



**January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after Epiphany
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, your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. We gathered in this Season of Light to worship God, the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.
(Isaiah 60:1)

C: Amen.

P: Let us humble ourselves before the Lord of all, confessing our sins of which we are aware and for those things that grieve Him of which we are unaware.

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

P: Gracious God who sent the Light of the World into the darkness of our human sin,

C: We come before you asking for your gracious mercy for all the things we have done and left undone. We have lived in darkness rather than seeking your light; we have ignored your call to serve our neighbors; and we have neglected to show our gratitude for all you've done for us. Forgive us, dear Lord. Let the light of Christ shine upon us and restore us to your salvation, that we might live holy lives here and now, and be with you in eternity. Amen.

P: Lift up your eyes all around and see! Your heart shall thrill and exult in the Lord's mercy. The Holy One of Israel, the Lord your God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit forgives you all your sin and grants you salvation in his holy name.

C: Amen.

GREETING

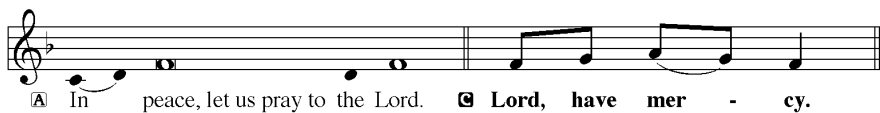
P: May the glorious light of the Son of God shine upon you, the abiding love of the Father fill your hearts, and the peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

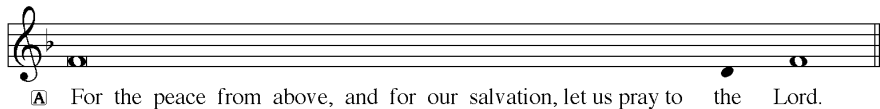
SPECIAL MUSIC Arden Wagner, Wendy Miller
Steph Mann, Brent Petersen
"Listen, God Is Calling"

KYRIE

(Kyrie is a Greek word meaning "O Lord." It is a cry to the Lord for help and strength. In ancient times, the crowds would shout "Lord, have mercy" as the King entered their town. The church has taken over his prayer to greet its King Jesus Christ in the church service. As the people so long ago expected help from their King, so we Christians expect help from our Savior.)*
**Matt. 9:27; Matt. 15:22; Matt. 20:30-31; Luke 17:13.*



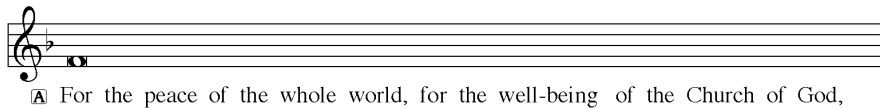
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. B Lord, have mer - cy.



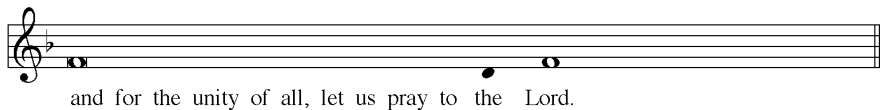
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



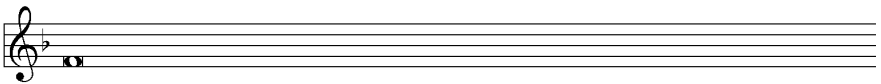
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



B Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Ⓒ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra- cious Lord. Ⓒ A - men

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

C: **We give you thanks, gracious God that through our baptism you call all of your people, young and old alike, to new life in Christ. By the power of your Spirit help us to daily know, follow, and love you more fully and faithfully; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

FIRST READING1 Samuel 3:1-20

(The first Bible I ever purchased was when I was a senior in high school. I got it off the rack across the aisle from body-builder, hot rod, and girly magazines. In that sense, the Word of God seemed to be everywhere in our culture. It seemed to be only a small part of a larger exhibit of communications. Yet, when God calls, one turns his back to one display and focuses on the word of the Lord; it becomes the only word worth hearing.

When Samuel was a boy, probably a bit younger than I was, his people were religious but did not seem to heed the Lord. It was therefore extraordinary for Samuel to hear from God and react the way he did. The boy not only listened, he responded. Even after Eli, the priest, told him to go back to sleep, Samuel continued to listen and then inquire of the priest about what he had heard. After the fourth call, Samuel stopped going to Eli, at

the priest's counsel, and responded to God's call, saying: "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."

In a Church now overflowing with Bibles, this is how each person should respond when he opens the Book: Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening and will obey.)

¹The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." ¹¹Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever." ¹⁵Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." ¹⁷And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told

you.” ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him.” ¹⁹And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord.

PSALM.....Psalm 139:1-10
(When we come together to worship the Lord, it is good to remember that each of us is always in the presence of God. He knows us even when we rest and sleep. Our thoughts are always known to him; we cannot shake him, even in our dreams. We cannot run away from God’s presence. This is frightening to many but for the faithful, it should be a comfort. When we have taken a wrong turn in life and end up where we should not be, God is present. If we end up being on the proposed mission to Mars, God is there. When we are committed to the grave, God is there with us.

Everywhere we go, his hand is upon us. The knowledge of this engagement of God with us is incomprehensibly wonderful.)

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

**² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.

**⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.**

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

**⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.**

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

**⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

(Desperation is a fairly normal response to the sin that surrounds us. On the road to despair is a sidetrack called escape. Some try to leave this world (1Cor 5:10) in the endeavor to flee immorality. Sin finds us down this lane too. I am reminded of Carlo Carretto, the desert monk, who finished off all the coffee one morning, purposely leaving none for his brothers. One will not escape trespasses even in the wilderness.

Proper, Christian flight from sin is not to flee sidelong at the next available exit, but to turn back to the Lord. Instead of clutching immorality, or even giving in to despair, we must take hold of Jesus. Turning again and again to the bosom of Christ is the only sure way to glorify God in this body. In this repentant embrace is the hope of faith in the one who paid the price to ransom us from lives of desperate futility. (1Pet 1:18-19)

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READINGJohn 1:43-51

(Here is an account of Christ's omniscience. Be sure that the Lord sees us, just as he saw Nathaniel. To this, Nathaniel acknowledged him as King of Israel. Jesus' response was that Nathaniel would see "greater things" than being known from afar.

When we understand that the Son of Man is the opener of heaven, we will know the true greatness of Jesus. Instead of looking to Jesus as one who frees us from captivity to oppressors, we must look to him as Redeemer, the one who frees us from bondage to sin and death.)

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

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

SERMON Pastor Chuck Mann

SPECIAL MUSIC Arden Wagner, Wendy Miller
Steph Mann, Brent Petersen
“Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak”

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for your tender mercies and for all that you have so faithfully provided for us. May our gifts be a sign of our love toward you and our desire to do your holy will. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Ⓜ The Lord be with you. Ⓜ And al - so with you.



Ⓜ Lift up your hearts. Ⓜ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san- na. Ho - san- na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

P: Words of Institution

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

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

(Single Aisle Station – one side at a time, social distancing)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have fed and refreshed us with this Holy Sacrament. Strengthen us in faith and fervent love toward one another, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, whose body and blood we have humbly received.

C: Amen.

HYMNOn Next Page
“Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult”

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

P: Go with the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and may the Light of God’s Word ever shine within your hearts and lives so that his holy name is praised throughout the world.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Let your light shine!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

494

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult Of our
 2 As of old St. An - drew heard it By the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of

life's wild, rest - less sea, Day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, Turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, From each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, Still he calls, in cares and

sound - ing, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
 kin - dred, Leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 keep us, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."

- 5 Jesus calls us! In your mercy,
 Savior, make us hear your call,
 Give our hearts to your obedience,
 Serve and love you best of all.

Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR Pastor Chuck Mann
ACOLYTES James Chrest & Alex Retterath
COMMUNION ASSISTANT Aaron Vorland
READER..... Aaron Vorland
ORGANIST Theresa Petersen
USHERS/GREETERS Mac & Judy Beaudry
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.

Welcome as we thank and worship God for his wonderful works and listen for his word to us today.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today.

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.

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 10th, Attendance – 85
Facebook Online Viewing - 40
General Fund & Plate Giving - \$3,867.00

Prayer Requests

Dawn Merrill – Aunt of Steph Mann, Shauntaye & Oaklynn Kopecky – Kurle family member, Mary Schulz, Ross Lorentzen, Gwen DeMontigny, Sandy Nelson – Daughter of Marian Meyer, Kayla Boger – Family member of Steve & Peggy Wollmuth, 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, John Krebsbach – Brother to Peggy Wollmuth, Arlo Omoth – Brother to Jeneen Loe, Shirley Nelson, Bob Miller, Rodney Jaeger

Steph Mann Phone Number

Please check to make sure you have the correct phone number for Steph Mann. It is 701-891-9413. If you are not getting replies back from her it may be that you have the wrong number that was published earlier.

Annual Meeting & Annual Reports

The annual meeting for FLC will be next Sunday, January 24th, following the worship service in the sanctuary. Annual reports are on the table in the narthex. Pick one up and look over before the meeting. Bring the report along back with you so we don't run out next week. 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!

Mailboxes

Please check your mailbox in the narthex. Your 2020 contribution statement, 2021 FLCW Books and 2021 offering envelopes are in your mailbox in the narthex for those that have not already picked theirs up. 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! Your box is the one under your name.

FLCW Movie Night

Women of all ages! Join us this Tuesday, January 19th, at 7:00 pm for movie night. We will be showing a chick flick, feel good movie in the sanctuary. Popcorn will be served. Bring your own non-alcoholic drink. This has been approved by the council and we will abide by COVID rules. Let's get together and have some fun!

Newsletter Deadline

Please have all articles for the February newsletter to the church office no later than noon this Wednesday, January 20th.

Deborah Bible Study

Deborah Bible Study will meet this Thursday, January 21st, at 9:30 am at the church. Mary Ann Beeks and Sharon Chrest host. Lesson will be Episode 1 and lessons 1 & 2.

Sunday School

Due to the annual meeting, there will be no Sunday school next Sunday, January 24th.

Secret Prayer Partner Tea

The Secret Prayer Partner Tea will be held on Sunday, February 14th, at 2:00 pm. If you would like your name removed from the list or would like your name added to the list, please let Jeannette know in the church office no later than February 11th.

Reminder

Bulletin deadline is noon on Thursday's unless otherwise stated in the bulletins.

Technology Special Committee

-Mission/Objective: The technology special committee will evaluate current technology resources such as: (program & equipment), use of social media platforms and will make recommendations to the council for better ways to use technology in the future. (Areas to be included but not limited to, FLC website, administration software, Social networking, audio/visual email, network etc.)

We are looking for 2-3 more committee members to join us to help guide meeting the above objective. Meetings will be held once per month possibly beginning in February 2021. We would especially like church members of varying ages to get varying opinions from youth all the way up to our most senior members who would like to help us! Please talk to Pastor Chuck with questions or to volunteer!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- ⇒ **Class:** We are looking at how many would be interested in a class to be scheduled in the future in learning how to knit or crochet. Please contact Jeannette and specify which you would like to learn and stay tuned for time/date TBA.
- ⇒ **Distribution of Shawls:** There will be a sheet located on top of the prayer shawl box. It will have a place for the *name of the person taking the shawl, number of shawls being taken and the recipient*. You do not need to fill out all of it, please at least fill out the number so we know how many shawls we have been able to provide. If you would like us to add the recipient to the prayer chain, please include the name.

Call to Prayer

Our missionary, Ruby from Pine Ridge is calling on all congregations near and far and the reservation to join in an hour of prayer where you are on Sunday, January 31, 1-2 pm. Please join in this time for unity and for our Nation.

Clapping During Worship

At FLC, we are so blessed with many gifted musicians that have been so willing to share their gift of music during this unprecedented time of change due to COVID-19. We are especially thankful for their time and energy to share their beautiful music with us each week. To help focus our hearts and minds on Jesus, please refrain from *clapping* during the service as their special music is taking place of the hymns in the normal liturgy of the divine service. The musicians understand that in reverence to God, it is their honor and service to God and congregation to bless us with their harmonious music.

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!

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 w/Holy Communion
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	7:00 PM	FLCW Movie Night
WED.	9:30 AM	Friendship Bible Study
	Noon	Newsletter Deadline
	6:15 PM	Confirmation
	6:45 PM	Bell Choir
	7:15 PM	FLY
	7:30 PM	Choir
THURS.	9:30 AM	Deborah Bible Study
SUNDAY	9:30 AM	Worship Annual Meeting following Worship <u>NO</u> Sunday School <u>NO</u> Bible Study Led by Alexis Solomonson
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting
	7:00 PM	Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after Epiphany – January 17, 2021

“Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathaniel and said to him, ‘We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth.’ Nathaniel said to him, ‘Can anything good come out of Nazareth?’ Philip said to him, ‘Come and see.’” – John 1:44-46

Philip gives us a wonderful example of how to talk about Jesus in a world that doesn't know him. How can you and I be the kind of person Philip was? Eager to share the good news with any and all who would listen? Jesus himself models this for us in the passage that's just before this one. Jesus noticed a couple of men sort of tagging along behind him. Verse 38 says, “Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, ‘What are you seeking?’”

These are the first words Jesus speaks in John's Gospel, and they come in the form of a question. What are you looking for? What do you really want? It's an open-ended question that Jesus is modeling for us; the kind of question that gives people an opportunity to share what's important to them. Everyone has a story, and Jesus wants to be part of it.

If we're going to be effective witnesses for Christ, it's not just about knowing His story and knowing our own story... It's also about knowing the story of the person that you're trying to reach... their joys and sorrows, their successes and failures, their hopes and dreams. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

Notice that Philip doesn't have all the answers before he invites his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus. Now, Nathanael is a skeptic, but notice that Philip doesn't try to argue him into believing. Then Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” To which Philip responded, “Come and see.” No pressure or guilt here. Actually, meeting Jesus was what changed Nathanael's mind. Philip's role was simply to pray for him and invite him. That's something all of us can do. We can pray daily for the one person that we will reach out to and lead to Jesus. That's how it works.

So, who is your one? Who is that one person you are dying to have meet and know Jesus? What are you waiting for? Tell them to “Come and See!”