

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – First Sunday of Christmas

The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus. Simeon's song is often sung after communion, for we have seen God's salvation in the assembled community and have held Jesus in our hands in the bread. Then, like the prophet Anna, we tell of Jesus to all who look for the healing of the world.

Gathering

Prelude and Bell

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession & Forgiveness **pg. 211**

* "What Child is This" **#296**

* Greeting **pg. 213**

* Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-10 - 62:3 *(page 651 OT in pew Bible)*

Psalm 148 *(on screen)*

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 *(page 167 NT in pew Bible)*

* Gospel Acclamation **pg. 216**

* Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 *(page 51 NT in pew Bible)*

*(after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)*

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Hymn Sing: *request of hymns from the congregation, with preference given to children first*

* Statement of Faith: Apostles' Creed **pg. 217**

* Prayers of the Church

* Sharing the Peace

Thanksgiving

Offering *(special music during offering)*

* Canticle of Thanksgiving **pg. 219**

* Thanksgiving for the Word **pg. 220**

* The Lord's Prayer

* Post Communion Prayer

Sending

* Blessing

"The Bells of Christmas" #298 (vs 1-4)

Dismissal and Bell

Remember in your prayers

Anita Stoker, Mick Rose, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, natural disasters, violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound.

upcoming events and announcements

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

LUNCH BUNCH meets on Wednesday, January 3 at 11:30am at Hudson Inn in Morris. All are welcome!

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED We are in need to two people willing to serve on the Church Council (3 year term) starting in 2024. Anyone interested is encouraged to talk with one of the current council members or the church office for more information.

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.

Today'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

Next Week's Worship Servants: Sunday, January 7 9:30am

Ushers: Steve Just family, Kent & Erica Swenson

Lector: Laurie Feuchtenberger **Nursery:** Pam Wiese

Acolyte: Wyatt & Aaden Schultz **Communion:** Judy Buro

Communion Servers: Linda Holland, Millie Tschetter, Emilie Brustuen

Video: Mike Odello & Kye Sues **TV Slides:** Giana Feuchtenberger

welcome

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

Chosen by Christ - Empowered to Serve

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Office email: office@flcmorris.org

Website: www.flcmorris.org

Facebook: Morris-First Lutheran Church

(all services are live streamed via Facebook and YouTube)

TODAY: Sunday, Dec 31

9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship

Monday, Jan 1

church office closed for New Year's Day

Tuesday, Jan 2

11:00am: Pastor's Text Study

6:00pm: Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 3

11:30am: Lunch Bunch at Hudson Inn

6:00-7:30pm: Element Classes at First

7:00-8:30pm: Sr. Fusion at First

Thursday, Jan 4

no events schedules

Friday, Jan 5

no events scheduled

Saturday, Jan 6

8:00am: Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran

Sunday, Jan 7

8:30am: Sunday school

9:30am: Worship with Holy Communion

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship