

"Welcome to Worship"

God is here for you,
In the word and sacraments, in the love of
this community.

Welcome- it's great to have you here! Thank
you for choosing to worship with us at First
Lutheran today.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 3rd, 2023
GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Ministers:

Members of First Lutheran Church

Pastor: Pastor Ann Zastrow

Organist: Paul Henriksen

Sound: Mike Straw

Reader: Lori Ilse

Acolyte: Bryer Evans

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webpage.



**Scattering seeds of love,
worship & service**

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship:

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Amen.

**Opening Hymn: ELW Hymn #264 –
Prepare the Royal Highway**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a moment of silence for personal reflection)

P: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us, we confess that we have
turned from you and given ourselves into the**

**power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to
you, 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.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Gathering

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie: pg 147

Hymn of Praise: pg 149

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

**C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen
us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Here ends the First Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (please read responsively)

R: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.

R: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

C: Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

R: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

R: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Here ends the Second Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

Lighting of the Advent Candle

P: Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel.

The **Holy Gospel** is taken from **Mark** (Mark 1:1-8)

C: Glory to you O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn #249 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Responding to God's Word

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the Church

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

P: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

Offering / Offering Hymn: ELW Hymn #257 –
O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 3 - 4)



Offering 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. Amen.

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: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Hymns: ELW Hymn #240 – Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
ELW Hymn #279 – O Little Town of Bethlehem

Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray.

C: God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Benediction

P: The God of all grace † bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW Hymn #254 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Welcome! It is 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. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

The Worship Radio Broadcast is sponsored today in loving memory of all my family members who have gone before me by Mildred Carstensen.

† Continuing Prayer Concerns: We pray for Dave Dulas and his family on the passing of his mother, Eileen and also for Mike and JoAnn Straw on the passing of Mike's mom, Kathryn this past week. We also pray for Larry & Barb Rieck on the passing of Larry's daughter, Lori as well as Bill & Marlys Winter who are Lori's aunt and uncle.

We continue prayers for Carol Foss, Sheila Horton, Erin (Hellie) Schroeder and Jan Harkema.

***** If you or someone you know has a Prayer Concern, please call the church office 825-5837 to have it listed in the bulletin and church webpage. You can also email the church office@firstlutheranpipestone.org.**



CONGRATULATIONS to Cole & Marah Lytle on the birth of their newest addition!! Welcome to Miss Emersyn Jean Lytle born on November 26th!!

This Week's Schedule (December 3rd – December 10th)

Today (2nd Sunday of Advent): 9:30am- Worship at the church, w/Holy Communion, live-streamed; Advent Bible Study following worship; 2:00pm - ALL F.L.C. kids and parents Christmas Cares shopping project; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

Tuesday: PM – Pastor Ann out of office for dr appt

Wednesday: 10:00-11:00am – Pastor's Prayer – caroling with local pastors; 6:15pm - L.I.F.T./Confirmation; 7:00pm – Committee meetings; 12:00pm & 3:00pm- Sunday Service broadcast on Public Access TV (channel 3)

Friday: 1:00–4:00pm- Kaffi-Ti setup

Saturday: 1:00–3:00pm – Kaffi-Ti (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME!! Workers - please be there by 12:30pm)

Sunday: 9:30am – Worship at the church, w/Holy Communion, live-streamed; Advent Bible Study following worship; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM).

Noisy Offering for November was collected for: Kiwanis (for toys, food and winter gear as needed).

The total amount collected was: **\$227.06**

Noisy Offering for December will go to: **ELCA Good Gifts**

(to purchase animals, etc. to those in need for food & income – a.k.a. God's Barnyard)

Thank you for your support of these important Outreach needs.

November 2023 Offering	
Monthly Income Needed to Operate>>	\$17,800.00
Weekly Offering – November 5 th	
Weekly Offering – November 12 th	

Weekly Offering – November 19 th	
Weekly Offering – November 26 th	

Extra offering books are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take another book if you are running low!!
Simply Giving is also available online by scanning the barcodes on the yellow pew tags or signs in the Narthex.

Mark Your calendar Items:

Important Upcoming Dates & Events for Children & Youth in November:

Wednesday, December 6th: 6:15pm - LIFT / Confirmation
Wednesday, December 13th: 6:15pm - LIFT / Confirmation
Sunday, December 17th: 9:30am – Children's Christmas Program

Would you like to be more involved in your church? Please consider being on one of several church committees here at First Lutheran. It is a great way to give input and to help your church grow for future generations. New eyes make for new ideas and new beginnings! Elections will be held in January 2024. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

KAFFI-TI

Saturday, December 9th, 2023
1:00 - 3:00p.m.



**Join us in the
afternoon!**

at First Lutheran Church
401 7th Avenue SW
in Pipestone

SCANDINAVIAN SPECIALTIES:
Rosettes, Krumkaka, Fruit Suppe,
Sandbakkels and Lefse
OTHER BAKED ITEMS...
American Christmas goodies!



Check out the new items:
Quilts, Denim Rugs & Cookbooks

FEATURING Christmas cranberry cake with
butter sauce!
*Come to shop, sit & enjoy Scandinavian treats,
coffee & conversation!*



Join us for Fellowship in the Narthex following worship!!
If you would like to bring goodies to pass or to help serve, sign-up sheets are in the Narthex also!

The Al
Opland
Singers
will

present their Christmas show "Finding The Hope Of Christmas" – final performance TODAY (Dec. 3rd) at 2:00pm at the Pipestone Performing Arts Center. This show will take you on a journey of commercial Christmas and Santa Claus at the beginning, to finding the true Reason we celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for students.

PIPESTONE COUNTY CHRISTMAS CARE



Several groups in the Pipestone Community are working together to distribute new toys for local children ages 12 & under as well as holiday meal totes for individuals, families and seniors in financial need. If you would like to help by donating a new toy, please bring one in and put it in the new toy collection box in the Narthex.

FINAL Pick up will be on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023.

THANK YOU in advance for your support of others in our community!!



We “know” the story of Jesus’ birth from children’s Christmas programs. But do we really know what scripture says? How many of the birth narratives contain angels? Would the wise men have met the shepherds? Where did Mary and Joseph live? How did they, and how do we, know that Jesus is really the Messiah? To find out the answers to these and other questions, come to a Bible Study after worship on Sundays: TODAY - December 3, December 10, and December 17! If you can’t make all of the sessions, that’s okay! Bring your Bible, your questions, your coffee and treats, and join us in the Fireside Room!



Quilts, Rugs & Cookbooks For Sale

If you are looking for some beautiful homemade gifts, check out the rugs and quilts in the Fellowship Hall. Quilts are \$50 and rugs are priced on their individual tags. ***We just received a few more rugs so check them out. We won’t be getting more until AFTER Christmas!!*** Payments can be made to the FLCW and put in the office mailbox.

We also have church cookbooks available for sale too for \$5!!



CHURCH DIRECTORY

If you have any pictures of church events that you have taken and that you would like to share and have put in the church directory, please bring them by the church office, send them via email or you can bring them in on a USB. This has been a one-person project so any pictures you have to share would be GREATLY appreciated!!



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A PRINTED COPY OF THE CHURCH DIRECTORY, PLEASE

CONTACT Lori IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE OR BY LEAVING A MESSAGE IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

I hope to have printed directories done by mid-December. Thank You!!

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Do you wish to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund this Christmas? Donations can be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. These donations will be used to purchase an appropriate number of poinsettias to decorate the church, with the remainder of the funds to go towards other church projects. You may still bring in your own from home – just please make sure to put your name on it so you can take it home after Christmas.

If you would like to order or make a donation, please complete the following information & return this portion to the church office or the offering plate or go online to www.firstlutheranpipestone.org to print one online or email to the church.

NO LATER than Sunday, December 17th, 2023

☐ I will bring my own from home (**please bring to the church by Thursday, December 21st, 2023**)

☐ Here is a contribution to the Poinsettia Fund. Amount: \$ _____
(include payment with this form.)

Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contribution is: ☐ **in memory of** ☐ **in honor of**
(Please print clearly)



Kaffi-Ti Helpers 2023

Kaffi-Ti letters and helper slips were sent out right before Thanksgiving. If you did not receive your letter and you would like to help by bringing in some baked goods or would like to help in anyway with the Kaffi-Ti, please fill out the helper slip and place this page in the offering plate. We can't do this without help from our members so any and all help you can give, would be SO VERY APPRECIATED!!!!

Thank you in advance!!!!

Name: _____

I can help with:

- Making lefse at home
(any recipe, 3 rounds/pkg - folded in 1/2, then 1/3)
- Make 3-4 dozen Christmas cookies
(bring to church by noon on 12/8)
- Other Goodies: _____

- Workers (Friday afternoon 1-4pm to setup and price, need 6 people)
- Workers (Saturday 12:30-3:30pm, or until end) One shift, need 12 people.

Please write your name at the top, select your preference(s) and return this slip to the church office NO LATER than DECEMBER 15th. Send by mail or drop-off at the church or email the church office at: office@firstlutheranpipestone.org