

***In the
beginning,
God created
the heavens
and the earth.***

GENESIS 1:1



**January 10, 2021
Baptism of Our Lord
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

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

P: All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

C: Kings shall bring Him gifts.

P: For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

C: that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.

P: Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

(Please observe a moment of silence for reflection.)

P: Heavenly Father,

C: we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC Jeff, Ava & Olivia Schmidt
"Daniel Prayed"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: 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.

OPENING DIALOGUE

P: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

KYRIE

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world;

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

FIRST READINGGenesis 1:1-5
(When the Spirit of God hovers over chaos, he means to create new life in the midst of, and out of that chaos. Just as he created light from the darkness of the watery void, he creates new life in sinners through the same creative word. He speaks the promise in the water of baptism so that it becomes “a gracious water of life” (Small Catechism 4.3), delivering from death and the devil.)

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

PSALM.....Psalm 29:1-11
(“If only God would speak to me, then I would know he exists and would, of course, believe in him.” Many people are known to speak such twaddle. The Scripture insists, however, that God does speak. His voice thunders over the roar of the flood. “Where is this voice?” some ask. They cannot hear it though it is proclaimed in pulpit, home, work, school, and street. They do not listen though the Word of God has been published in over 500 languages. Their hearts are hard and their hearing dull, and all the while, God speaks to them day by day.)

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**² Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over many waters.

**⁴ The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.**

- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ **He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ **The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**
- ¹¹ May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

SECOND READING Romans 6:1-11
(It seems an irony that so many baptisms happen shortly after birth, since we are baptized into the death of Christ. Yet it is also a paradox. Baptism is indeed about dying but only in dying to sin may one live eternally. Through baptism, God buries folk into the very death of Christ. That means that the old person, however young, along with her sin nature is now dead. This seems a thuggish thing to the world but to the redeemed it is glorious. We know that through death to sin, we are no longer bound to sin. How can we be, since we are dead? We are freed from our sinful selves to walk in new lives with Jesus.

The second verse is a sticking point to some people. Let us be clear. Many believe the verse to mean that, once baptized, they must somehow lead sinless lives. Though one should endeavor in earnest to "go and sin no more," we must admit that we will fail in our attempts many times. Paul says that this is not really we who sin but instead it is our dead, sinful flesh doing the sinning (Rom 7:17-23). In other words, reborn people, though they will sin sometimes, are no longer dead sinners but are alive in Christ. Verse 11 proves the point. Though it may seem you are mired in sin, you must "consider yourselves dead to sin but alive in Christ Jesus.")

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

ALLELUIA

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

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:4-11
(The conclusion of this Reading is the declaration that Jesus is the beloved of God—that God is pleased with him. The result of Jesus’ obedience in the Jordan, his fulfilling of all righteousness, is that when we are baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27), we are also made into beloved children of God. The Father is well pleased with Christians—not because of their good deeds but because they have put on Christ in baptism. As Christ fulfilled all righteousness in baptism, it is fulfilled in us when we are baptized into his death. The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23) and that requirement has been met in the waters of baptism.)

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." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SPECIAL MUSIC Choir
"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

SERMON Pastor Chuck Mann

SPECIAL MUSIC Jeff Schmidt
"Where No One Stands Alone"

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

P: 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.
In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

HYMN On next page
“Shall We Gather at the River”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

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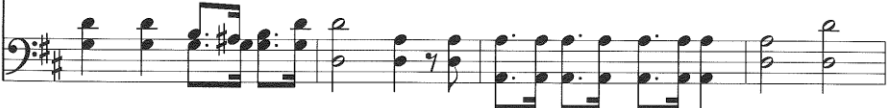
1 Shall we gath-er at the riv - er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR..... Pastor Chuck Mann
ACOLYTE..... Aaron Blumhagen
READER..... Aaron Vorland
ORGANIST..... LeAnn Richard
USHERS/GREETERS Aaron & Alexis Solomonson
ALTAR GUILD Brenda Suckow & Steph Mann
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS Dean & Sonja Bergstedt

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.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1): sky, water, ground; sun, moon, stars; plants, animals, people. Then God rested. So, welcome to this time for rest and worship.

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, January 3rd, Attendance – 79
Facebook Online Viewing - 222
General Fund & Plate Giving - \$4,334.00

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!

Prayer Requests

Ross Lorentzen, Gwen DeMontigny, Sandy Nelson – Daughter of Marian Meyer, Kayla Boger – Family member of Steve & Peggy Wollmuth, Janice Harper – Wife of Mark Kugler, Keith Hammerbeck – Family friend of the Kugler's, 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

Annual Report

All committee reports for the annual report need to be in the church office no later than noon, this Tuesday, January 12th. Please email them to flc@westriv.com or drop them off at the church office. Email is preferred. Annual reports will be ready to pick up next Sunday, January 17th, to look over before the annual meeting.

Church Council Meeting

Church council will meet this Tuesday, January 12th, at 7:00 pm.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24th, following the worship service in the sanctuary. If you are a confirmed and giving member of First Lutheran, you are considered a voting member and encouraged to attend this meeting to show your support of your church!

Poinsettias

If you purchased a poinsettia for Christmas and haven't taken yours home yet, please do so now. After Tuesday they will be dispersed of one way or another.

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.

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	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
	Noon	Committee Reports for Annual Meeting Report Due
	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
WED.	9:30 AM	Friendship Bible Study
	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	6:45 PM	Bell Choir
	7:15 PM	FLY
	7:30 PM	Choir
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship w/Holy Communion
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
		AA Meeting
		AI-Anon Meeting

Rock of Ages

On walks, I enjoy searching for heart-shaped rocks. One day in 2020, I spotted a broken heart, which seemed fitting as illness, racism and suffering dominated the headlines. I thought of Psalm 34:18, NIV: “The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Humans can be hard-hearted – pointing fingers, assuming the worst and failing to extend compassion. We often reject people who look, think or act differently from us. All these things break hearts, including God’s. Only with his help can we rise above hatred, learn to listen more than we speak, and express kindness, empathy and a willingness to learn.

Jesus, be our rock as we face life’s brokenness.
Stay near and start the healing. Amen.

--Julie Lee

Waiting until God is heard

We’re often taught that prayer is speaking to God. And of course, that’s part of it. It’s good to pray for the well-being and needs of others – even Jesus prayed for his disciples.

It’s okay to pray for our own growth in faith and love. It’s a wonderful, powerful thing, modeled especially by the Psalmists, to give God thanks and praise. And God welcomes our cries of pain and sorrow, offering the Spirit’s help when words fail us (Romans 8:26).

But through the ages, many deeply faithful followers of Christ have practiced contemplative prayer, centering prayer and other forms of stillness before God. Danish theologian Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855) expressed it this way: “To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking. Prayer involves becoming silent, and being silent, and waiting until God is heard.”

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Baptism of our Lord - January 10, 2021

“And a voice came from heaven ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’” – Mark 1:11

Beloved

Have you ever wondered WHY Jesus would need to be baptized? I mean, after all, he WAS Jesus. He had no sins to be forgiven, and he certainly didn't need the promise of eternal life. He already had that, right?

When Jesus was baptized, he came to identify with the sins of the people, even though he himself was free from sin (2 Corinthians 5:10). As soon as he does this, he was proclaimed as God's beloved. He hadn't taken on the role of Messiah yet, and I wonder if before he could do this, God had to give him his name. Not healer, or prophet, or even Messiah, but the name BELOVED. This is how God sees him, he is God's beloved. He was given a name, not according to what he had already done, but according to his relationship with his Father in heaven. And before anyone had a chance to question or challenge his identity, the Holy Spirit drives him into the wilderness for the test of a lifetime.

The test which Jesus would have to endure was a test that would challenge his very identity. The truth of who you and I are is always measured by our ability to cling to our identity in Christ, especially in moments of temptation. This identity is pronounced at our baptism and sealed irrevocably by the Holy Spirit. You see, in baptism, we are a new creation. We are BELOVED. Just as Jesus was God's beloved, so too are we! We are changed forever in the waters of Holy Baptism. The waters that Jesus waded into first, even though he was sinless, is the water that washes and claims us in the name of and by the power of the Triune God.

So, if you ever wonder how Jesus got through forty days of intense testing in the wilderness, just remember: He was God's beloved. For us it is the same. At our baptism, we are called God's beloved – Child of God. This is the beginning of our life in Christ and we are named Beloved, lest we forget who we are and whose we are. Amen.