

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 at 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.



SATURDAY | 12.29.18
SUNDAY | 12.30.18

WELCOME AND GREETINGS**GATHERING SONG***Angels We Have Heard on High*

#289

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:** *God of grace,***C:** We confess that we have shunned the light that reveals the truth about us. We rely on our own understanding rather than trust you. We look at things through a lens of scarcity rather than one of abundance. Forgive us, God, and free us to live boldly in your light and truth. In Jesus' name, amen.**P:** *Hear this Good News: The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, and our sins are washed away, not because of anything we've done, but because of God's mercy in †Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy.*
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****C:** Lord, in times of stress and anxiety, help us remember that we belong to you, and that you have our back. Fill us with your peace, which surpasses all understanding, and guide our steps, that we would find confidence in you. In Jesus' name, amen.**SPECIAL MUSIC**

(5:00) Gracie Lewis

(8:30/9:45) Pat Kalina

CHILDREN'S TIME(8:30/9:45) Congregation sings *Jesus Loves Me* as children come forward.**SCRIPTURE READING** See insert.

First Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-12

*Word of God. Word of Life.***C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6:25-27

*The Gospel of the Lord.***C:** Thanks be to God.**SERMON**

Henri Santelman

SERMON SONG*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

#282

CONFESSION OF FAITH **WE CONFESS OUR SHARED FAITH.**

Apostles' Creed: on back cover of ELW hymnal.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**OFFERING** **WE RETURN TO GOD A PORTION OF OUR BLESSINGS.****OFFERING PRAYER****P:** *Good and loving God,***C:** we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing to others. 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 secure your steps and fill you with 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***The First Noel* (vs. 1, 3 & 5)

#300

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Paul Thompson, Ashley Kreps

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 4:00pm on Monday, December 31, 2018 and 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.

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.

WELCA LUNCHEON**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.

NO 11:00AM WORSHIP

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

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING

There will be no children and youth programming, meal or worship on Wednesday, Jan 2. Our regular Wednesday schedule will resume on Wednesday, Jan 9.