

SABBATICAL OVERVIEW

Thursday, November 29 | 9:00-10:00am | Family Room

Come learn more about Pastor Kari's sabbatical theme and focus, in addition to upcoming events and opportunities for the congregation to explore writing as a spiritual practice.

CHRISTMAS STORE

Sunday, December 9 | 8:00am-1:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Children age 3 - 5th grade enjoy shopping for their loved ones for Christmas! Everything is \$1 and will be wrapped and ready to put under the tree! Money raised goes to help families who are going through tough times so they can have a better Christmas. Please donate any new or gently used items that would be appropriate for a child to give as a gift. Collection bins will be located by the Welcome Center. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office.

THANKSGIVING EVE COMMUNITY WORSHIP

Wed, Nov 21 | 6:30-7:30pm | St. Mary's Church

You are invited as we join St. Mary's and all of the Alexandria ELCA congregations to Thanksgiving Eve worship. There will be a combined choir that will practice 45 minutes prior to worship. If you are interested in participating in the choir, email Randy Morken at randy.morken@firstlutheranalexandria.com. There will be no Wednesday night programming/meal/worship at FLC.

WELCA CHRISTMAS POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Thurs, Dec 6 | 12:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Women of all ages are welcome to attend this Christmas WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) celebration.

NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

Thurs, Dec 6 | 6:00-7:00 | Family Room

New Members who have joined FLC in the past year are invited to come for a time of fellowship, treats, and the music of the AAHS Carolers!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Monday, December 24

10:30am | Christmas Eve Children's Worship

2:00pm | Christmas Eve Worship

4:00pm | Christmas Eve Worship

6:00pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

9:00pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

BULLETIN FOLDING VOLUNTEER

We are in need of one more bulletin folding volunteer to help fold and stuff bulletins on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month at 11:00am beginning in January. If interested, please contact Sara Renney, Communications Coordinator, at communications@firstlutheranalexandria.com.

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 committed to connecting faith and life for people of all ages 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 Worship Bags are available for use at the back of the Sanctuary. Our Lil' Kingdom Kids/Nursery is open and staffed during the 8:30am, 9:45am and 6:15pm worship. It is open for use but unstaffed at the 11:00am worship service. It is located on the preschool level of the building in the Rainbow Room.

LEARN MORE AT

FIRSTLUTHERANALEXANDRIA.COM/EVENTS or stop by the Welcome Center for our Weekly or 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 located in each pew. 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



822 Douglas Street
Alexandria, MN 56308
320.762.2196

Emergency After Hours Phone Number: 320.219.5492

For more information, visit us online at firstlutheranalexandria.com.

Welcome
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE



SATURDAY | 11.17.18
SUNDAY | 11.18.18

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

TEMPLE TALK

GATHERING SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45)

Come All You People

#819

(11:00)

Forever

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: *Blessed be the †Holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.*
C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. Silence for reflection.

P: *Source of all life,*
C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: *God hears our cry...in the name of Jesus Christ.*
C: Amen.

GREETING

P: *The Lord be with you.*
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: God, there is little peace in our world. In our country, party opposes party. People attack people. And in the world, nation rises up against nation. Inspire in our hearts a longing for peace, and where we are able, grant us the will and the ability to be peacekeepers. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00)Randy and Mary Morken

(8:30/9:45)Kids Choir

CHILDREN’S TIME

(8:30/9:45/11:00) Congregation sings *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING

See insert.
First Reading: *Isaiah 37:1-7, 2:2-4*
Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: *Matthew 5:14-16*
The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Kari van Wakeren

SERMON SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45)

Will You Come and Follow Me

#798

(11:00)

Blessed Be Your Name

CONFESSION OF FAITH

WE CONFESS OUR SHARED FAITH.
Apostles’ Creed: on back cover of ELW hymnal.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: *God of life*
C: you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

(8:30/9:45/11:00) See back cover of ELW
DISTRIBUTION
All are welcome. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG

(8:30/9:45/11:00) *Lamb of God*, p. 112
COMMUNION BLESSING
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: *Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*
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 SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45)

Have You Thanked the Lord (vs. 1&3)

#829

(11:00)

My Life is in You Lord

Lyrics on Screen

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Archie Zeithamer, Warren Olson, Clarette Johnson, Kay Rhodes

RADIO BROADCAST

This week’s radio broadcast is given by Priscilla, Matthew, Mark and family in memory of Tom Reineke.

THANKS FOR GIVING CHILDREN & YOUTH FUNDRAISER

November 7-28 | West Entry
We are raising funds to help with summer trips and scholarships for the many young people who participate in FLC programming. Envelopes are located by the West Entry. Each envelope is marked with a number. Choose a number and fill it with the designated dollar amount. Take as many envelopes as you want! You can pay cash, by check (made out to FLC with Thanks for Giving in the memo line) or online in the *Thanks for Giving* category. Payments can be turned in through the office or offering plate. Thanks for your support!

LIVING NATIVITY

Sat, Dec 1 | 4:30-7:30pm | FLC
Walk-through from 4:30-5:15pm and drive-through starting at 5:15pm. Sign-up sheets for actors/actresses/helpers will be in the East Entry by the stairs. Roles are available for all ages—for individuals or families—and we can’t do it without you. Contact Roger Thalman at 320.491.2027 with any questions. Monetary donations are needed to defray the cost of the camels, sheep and donkeys.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS MUSIC CLASSES

December 7 & December 14 | 8:45-9:30am | Fellowship Hall
This free music class is for children ages18mos-4yrs and a parent. Bring your friends! Celebrate the reason for the season with your little ones. Christmas songs, movement, rhythm instruments and treats. Please bring a music-inspired donation (toy instrument, CD, musical books, etc.) for the United Way Toy Shelf. No registration necessary. Come to one or both classes. Instructor: Paula Odland, FLC Children's Music Ministry Director. Call or text 320-760-5917 with questions.

ADVENT OF GRATITUDE

November 28-December 24 | West Entry
The Advent of Gratitude Project this year is in support of the ELCA World Hunger ministry through the ELCA Good Gifts Program. Stay tuned for more information to come beginning the weekend of December 1-2.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

A donation toward LDR provides help and hope to people recovering from wildfires and hurricanes. Call 800.638.3522 or pick up an information sheet at the Welcome Center for more information.