

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS

November 30 - December 15

If you wish to remember or honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia plant in their name, you may do so by completing the form at the Welcome Center. Mail it, bring it to the church office, or drop it off at the Welcome Center by December 15. If you are ordering more than one plant, please use a separate order form for each additional plant. All plants are \$20 and payment is required with your order. Please make checks out to First Lutheran Church with poinsettia in the memo line.

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 is 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, Dec. 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, we 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.

ADVENT MEDITATION SERVICE

Monday, December 2, 9, 16, and 23 | 12:10-12:40pm | Sanctuary

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

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

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Thursday, December 12 | 6:30-7:30am | Gathering Space

Join us on the second Thursday of each month (September through May) for a great breakfast and speaker! All men are welcome.

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 | 11.30.19 | 5:00PM
SUNDAY | 12.01.19 | 8:30AM

WELCOME AND GREETING

TEMPLE TALK

GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #254

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free.

C: Amen.

We quiet our hearts in order to connect with the living God, to confess our sins, and to be made whole. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, as we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
C: we open our hearts to you. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. We confess our sins to you, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: You are God’s beloved children...Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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: God of the promised Messiah,
C: As we wait for the fulfillment of your promise, we watch, we listen, and we open our hearts for your Word. Show us signs of your presence: a light in the darkness, a voice in the silence, and a stirring deep within us. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00) Gracie Lewis
(8:30) Chancel Choir Advent Hymn.....arr. Martin

CHILDREN’S TIME

(8:30) Congregation sings Give Me Oil in my Lamp as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-18
Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-29
The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Kari van Wakeren

SERMON SONG

Blessed Be the God of Israel #250

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: Giver of every good thing,
C: we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:30)

LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION (8:30)

All are welcome. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG (8:30) Lamb of God

COMMUNION BLESSING (8:30)

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

Joy to the World (vs. 1,2,4) #267

PRAYERS

BAPTISM: (10:00) Tucker Gregory Gruenes, son of Michael and Lisa Gruenes
HOSPITALIZATIONS: Karin Senstad, Evelyn Peterson, Jan Holverson, Chloe Lannes
HEALTH CONCERNS: Bob Brown, Pam Thompson, Robert Thompson
SYMPATHY: Marge Van Gorp on the death of her son-in-law Arturo Orosco

RADIO BROADCAST

This week’s radio broadcast is given by Carol Feldmann, in memory of her parents, Robert and Doris Feldmann.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Thank you to everyone who helped make our First Annual Christmas Boutique possible! Thank you for the baked goodies, rolled lefse, handmade crafts and everything else that went into making this a successful event. We raised over \$13,200 after expenses were deducted. We will be tithing 10% of the proceeds to the Advent of Gratitude Launch Pad Project to purchase appliances for the home. Some of these funds will also be used for purchasing seasonal decor and artwork for the Gathering Space.