

**SR FLY ALUMNI CHRISTMAS REUNION**

**Sunday, December 22 | 6:00-7:30pm | Gathering Space**

This gathering is 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 4:00pm 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, January 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 original gospel for worship in the new year. No experience with Bible study is necessary.

**INTRO TO THE BIBLE**

**Thursdays, January 9, 16, 23 | 6:30-7:30pm | Gathering Space**

Led by Pastor Marilee Bergerson, this study is for anyone and all ages. 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.

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

**Monday, January 13 | 6:30-7:30pm | Room 1A**

Please join us if you are interested in membership at First Lutheran or just interested in learning more about our ministry and congregation. Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, January 12. A light snack will be provided. Childcare will be available.

**ISRAEL/JORDAN TRIP**

**October 27, 2020 - November 7, 2020**

Join us as we travel to the Holy Land. For more information, pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center or talk with Pastor Greg.

**WEATHER RELATED TEXT MESSAGING**

Sign up for weather related text messaging by texting @flcweather to 81010.

**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 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.

**OUR PASTORS**

Greg Billberg, Lead Pastor  
Kari van Wakeren, Associate Pastor  
Ben Jacobson, Associate Pastor



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.com



**SUNDAY | 12.22.19 | 8:30AM**



**WELCOME AND GREETING****GATHERING SONG***The First Noel* (vs. 1,2,4)

#300

**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 prophets,*

**C:** You sent John into the world to proclaim the coming of your Son. Give us ears to hear the proclamations of your promises and eyes to see your presence in this world. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

(8:30) Randy and Mary Morken

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

(8:30) Congregation sings *Jesus Loves Me* as children come forward.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

First Reading: Psalm 113

*Word of God. Word of Life.*

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:57-66

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

Pastor Kari van Wakeren

**SERMON SONG**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vs. 1,6,7)

#257

**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.

**LORD'S PRAYER****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 SONG**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

#270

**PRAYERS**

HEALTH CONCERNS: Lois Lubeck, Evelyn Peterson, Bob Brown, Pam Johnson, Norm Anderson, Karin Senstad, Don Gayken, Sandy Bloomquist

SYMPATHY: Linda Zismer and family on the death of Dan

**RADIO BROADCAST**

This week's radio broadcast is given by Joyce Clark with gratitude for the broadcast.

**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

**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 23 | 12:10-12:40pm | Sanctuary**

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

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & BUDGET UPDATE**

**Sunday, January 5 and 19 | 9:30am | 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.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

**Monday, January 6 | 10:00-11:30pm | Room 1A**

This group meets the first Monday of the month. Anyone who is experiencing any type of grief is welcome.