

### LECTIO DIVINA IN ADVENT

**Friday, Dec 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.

### SR FLY ALUMNI CHRISTMAS REUNION

**Sunday, December 22 | 6:00-7:30pm | Commons Area**

Gathering for former FLC students and their families/spouses/etc. If you graduated within the past 10 years and would like to join us, you and your family are invited! This is a time to come together and celebrate past memories and re-connect with friends in faith. Light appetizers will be served.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT

As you make your plan for year-end giving, would you consider making a special Christmas gift to First Lutheran Church? All gifts received are tax deductible before 4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2019 and will be credited to your 2019 giving record for tax purposes. Special Christmas envelopes were mailed to you, or you can pick one up at the Welcome Center. Thank You.

### GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY

**Mondays, Jan 6, 13, 20, 27 | 10:00-11:00am | Room 1A**

Led by Pastor Greg Billberg. This study offers an overview of the gospel of Mark, which is the assigned gospel for worship in the new year. No experience with Bible Study is necessary.

### INTRO TO THE BIBLE

**Thurs, Jan 9, 16, 23 | 6:30-7:30pm | Gathering Space**

Led by Pastor Marilee Bergerson, this study is for anyone at any age. It will start as an introduction to the Bible but will then continue into a Bible study (reading/discussion from the Bible) weekly going forward for those who are interested. No homework and no special books to purchase.

### 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](mailto:admin@firstlutheranalexandria.com).

### GIVING OPTIONS

Offering envelopes are available on the tables outside of the Sanctuary. You can also give by texting 320.500.6014, by using the giving kiosk located next to the Welcome Center, or by visiting us online at [firstlutheranalexandria.com/your-gift](http://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 weather related announcements, check our website, Facebook page, KXRA Radio 100.3 or Voice of Alexandria.

WELCOME  
TO  
WORSHIP  
THANK YOU FOR COMING



SUNDAY | 12.15.19 | 8:30AM



WELCOME AND GREETING

GATHERING SONG

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn #242

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

**C:** Stir up in us the will to follow you, O God. Strengthen our faith, that transformed by your grace, we may walk in your way, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir Christmas Communion Song.....Callaway

CHILDREN’S TIME

Congregation sings *He’s Got the Whole World* as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-3, 5-6, 10  
*Word of God. Word of Life.*  
**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:47-55  
*The Gospel of the Lord.*  
**C:** Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Greg Billberg

SERMON SONG

*He Came Down* #253

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

LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

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

COMMUNION SONG

*Lamb of God*

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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

*Prepare the Royal Highway* (vs. 1,2,4) #264

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Ted Lohrman, Evelyn Peterson  
HEALTH CONCERNS: Bob Brown, Pam Johnson, Karin Senstad, Dan Zismer, Matt Adolphsen, Norm Anderson  
SYMPATHY: Michelle Kujawa & Shane Johnson Family on the death of Michelle's Brother Beau; Patricia and Ken Gelling and son Hunter on the death of Patricia's Mom Betty Romann

RADIO BROADCAST

This week’s radio broadcast is in memory of Ron Domschot, given by Glee and family.

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

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**  
A big thanks to all who have participated in our Advent of Gratitude project. This year it benefits the Launch Pad, a new program for homeless families in Alexandria, facilitated through West Central Communities Action. A Christmas tree is next to the Welcome Center 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.

ADVENT MEDITATION SERVICE

**Monday, December 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.