

Second Sunday of Advent: December 10, 2023

John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder our lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

Gathering *Indicates to stand if you are able

Prelude and Bell

Welcome and Announcements

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #257 (vs 5-8)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (during hymn)

* Confession & Forgiveness (on insert)

* Greeting pg. 213

* Prayer of the Day

Word

Isaiah 40:1-11 (page 626 OT in pew Bible)

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (on screen)

2 Peter 3:8-15a (page 212 NT in pew Bible)

Gospel Acclamation pg. 216

* Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 (page 30 NT in pew Bible)

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

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

Message

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #254

* Statement of Faith: Apostles' Creed pg. 217

* Prayers of the Church

* Sharing the Peace

Thanksgiving

* Offering/Offertory "Create in Me a Clean Heart" #188

* Cantic of Thanksgiving pg. 219

* Thanksgiving for the Word pg. 220

* The Lord's Prayer

Sending

Blessing

"Prepare the Royal Highway" #264

Dismissal and Bell

Today's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 10

Ushers: Dick Smith, Laurie Feuchtenberger, Dave Jungst

Lector: Lindy Ekola

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Acolyte: Braeden Huebner & Dane Dybdahl

Video: Steve Wagner

TV slides: Chance Buro

Next Week's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 17

Ushers: Steve Just family, Kent & Erica Swenson

Acolyte: Mackenzie Just & Aubrey Williamson

Nursery: Erica Swenson

Video: Kyle Dougherty

TV slides: Owen Anderson

Remember in your prayers

Anita Stoker, Marla Miller, 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. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support, Reverend Dr. Philip J. Knutson and Lou Knutson serving in South Africa.

upcoming events and announcements

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

WOMEN OF FIRST WELCA will meet after worship in the fellowship hall TODAY to talk about end of year donations to charities. Please join us for your input.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 17th at 9:30am. Sunday school will meet at 8:30am that morning to practice for the program.

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.

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

THANK YOU! We would like to thank EVERYONE who helped in anyway with our church Fall Dinner. We could not have done it without you. We served nearly equal numbers of take-out and dine-in meals, with a profit just over \$3600. The profits will go to World Hunger, our local food shelf and our church's general fund. We were fortunate to have many donations that help cover some of the costs for the dinner. Thank you also, to Rita and Bob who work diligently behind the scene to help us co-chairs out. They are indispensable. Thank you again. We hope that you will eagerly sign up next year when the sign-up sheets come out. We enjoyed working side by side with each of you. You were greatly appreciated! -Laurie Feuchtenberger, Jone Anderson and Nadine Heck.

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.

Christmas Eve SERVICES

Sunday, December 24

9:30am: Traditional Christmas Worship with Holy Communion

10:30am: Coffee, treats and fellowship

5:00pm: Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service (no communion)

welcome

First Lutheran Church, ELCA

Chosen by Christ - Empowered to Serve

200 East 5th Street, Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-3242

Website: www.flcmorris.org

Facebook: *Morris-First Lutheran Church*

YouTube: *First Lutheran Church - Morris MN*

(all services are live streamed via Facebook and YouTube)

Office email: office@flcmorris.org

TODAY: Sunday, Dec 10

9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship

10:30am: WELCA Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Monday, Dec 11

no events scheduled

Tuesday, Dec 12

11:00am: Pastor's Text Study

12:00pm: Gatherings at Old #1

6:30pm: Worship & Music Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Dec 13

6:00-7:30pm: Element Classes

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

Thursday, Dec 14

8:30am: Share & Care (quilting group)

Friday, Dec 15

no events scheduled

Saturday, Dec 16

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

Sunday, Dec 17

8:30am: Sunday school (program practice)

9:30am: Christmas Program

10:30am: Coffee/Fellowship

2:00-4:00pm: Girl Scouts

Confession & Forgiveness

As followers of Christ, we are always on a journey. On our pilgrimage there is no time when we can afford to stop growing in love, in strength, and in knowledge of God. So it is that when we gather to worship we must confess those places in which we need to grow. In preparation for the coming of the Christ, let us confess our need for growth, in silence before God.

(silence for self reflection)

Almighty God, Light of the World, you caused light to shine out of the darkness in the advent of Jesus our Christ; you continually open to us the ways we are to prepare. We confess our unwillingness to see the light and to walk in your ways. We have not always opened our eyes to the needs of others, and our feet have wandered from the paths of justice and peace. We ask that the Spirit of Christ be born anew within us, that our hearts may be stirred to glorify the nativity with acts of compassion and service. Amen.

God is light! In God there is no darkness! Arise! Shine! Our Light awaits!

We are forgiven. Our future awaits us with hope. We will walk in the light of God's grace!

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.

Amen.



Once again we will be having a Poinsettia Garden around our altar to decorate for Christmas. If you would like to order a plant to contribute to this garden, please fill out this form and return it to the church office by **Sunday, December 17th**. Your poinsettia may be in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

Poinsettia Plant (\$12.00) _____ (Quantity)

Given by: _____

In loving memory of:

Or... In honor of:

Please note: if you wish to keep your poinsettia plant, it can be picked up after 9:30am Christmas Eve Service. Any plants left at the church after January 2nd will be disposed of.