

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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## Welcome to Worship

December 17, 2023— Advent 4

### Today's Worship Ministers

*Usher:* Ted Hanson  
*Reader:* Maddie Blaesing  
*Communion Assistant:* Julie Blaesing  
*Narthex Host:* Linda McGuire  
*Flowers:*

### Staff

*Pastor:* Jamie Gallagher  
Cell: 630-200-3550; Email: prjamie@flcmonmouth.org  
*Musician:* Janice Algren  
*Custodian:* Chris Algren

### Check out Our Welcome Center



Under the window to the Narthex .. We have offering plates and a bin for vision and purpose giving.

Weekly newsletters are available as well.

Coffee and other refreshments are available at the Narthex Coffee Stand.

### Upcoming Advent/Christmas Schedule

Sun, Dec 24—10 AM Christmas Eve worship  
7 PM Christmas Eve worship  
With candlelight

Sun, Dec 31—10 AM Lessons and Carols  
With Blessing for the New Year

# Order of Service

## Gathering

Announcements, Prelude  
Advent Wreath Litany  
Advent Wreath Reading: Psalm 76:11-12  
Advent Wreath Hymn: ELW 240 Light One Candle, v1-4  
Peace  
Opening Hymn: ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

## The Word

Pastoral Greeting  
Advent Litany  
Hymn of Praise: Glory Be to God on High

## Prayer of the Day

God of Ancient Days, God of the End of Days, when you come to us joy leaps within our spirit and we sing with our whole being for what you have done. Continue upending our worldview and empower us to topple systems of injustice that all may experience your salvation today. In the name of our Coming Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
Luke 1:39-56

Gospel Refrain: "Oh Thank the Lord"  
Worship Skit—including the Day Care and Preschool Sermon  
Hymn: ELW 266 All Earth Is Hopeful  
Apostles' Creed

## Prayers of Intercession

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Erica Lancaster, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Chris Buban, Gary Eyler, Cecil Lovdahl, Ann Enstrom, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott

## Sending

Offering Prayer  
Communion Prayer  
"Holy, Holy, Holy"  
Lord's Prayer  
"Lamb of God"  
Distribution  
Post-Communion Prayer  
Hymn: ELW 267 Joy to the World  
Benediction  
Benediction Refrain: ELW 290 Go Tell It On The Mountain,  
Refrain, sung 1  
sung once  
Dismissal

## **Psalm 76:11-12 Wreath Reading**

11 Make vows to the Lord your God and perform them; let all who are around him bring gifts to the one who is awesome, 12 who cuts off the spirit of princes, who inspires fear in the kings of the earth.

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 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. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

## **Luke 1:39-56**

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

46 And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name;

50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;

53 he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

56 And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.