



**December 15, 2024**  
**9:30 AM Worship**

First Lutheran Church  
709 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. – P.O. Box 218  
Washburn, North Dakota 58577  
[www.flcwashburn.com](http://www.flcwashburn.com)  
701-462-3775

# PRELUDE AND BELLS

## AS WE GATHER

*(God has blessed our lives in so many ways. Today we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus as our Sunday School children lead our worship service and present a Christmas Program. Together we prepare our hearts for the Savior's birth. Welcome to God's house!)*

## WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the  $\times$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## HYMN .....LBW #60 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

CHRISTMAS

60

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled."  
Late in time be-hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!  
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847*

MENDELSSOHN  
 77 77 D and refrain

## THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

**P:** The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burns brighter. Its radiance warms our hearts and brings us joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Together we rejoice.

**C:** "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, shall come home with shouts of joy." (Psalm 126:5-6).

*The first three candles are lit as we sing: LBW #34 v. 1*

***Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.***

**P:** Light three candles, see them glow  
Brightly, so that all may know  
How three candles show the way  
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

**C:** **“May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, shall come home with  
shouts of joy.”** (Psalm 126:5-6).

Together We Pray:

**Dear God, Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, so that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. May our spirits be kept sound as we look forward to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*We Sing: LBW #34 v. 5*

***Oh, come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.***

THE FIRST READING ..... Isaiah 7:10-14  
*(Through Isaiah the prophet, the Lord foretells the birth of the Messiah)*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup> And he said, “Hear then, O house of

David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

THE SECOND READING ..... Galatians 4:4-7  
*(God's timing is perfect. At just the right time for to bring about the Salvation of the world, the Savior was born.)*

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. <sup>6</sup> And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN - Shepherds

THE GOSPEL READING ..... Luke 2:1-16  
*(The birth of Jesus)*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

## THE CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

APOSTLES’ CREED.....p. 65

**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**

### OFFERING

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN – God’s Gift

### PRAYERS

**Reader One:** O Lord our God, we praise You with our whole heart.

**Reader Two:** You sent Jesus to be our Savior.

**Reader Three:** He is the greatest gift than anyone could ever receive.

**Reader Four:** For your unfailing love, we give you our thanks and praise.

**People:** When the time was right, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, so that all who trust and believe in Jesus as their Savior, might be made God's own children and heirs of eternal life.

**Reader One:** Our hearts are filled with joy and gladness;

**Reader Two:** Because through faith in Jesus, we can now call you our Father.

**Reader Three:** We confess, dear Father, that we are unworthy of this great gift.

**Reader Four:** Even though our sins are great, your mercy and forgiveness is greater.

**People:** To be released from the punishment our sins deserve, forgiven completely, and graciously made your child, is beyond our understanding. Thank you, Heavenly Father for loving us so completely.

**Reader One:** Take away our sinful desires.

**Reader Two:** Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

**Reader Three:** Teach us to walk in your ways.

**Reader Four:** Give us joy as we look forward to our Heavenly Home.

**People:** May the spirit of peace on earth and goodwill toward men, linger with us now and in the days to come. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's. Amen.

**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**    *Psalm 32:10*

**PASTOR AND CHILDREN TOGETHER:**

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to  
us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ✠ give us peace.

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

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN .....LBW #70**

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**



## Go Tell It on the Mountain

70

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night, Be -  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When, lo, a - bove the earth Rang  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born; And

hold, through-out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*Refrain*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for coffee and fellowship hour following worship.

## DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

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### Today's Worship Leaders & Volunteers – Thank You!

PASTOR ..... Pastor Paul Krueger  
ACOLYTES ..... Danica Carlson & Kesia Boeshans  
USHERS/GREETERS ..... Sunday School  
MUSICIANS ..... Pastor Paul Krueger & Jada Vetter  
ALTAR GUILD ..... Theresa Petersen  
FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR ..... Sunday School  
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS .... Larry & Kathy Keller  
Eric & Sarah Rosenquist

Bailiff: Collins Albers  
Judge: Callie Lorentzen  
Prosecutor: Sonora Carlson  
Defense Attorney: Ayzlee Carlson  
Josiah: Maxwell Vetter  
Abel: Audrey Torrez  
Seth: Bentley Erber  
Sophia Busybody: Lydia Ternes  
Mrs. GottaLotta: Adley Sheldon  
Dr. Fruitcake: Ellie Vetter  
Baltasar: Liam Solomonson  
Pantomime Shepherds: Jayden Sheldon, Camryn Swanson,  
Jed Ternes and Sage Hardt  
Archangel: Remi Solomonson  
Angels: Paizley Schmitz, Myla Vetter, Charlee Sheldon,  
Landrie Having, and Harlee Patterson  
Mary: Avery Wachendorf  
Joseph: Kane Sheldon  
Pantomime Wisemen: Eli Schmidt, Porter Kadrmas, Kale  
Kroll, Jamison Vetter, Case Torrez  
Scripture Readers: Tia Vetter and Blaik Havig  
Program Attendants: Henry Hardt, Calvin Lauf, Wylder Winn  
and Gracie Patterson  
Ushers: Taylor Sheldon and Ruger Hans  
Closing Prayers: Elise Rosenquist, Kimber Hans, Laney  
Sheldon, Toivo Wuolu  
Offering: Paisley Lorentzen, Jerzey Stockert, Colt  
Holznagel, and Brystal Brandt

Kindergarten Poem Presenters: Brooks Wachendorf, Brady  
Sheldon, Owen Ternes, Zyden Vetter, Orrin Sheldon, Colbie  
Swanson, Tory Sheldon, and Kinley Wimer

Preschool Poem: Jeremiah Vetter, Jed Hardt, Karly Hoff,  
Layla Lauf, Keegan Leingang, Bellamy Backman, Racin  
Backman, Reino Wuolu, Millie Ternes, Lexi Rosenquist,  
Vada Vetter, Crosby Winn, Mavery Carlson, Thaylen  
Carlson, Hazel Murrey, Daniel Walsvik and Adelynn  
Schmidt

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PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: [revpaulkrueger@gmail.com](mailto:revpaulkrueger@gmail.com)

Cell phone: 701-240-4712

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: [flc@westriv.com](mailto:flc@westriv.com)

Website: [www.flcwashburn.com](http://www.flcwashburn.com)

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa  
Rothe

Email: [fly@westriv.com](mailto:fly@westriv.com)

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30

W – 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

## **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! Isaiah declares: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (12:3, NRSV). May we be nourished by God’s gift of salvation as we worship.

## **Visitors**

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

## **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 8<sup>th</sup>, Attendance – 104

General Fund & Plate Giving - \$4,854.00

## **Hearing Assist**

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

## **Pastoral Care**

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not 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!

### *This week we pray for:*

**This Week's New Prayer Requests:** Tom Merkel

## **Prayers of Christian Sympathy:**

### *Long Term prayer requests:*

**Members:** Alton Krebsbach, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

\* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

### *This month we pray for:*

**Members:** Roger Holznagel, Bob Weisgarber, Joan Zimmerman

## **Friends & Family:**

### *This Quarter we pray for:*

**Members and Nonmembers:** Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson), Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

## **Military Prayer and Card List**

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

- **Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:**  
SGT Bryce Rost – Army National Guard  
SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed  
SPC Cassidy Sommer – National Guard  
SGT Jonathan Melvard – Army National Guard
- **Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:**  
SGT Dustin Enockson – National Guard  
Emily Johnson – Air Force  
Bryar Anderson – Marines  
1SGT Jordan Ternes – Army National Guard  
Tech. SGT Andre Austin – Air Force  
Hunter Feigum – National Guard  
Morris Duffy – Medical Air Guard  
Adam Walsvik – National Guard  
SGT Tom Heidelberger – Army  
2LT Tony Heidelberger – Air Force

### ***Notice of Prayer List Policy***

We have a monthly/quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our “This Quarter we pray for:” list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God’s people.

## **Large Print Bulletins**

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

## **Thank You**

Thank you, Sunday School for sharing with us the story of the birth of Jesus. Following the service the Sunday School will be serving special treats during fellowship/coffee hour.

## **Lefse Fundraiser**

Lefse order forms are available in the Narthex or on the Facebook page. \$15 per half dozen. All lefse must be picked up by 11:30 am on Sunday, December 22nd.

Lefse making pros: we would love your help on Saturday at 10 am in the basement to make the lefse! Please let Melissa Rothe or Susann Krueger know TODAY if you are able to help us!

## **Office Hours**

Jeannette will be in the office this week Monday thru Thursday. She will be out on Friday and back in on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Church Council**

Church council will meet this Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm.

## **Newsletter Deadline**

With the Christmas holiday next week, please have all articles for the January newsletter to the church office no later than noon this Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **2025 Offering Envelopes**

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick yours up to use next year if you have not already done so. If you don't see one for yourself and would like one, please talk to Jeannette.

## **Poinsettias**

It's that time of year again to decorate the church with Poinsettias. First Lutheran has purchased 30 poinsettias from Frontier Floral to decorate our poinsettia tree at a cost of \$18.00 each. If you would like to purchase one, please fill out a form that is in the narthex or your December newsletter. Bring the form and \$18.00 for each to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. You are also welcome to purchase your own some other place, fill out a form and bring it to the church office by December 19<sup>th</sup>. As of the printing of this bulletin there are still 9 poinsettias left to be spoken for.

## **Connections Magazine**

The November/December issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to read updates on LCMC, NALC and other interesting articles.

## **Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer**

The December/January/February issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the January – March 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

## **COMMUNITY AND AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ⇒ Washburn School is looking for families that would like to host students on storm days when they can't make it home from school. If you would be interested in hosting, please contact Megan Leingang at the school 701-462-3221.
- ⇒ **Holiday Gift Wrapping Party** at Washburn United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 pm. Let's celebrate the season and get our wrapping done together! Bring your presents and paper, enjoy Christmas music, snacks, and fun with friends as you leisurely wrap your presents.
- ⇒ **Nativity Walk** on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at Washburn United Methodist Church. Bring a special nativity and share its story. Enjoy hearing the history of the nativity and singing Christmas songs!



## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

TODAY	9:30 AM	Worship – Sunday School Program
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	<b><u>NO</u></b> Sunday School Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting
MON.	6:30 PM	Church Council Meeting
TUES.	8:00 AM	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 AM	Mommy's Group
	NOON	Newsletter Deadline
WED.	9:30 AM	Friendship Bible Study
	5:30 PM	Confirmation Meal
	6:15 PM	Confirmation 10-12 Grade FLY
	7:00 PM	Choir
	7:45 PM	7-9 Grade FLY
SUN.	9:30 AM	Worship – w/Holy Communion
	10:30 AM	Fellowship/Coffee Hour
	10:45 AM	Sunday School Fireside Bible Study
	7:00 PM	AA Meeting Al-Anon Meeting

**December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
**4:30 PM & 6:30 PM**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**  
**w/Holy Communion**

# *Listening for the Promise*

## **Sola Publishing – Weekly Devotions**

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 2024

SOWeR Site — Weekly Devotional © Sola Publishing: [www.solapublishing.com](http://www.solapublishing.com), 2024, written by Peggy Hoppes. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.”*

*- Philippians 4:4 -7*

### **True Joy and Peace**

The Christmas season is supposed to be a happy time, but the hustle and bustle makes it stressful. Demands from co-workers and family give us little room to rest. Exhaustion leads to illness, which makes everything harder. There is not enough time to do everything, not enough energy to accomplish all the tasks, and not enough laughter to get us through. It is made especially difficult when faced with people who expect that smile on your face at every moment. “What is the matter with you, it’s Christmas!”

We can’t be happy all the time, though it sounds like this is what Paul expects; we are to rejoice in the Lord always. In everything we do, in everything we are, we are to live in the joy that is found in our relationship with God. We are to trust that God is greater than our exhaustion and busy-ness. During Christmas we recognize the coming of God in flesh, we honor and remember the child in the manger. However, we aren’t waiting just for Christ the King to come again. He is here now, dwelling amongst us, walking with us, guiding us, loving us with a tender and compassionate love. We can rejoice in the Lord always because He is always with us. In good times and bad, we can trust God because He is always faithful to His promises.

The joy and peace of Christmas is not what most people are seeking at this time of year. As a matter of fact, it is the very seeking of external joy and peace that makes us even more stressed. As we chase after laughs and good feelings, we lose sight of the real source of our joy and peace. We are to keep our eyes, and our hearts, on true joy. When peace dwells in our hearts, we have a whole new perspective about the world around us. Instead of being stressed by too much, we remember the one thing that truly brings joy: Jesus.