

NO 11:00AM WORSHIP

Because of the Christmas and New Year’s holidays, there will be no 11:00am worship on Sunday, Dec 23 and Sunday, Dec 30.

WELCA DESSERT & COFFEE

Thurs, January 3 | 12:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Women of all ages are encouraged to attend the monthly WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) gatherings.

GUEST SPEAKER

The weekend of December 29-30, Henri Santelman, a member of First Lutheran and student at Gustavus Adolphus College, will be preaching during all three worship services (5:00pm, 8:30am, and 9:45am). We hope you are able to join us in supporting Henri and hear his message about finding comfort in God through times of stress or anxiety about the future.

MAY OUR WORD BE MADE FLESH: WRITING AS DOWN TO EARTH SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Mondays, January 7-21 | 9:00-11:00am | Family Room

During this workshop led by Mara Faulkner, OSB, from the College of St. Benedict, we will “listen with the ears of our hearts,” to the voices inside and outside our lives that are begging for honest expression. Provocative readings, shared silence, the company of others, and our own courage may lead us to discover new insights into our lives and the life of our world. Writers of all levels and of all kinds are welcome, as are people who don’t even consider themselves writers. Sign up at the Welcome Center by January 1.

LINKING OUR PAST WITH OUR FUTURE

Sunday, February 24 | 2:00pm | Sanctuary

Each First Lutheran household is invited to share ONE photo of a special memory from a baptism, confirmation, wedding or another event held here at our present location over the years. Drop your photo off at the Welcome Center or office no later than January 13. Fill out the provided information card to accompany the photo (photos will be returned). The photos will be displayed this upcoming service to mark this historic time in our congregation.

MEN’S BREAKFAST

Thurs, January 10 | 6:30-7:30am | Fellowship Hall

All men are welcome!

BAPTISM CLASS

Tuesday, January 8 | 6:30-7:00pm

This class is for anyone interested in baptism at First Lutheran. Please sign up by contacting the church office.

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.

ADVENT

— 2018 —

A LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS



SATURDAY | 12.22.18
SUNDAY | 12.23.18

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*
C: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
P: *Come, let us worship God*
C: Whose light brings hope to a weary world. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Hark the Herald Angel Sing #270

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: *In the name of the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*
C: Amen.

At this time we take a moment to be still, confess our sins, and receive God’s forgiveness. Silence for reflection.

P: *Lord God,*
C: Too often we walk in the darkness and miss the light of our Savior, who you sent to be among us and live in us. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus and prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate our hearts. Amen.

P: *Hear this Good News...a Savior is coming! Thanks be to God.*
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: God of promise, you made a commitment to Joseph that you would make Jesus a savior to all. Renew your commitment with us, so that all may know the saving grace of your son, Jesus. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00)
(8:30/9:45) Roger and Barb Riley

CHILDREN’S TIME

(8:30/9:45) Congregation sings *This Little Light of Mine* as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING See insert.
Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25
Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Ben Jacobson

SERMON SONG

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers #244

CONFESSION OF FAITH WE CONFESS OUR SHARED FAITH.
(9:45) Apostles’ Creed: on back cover of ELW hymnal.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OFFERING WE RETURN TO GOD A PORTION OF OUR BLESSINGS.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: *God of abundance,*
C: we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (5:00)

LORD’S PRAYER See back cover of ELW

DISTRIBUTION (5:00)
All are welcome. Gluten free wafers and white grape juice are available upon request.

COMMUNION SONG (5:00) *Lamb of God, p. 112*

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: May God direct your ways in peace...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

O Come, All Ye Faithful #283

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Paul Thompson, Carrie Kallsbeck, Ashley Kreps

SYMPATHY TO: Bob and Jodi Rehovsky and Family on the death of Bob’s Dad; Bob and Heidi Bordeaux and Family on the death of Bob’s Dad

RADIO BROADCAST

This week’s radio broadcast is given in memory of Arnold and Rosella Olsen by their family.

BUILDING TRANSITION UPDATE

Sunday, January 6 | 9:45-10:30am | Choir Room
Please join us for this opportunity to hear updates and see pictures of our new construction in progress. There will also be a chance to discuss and ask questions regarding our transition from our present building to the new location.

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 Monday, December 31, 2018 will be credited to your 2018 giving record for tax purposes. Special Christmas envelopes were mailed to you, or you can pick one up at the Welcome Center. Thank You.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Monday, December 24
10:30am | Children’s Worship
2:00pm | Festival Worship
4:00pm | Festival Worship
6:00pm | Candlelight Worship
9:00pm | Candlelight Worship

ADVENT OF GRATITUDE

December 1- December 24 | West Entry
The focus of the FLC Advent of Gratitude Project this year is ELCA World Good Gifts, which supports the ministry of ELCA World Hunger by providing critical support to sustainable development programs. We invite you to participate by following these easy steps:
1) Take an ornament from the tree with the item and dollar amount of your choosing!
2) Fill out the envelope to return with your donation and take the ornament with you!
3) Drop off your donation in the barn located next to the Christmas tree by Christmas Eve.