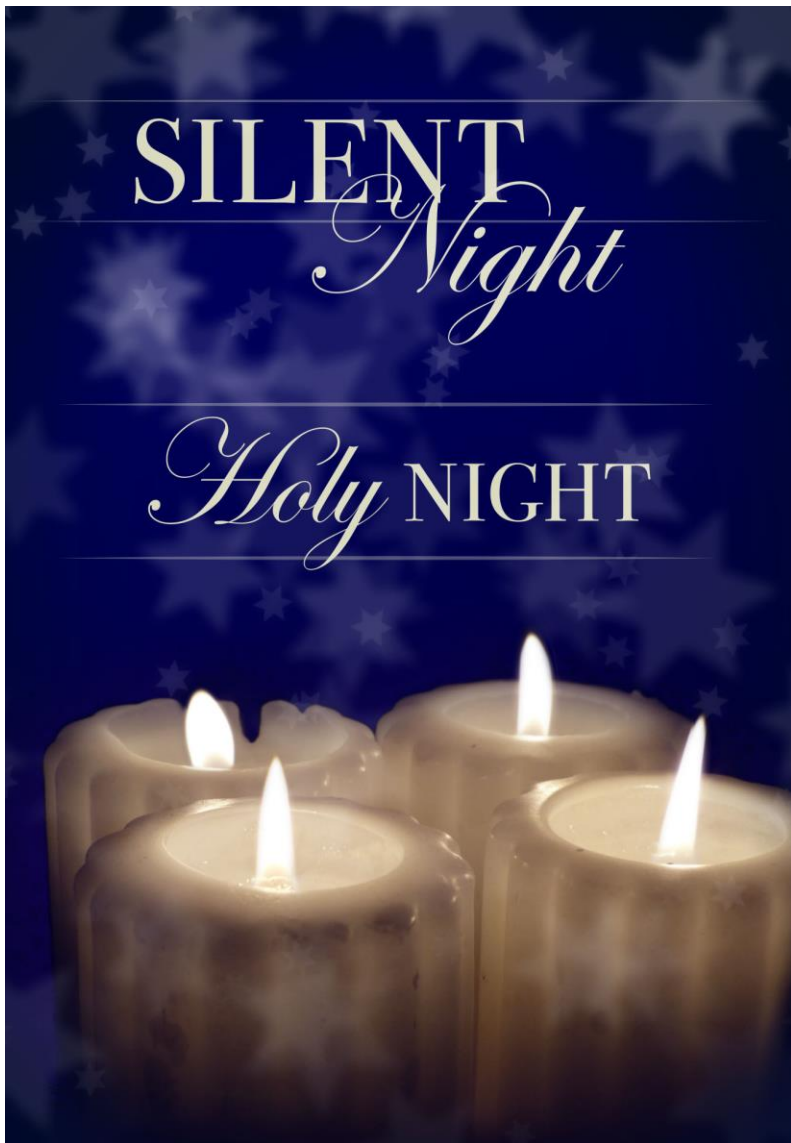


SILENT
Night

Holy **NIGHT**



December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve
4:30 PM & 9:00 AM Worship

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

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

(Most of us have heard the old carol "O Holy Night," but sometimes we forget that none of us makes this night holy. The Lord makes this night holy, and He needs no help from us. What He does ask of us is that we listen to the familiar story, that we believe its truth and promise, and that we live in reflection of what God has done to save us. We cannot make this night holy, but we can keep it holy with faith that kneels at the manger, heads bowed in prayer and adoration, and voices raised in a joyful song of thanksgiving and praise.)

CHRISTMAS DIALOG AND GREETING

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of majesty, on this holy night your light and life broke into the darkness of our human condition. Grant that your light and life will continue to shine through us into a dark and weary world until that time when your glory reigns forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord; who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

P: Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

C: This new covenant was sealed at our Savior's birth.

P: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C: And a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P: As Isaiah said long ago,

C: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

P: And his name shall be called,

C: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

P: And the Lord said, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

C: I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations."

P: This one whom the prophets foretold is the Messiah,

C: The King of kings and the Lord of lords. It is he whom we worship; it is he whom we adore.

SPECIAL MUSICClaudette Ness, Sue Winter
Brent & Theresa Petersen, Rick Richard - 4:30 PM

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

Jeff, Ava & Olivia Schmidt - 9:00 PM

"Little Drummer Boy"

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-14

(In the previous chapter, the Lord promised that the enemies of Jerusalem would be shattered while Jerusalem would still stand. The Lord demanded faith no matter how powerful the enemy appears, and allowed a sign to be granted for the weak-faithed King Ahaz. Ahaz would not ask, not from deep piety but out of lack of trust. Though the immediate promise was distrusted, God provided and even greater sign that would take place long after the king was dead. That sign is the promise of a child who will dash all the enemies of true faith in God.)

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But

Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

PSALM.....Psalm 110:1-4
(The Lord God bade the Lord David to sit by his side while he conquered his enemies. His rule will be more complete than King David's. The Lord of Heaven will rule utterly and will do so through a priestly king. David's priestly rule foreshadowed the coming kingdom of the King of kings, the High Priest of heaven who rules in righteousness like the ancient priest and king Melchizedek (Gen 14:8).)

¹ The Lord says to my lord:
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."

² The Lord will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
"Rule in the midst of your enemies!"

³ Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning's womb.

⁴ The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."

SECOND READING 1 John 4:7-16
(John speaks of Christian love, that unique brand of love that sacrifices self for the good of others. This sort of love comes from God. We cannot muster it from within or muscle it into existence. When we confess that Jesus is the Son of God, his Spirit comes to live in us, and we in God. That is when his love is first, birthed in us and finally, perfected if we endure with abiding faith in God's love for us.)

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25
(Think of Joseph's great faith. Who among us would be so bold because of a dream? Yet, it was in a dream that an angel told Joseph to take the young, pregnant Mary to be his wife. The messenger reminded him of Isaiah's prophecy, that a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son. When he awoke from his sleep, he did as the angel had instructed and took Mary to be his wife, calling her son Jesus. May we also awaken from our slumber and cry, Immanuel! God is with us—"even to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20 NASB).)

¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the

Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

SERMON Pastor Chuck Mann

SPECIAL MUSIC 4:30 PM

Orlin Larson, Rick & LeAnn Richard
“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”
Jeff, Ava & Olivia Schmidt - 9:00 PM
“Away in a Manger”

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.

DEDICATION OF COMMUNION WARE

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.

Accept this communion ware which we offer in thanksgiving; may all who receive the heavenly food and drink be sustained by your grace and power.

Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

[2 Timothy 4:22]

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

[Colossians 3:1]

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[Psalm 136]

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: Your name is praised, O Lord, for You have kept Your Word and promise and delivered up Your own Son into the womb of the Virgin. He was born in darkness to be the light of the world, and He continues to enlighten those in the darkness of sin and its death with life and light. With the greatest of joy, we join our voices with the angels and shepherds of Your presence, with the patriarchs and prophets, with apostles and evangelists, with martyrs and confessors and all who have died in Christ and now live in Him, and we sing their unending hymn:

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Holy God, holy Lord, You have made the night to shine with the greatness of the one true Light and given to us Your only Son in flesh to be our Savior. Open our hearts and minds that we receive Him whom You have sent and live in Him by faith. Grant that we reflect the brightness of His appearing and live as witnesses to His saving glory, doing the good You desire and avoiding the evil You forbid. Give to us Your Holy Spirit, that nothing prevents our worthy communion this night of His holy body and precious blood. Help us to show forth our faith in lives of repentance, seeking that which is good and right and true in accordance with Your Word and promise. To You, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, praise and worship, now and to the end of the ages.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28;*
Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 22:20

P: Praise to You, O Lord, for having kept Your Word and bestowing upon us the unmistakable sign of Your favor by giving us Your only Son. Grant to us faith that we daily acknowledge His goodness and live out fully the promise of our Baptism, doing the good You desire and avoiding the evil You forbid. In the fullness of time, bring us at last into Your eternal presence, where we shall be gathered before Your throne of grace forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Through Him, with Him, and in Him, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE 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

THE DISTRIBUTION

SPECIAL MUSICWendy Miller – 4:30 PM
Theresa Petersen - 9:00 PM

THE THANKSGIVING

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION John 1:1–14
The minister lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the minister's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

THE PRAYERS

P: Glory to God in the highest,

C: and peace to God's people on earth.

P: Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C: Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

P: Blessed are you, Wonderful Counselor. You enlighten the heart with steadfast love.

C: Enliven your church that it might bear good tidings of great joy to all people.

P: Blessed are you, Emmanuel. You promise to be with us even to the end of the age.

C: Open our eyes to see your presence in all who are hungry, lonely, or homeless.

P: Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C: Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

P: Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C: Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

HYMN OF LIGHT.....SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender
and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing,
Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

BLESSING

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

The candles are extinguished.

DEPARTURE HYMN JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature
sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs
employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the
sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the
ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is
found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE



Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

- PASTOR Pastor Chuck Mann
- ACOLYTES Kole Albers – 4:30 PM
Carter Knutson – 9:00 PM
- READER Dewey Oster – 4:30 PM
Jeff Schmidt – 9:00 PM
- COMMUNION ASSISTANTS Dewey Oster – 4:30 PM
Jeff Schmidt – 9:00 PM
- ORGANIST LeAnn Richard – 4:30 PM
Theresa Petersen - 9:00 PM
- USHERS/GREETER Brent Petersen Family – 4:30 PM
Brent Petersen Family – 9:00 PM
- ALTAR GUILD Brent & Theresa Petersen
- SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Larry & 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

In the name of Jesus, the newborn Babe of Bethlehem, welcome to Christmas Eve Worship.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

Receive the bread into your open, flat palm. Ask if you wish to receive grape juice or a gluten free wafer. Alert an usher if you, or someone you know, needs communion served in the pew.

Prayer Requests

Robert Walter – Former Professor of Pastor Chuck, Brian Hall – Related to Pastor Chuck, Shelly Lonski – Sister to Sharon Nelson, Deborah Davenport – Mother of Laura Gardner's friend, Virgie Emineth, Cindy Delmonico – Mother to Melissa Kugler, 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

2021 FLCW Books

All women of First Lutheran Church, please check your mailbox in the narthex and take your 2021 FLCW book home with you! If you do not see a mailbox for yourself, please talk to Jeannette in the church office during office hours to have one made for you. Every member should have one!

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.

Annual Report

All committee reports for the annual report need to be in the church office no later than noon, January 12th. Please email them to flc@westriv.com or drop them off at the church office. Email is preferred.

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



**Poinsettias
& Outside
Greenery**

Thank you to everyone that gave poinsettias or helped pay for the outside greenery this Christmas season.

Given by

Kim & Brenda Ankenbauer

In Memory of

Parents & Sisters:
Jerry & Artie Rasmusson
Joan Steen
Bill & Joy Ankenbauer
Joleen Ankenbauer

Given by

Mac & Judy Beaudry (2)

Dustin, Julie, Haylie &
Bekka Bentz

Dean & Sonja Bergstedt

David & Ruth Borlaug
Nicolette Borlaug Masiya
Cassandra Borlaug

Dick & Barbara Brewster

Janet Carvell & Family

Sharon Chrest

Terry & Donna Gunderson (2)

Ken & Maybell Job

Pastor Erik & Kathryn Johnson

Duane & Marlys Knell (2)

Dennis & Donna Kroll
Jody & Nicole Brown
Noelle Kroll
Cody Kroll and Brittany & Kale

Ardee Kurle & Shawn Kurle

In Memory of

Merry Christmas to All!

Loved ones who have passed
on

Martin & Lillian Bergstedt
Paul & Ruby Paulson
Nikki Paulson

Warren & Verna Rockenbach
Oliver & Judy Borlaug

Joel Joersz
To the Glory of God

Al Carvell

Loved ones in Heaven
In Thanksgiving for Family &
Friends

Parents:
Arnold & Eleanora Renner
Charles & Ester Gunderson

To the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving for our First
Lutheran Family, our Children
& Grandchildren

Layla Marie Knell
Reinhold & Clara Schock
Arnold & Ida Knell

Ervin & Esther Ziegler

Terry Kurle

Given by

Orlin & Ivadell Larson

Jeneen Loe (2)

Dewey & Wanda Oster

Alice Richard (2)

Rick & LeAnn Richard

Seth, Nikki & Justin Sackman
Nadine Berger

John & Helen Samuelson

Elmer & Arlene Schwarz

Brad & Cathy Sheldon

George & Val Swanson

Sylvia Thompson & Family

Ardy & Sande Wagner (2)

Linda Wohlk

Willie & Janell Ziemann

In Memory of

Brice Larson

David Loe

Our loved ones into God's
Glory in 2020:
Danny Wolf
Cheryl Wingerter
Kirby Johnson

Stanley Lee Richard
Art & Esther Bender
Glen Bender
Larry Bender
Lloyd Bender

Stan Richard
Art & Esther Bender

Kevin Berger

To the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving for Our Family
& Friends

To the Glory of God

George & Marlene Swanson

Arlin Thompson

Elmo & Bernie Larson
Rudolph & Bertha Wagner

Nettie Wilhelm
Troy Wohlk
Patty Wilhelm

To Honor:
Eldor & Gertrude Ziemann
Leland Grosz

The Heart of Home

During a road trip one dreary, drizzly December day, I thought about how traveling is an act of faith – both now and in Bible times. Unlike Mary and Joseph with a donkey, I have more horsepower, yet I still rely on God to navigate through detours and delays.

On that particular journey, some friends who were away let us stay in their home, and it was such a haven. We turned on cozy lighting, got in our pajamas and heated homemade soup I'd brought. Those simple comforts symbolized warmth, home, nourishment. It was the welcome Mary must have longed for after her difficult trip.

After our meal, God's work fed my soul and I prayed: "Lord, I want my heart to be as warm and welcoming to you as this place to stay has been for us. Make me a place where you are invited, honored and welcomed – a peaceful haven for your son."

--Monica Wilkinson

Cold Comfort

While some people dread winter, my motto is "The colder the temperatures and the deeper the snow, the better." In fact, my mom and I have a tradition of walking into the season's first snow ... barefoot. The white sky, crisp smell and plunging temps provide a sense of calm.

Though I realize not everyone feels this way, I was shocked when a dear friend shared her reaction. When snowflakes appear, a cloudiness settles into her soul. She experiences deep sadness and anxiety because she suffers from seasonal depression, which I hadn't known about.

That reminded me how we can continually learn from one another and discover how our creative God uniquely "made and fashioned" (Psalm 119:73) each of us. Jesus calls us to embrace people's differences and needs as the season of the year – and the seasons of life – change.

--Janna Firestone

Seasons of Hope



The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity –hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross

--J.I. Packer