



December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent
9:30 AM Worship

First Lutheran Church
709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218
Washburn, North Dakota 58577
www.flcwashburn.com

PRELUDE AND BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE GATHERING

L: Come, let us worship the Lord.

C: Let us wait and watch for the Messiah's return amongst us.

L: He will come in the clouds with power and glory.

C: He will gather the elect from the four winds and from all corners of the earth and heaven.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C: Amen.

L: The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

L: God of grace,

C: we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ for whom we wait, the love of the Father who will never let us go, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC Bell Choir
"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray:

C: Gracious God, the Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, may your Spirit kindle in us a heart so willing to follow your Son that your reign of righteousness and peace is made visible through our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

(We are going to die; like grass we will wither and perish. The Spirit of the Lord blows upon us and we expire. This is just as true spiritually as it is physically. His word stands; we fall. No wonder the prophet is told to comfort the people. The word of the Lord can terrify. We find it difficult to hear the word of grace when the law accuses us. The prophet must speak tenderly so that God's people may be reminded that the Lord made a covenant with them, that they are forgiven. This is the glorious nature of God that must be heralded throughout the world. The Lord comes in might. Terrifying as that can be, that almighty one comes to tend his flock as a shepherd. He is coming; he will do it; "the mouth of the Lord has spoken.")

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

(Our waywardness in sin gets us into trouble. The people of Israel had been captive in Babylon but God relented of his anger, forgave them, and restored their fortunes. The psalmist says that God covered their sin. He does not overlook their sin; he covers it or atones for the sin of the people. This is seen fulfilled in the sin of the world being covered in the blood of Christ. This is how we are ultimately restored—by the atoning sacrifice of God’s own Son.)

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin. Selah**

3 You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

**4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**6 Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

**8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

9 Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

**10 Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

11 Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**12 Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

13 Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-14

(The Lord has promised to come in judgment. Let us be frank: he seems to have tarried. So, Peter's words are a good reminder. God's sense of timing is different than ours. This is not so much because God dwells outside of time. He tarries because he desires many to come to repentance. Nevertheless, he is coming like a thief in the night, when we least expect him. Knowing this should make us consider what manner of people we should be as we await the great Day of the Lord.)

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

ALLELUIA

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:1-8
(John's ministry was not simply a workaday vocation. He was excited to be preparing the way for the Lord. He busied himself with straightening the crooked paths of people so that they would be ready for the Lord. The people made straightway to John, hearing and obeying his unrestrained call to repentance. Repentance is always the prerequisite to forgiveness. As such, John was a preacher of both law and grace, of repentance and forgiveness of sin. Though he was the great prophet of Israel, his ministry pointed to one mightier than himself, who would become the redemption of the whole world.)

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC Choir
"Breath of Heaven"

SERMONMatt Gardner

SPECIAL MUSIC Brent Petersen, Gwen DeMontigny
Peggy Moran, Rick Richard
"My Lord, What a Morning"

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

HYMNOn next two pages
“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

POSTLUDE

Today’s Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

- PASTOR Pastor Chuck Mann
- LEADER Matt Gardner
- ACOLYTES Ashlyn Schmitz & Kole Albers
- READER.....Jeff Schmidt
- ORGANIST Theresa Petersen
- USHERS/GREETERS Chad & Kacy Hardt Family
- ALTAR GUILD Brent & Theresa Petersen
- SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORSLarry & Kathy Keller

Our Mission

“Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service.”

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

“Stir up your might, and come to save us!” prayed the psalmist (Psalm 80:2). Welcome to worship in Advent, as we await our Savior.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

*Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Tune: French processional, 15th cent.*

VENI, EMMANUEL
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CCLI #2465135

Thank you for your giving

Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th Attendance – 40

Facebook Online Viewing – 103

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$6,025.00

Sunday, November 29th Attendance – 83

Facebook Online Viewing - 141

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$2,031.00

Thank You

Thank you, Matt Gardner for filling in this morning while Pastor Chuck is in quarantine.

Altar Flowers

The poinsettia on the altar today is from Steve & Peggy Wollmuth in remembrance of parents, Francis & Doris Krebsbach, 62nd December Wedding Anniversary.

Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to Randi Joersz and family on the death of her husband, Joel Joersz. A graveside service will be held tomorrow, December 7th, at 1:00 pm at Union Cemetery in Mandan. May God give them comfort in this time of sorrow.

Prayer Requests

Shelly Lonski – Sister to Sharon Nelson, Deborah Davenport – Mother of Laura Gardner's friend, Family of Joel Joersz on his death, Family of Kim Thompson on his death, Virgie Emineth, Cindy Delmonico – Mother to Melissa Kugler, Michelle Schweich – Niece to Arden & Sande Wagner, Glenn Weist, Anna Belle, Ruby from Pine Ridge, Claire Boucher – Friends of Aaron & Lexie Solomonson newborn, Jamie Baumann, James Tolbert, Brad Taylor – Friend of Pastor Chuck, Taylor Gardner, Harold Holtz, Elaine Renfrow – Mother to Lynette Sondrol, Sandi Femling – Cousin to Melanie Beckman, Laren Holznagel, Harlow Tatum – Daughter to Brea (Gutknecht) Tatum, Melisa Chrest, Ruth Lund – Mother to Doddie Kuntz, Derek Laning, Jacklyne Carlson, Amber Selken – Sister to Wendy Miller, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Shirley Nelson, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

Budget Meeting

There will be a 2021 budget meeting this Tuesday, December 8th, at 5:00 pm. If you have any concerns about the budget, please talk to Kris Schmidt before Tuesday.

Council Meeting

There will be a council meeting this Tuesday, December 8th, at 7:00 pm.

Sunday School Christmas Program and Practice

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIMES

There will be Christmas program practice on Sunday, December 13th, at 9:30 am. Church will follow at 10:30 am with the PreK - 2nd grade program during church. Program for grades 3 - 6 will be the same day at 1:00 pm. Both will be on Facebook Live.

Bell Choir and Choir Practice

There will be no bell choir practice until January 6th. Choir will practice at 7:00 pm December 9th and 16th.

Newsletter Deadline

Because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, Jeannette will need all January newsletter article to her office no later than noon on Friday, December 18th. Those not received by then are not guaranteed to be in the newsletter.

Poinsettias and Outdoor Greenery

Help purchase a poinsettia for the poinsettia tree. Cost is \$14 each. As of the printing of this bulletin there are a total of 9 left to purchase. Once they have been purchased you need to buy your own and get it to the church. You are welcome to purchase your own from some other place if you don't want to purchase one of these. Either way, forms are on the table in the narthex to fill out. Forms and money need to be at Jeannette's office no later than noon on Tuesday, December 22nd, to be recognized in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You are also welcome to donate money for the outdoor greenery. There is around \$117 left on the outdoor greenery.

Offering Envelopes

Jeannette will be getting the 2021 offering envelopes ready within the next week. If you have been receiving a set and do not wish to get them anymore, please let her know soon. Likewise, if you have not been getting envelopes and would like some, please let Jeannette know soon.

Donations & Christmas Gifts for Pine Ridge

We are once again collecting donations and Christmas gifts for our friends in Pine Ridge. Any and all donations are welcome. Clothing, household, toys, board games, undergarments, toiletries, and winter gear. Coffee and powder laundry detergent are always welcome too as they serve as a form of currency on the reservation.

We are especially looking for craft items as not only is it an outlet but it's also a way that the recipient can help support themselves - Seed beads, Beads, Jump rings, Earing hooks, Elastic cord, Wire, Paints, Sketch pads

Donations can be put under the choir loft stairs. Please have donations to the church by December 16th. Thank you!

Advent Devotions

NALC Advent Devotions are on the table in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions during Advent.

Our Daily Bread

The December/January/February edition of *Our Daily Bread* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to use with your daily devotions.

Connections

We are looking at ways to better connect our members, especially those who are participating online with those who are participating in-person. Many have expressed how much they miss the fellowship time between the service and Sunday School. I have seen it first hand when I was finishing my internship how much the members who were participating in my senior project really missed having time to chat with one another back in March 2020. Today, whether someone is in isolation due to quarantine or it is felt due to other mitigating circumstances, we want to help you all connect with one-another during this time. Even though we are in uncharted territory, we can share in each other's burdens and find new ways to fill the void that has been created through social distancing. You are not alone. We are in this together!

We would love to see everyone able to meet face-to-face and spend time catching up. Until it is possible to do this safely for everyone, we would like to announce a new weekly time to do this. Starting on Sunday, December 6th at 7:00 pm, we will be holding our first **Coffee Hour Fellowship** time online for you to join to spend some time in Christian Fellowship with all who join.

Coffee Hour Fellowship:

- *Purpose:* This new opportunity is for you to CONNECT with your beloved friends of the church and is to offer a time and space where you are able to see people face-to-face, enjoy conversation, catch up with what has happened/is happening in your lives. This is a ministry of FLC that will enable everyone who meets to share joys and concerns, prayer requests and great Christian fellowship. Our hope is that this gives many people opportunities to meet with fellow members who have been away and may feel isolated.
- *Who is this for?* Everyone! This is for anyone in the congregation and any visitors who want to chat (especially those in isolation or feeling isolated by what is happening in the world around us).
- *What is needed to join?* Technology needed: 1) a camera and 2) microphone and 3) an internet connection. Many devices would automatically work to connect such as laptops, smartphones, iPads/tablets). Desktop computers would need a webcam plugged into the computer.
- *Is it difficult to join?* Not at all. It is a one-click link that will open the program and meeting.
- *How will the time work?* Depending on the number of people joining, we will try to keep it so that everyone who would like

to talk or share is able to speak. If we get more than 8-10 people joining, we can decide to split and share in smaller groups. All you need to do is come ready to see, listen and talk to your friends in Christ.

- **Schedule:** To start we scheduled 3 times to meet in December in-between the holidays, you are welcomed to come to all or just give it try.
 - ◇ December 6, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
 - ◇ December 13, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
 - ◇ December 20, at 7:00 pm ONLINE
- Have questions? or need help getting set up? -- do a trial call with Pastor Chuck before December 6!
- *How do you sign-up?* Please call Jeannette in the office or Pastor Chuck (c:701-891-9443) or email pastorchuck@westriv.com and a link will be sent to you.

Bible Studies:

- Join existing Bible studies via ZOOM to join in the conversation. Please let us know in advance if you would be interested.

Please let us know if you would like to join us to find ways to stay CONNECTED during the upcoming weeks and months!

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Chuck if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not usually get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

Online Giving

Many of you have patiently been waiting for e-giving here at First Lutheran Church. I am happy to announce that it is up and ready to use!

We welcome all donations through any of the options we offer for giving. You can contribute anywhere, anytime right from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

- ⇒ Put your offering in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.
- ⇒ Mail your offering or drop it off at the church office.
- ⇒ Go to the church website: www.flcwashburn.com and click on the donate button on the homepage. Follow the instructions from there.

⇒ For our smartphone users, don't forget you can contribute through GivePlus Church, our mobile giving app. It's a convenient solution whenever you have your phone but don't have cash or checks with you.

See the two pages on GIVEPLUS MOBILE in the November newsletter or go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find the app and download it for free. You can easily make donations anytime you're moved to give, or create an account to schedule recurring weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly offerings and to the account of your choice. When you create an account, you can also securely and conveniently store debit/credit card or bank account information, manage donations and review giving history. You choose how you prefer to login - Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Find our church by ZIP code - 58577 or by searching our Church name - First Lutheran Church, Washburn, ND

⇒ Scan this code and it will take you directly to the app.



Get started today! Download our mobile app or visit www.flcwashburn.com to set up your online contribution!

First Lutheran Church Update as of November 17, 2020 regarding Orders from ND Governor's Office and ND Dept. of Health:

As a religious organization, the FLC executive committee has reviewed the subject COVID 19 related materials, and in prayerful consideration we are moving forward with the following guidelines:

Church Services- in-person

- Facemasks will be required in accordance with the Governor's/State Health Officer's orders
 - Masks must be worn when *entering* or *exiting* the sanctuary. Please bring your own mask if able, if you do not have one available, the church will continue to provide disposable masks barring any supply/availability issues.

- This does not apply to those who are exempt from ND health order, such as those with medical conditions, children 4 years old and under (children under 2 years old should never wear face coverings), etc.
- Social distancing will be observed, by family unit (maintaining six feet apart).
 - Pews will remain in usual position to allow for the most space per family unit
- Circumstances where mandatory face coverings may be temporarily removed (from state health officer order part 6) that are applicable to our services
 - Pastor Chuck (or others using mics up front) while socially distant in leading the service
 - Musicians to play instruments (as long as they are able to be socially distance)
 - While a family unit is sitting in the pew during the service when social distancing is possible
- After the service has finished, please fellowship outside for adequate space for social distancing.

Sunday School/Confirmation/Other small group activities held at the church

- All small groups are still welcome to meet
- Facemasks will be required when attending any of these activities at the church
- To accommodate more families to come see the Sunday School Christmas Program safely, we will be splitting the program into two separate programs with 20 minutes in-between, more information on this coming soon!

All previous guidelines remain in place:

- Every family is encouraged to attend church, Sunday school, or other activities in the manner that they feel most comfortable (whether on-line or in person)
- Hand sanitizer is available at multiple locations within the church.
- No food is to be prepared in the kitchen at this time, and there will be no coffee hour.
- The FLC website (www.flcwashburn.com) and Facebook will be updated as we continue to monitor the situation and any new developments. Please check these sites for updates or concerns. If you do not see an answer to your concern, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Chuck or Jeannette.
- If you are joining online and would like the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please contact Pastor Chuck.

“May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

In Christ,
First Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY AND AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Gift tags for **Helping Hands** are available in the narthex. When you take a tag, please sign your name on the paper by the tag number. Please return your gifts (with the tag on it) no later than noon on Sunday, December 13th.
- **Stuff the Stocking for McLean County.** November 30th – December 14th, please help Dakota West Credit Union in Washburn stuff the stockings with kid friendly stocking size items for families with children in need of holiday help this year! Suggestions: stuffed animals, lip balm/nail polish, travel size games, toiletries, books/cards, colors/paints, hot wheels, gloves/hats, sock/undies, small toys, unopened bags of candy/snacks. Basically anything you can fit in a stocking for a kid! Look for a drop box at Dakota West CU or Captains Cabin. Stockings will be provided and stuffed by Dakota West CU and then distributed among various towns in McLean County to give to families! Other towns that have drop boxes are Garrison, Turtle Lake and Underwood. Thank you for your contribution!
- **Dinner Plate Size Carmel Roll Sale** – Here is an update on the progress of the Washburn Swimming Pool and the fundraising efforts of the Board. To date we have received about \$25,000 toward our goal of \$50,000. We are pleased. This week we met the \$7,500 in matching dollars, so we will receive the Grant from Twice Blessed. Yippee! We also received a challenge from an anonymous donor who will match up to \$5,000 toward our pool project. Of course, we need the help of the community, so we are asking each of you to consider a donation toward this match. We are also sponsoring a DINNER PLATE SIZE CARMEL ROLL SALE on Sunday, December 20th, from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. It will be another drive-in and take-out food in compliance with COVID-19 directives. To insure we can have plenty of caramel rolls, we will be taking orders the week of December 14th thru December 18th. Call us at 701-220-4410 or 701-315-0305 and order your rolls. You can pick them up on Sunday, December 20th at the Washburn Ambulance Bay from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. This event is a free-will offering asking you to be generous so we can raise this \$5,000 match.

We also received word this week that the 5th graders at the Washburn School are coordinating a fundraiser by distributing coin jars at all the local businesses. They will be managing to keep the jars and collect the coins, so remember to help them make their efforts a success. Drop your coins in the jars.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	Coffee Hour Fellowship (Online) AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	5:00 PM	Budget Meeting
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
WED.	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Choir
	7:15 PM	FLY
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Sunday School – Program Practice Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	10:30 AM	Worship w/Pre-K – 2 nd Grade Christmas Program
	1:00 PM	Grades 3-6 Christmas Program
	7:00 PM	Coffee Hour Fellowship (Online) AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday in Advent – December 6, 2020

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

– 2 Peter 3:8–9 –

When you were little, did it seem like it took forever to be Christmas morning? I remember clearly thinking how slowly time passed, leading up to Christmas. The excitement of Christmas morning, of opening gifts, and having a special breakfast, made it seem like time inched along like a snail on a leaf. As the years have passed, I have been amazed at how time flies. As every season changes I say to myself, “I can’t believe it’s December,” or “I can’t believe it’s almost the end of another year!” Perhaps this is because I have more time under my belt. Does time go faster because we have lived more days? As children we have lived less of life and proportionately a day seems like it takes longer. But as we age, we have more days that have passed and so comparatively, time goes quicker.

If my theory is correct about the ratio of time lived versus how fast or slow time seems to move, then it’s no wonder St. Peter said, “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” Time for the Eternal One is relative to God’s eternal existence. I mention this because I hear many believers ask about the timing of Christ’s return and the timing of the future resurrection. Many wonder if when a loved one dies, “Is she in heaven right now? Or does she have to wait for the final resurrection?” It is a normal human thought to ponder our own, and our loved one’s whereabouts after death. But time is relative. It may be a thousand years to us, but the blink of an eye to God – or vice versa. What we really want to know is, “Is my loved one with God?” The answer to that is easy: Yes!

We need not worry about the timing of the resurrection or Christ’s return. What we need to focus on is what Paul said in Romans 8, “Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The Lord is not slow or delaying working out his will for us. He is perfectly able, capable, and willing, to fulfill his promises. It’s just that our time is not his time, and his time is certainly not ours. May we patiently pass time. Amen.