

ADVENT OF GRATITUDE

December 1 through December 24

This year our Advent of Gratitude project will benefit the Launch Pad, a new program for homeless families in Alexandria, facilitated through West Central Communities Action. A Christmas tree will be set up in the Gathering Space with ornaments representing a variety of items and donation amounts to assist this program. You are invited to take an ornament off the tree and place your donation under the same tree.

LECTIO DIVINA IN ADVENT

Friday, December 6, 13 and 20 | 9:00am or 10:30am | Prayer Room

Lectio Divina is a slow, contemplative form of prayer using a text. It is not a Bible study, but rather an ancient practice of “listening with the ear of our heart” to what God might be saying through the chosen reading. Each week, the readings will use the Bible readings included in worship. These sessions will be facilitated by Cher Larson. Each session is limited to six participants. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

SANTA FOR SENIORS

Santa for Seniors and area youth will be delivering baskets and the Christmas spirit to seniors 65+ in our wonderful community again this year. Deliveries will take place December 11 and 12. For more information about how you can be involved, please contact Bruce Wiitanen at 320-808-4031 or visit www.santaforseniorsalex.org.

GREEN WARRIORS

Seeking inter-generational members passionate about helping with a lay-led recycling and organics ministry. Anyone interested can sign up at the Welcome Center or text, call, or email Rita Ellenberger at 320-808-8054 or ellenbergerrita220@gmail.com.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & BUDGET UPDATE

Sunday, December 8 | 10:00am | Room 1A

Please join us for this opportunity to learn about and discuss our mission, the 2020 budget, the status of the present Capital Campaign, and plans for the next campaign beginning this spring.

ADVENT MEDITATION SERVICE

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 | 12:10-12:40pm | Room 1A

Give yourself a 30 minute break from the rush of Christmas. Join us for meditation and prayer.

WEEKEND HOSPITALITY POSITION OPENING

This part time, rotating, position will be responsible for locking and unlocking the building for weekend worship and events, coffee and treats preparation before and after worship, lighting candles, securing the offering, cleaning up before and after worship, overseeing the scheduled volunteers and to be alert to the needs of the congregation. Please pick up an application at the Welcome Center or reach out to Greg Tvrdik with any questions.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Tuesday, December 24

10:30am | Children's Worship
2:00 & 4:00pm | Worship
6:00 & 9:00pm | Candlelight Worship

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church, where faith and life meet!

OUR MISSION

First Lutheran is a vibrant Christian community where faith and life meet through worship, learning and serving in Jesus' name.

MORE INFORMATION

Volunteers and staff are available before and after worship services to assist you. Children's bulletins and children's worship bags are available for use on the tables outside of the Sanctuary. The nursery is available and staffed on Sundays and Wednesdays during worship for children ages 0-5. Hearing assist devices are available at the Welcome Center. Monthly Financials and Vision Team Meeting Minutes are available at the Welcome Center.

LEARN MORE AT

FIRSTLUTHERANALEXANDRIA.COM/EVENTS
or stop by the Welcome Center for our monthly calendar.

PRAYER REQUESTS | HOSPITAL VISITS

If you have a prayer request or if you or a loved one are hospitalized and would like a visit, please call or email the church office at 320-762-2196 or admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

GIVING

Offering envelopes are available on the tables outside of the Sanctuary. You can also give by texting 320.500.6014 or by visiting us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com/your-gift.

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Greg Billberg, Lead Pastor
Kari van Wakeren, Associate Pastor
Ben Jacobson, Associate Pastor
Randy Morken, Director of Music and Liturgy



1655 18th Ave E
Alexandria, MN 56308
320.762.2196

Emergency After Hours Phone Number: 320.219.5492

For more information, visit us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com.



SATURDAY | 11.23.19 | 5:00PM
SUNDAY | 11.24.19 | 8:30AM

WELCOME AND GREETING

GATHERING SONG

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come #693

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

We take a moment to be still, confess our sins, and receive God’s forgiveness. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy...that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C: Amen.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Loving God,
C: your goodness comes to us new every day. Continue to guide us through your spirit to acknowledge your grace, give thanks for your benefits, and willingly serve you. In Jesus' name. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00) Gospel 4+
(8:30) Kids Choir Peace in Christ

CHILDREN’S TIME

(8:30) Congregation sings He’s Got the Whole World as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
SERMON Pastor Greg Billberg

SERMON SONG

Great is Thy Faithfulness (vs. 1 and 2) #733

CONFESSION OF FAITH WE CONFESS OUR SHARED FAITH.
Apostles’ Creed

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING WE RETURN TO GOD A PORTION OF OUR BLESSINGS.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Blessed are you,
C: O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness, you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (5:00)

LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION (5:00)
All are welcome. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG (5:00) Lamb of God

COMMUNION BLESSING (5:00)

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

BENEDICTION GOD’S BLESSING IS SPOKEN OVER US.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL WE DEPART TO SERVE CHRIST IN THE WORLD.

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
P: And all God’s children said,
C: Amen!

SENDING

Let All Things Now Living #881

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Robert Thompson, Karin Senstad
HEALTH CONCERNS: Bob Brown; Faith Prigge; Julie Frovarp; Pam Johnson.
In honor of International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, we pray for all those whose lives have been affected by suicide.
SYMPATHY: Kathy & Vinal Franson on the death of sister-in-law Ruth Kalpin, Kim Schultz and Sonja Schultz on the death of their son Hunter, and Caitlyn on the death of her brother.
BIRTH: Blessings to Brooke and Scott Sievers and Family on the birth of their twins.

RADIO BROADCAST

This week’s radio broadcast is in memory of Chuck Erickson, given by Jean and family.

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Wednesday, November 27 | 6:30-7:30pm | St. Mary's Church
You are invited as we join St. Mary’s and all of the Alexandria ELCA congregations to Thanksgiving Eve worship. There will be a combined choir that will practice one hour prior to worship. If you are interested in participating in the choir, please email Ruth Blom at shalomdeacon84@gmail.com. There will be no Wednesday night programming, meal, or worship at FLC.

UNITED WAY COAT DRIVE

Now through Wednesday, November 27
Boots, waterproof mittens, hats, scarves, snowpants...all sizes needed (children, men and adult plus sizes are in short supply)! Donations can be brought to 503 Hawthorne Street or the FLC Welcome Center.

LIVING NATIVITY

Sunday, December 8 | 3:00-6:00pm | FLC Parking Lot
You are invited to join us as we bring the Nativity story to life. The walk through will take place from 3:00-3:45pm. The drive through will begin at 3:45pm and conclude at 6:00pm. The set up of the scenes and backdrops will begin at 9:00am on Saturday 12/7; detailed set-up will happen at noon on 12/8. There are many ways to help. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Saturday, December 14 | 5:00pm | Sanctuary
Please join us as we enjoy this year’s Children’s Christmas Program titled I Love to Tell the Story.

WELCA LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 5 | 11:30am | Room 1A
Women of all ages are encouraged to attend the monthly WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) gatherings. Join us for our program, Advent Devotion Time with Marilee Bergerson.