

## Sunday, December 15, 2024 — Third Sunday in Advent

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*Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing forking in hand, is good news—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.*

### GATHERING

Prelude and Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath      *"People Look East"* ELW #248 vs 1-3

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### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

#### *"A Carol for You, A Carol for Me"*

*Reading:* This year we wanted to do a little something different! We invite you to a program full of caroling, joyful noise, song, and just a little education. We hope you enjoy and Merry Christmas! Here is a little information about our 1st song. The lyrics to this simple song, *"O Come Little Children"* is a German Christmas carol created in 1798 by a Catholic priest, Christoph von Schmid. Many of his poems and books were written in direct and simple language, as he hoped to teach children of faith and belief.

*"O, Come Little Children"* (children sing)

*Reading:* *"Away in a Manger"* is a Christmas carol first published in the late nineteenth century and sung all around the English speaking world. In Britain, it is one of the most popular carols. The popularity of the carol has led to many variants in the words

*"Away in a Manger"* (bells; children sing vs 1; all sing vs 2)

*Reading:* *"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"* is a hymn based on Luke 2:8-14, the part of the Christmas story that includes the angels and shepherds. The hymn has a rich tradition and is considered by some to be more than just a Christmas hymn. Did you know "hark" means to listen or pay attention?

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"* (children sing vs 1-2; all sing vs 3)

*Reading:* *"Deck the Halls"* is a traditional Christmas carol. The melody is Welsh, dating back to the sixteenth century, and belongs to a winter carol. The English lyrics were written by a Scottish musician in 1862.

*"Deck the Halls"* (children sing vs 1-2; all sing vs 3)

*Reading:* *"O Tannenbaum"* which in German means O, Fir Tree is known in English as *"O Christmas Tree"*. This is a German Christmas song based on a traditional folk song that was unrelated to the

holiday, but it became associated with the traditional Christmas tree. The lyrics refer to the fir's evergreen quality as a symbol of constancy and faithfulness.

*"O Christmas Tree"* (all sing vs 1-3)

*Reading:* *"Silent Night"* was written by Austrian priest Joseph Mohr in 1816 and set to music by Franz Gruber, the organist at a church in Austria in 1818. The song became popular after being performed by the Strasser family, a group of traveling glovemakers. The Strassers sang the song in costumes at markets in Germany, including the Christmas market in 1831.

*"Silent Night"* (children sing vs 1-2; all sing vs 3)

*Reading:* *"Joy to the World"* is an English Christmas carol. It was written in 1719 by the English minister and hymnist Isaac Watts. Since the 20th century, *Joy to the World* has been the most-published Christmas hymn in North America. As of December 2009, it was published in 1,387 hymnals in North America.

*"Joy to the World"* (bells; children sing vs 1, all sing vs 2-4)

*Reading:* Thank you for singing along with us today! We had the best time. Merry Christmas to all! We hope you enjoy the spirit of the season, time with family and friends, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Everyone is invited to join us for a hot chocolate bar following the service in the fellowship hall.

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### WORD

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation

ELW pg. 216

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:7-18

Message

Hymn of the Day

*"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"* ELW #244

Prayers of Intercession

*Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer

ELW pg. 221

Sharing the Peace

### THANKSGIVING

Offering/Offertory

*"O Come All Ye Faithful"* ELW #283

### SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn

*"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"* ELW #270

Dismissal and Bell

## Remember in your prayers

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

### Today's Worship Servants: December 15

Ushers: *Bob Heck, Al & Julie Monroe*

Acolytes: *Brayden Carlson & Wyatt Schultz*

TV slides: *Aaden Schultz*

Nursery: *Erica Swenson*

Video: *Kyle Dougherty*

Accompanist: *Deb Mahoney*

### Midweek Advent: Wednesday, December 18

Ushers: *Bob Heck, Burnett Family (ushers to light candles)*

Nursery: *Jone Anderson*

Vocal Leader: *Bob Dalager*

Video: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist: *Deb Mahoney*

### Next Week's Worship Servants: Sunday, December 22

Ushers: *Steve Just, Judy & Chance Buro, Michael Bjorklund*

Lector: *Ward Voorhees*

Acolytes: \_\_\_\_\_

Communion Servers: *Linda Holland, Ward Voorhees, Cheryl Higgins*

Video: \_\_\_\_\_

Accompanist: *Suzanne Smith*

Nursery: *Jone Anderson*

Communion: *Elizabeth Harris*

TV slides: *Jacoby Burnett*

## Connect with us

12/15/2024

*(place in the offering plate or drop off at the church office)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*I am....*

☐ *Member*

☐ *Visitor*

☐ *Returning Visitor*

☐ *Non-Member/Regular Attender*

*I would like....*

☐ *to learn more about First*

☐ *to become a member of First*

☐ *to have the pastor contact me*

☐ *receive the monthly newsletter*

Prayer requests or comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# welcome

## **First Lutheran Church, ELCA**

**Chosen by Christ - Empowered to Serve**

200 East 5th Street, Morris, MN 56267

Interim Pastor: Rev. Rich Fitzer

Pastor's Cell #: 320-859-3816

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Office phone: 320-589-3242

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Website: www.flcmorris.org

Facebook: Morris-First Lutheran Church

### **TODAY: Sunday, December 15**

10:00am: Coffee/Fellowship & Sunday school

11:00am: Sunday school Christmas Program

Deadline to donate to Toy Shoppe/Mitten Tree

### **Monday, December 16**

no events scheduled

### **Tuesday, December 17**

12:00pm: Gatherings at Old #1

7:00pm: Council Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 18**

12:00pm: Newsletter Articles Due

6:00pm: Midweek Advent Service

6:30pm: Element Adult Leader Meeting

6:30-8:00pm: Fusion Christmas Party

### **Thursday, December 19**

2:00pm: Zipporah Bible Study

### **Friday, December 20**

7:15am: Fusion Breakfast (Morris & Hancock)

### **Saturday, December 21**

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

7:00pm: Women of the ELCA Blue Christmas (by Zoom)

### **Sunday, December 22**

10:00am: Coffee/Fellowship

11:00am: Worship

### Midweek Advent:

Wednesday, Dec 18 at 6:00pm

### Christmas Eve Worship:

3:00pm: Family Service with Holy Communion

5:00pm: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion



### Thank you

Thank you to the Sunday school students and their teachers for the Christmas Program this morning. Please join us in the fellowship hall for a hot chocolate bar following today's service.

### Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2025 are available for you to pick up in the Narthex. If you don't see one for yourself and would like a box, please let the church office know.

### Christmas Community Meal

A free community Christmas meal will be served at First Lutheran on Wednesday, December 25 with serving starting at noon. Volunteers and donations of cookies are needed. Please contact Pam at 320-287-2134 for more information.

### Annual Reports

A reminder for Committee Chairs that Annual Reports will need to be turned into the church office by Monday, January 5.

### Pastoral Visits

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.

### Share & Care

This group puts quilts together for Lutheran World Relief and meets at 9:00am on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. All are welcome to join us. Sewing skills not needed as there are many other tasks to work on.

### Zipporah Bible Study

meets at 2:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join us!



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### Online Giving Options

Using your iPhone or Android phone's camera, point it at one of the QR codes like your focusing to take a photo. When it shows a web address, click on the address for online giving options.



Simply Giving



## Poinsettia Orders

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 **TODAY Sunday, December 15th**. Your poinsettia may be in memory of or in honor of a loved one. The plants will decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas season and may be picked up after the 5:00pm Christmas Eve service.

Poinsettia Plant (\$14.00) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quantity)

In loving memory of:

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Or... In honor of:

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Given by:

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*Please note: if you wish to keep your poinsettia plant, it can be picked up after the last Christmas Eve Services. Any plants left at the church after January 3rd will be disposed of.*