

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.

ADVENT MEDITATION SERVICE

Monday, Dec 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.

LECTIO DIVINA IN ADVENT

Friday, Dec. 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.

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! 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.

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, please contact Bruce Wiitanen at 320-808-4031 or visit www.santaforseniorsalex.org.

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 weather related announcements, check our website, Facebook page, KXRA Radio 100.3 or Voice of Alexandria.

WELCOME
TO
WORSHIP
THANK YOU FOR COMING



SATURDAY | 12.7.19 | 5:00PM
SUNDAY | 12.8.19 | 8:30AM

WELCOME AND GREETING**GATHERING SONG***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

#244

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: *Holy Lord,*

C: A voice has been heard in the wilderness preparing the way for your son to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your son and help us to prepare for his coming. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00) Roger & Barb Riley

(8:30) Chancel Choir *Prepare the Way of the Lord*.....Rowan

CHILDREN'S TIME

(8:30) Congregation sings *Halle, Halle, Halle* as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-4

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Ben Jacobson

SERMON SONG

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

#249

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 (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

People, Look East

#248

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Karin Senstad, Carol Westpahl

HEALTH CONCERNS: Bob Brown, Pam Johnson, Robert Thompson, Karen Freund, Evelyn Peterson

SYMPATHY: Cindy Bigger on the death of her brother

RADIO BROADCAST

This week's radio broadcast is given by Sharon, Jason, Amie, and families in memory of Dave Heinrich, who has been gone 10 years.

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.

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.

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*.

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.

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.