

† *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 FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ADVENT**

**Sunday, December 23, 2018
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

Love one another is a command often repeated in the Bible. It sounds so easy but is so difficult. Advent reminds us of God's great love for us by sending his only Son. Mary loved Joseph, Joseph loved Mary and together they loved the Jesus, Immanuel. May we ponder God's gift of love as Mary did and may we give thanks for God's love and truly let us love one another.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

ADVENT WREATH SONG "The Candle of Love"

C: The candle of love tells us what we are worth:

God loves us so much, God came to earth!

An angel brought news of a child who would be

The one who would save us and set us all free.

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.**

OPENING HYMN No. 239 "Hark the Glad Sound"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: God of love stir up your power and come. With your abundant love, come and free us from sin that binds us that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

HEARING GOD’S WORD

FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

2But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5and he shall be the one of peace.

Here ends the first lesson.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON Psalm 80:1-7

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Page 151

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

18Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22All this took place to

fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Joyce Tollefson Capp

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY No. 292 “Love Has Come”

APOSTLES’ CREED Page 105

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

RECEIVING OF OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN No. 253 “He Came Down” (vs. 1,4)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

LORD’S PRAYER

GOD’S PEOPLE SENT FORTH

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father +Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

SENDING HYMN No. 267..... “Joy to the World”

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WELCOME! Great to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today.

THE WORSHIP RADIO BROADCAST today is sponsored in loving memory of my parents, Thelma & Harold Rauk by Betty Johnson.

Ministers	Members of First Lutheran Church
Pastor	Rev. Joyce Tollefson Capp
Organist	Sandy Roemmich
Reader	Diane Leslie
Acolytes	Max Taubert & Chase Wilson
Ushers	Mick Myers, Joel Carpenter, Craig Thies, Thad Reinert, Chuck DeSchepper
Sound	Bob Douty & Neil Johnson
Advent Wreath	Bob & Tami Taubert & Family

† **Continuing Prayer Concerns:** Deb Smith, Darline Dalin, Joyce and Bill Kunz, Gene Spicer, Gladys Ihlen 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 23, 2018

<u>TODAY</u> 9:30am - Worship
<u>MONDAY</u> 4:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship/Holy Communion 6:30pm - Christmas Eve Worship/Holy Communion
<u>TUESDAY</u> “Christmas Day”
<u>NEXT SUNDAY - The First Sunday of Christmas</u> 9:30am - Worship 10:30am - Coffee Fellowship

Stewardship Quote:
“When you give to God, you discover what God gives to you.”



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	\$ 11,377.88
Weekly Giving - Dec. 23	\$
Christmas Eve - Dec. 24	\$
Weekly Giving Dec. 30	\$
Total to Date	\$ 20,739.36



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 \$1,117.98.

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.



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.

