



Worship Notes

Friday, November 27, 2020

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Musicians: Janice Algren
Custodian: Chris Algren
Jamie Reynolds

Dear Friends and Family,

We begin Advent entirely online as a worshipping community. Our waiting for Jesus now includes our waiting to return to the sanctuary. Jesus is already with us, by our faith. So as we worship online, our faith recognizes Jesus is sitting with us on our living room couches or at our dining room tables.

I hope you enjoyed a safe Thanksgiving weekend and are now looking forward to a truly unique Advent experience. Once again, thank you to Janice and Jamie and all the volunteers who will help make this season online possible.

Please keep in prayer the following:



Bradley Anderson, Josie Blake, Bev Coulter, Nancy Dowell, John Ellison, Linda Ellison, Dave Erlandson, Jim Erlandson, Brad and Jodie Haist, Cassie Jern & Family, Delores Johnson, Graham Johnson, Bob Kerschke, Ila Roseberry, Norman Worthington, Evelyn Volz, Darrell Thirtyacre, Donna Larson, Beckie Bean, Joy Johnson, Pat Root, Jim Johnson, Diane Bradley, Anna Lovdahl, Matt Council, Sara Johnson, Raymond and Betty Bruyn,

and Sgt. Lacey Elliott, who continues to serve our country

Please let the church office know any updates that are needed to our prayer list.

Thank you for your generous support of our ministry

Offerings may be mailed to the church. You may designate an offering for the December Vision and Purpose and receive a colored poinsettia on our sanctuary wall.

If you would like to begin automatic giving, please contact the church office and we will get you the form to fill out.

Thank you for returning your pledge cards by December 6th to help our finance team prepare for a new year.



Online Worship

Have you ever paused to wonder what it takes to provide a worship video? For a one hour video, Pastor Jamie typically spends 30 to 40 minutes of film editing. If there are extra slides to create or subtitles to include, it may take longer. The computer takes the final edited version and compresses it all into one final video product, this can take 90 minutes to 2 hours and 30 minutes.

Finally, the video is uploaded to YouTube, which can take anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes. Once it is uploaded to YouTube, Pastor Jamie is able to link the video to our website and place a link in an email to send to the congregation. And all of this time is after the 1 to 2 hours of filming a worship service video.

Did Pastor Jamie go to seminary to learn to become a film editor, no. Is this learning an added benefit of the recent pandemic, yes.

This week in worship



Advent begins with the gift of a message from Rev. Mark Rich and Rev. Cynthia Holder Rich. These are the missionaries we support. They have been able to safely return to Tanzania to resume teaching in person.

Their message this Sunday will welcome us into the Advent season and help inspire hope within us.

Thank you to Butch and Kaye Johnson who assisted this week by recording the Advent Wreath lighting.

Helping with online worship for November 29

Music: Jamie Reynolds

Worship Assistant: Heide Gallagher

Advent Wreath Lighting: Butch and Kaye Johnson

Living the Creed through Advent

As we return to online worship, we will resume saying together the Apostles' Creed. Living the Creed PDF's will continue. On our website, Pastor Jamie has uploaded a PDF of a 6-page packet of specially designed Advent coloring sheets. Take a break from the hustle and bustle of pandemic holiday chaos. Color a page each week. Let your coloring bring you peace and serenity. And remember, James 4:8 says: "Draw near to God and God will draw near to you."

Nativity Scene

Each year at the beginning of Advent, a large nativity set with 12 inch high figurines is carefully unpacked and set up in the front of our sanctuary.

This year, as a feature of our worship, Pastor Jamie will introduce to the Nativity scene a different set of figurines each week.

For this Sunday, we will meet Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus, along with their symbolic animals—the donkey and the ox. These two animals are filled with symbolism, including representing both Jews (the ox) and the Gentiles (the donkey).

Maybe you have a nativity set at home and would like to follow along and place figures at your set as we do in worship.

Blessings

"Do not be afraid."

Matthew 1:20b; Luke 1:13; Luke 1:30; Luke 2:10

In the Christmas story, just about every time an angel appears, the angel begins with these words: "Do not be afraid." In Matthew's Gospel the angel speaks these words to Joseph during a dream. In Luke's Gospel, the angel speaks these words to Zechariah to announce he will father a son named John, to Mary to announce she will mother a son named Jesus, and to the shepherds to announce the Messiah was born to them.

I have never met a divine being before, I am sure it is quite scary to come face to face with the reality that there is indeed something beyond what our senses can perceive. So maybe these words are important as a way of saying, "I come in peace", the well known sci-fi trope when explorers from another world come calling.

I have met a number of normal life circumstances that are quite scary even without a layer of transcendent divinity added to it. The current pandemic is just another in a long line of loss, dramatic and frustrating job changes, moving struggles, ups and downs of married life, mechanical breakdowns of car and house, and so on. Yes, life can be scary. So perhaps we need a messenger to remind us that when life gets scary, God approaches and tells us "Do not be afraid."

And maybe, just maybe, the world needs actual messengers like us, who speak on God's behalf to a world of scary-things to tell people "Do not be afraid." We will get through this pandemic. We will get through this messy political chaos. We will get through this loss. We will get through this struggle. We will make it through together. "Do not be afraid." This is a message that says we are not alone. We have God approaching us, accompanying us, walking with us, sending us the right messengers at the right time, sending us to *BE* the right messenger at the right time for someone else.

It isn't Christmas without these words. Be the blessing, announce them to someone who needs to hear them:
"Do Not Be Afraid."

In Peace, Pastor Jamie