

**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.

**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.

**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.

**BAPTISM CLASS**

**Thursday, January 9 | 6:30-7:00pm | Sanctuary**

This class is for anyone interested in baptism at First Lutheran. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Thursday, January 9 | 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 WELCOME JIM LADOUX**

The weekend of January 11-12, Jim Ladoux, our coach from Vibrant Faith, will be with us in worship and sharing the message. Jim's message will kick off a sermon series that highlights the work the staff and Vision Team have been doing over the past year related to our mission and values and living into the church God is calling us to be in this time and place. We hope you are able to join us!

**FAMILY BLESSING**

In worship the week of January 11-15, we will offer a family blessing at all worship services. This is a meaningful time where you are invited to receive a personal prayer and blessing as a household unit. Whether you live alone or with others, you are a part of our First Lutheran family and we want to bless and support you as you live out your faith and life.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

You are invited to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry! We meet monthly October through May at 2:00pm in Room 1A, immediately following the WELCA luncheons. You can also participate from your home.

**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 or Voice of Alexandria.com



**SATURDAY | 12.28.19 | 5:00PM**  
**SUNDAY | 12.29.19 | 8:30AM**



**WELCOME AND GREETING****GATHERING SONG***O Come, All Ye Faithful*

#283

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, love from the beginning, word made flesh, breath of heaven.*

**C:** Amen.

*Let us confess our sinfulness before God and one another, trusting in God's endless mercy and love. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** *Merciful God,*

**C:** we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.

**P:** *Dear people of God, hear the good news: Christ the Savior is born! You are loved and forgiven in the name of † Jesus, who has come among us. You are freed from proving that you deserve to be loved, because God's love is given to you as the most precious gift of all. Rejoice in this love and share it with the world.*

**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:** *Heavenly God,*

**C:** when Jesus was baptized by John in the wilderness, you claimed him as your son. Claim us as your children, inheritors of your glorious kingdom. Amen.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

(5:00)

(8:30)

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

(8:30) Congregation sings *He Came Down (vs.1)* as children come forward.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

First Reading: Psalm 91:9-12

*Word of God. Word of Life.*

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-20

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**SERMON**

Paige Mackedanz

**SERMON SONG**

*The First Noel*

#300

**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:** *Generous God,*

**C:** move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****BENEDICTION** GOD'S BLESSING IS SPOKEN OVER US.

**P:** Grace from God's own heart, peace from the † Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of life be blessings for you today and forever.

**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**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

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**PRAYERS**

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Lucille Christensen

HEALTH CONCERNS: Renata Grant, Lois Lubeck, Karin Senstad, Evelyn Peterson, Bob Brown, Pam Johnson, Norm Anderson, Don Gayken, Sandy Bloomquist, John Schroeder, Julie Frovarp

SYMPATHY TO: Alan Iverson & Stacey Lhotka and family on the death of Alan's Dad

BIRTHS: Congratulations to Joni and Ethan Gullicks on the birth of their new baby, Callahan

**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.

**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.

**WEATHER RELATED TEXT MESSAGING**

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