

welcome

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

Gathering

Prelude and Bell

- * Christmas Dialog (*on insert*)
- * Lighting of the Advent Wreath (*during hymn*)
- * "What Child is This" #296
- * Confession & Forgiveness (*on insert*)
- * Greeting **pg. 138**
- * Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 (*page 598 OT in pew Bible*)

Psalm: 96 (*on screen*)

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14 (*page 190 NT in pew Bible*)

- * Gospel Acclamation **pg. 142**
- * Gospel: Luke 2:1-20 (*page 50 NT in pew Bible*)
(*after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord***)
(*response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ***)

Message

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #270

- * Statement of Faith: Apostles' Creed **pg. 105**
- * Prayers of the Church
- * Sharing the Peace

Meal

- * Offering "Create in Me a Clean Heart" #188
- * The Great Thanksgiving **pg. 144**
- * "Holy, Holy, Holy" **pg. 144**
- * Words of Institution
- * The Lord's Prayer

"Silent Night" #281 (*sung during communion*)

Communion Distribution *You are welcome to come to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer, gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Just ask the server.*

- * Post Communion Prayer

Sending

- * Blessing
- "Joy to the World" #267
- Dismissal and Bell

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

200 East 5th Street, Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-3242

Website: www.flcmorris.org

Facebook: Morris-First Lutheran Church

(*all services are live streamed via Facebook*)

Office email: office@flcmorris.org

upcoming events and announcements

COFFEE/FELLOWSHIP Join us in the fellowship hall for coffee and treats following the worship service. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS TREATS NEEDED! Christmas goodies are needed for the annual Christmas Dinner held at First Lutheran on Monday, December 25. If you can provide some treats, please sign up in the Narthex.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL will be held on Monday, December 25th with serving starting at noon. This is a free will donation meal and is open to all that wish to attend. More information is available in our December newsletter.

FOR RENT Studio apartment for rent above Common Cup Coffeehouse. For more information, please contact Abby at 320-287-3417.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Rita will be on vacation and out of the church office from Sunday, December 24 until Tuesday, January 2. In the event of an emergency (hospital visit) she can be reached on her cell phone.

2024 KMRS Radio Broadcast available dates are: Jan 14, Feb 18, April 14, May 19, June 30, Aug 25, Oct 6, Nov 17 and Dec 24. Help support the ELCA Worship Hour by sponsoring a broadcast (\$65) in memory or in honor of a loved one. Contact the church office for more information.

HELP NEEDED! First Lutheran is in need of worship servants! If you are willing to help serve as an usher/head usher, communion preparer, communion server, nursery attendant or an audio/video tech, please contact the church office. Training will be provided!

REMINDER! If you or someone you know is hospitalized, in a nursing home, or home-bound and would like a pastoral visit or Holy Communion, please contact church office at 320.589.3242. Hospital and nursing home staff can not contact the church without permission.

Christmas Eve Worship Servants: Sunday, December 24 9:30am

Ushers: Bob Heck, Al & Julie Monroe, Scott Staples

Lector: Vicki Dalager **Nursery:** Lindy Ekola

Acolyte: Abram Suess & Connor Siegel

Communion Prep: Liz Harris

Communion Servers: Ward Voorhees, Judy Buro, Emilie Brusten

Video: Dave Jungst **TV slides:** Micah Ulrich

Next Week's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 31 9:30am

Ushers: Al Harris, Michael Bjorklund, Greg & Naomi Fynboh family

Lector: Cathy Anderson **Nursery:** Robi Bowman

Acolyte: Maddy Schneider & Brenna Jergenson

Video: Tony Feuchtenberger **TV slides:** Sawyer Fynboh



Christmas Dialog (please stand)

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Confession & Forgiveness

Light of the world, you gave us the transforming birth of the child Jesus as a light for our path.

Yet we confess that we sometimes shut our eyes to the light.

We admit that we do not always see the gifts you have given us.

We acknowledge our reluctance to see and share our gifts with our sisters and brothers.

We are often dazzled by the glitter and tinsel that the world has made of Christ's birth.

We ask that your Spirit be lit within us, that we may share your gifts of peace and justice with all people.

We seek to receive, and return the gift of Christ's birth and death, again and again.

(silence for self reflection)

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Christ's light shines even into the darkest corner of our lives. Receive now your greatest gift this Christmas. In Jesus we are made new, we are made clean, we are made whole. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Thank you to those that purchased a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. Plants can be picked up after our 5:00pm service this evening. Any remaining plants will be disposed of after January 2.

In Memory of:

Given by:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Our parents | Eugene & Cathy Anderson |
| My parents, Walter & Ruth Busse | Emilie Brustuen |
| Grandma Stella | Zoe, Mya and Zack Krosch |
| Our parents, brothers & sister | Ward & Carol Voorhees |
| Robert, Jeri and Greg Staples | Scott & Jenell Staples |
| Becky Burnett | The Burnett Family |
| Our parents | Bob & Vicki Dalager |
| Our parents | Richard & Suzanne Smith |
| Cade Flower | Jared & Makayla Flower |
| Brian Van Horn | LaVonne & Allen Watson |
| Alexandra Rose | Grandma Pam |
| Parents and Grandparents | Solvie & Schultz families |
| Dewey Solvie | Solvie & Schultz families |
| John Solvie | Solvie & Schultz families |

In Honor of:

Given by:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Grandma C | Zoe, Mya and Zack Krosch |
| Our children, grandchildren and great grand children | Ward & Carol Voorhees |
| Our children and grandchildren | Richard & Suzanne Smith |
| Bernice Erdahl | Brian & Ann Erdahl |
| Crystal Nesvig | Owen Nesvig |
| All those that work diligently for First Lutheran | |