

RECYCLING REMINDER

Please remember to use the blue recycling receptacles located throughout the church. All of our paper coffee cups are recyclable! Thanks for your ongoing efforts in being good stewards of God's creation and our resources.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome Darrel Kalina to the First Lutheran Staff. Darrel will be part-time and taking care of our custodial and maintenance needs. Welcome Darrel, we are glad to have you on the FLC team.

BAGS OF LOVE

Available for pick up | East Entry Stairs

Join us for this congregational service project that spreads joy to the older adults in our congregation and/or those going through a time of need. Kids and youth fill the bags with tokens and cards they have made and the congregation delivers them. Bags are available for you to pick up at the bottom of the office stairs by the East Entry and each bag has a description of where it should be delivered.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Tuesday, February 26 | 6:00-7:00pm | Family Room

Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 24. Light snack will be provided. Childcare will be available.

LENTEN SMALL GROUP BOOKS AVAILABLE NOW!!

Our theme for Wednesdays in Lent this year is Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times. This series will be based on a book by Adam Hamilton by the same name. If you would like to buy a copy of the book, you may do so at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Books are \$17 and must be paid for at the time of pick up. You can also sign up now by the Welcome Center to be part of a small group during the season of Lent to discuss the book and reflect on the sermon themes each week. Small group times, dates and locations are available with the sign up sheets. Please also feel free to lead your own small group if none of the offered times/dates work with your schedule.

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.

*Please note that hospital visitor restrictions are currently in place due to the spike in Influenza cases.

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 | 2.16.19
SUNDAY | 2.17.19

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

GATHERING SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45) *All Are Welcome* (vs 1-4) #641
(11:00) *Beautiful One* (lyrics on screen)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: *Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations, who gives breath to us all.*
C: Amen.

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

P: *Loving God,*
C: we confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways. Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

P: *Even when we have done wrong...Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of †Jesus Christ our Savior.*
C: Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: *Lord of stories,*
C: Jesus taught us through stories and the wisdom of the shared word. Teach us through your stories, that we may learn, grow, and love. For the sake of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

(5:00) Paula Odland
(8:30/9:45) *There Is A Higher Throne.....arr. Larson* Chancel Choir

CHILDREN’S TIME

(8:30/9:45) Congregation sings *Jesus Loves Me* as children come forward.

SCRIPTURE READING See insert.

First Reading: Psalm 84:1-7
Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt 13:24-43
The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Pastor Ben Jacobson

SERMON SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45) *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (vs 1-4) #886
(11:00) *You Are My King (Amazing Love)* (lyrics on screen)

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: *Merciful God,*
C: receive the gifts we bring, our selves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (8:30/9:45/11:00)

LORD’S PRAYER See back cover of ELW

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

COMMUNION SONG (8:30/9:45) *Lamb of God, p. 112*

COMMUNION BLESSING (8:30/9:45/11:00)
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 God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.*
C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL **WE DEPART TO SERVE CHRIST IN THE WORLD.**
P: *Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.*
C: Thanks be to God.
P: *And all God’s children said,*
C: Amen!

SENDING SONG

(5:00/8:30/9:45) Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #836
(11:00) *Go Out and Pray* (lyrics on screen)

PRAYERS

HOSPITALIZATIONS: Louise Nelson, Sheryl Hocum, Ed Santelman, Paul Thompson
SYMPATHY TO: Travis and Michelle Bautz and family on the death of Travis’ mom, Wynette Bautz; Josh and Betsy Hills and family on the death of Josh’s grandfather

EXPLORING THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Jan 28 - Feb 18 | 9:30-11:00am | Family Room
Join us on Monday mornings for four weeks as we dive deeper into the Gospel of Matthew. There is no need to sign up. Come as you are, and we will learn together!

FAITH AND LIFE FORUM

Thursday, February 21 | 2:00-4:00pm | Sanctuary
Our guest speaker, Paul Johnson, has designed the Concordia College Christmas Concert mural for the past ten years. Along with telling the story of all that goes into creating these beautiful and inspiring murals, Paul will also provide visual examples of his work. Paul has been a professional designer, illustrator and photographer for 30 years.

LINKING OUR PAST WITH OUR FUTURE

Sunday, February 24 | 2:00pm | Sanctuary
Join us for this celebration of our church’s history and future. There will be something for all ages including drama, music, humor, special memories and a drawing. Coffee and treats will follow. (All contributed photos for this event can now be picked up at the Welcome Center.)

WELCA FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 7 | 12:00pm | Fellowship Hall
Women of all ages are encouraged to attend the monthly WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) gatherings. Join us as we listen to Bonnie Miller’s program titled, “Opening Borders.”

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Each year Thrivent members are granted Choice Dollars to direct to the non-profit of their choosing. Thrivent members have until March 31 to direct their 2018 Choice Dollars before they expire.

CUB SCOUTS CHILI FEED

Tuesday, Feb 19 | 4:30-7:00pm | Fellowship Hall
You are invited to help us raise funds for summer and winter Cub Scout camps. Free will offering.