



December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

10:30 AM
Pre-K thru Grade 2 Program & Worship

1:00 PM
Grades 3 – 6 Program

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

PRELUDE AND BELLS

The Symbols of the Season

Pre-K thru 2nd Grade Christmas Program

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 Orlin Larson & Theresa Petersen
"Silent Night"

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 patience and strength and endurance in the face of suffering, as well as love and mercy toward our neighbors that reflects your own. We pray in Jesus' name, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The term "poor" in verse one, means more than may be understood at first glance. Luther wrote: "Christ is the person sent by God and filled with the Holy Spirit to be the Preacher and Evangelist to the poor, that is, the afflicted" (Works, vol 17, p 330). The vocation of the Christ is toward all the afflictions of the afflicted—from lack of necessities, to happiness, to freedom. His ministry is not only to those who are physically poor, but of course, for those who are spiritually poor (Matt 5:3). Yet, the Church needs to face the reverse statement. The ministry of Christ and his Church is not only for those who are spiritually poor, but also for those who are physically poor.)

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in

the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”

PSALM.....Psalm 126

(It does have a dreamlike quality. God has restored us to what he intended for us in creation. We are no longer captive to sin and death. Who could have imagined such a thing? The captives in Babylon spent generations removed from their homeland. They may have hoped for a while, but eventually hope is forgotten. The human race has spent a much longer time in captivity to sin—so long that most forget the penalty. When all hope was forgotten and we had forgotten our desperate condition, the Lord did great things for us. He has restored our ancient fortunes.)

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.

Then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, Lord,
like streams in the Negev.

⁵ Those who sow with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
carrying seed to sow,
will return with songs of joy,
carrying sheaves with them.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
(When we pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,” we sometimes wonder what it actually is so that we may do his will. Verses 16-18 tell us. As we await the great day of Christ’s coming, let us rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. That is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. The Christian who lacks joy, prayer, and thanksgiving throws water on the Holy Spirit’s (often represented as fire) work of sanctification.

God’s will for us is sanctification. He begins this work in us through the prescription of verses 16-18 but we should also pay attention to the next four verses by fanning into flame the gifts within us, testing everything (Acts 17:11), and adhering to what is good. These are agencies God uses to sanctify the whole person—body, mind, and spirit. Through these things we remain focused in faith so that he preserves us blameless at his appearing. Where you fail, God will perform his will.)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING John 1:6-8, 19-28
(The people wanted to know about John. Note however, that John wanted the people to know about the Christ. John was just a man, sent by God to bear witness about another, the light of the world (John 8:12). He did so by crying out in the wilderness. This location is purposeful to his mission. John’s

message was that the light from God, the Messiah, would lead people out of their sin. No longer will they wander aimlessly in a wilderness of sin. The Christ who John pointed to would lead them straight out of this wilderness.)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

HYMN "Away in a Manger"
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky . . looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

SERMON Pastor Chuck Mann

SPECIAL MUSIC Orlin Larson & Theresa Petersen
"Silver Bells"

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 come. Amen.

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

HYMN On next page
“Prepare the Royal Highway”

P: Go in Peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Today’s Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR..... Pastor Chuck Mann
ACOLYTESAlex Retterath & Ryleigh Schmidt
READER..... Matt Gardner
ORGANIST Theresa Petersen
USHERS/GREETERS Carissa Klabunde
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.

Welcome, family of Christ! Each person adds to our worship. Thank you for being here.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

Nursery

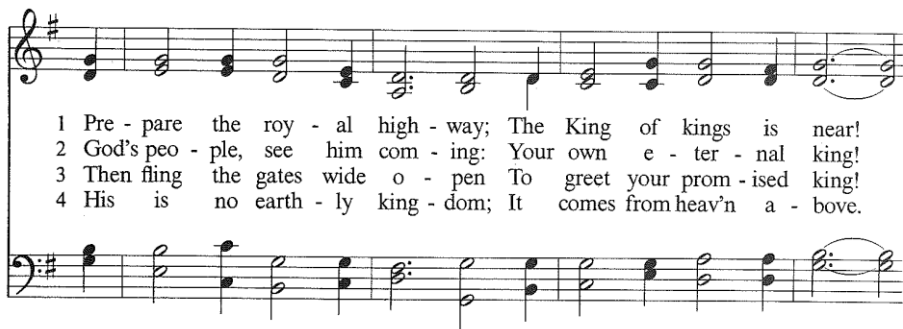
The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

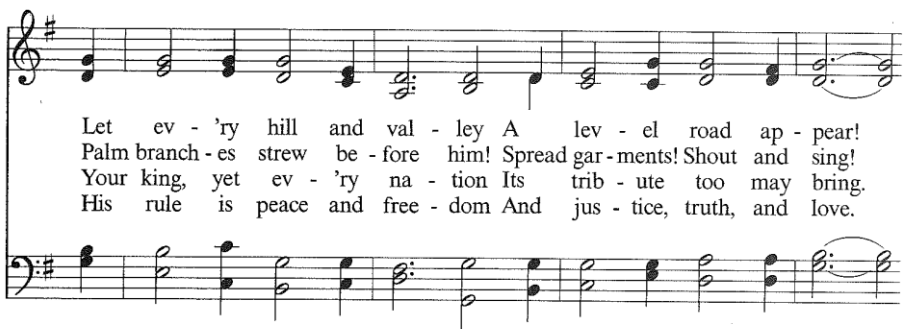
Sunday, December 6th Attendance – 83
Facebook Online Viewing - 189
General Fund & Plate Giving - \$3,124.00

Prepare the Royal Highway

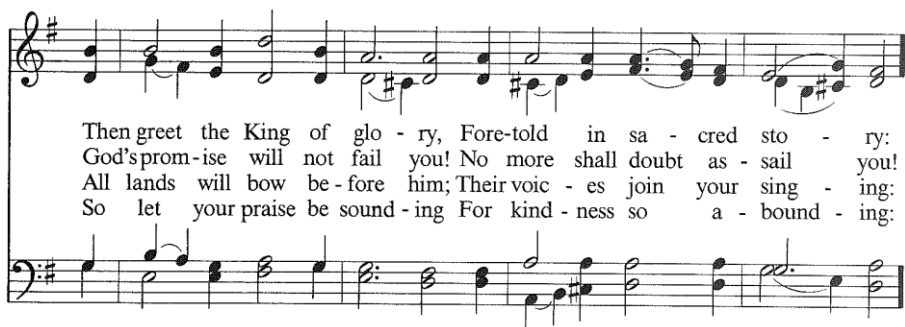
26



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

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

Thank You

Thank you to the Pre-K thru 2nd grade for your Christmas program presentation during the 10:30 am worship service and grades 3–6 for your Christmas program presentation at the 1:00 pm program.

Thank you, Stacy Boeshans for all your time and effort with all the decisions that needed to be made to make the Christmas programs happen.

Much appreciation goes out to the teachers for all their hard work pulling these programs together: Kristi Jaeger, Sue Winter, Julie Bentz, Suzanne Swanson, Sarah Kraft, Jeff Schmidt, Judy Beaudry, Don Winter, Melissa Rothe.

Thank you, Matt Gardner for streaming the programs on Facebook.

Thank you, parents for your patience and understanding as we attempted to accommodate coronavirus guidelines in our program planning.

And PROPS to our amazing kids for their hard work and dedication during practices.

2021 Offering Envelopes

The 2021 offering envelopes are on the cart in the narthex. Pick yours up today to use next year. If you don't find one for yourself and would like a set, please talk to Jeannette during office hours.

Cantata

Next Sunday, December 20th, our choir will present "The Silence and the Sound" at 9:30 am. The cantata will take place of our worship service.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, December 17th, at 9:30 am at the church. Please study chapters 11 and 12 of the Bible Study. This will be a potluck with no host. Bring 6 or more Christmas cards that we will be mailing out to members of our congregation.

Poinsettias and Outdoor Greenery Update

Thank you to everyone that purchased a poinsettia and gave money for the outdoor greenery. All poinsettias are spoken for and the greenery paid for. Thanks again!

Newsletter Deadline

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

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!

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!

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 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!

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

- Please have all **Helping Hands** gifts (with the tag on it) returned to the church no later than noon today, December 13.
- **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	Sunday School Program Practice Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	10:30 AM	Worship w/Pre-K thru 2 nd Grade Christmas Program
	1:00 PM	Grades 3 thru 6 Christmas Program
	7:00 PM	Coffee Hour Fellowship (Online) AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting
MON.	10:00 AM	Chat & Sew Quilting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
WED.	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	7:00 PM	Choir
	7:15 PM	FLY
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study at the Church
FRI.	NOON	Newsletter Deadline
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	FLC Choir Cantata
	7:00 PM	Coffee Hour Fellowship (Online) AA Meeting AI-Anon Meeting

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4:30 PM & 9:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday in Advent – December 13, 2020

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good.

Abstain from every form of evil.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16–22 –

I first paid close attention to these words of St. Paul when I was about 20 years old and was reading the holocaust account of Dutch author, Corrie Ten Boom, called, “The Hiding Place.” She and her family were watchmakers in Holland during WWII. Passionate, caring Christians that they were, they saw what atrocities were being enacted on the Jewish people and they took great risk to hide many Jews above their watch shop, and moved them to safety in other countries.

Eventually the Nazis figured out what the Ten Boom family was up to and arrested Corrie, her sister Betsy, and their father. They were sent to a concentration camp. Throughout, these verses of Scripture would come up in their study together. Corrie would ask her sister, “Give thanks in ALL circumstances?” And Betsy would answer, “Yes, Corrie, in ALL circumstances.” Corrie didn’t like that answer much, but eventually she would come to see God acting in ways that she never could have imagined.

One of those ways was how Corrie was able to smuggle a small Bible into the camp. It hung around her neck on a string. She was scared they would find it and she would be further punished for carrying such contraband. The guards frisked the woman in front of her, then the woman behind her in the line of prisoners, but somehow, miraculously, no one touched her. The Bible made it safely into the camp.

It was this Bible the sisters used to teach other prisoners, both Jews and Gentiles, about Christ. Each day they would huddle around the small volume and read with the sisters commenting on each text. Many came to Christ through these study sessions. The barracks where they taught were infested with fleas, which made life even more uncomfortable. Corrie questioned these conditions repeatedly, but Betsy always reminded her, “Give thanks in ALL circumstances.” Those fleas prevented the guards from entering the barracks. If they had, there would have been no Bible and no studies. God used fleas so that his holy Word could be heard!

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

Grades 3 thru 6 Christmas Program

1:00 PM

Mouse	Gracie Omlid
Storybook Readers	Tanner Fiedler, Brooke Knutson, Bodie Winter, Noah Holznagel, Easton Kugler, Noah Jaeger, Ava Schmidt, Kaden Schmidt, Berandt Olafson
Angels	Isabel Samuelson, Madisyn Biesterfeld, Haylie Bentz, Bekka Bentz, Taylor Gardner, Aubrey Holznagel, Olivia Schmidt, Kylee Fiedler
Innkeeper	Kesia Boeshans
Shepherds	DJ Winter, Ethan Swanson, Kyle Albers, McKayde Baumann, Ever Kugler, Isaac Mann
Gabriel	Keaton Kadrmas
Mary	Danica Carlson
Joseph	Jaxon Solomonson
Guitar	Jeff Schmidt
Piano	Melissa Rothe