

December 2022

First Things

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Chosen by Christ ~ Empowered to Serve

Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays: Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, & 21

Worship at 12:00pm and 5:15pm



ADVENT



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18th at 9:30am

Christmas Eve



Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Worship at 4:00pm and 9:00pm

Holy Communion served at both services.
services will be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Dear Friends and people of First,

Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress, Year A, 2023) offers these thoughts in preparation for Advent: Advent carries two simultaneous visions of our expectations: we await yet again the birth of the babe in the manger. And we also await Christ's coming again to fulfill all things. We often prepare for Advent by getting ready: planning organizing, and ordering supplies for various gatherings and worship services. Yet, preparing for the coming of Christ is not a matter of having everything under control. Christ's arrival disrupts – disrupts injustice, sin, and brokenness in a society in which we are deeply embedded. A prayer for Christ to come to us is a prayer for a holy disruption of our lives that we cannot control and that we might struggle to accept.

We often think of Jesus bringing comfort and peace, and he does often give us both. However, Jesus also creates “holy disruption.” Our lives are sometimes changed dramatically when we pray and listen to his words, and gather to worship. We may find ourselves coming to our senses, as well. Life transformation through the Spirit of Christ has been happening since the beginning of Jesus' ministry into our day.

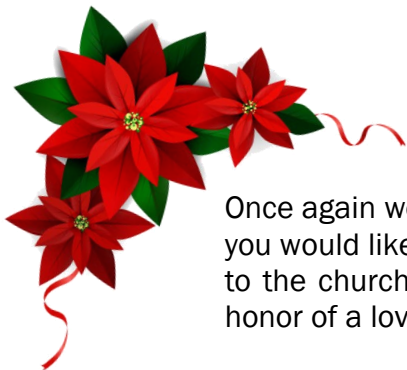
During Advent, we will be having a contemplative worship service during midweek. At 12 noon, and again at 5:15pm each Wednesday. This contemplative service will include the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy, silence, meditation on one or two short Scripture passages, deep breathing, and a brief meditation. I hope you'll come and take part!

The themes for these midweek services are: Week One: *Breathing*; Week Two: *Releasing*; Week Three: *Receiving*; Week Four: *Rejoicing*. Our hope is that this will be a time of relaxed prayer, mindfulness, with time to reflect and breathe. Centering ourselves to receive the good news of Christ.

We also are looking greatly forward to our Children's Christmas program during the usual worship time on Sunday, December 18th.

I pray we stay healthy and centered, that Advent may be a time of deepening contemplation of the miracle of Jesus's birth and life, filled with anticipation and joy as we prepare for Christmas.

Pastor Dan



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 18th**. 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 the 9pm Christmas Eve Services. Any plants left at the church after January 3rd will be disposed of.

SENIOR MINISTRY TRIP!

Our next trip is planned to travel back to Paramount Theatre on Tuesday, December 13 for a 1:30pm performance of *An Andy and Bing Christmas* which is a Christmas gala throwback to the era of classic Christmas shows. Featuring beloved Christmas songs that celebrates Christmas albums of Bing Crosby and Andy Williams. We have room for 12 and would love to have you join us! Please call Rita at 320-589-3242 or Jo Solvie at 320-589-4305 to reserve your spot. More details will be in our December newsletter.

If you have any suggestions for a spring trip/activity, please contact Rita or Jo.

Support Missionary For A Day and honor a loved one ~ \$15.00/day

- Oct 30 In honor of Grant Anderson on his confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 1 In honor of Taylor Anderson on her confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 2 In honor of Chance Buro on his confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 3 In honor of Sawyer Fynboh on his confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 4 In honor of Tyson Grove on his confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 5 In honor of Jennie Odello on her confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 6 In honor of Hannah Schneider on her confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 7 In honor of Kye Suess on his confirmation from Emilie Brustuen
- Nov 13 In memory of Marvin & Shirly Wirtjes from Jo Solvie
- Nov 16 In loving memory of Brian Van Horn from his mother LaVonne Watson
- Nov 16 In memory of Randy Syverson from Myron & Marilyn Syverson
- Nov 25 In memory of Dale Crow's birthday from his family
- Nov 25 In loving memory of Gene on our 72nd Wedding Anniversary from Carol Day
- Nov 26 In honor of Isaac Nelson's birthday from Grandma and Grandpa Ehlers

Our missionaries are Rev. Dr. Philip J. Knutson and Lou Knutson. The Knutsons have served for many years in Southern Africa, and are based in South Africa. Philip was born and grew up in South Africa, the son of missionary parents, and Lou is a native of South Africa. You can sponsor the Knutsons for \$15 per day. You may give this in memory, or in honor, of someone. Contact Rita in the church office if you need more information.



The Sunday school children have been collecting money for the God's Global Barnyard and will take a Noisy Offering on Sunday, December 18th that will go toward ELCA Good Gifts. This is a ministry of the ELCA in which livestock, chickens, water filters, portions of irrigation projects, help for refugees, vaccinations for children, and other "good gifts" benefit those who are materially poor. These will be "Christmas Gifts" that truly make a difference! Our goal is to raise \$500 for hungry people. Please consider making a gift. Checks may be made to First Lutheran Church (memo: "ELCA Good Gifts")

OCTOBER'S GIVING and EXPENSE

We are hoping and praying to "catch up" in our giving for 2022. Please take a look at our current financial status, and consider how you might respond. It takes everyone to be the church! We are church together. Thank you!

\$20,164.30 October Giving

\$22,467.00 October Expenses

\$193,168.17 Year-to-Date Giving

\$248,734.68 Year-to-Date Expenses

- ❑ **First Lutheran Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will meet during coffee hour on Sunday, December 4 in the Gathering Room to discuss donations we would like to make to charities for this year. Please bring your suggestions and join us.
- ❑ **Coffee Hour** is served in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday mornings.
- ❑ **Kindness Service Group** is on the schedule to serve coffee hours during the month of December. Please sign up on the church bulletin board across from the office. Those in this month's service group are:

Ryan & Laura Anderson	Kyle & Amy Dougherty	Sheila & Leroy Fahje
Jay & Joleen Hanson	* Al & Elizabeth Harris	Bruce & Laura McCormack
Allen & Julie Monroe	Jason & Selena Reed	Marilyn Smith
Jon & Shana Ulrich	Ward & Carole Voorhees	Steve & Sherri Wagner
- ❑ **Join us for Choir!** All are welcome at Choir Rehearsals each Sunday morning at 8:30am.
- ❑ **Lunch Bunch** meets on Wednesday, December 7th at 11:30am at DeToy's in Morris. Join us...all are welcome!
- ❑ **Newsletter Deadline** for the December newsletter is noon on Monday, December 19th.
- ❑ **Zipporah Bible Study** meets on Thursday, December 15 at 2:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Need to drop something off for the Zipporah group? Their church mailbox is located in the office waiting area.
- ❑ **Service of Remembrance** at Pederson Funeral Home on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00pm. This special event is centered on keeping memories of your loved one alive, with the hope that this service offers a sense of comfort and strength. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service.
- ❑ **Bell Choir** meets at Faith Lutheran on Wednesdays from 4:15pm to 5:00pm. The focus of this group will be to meet the needs of a beginner level group. All ages are welcome, although recommend for grades 5 and above. If you have prior note reading experience it is helpful but not required. Anyone who has an interest in playing handbells and is willing to learn is welcome! If you have any questions, you may contact John Kleinwolterink at jkleinwolterink@morris.k12.mn.us.
- ❑ **Donate with Venmo!** You can quickly and easily make donations to First Lutheran through Venmo. Not familiar with Venmo? (it's a safe and easy way to transfer money) Check out and download the app on your smart phone (available for Android and Apple) or check out their website at www.venco.com.
- ❑ **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 Pastor Dan at 320.894.3577 or the church office at 320.589.3242. Hospital and nursing home staff can not contact the Pastor or church office without permission.
- ❑ **RUSC Kinship Mentoring** is seeking adult volunteer mentors to spend at least four hours a month with a young person. All mentors are required to complete a screening process which includes an application form, personal interview, background check, and training session. Mentor applications can be found at www.rusckinship.org or by contacting their office in person at 215 Atlantic Ave in Morris, by phone at 320-585-7872 or by email at rusckinship@gmail.com.
- ❑ **West Central Communities Action** now provides Ready Ride which is a grant-funded program offering transportation services to those aged 65 and older. Drivers are volunteers. This program is also available to adults ages 18-64 who are on Medical Assistance. For more information about Ready Ride, please contact John Pryzbylski by email at john@wcmca.org or by phone at 218-685-4486 ext. 7038 or Brenda Larson at brendal@wcmca.org or by phone on 320-304-3458 ext. 7209.
- ❑ **Stevens County Food Shelf** supplies a 5-day emergency or supplemental food package to residents of Stevens County. There is no fee for this service, but clients must provide proof of residency. The food shelf welcomes people's donations of food to support our community. Monetary donations are also very helpful in purchasing food supplies. The Food Shelf is located on the corner of 7th Street and Iowa Ave and their hours are: Mondays: 2:30pm - 3:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays: 5:30pm - 6:30pm; Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:30am - 11:30 am. You can reach the food shelf at 320.589.7436.

November 2022 First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Highlights

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports were given to each council member.

Pastor's Report: A written report was given to each council member. Highlight of Pastor's report included: attending a webinar "Leading in Financial Crisis," Advent service themes, Fusion to see Reggie Dabbs, Choir and the Fall Dinner.

Committee Reports:

- Worship & Music: hymns chosen for the month, discussed Advent services
- Mission & Evangelism: did not meet, but working on Good Gifts Giving Sunday and Olivewood sales
- Property: did not meet because of fall dinner
- Education: working on Christmas Program

Old Business:

- Discussion was held on our current benevolence situation. We are still ahead of our 10% commitment but is getting close to where we will need to start paying again. A motion to send \$1,000 for the month of November was made and seconded. Motion carried.
- Staff reviews are taking place this week
- 2023 Budget: Denise has been working on the budget and trying to trim expenses where we can.
- A congregational survey has been sent out by mail and email. A few responses have been received.

New Business

- No New Business to discuss
- Next Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00pm



Dec 1: Erin (Harris) Holmes
Dec 2: Mary Jo McCormack
Dec 3: Jared House
Dec 4: Britney House, Steve Wagner
Dec 5: Noreen Grunig, Owen Nesvig, Becky Tullos
Dec 6: Gordon Lea, Robert Waller
Dec 7: Emilie Brustuen, Jon Wiese
Dec 8: Jackson Boever
Dec 12: Claudette Erholtz
Dec 14: Owen Hentges, John Schultz, Gavin Stallman
Dec 15: Adam Lair
Dec 16: Pastor Dan Belgum, Tayton Flower
Dec 17: Ryan Lussenden, Peter Boever
Dec 18: Arnie Sharstrom
Dec 19: Doyle Anderson, Jeri Anderson, Zona Jacobson
Dec 21: Beth (Holland) Erickson, Sherry Wagner
Dec 23: Giana Feuchtenberger
Dec 24: Anita Nelson

Dec 25: Austin Hills
Dec 27: Sarah Dougerty, Mick Rose
Dec 28: Muriel Lindback, Randy Lussenden, Mike Odello, Joan Smith
Dec 30: Millie Tschetter
Dec 31: Mark Mattheis

Happy Anniversary

Dec 2: Justin & Lori Anderson
Dec 27: Allen & Julie Monroe
Dec 28: Paul & Sandy Grove





Sr. High Fusion Youth: Youth in 9th-12th Grade

- ☺ Sunday, December 4th: Sr. High Fusion Christmas Service Project @First Lutheran Church 6:30-8pm
- ☺ We are making treat plates and delivering them to some local people who are in need in our community. Please bring some Christmas cookies or treats to share.
- ☺ Saturday, December 10th 6-8pm: Live Nativity Fusion Youth Ministry has been invited again to act in the Live Nativity as a part of the Lights on the Prairie Drive though event at the Fairgrounds. Come and experience the lights and feel the Christmas Spirit.
- ☺ Sunday, December 11th : Sr. High Christmas Party. 6:30-8pm at First Lutheran Church. Bring a White Elephant gift for the gift grab, an appetizer to share and dress in your favorite Christmas Jammies or holiday gear!

Sr. High Mission Trip to Denver! July 8-16, 2023

Spaces are filling up fast! We will be going with the organization called YouthWorks! Our group will partner with those seeking to bring hope, we'll have the opportunity to see the changes and challenges the city of Denver is facing. Serve with local food shelves, a Sidewalk Sunday School program that brings the message of Jesus to different neighborhoods, or other organizations caring for their neighbors in meaningful ways. Worship while taking in a beautiful mountain view, explore the community, and hear from local residents about what it looks like to live and serve in Denver. Sign up today at Fusion-Ministry.com

Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

- ☺ Wednesday, December 7th: Element Christmas Service Projects at First Lutheran Church 6:00-7:30pm
- ☺ Saturday, December 10th 6:00-8:00pm: Live Nativity Fusion Youth Ministry has been invited again to act in the Live Nativity as a part of the Lights on the Prairie Drive though event at the Fairgrounds. Come and experience the lights and feel the Christmas Spirit.
- ☺ Wednesday, December 14th: Element Christmas Party at Faith Lutheran Church! 6:00-7:30pm. Wear something Christmasy.
 - 6th graders bring sweet treats to share with the group!
 - 7th graders bring savory treats to share with the group!
 - 8th graders bring brings drinks to share with the group!

Element's Winter Retreat: Jan 27th-28th

Our Winter retreat will be held at Luther Crest with fun activities, great food and time to learn about God in a retreat setting! The plan is to leave Morris on Friday @4pm and return on Saturday @4pm. The cost will be \$50. Possible activities may include: snow tubing/sledding, cross country skiing, broomball, a winter bonfire and so much more! Please fill out the form online to sign up your youth for the Winter Retreat!

Please go online to sign up! www.fusion-ministry.com/events/winter-element-retreat There is a registration fee of \$50. (You can pay by Cash, Checks written out to Fusion Ministry, or Venmo@fusionstudentministry and call it "Element Winter Retreat")



December Worship Servants

Sunday, December 4: 9:30am Worship and 8:30am Sunday school

Ushers: Al Harris, Tom & Heather Schneider family
Nursery: Robi Bowman
Video: Dave Jungst

Lector: Lindy Ekola
Acolyte: Hannah Schneider & Brenna Jergenson
TV slides: Grant Anderson

Wednesday, December 7: Midweek Advent

12:00pm: Usher: Doug Ehlers

5:15pm: Usher: Tim Grove

Acolyte: Ian & Tyson Grove

Video: Steve Wagner

TV Slides: Aaden Schultz

Sunday, December 11: 9:30am Worship HC

Ushers: Bob Heck, Linda Holland, Dave Jungst
Communion: Sandy Grove (silver tray with bread)
Nursery: Jone Anderson
Video: Mike Odello & Kye Sues

Lector: LeAnn Dean
Comm Servers: Bob & Vicki Dalager, Steve Van Kempen
Acolyte: Aaden Schultz & Brayden Carlson
TV slides: Taylor Anderson

Wednesday, December 14: Midweek Advent

12:00pm: Usher: Ward Voorhees

5:15pm: Usher: Mike Odello **Acolyte:** Jennie & Wes Odello **Video:** Tony F. & Kye Sues **TV Slides:** Giana F.

Sunday, December 18: 9:30am Sunday school Christmas Program

Ushers: Steve Just family, Matt & Cowen Mortenson
Acolyte: Gianna Feuchtenberger & Lilly Nesvig

Nursery: Pam Wiese

Video: Steve Wagner

TV slides: Jaxon Hilbrands

Wednesday, December 21: Midweek Advent

12:00pm: Usher: Bob Heck

5:15pm: Usher: Paul Grove **Acolyte:** Aubrey Williamson & Owen Nesvig **Video:** Mike Odello **TV Slides:** Wes Odello

Christmas Eve 4:00pm

Ushers: Al Harris, Al & Julie Monroe, Scott Staples
Nursery: Amy Dougherty
Communion: Liz Harris (silver tray with bread)
Video: Tony Feuchtenberger

Lector: Jim Krosch

Acolyte: Dane Dybdahl & Sawyer Fynboh

Comm Servers: Cheryl Higgins, Doug & Sharon Ehlers

TV slides: Sarah Dougherty

Christmas Eve 9:00pm

Ushers: Bob Heck, Lindy Ekola, Karen Bolling
Nursery: Bobbi Siegel
Communion: Judy Buro (silver tray with bread)
Video: Dave Jungst

Lector: Dorwin Tschetter

Acolyte: Connor Siegel & Chance Buro

Comm Servers: Millie Tschetter, Emilie Brustuen, Tim Grove

TV Slides: Madelyn Grove

Sunday, December 25: 9:30am Christmas Day Worship

Ushers: Steve Just family, Dennis & Laurie Feuchtenberger
Nursery: Sandy Grove
Video: Steve Wagner

Lector: Cathy Anderson

Acolyte: Abigail Anderson & Skott Anderson



TV slides: Isaac Just



December 2022

All worship services are in-person, in addition to being streamed live via Facebook and YouTube.

Recorded services available on our website at www.flcmorris.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 3:00pm West Wind Village worship	2 3pm Mission & Evang. Meeting	3 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
4 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour 10:30am WELCA mtg 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts 6:30-8:00pm Sr. Fusion	5	6 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 3:00pm Pastor at WCCH Worship 6:00pm Property Committee Mtg	7 11:30am Lunch Bunch at DeToy's 12pm Worship 5:15pm Worship 6:00-7:30pm Element Class at First	8 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group) 10:00am Skyview Plaza worship 6:30pm Worship & Music Mtg	9	10 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran 6:00-8:00pm Live Nativity at the Fairgrounds (Fusion Youth)
11 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee Hour 3:00-4:30pm Christmas Program Practice 6:30pm Sr. Fusion Christmas Party	12	13 11:00am Pastor's Text Study	14 12pm Worship 5:15pm Worship 6:00-7:30pm Element Christmas Party at FAITH Lutheran	15 9:30am Pastor's Conference 2:00pm Zipporah Bible Study in fellowship hall	16	17 8:00am Men's Bible Study at Faith Lutheran
18 8:30am Choir Rehearsal 8:30am Sunday school 9:30am Christmas Program 10:30am Coffee 3:00-4:00pm Cub Scouts	19	20 11:00am Pastor's Text Study 12pm Newsletter Articles Due 6:30pm Sons of Norway 7:00pm Council Meeting	21 12pm Worship 5:15pm Worship	22 8:30am Share & Care (quilting group)	23	24 Christmas Eve 4pm Worship HC 9pm Worship HC 
25 Christmas Day 9:30am Worship HC 10:30am Coffee	26	27	28	29	30	31
		The church office will be closed December 26 to January 3				

Rita will be in the church office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, but is available by email, phone call or text messaging (320.287.2384) Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 4:00pm.

on Holy Night



First Lutheran Church

200 East 5th St

Morris, MN 56267

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Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit #83
Morris, MN

First Lutheran Church ELCA

200 East 5th Street

Morris, MN 56267

Phone: 320-589-3242

website: www.flcmorris.org

email: office@flcmorris.org

Facebook:

Morris-First Lutheran Church

Worship Schedule

Sundays: 9:30am

broadcasted live via Facebook
and YouTube; also available
on our website.

Televised Services:

Tuesdays at 2:00pm

Federated: Channel 6

MediaCom: Channel 117

STAFF

Rev. Daniel Belgum, Pastor	danbelgumblad@gmail.com
Heather Black, Youth Ministry Director	heatherblack.fusion@gmail.com
Laura Wiebe, Choir Director	wieb0043@morris.umn.edu
Rita Bye, Office Manager	office@flcmorris.org
Wyatt Vavra, Custodian	
Deb Mahoney, Organist/Pianist	

CHURCH COUNCIL

Tony Feuchtenberger	President
Cari Burnett	Vice-President
Denise Odello	Treasurer
Jason Reed	Secretary
LeAnn Dean	
Bob Heck	
Jackie Huebner	