome in every aspect of our congregational life. We believe that worship is central to our life together. God empowers us to live out our purpose which is to share his word and the promise of salvation.*



**THE THIRD SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 16, 2018
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

We sing "Joy to the World" at Christmas time - a carol that could actually be sung throughout the year. Joy to the world, the Lord has come." Thank God, Christ has come and continues to abide and dwell in us and among us. Joy is trusting when you want to doubt. Joy is celebrating when you want to fear. Joy is the smile we have as the children lead us in worship today by telling us of the ancient story yet ever new story of the birth of Christ. Welcome to worship. May the joy of the Lord be with you today and throughout the season of Advent. Sing loudly "Joy to the World the Lord has come."

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

ADVENT WREATH SONG "The Candle of Joy"

**C: The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one delight and surprise.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **C: Amen**

P: Let us come before God in confession.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: To you, O God,

C: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

P: Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of +Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: God of joy, stir up your power and come into our lives with the promise of hope, peace, and joy. May the good news of your coming fill our hearts with joy and love for you and compassion for others. In Jesus' name, the light of the world we pray, AMEN.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

“THE CHRISTMAS STORY”

OPENING HYMN No. 283 “O Come All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1,2)

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING/WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Come share in the feast of salvation.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMNS 296 & 281

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER:

P: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD’S PEOPLE SENT FORTH

BENEDICTION

May Christ, the Son of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

SENDING HYMN No. 290. “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME! Great to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today. We practice open Communion at First Lutheran. If you believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, his body and blood shed for you, you are welcome to our table. Apple juice is available upon request.

THE WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST today is sponsored by First Lutheran Church's Sunday School staff and children in honor of the Children's Christmas Program.

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|----------------------------|--|
| Ministers | Members of First Lutheran Church |
| Pastor | Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp |
| Music | Sunday School Children |
| Acolytes | Jocelyn Burnett & Madison Gunnink |
| Ushers | Mick Myers, Joel Carpenter, Craig Thies, Thad Reinert, Chuck DeSchepper |
| Sound | Brad Willey & Mark Zinnel |
| Advent Wreath. | Aaron & Melissa Burnett & family |
| Communion Assistants . . . | Tami Stevens, Sheila Johnson, Teresa Jansen |

† **Continuing Prayer Concerns:** Deb Smith, Darline Dalin, Joyce and Bill Kunz and Lorraine Johnson as they deal with health issues, Sarah & Harold Meyer's daughter, Crystal, as she undergoes cancer treatment, Sarah Meyer's sister, Mary, as she recovers from a stroke, Wade & Deb Smith's Grandson, Gavin, as he undergoes cancer treatment, Darlene Muller and Bob Fritz as they each recover from surgery.

- ❖ **Assisted listening devices are available from the ushers.**
- ☎ **PLEASE remember to turn off Cell Phones and Pagers during worship.**

THIS WEEKS' SCHEDULE — December 16, 2018

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| <u>TODAY</u> 9:30am - Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program/Holy Communion 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship |
| <u>WEDNESDAY</u> 7:00pm - Confirmation |
| <u>THURSDAY</u> 9:15am - Praise Circle - Jeanine Olson's home 9:30am - Joy Circle 8:30am - Pastors Conference |
| <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u> 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship |

Stewardship Quote:
Some people say, "Give until it hurts."
But God recommends that we give until
it feels good. God loves a cheerful giver!
Brian Kluth - Pastor, Generosity speaker
and Author



2018 December Giving

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Income Required to Operate | \$ 17,800.00 |
| Weekly Giving - Dec. 2 | \$ 5,288.12 |
| Weekly Giving - Dec. 9 | \$ 4,073.36 |
| Weekly Giving - Dec. 16 | \$ |
| Weekly Giving - Dec. 23 | \$ |
| Christmas Eve - Dec. 24 | \$ |
| Weekly Giving - Dec 30 | |
| Total to Date | \$ 9,361.48 |



NOISY OFFERING

Thank you for your support of the 'Noisy Offering' that was collected for the Heifer Project. The total amount given toward the project to this date is \$503.10.

WANTED: Sound Video Operator

to work in the Sound booth on Sundays & special occasions. Training will be provided. Please contact the Church office @ 825-5837.



2019 Offering Envelopes

Beginning Dec. 16th the 2019 Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex. Please stop to pick up your Offering envelopes before or after Church. They will also be available in the Church office.

2019 RADIO BROADCAST OPENINGS

Thank you for your continued support of sponsoring the First Lutheran Radio Broadcast. The 2019 Radio Broadcast schedule is now posted in the office hallway. If you wish to sponsor a 2019 RADIO BROADCAST - please sign up for the Sunday of your choice. The cost of sponsoring a broadcast is \$58.00.



Reminder - Year End Contribution Policy/Year End Statements

The next couple of weeks is a good time for you to be able to catch up in your financial support to the ministry of First Lutheran.

The cut-off date for 2018 will be December 31st.

Any offerings that you'll want to be credited for 2018 MUST be received in the Church office or Postmarked no later than December 31st.



9th Annual First Lutheran Epiphany Party

Celebrating the Spirit of Epiphany
"Lighting the Way to a Balanced Life" Sunday, Jan. 6, 2018. Arrive at

4:30 p.m. We eat at 5:00. Menu: Potluck of your favorite holiday foods will be provided - meatballs, potatoes & lutefisk. (Donations appreciated) Meet in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP by calling the Church office 825-5837 or Nancy Johnson 507-227-5335 or sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.



Kaffi Ti 2018 was a big success ! Our income was \$2,282.75. Thank you to all who worked, donated & purchased items. It takes all of us to continue to make this event a success. See you next year for Kaffi Ti on December 14, 2019!

Monday, December 24th Worship

Schedule:

4:00pm - Candlelight Service/Holy Communion

6:30pm - Candlelight Service/Holy Communion

All are welcome. Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ who is God's gift of Love.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 20, 2019 @ 10:30 a.m.

We encourage all members to attend and be a part of this important process.

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