



First Lutheran Church

We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.

The Light Shines in the Darkness

Sunday December 24, 2017

9:30am

Welcome/Announcements

One: God said, *Let there be light!*, and there was light.

All: *We are the children of the Light.*

One: The Psalmist said, *The unfolding of your Word gives light...and understanding to all.*

All: *We are the children of the Light.*

One: Jesus said, *I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me...will have the light of life.*

All: *We are the children of the Light.*

One: The Psalmist said, *Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.*

All: *We are the children of the Light.*

One: John said, *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

All: *We are the children of the Light.*

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

Prayer of the Day

All powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Savior and Lord. Amen

Antiphon 1:

"O Wisdom, coming from the mouth of the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth: Come and teach us the way of truth."

A Reading from Genesis 1

Hymn

Awake, Awake

ELW 242

Antiphon 2:

"O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long: Come quickly to save us."

A Reading from Psalm 2

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming (vs. 1, 2, 4)

ELW 272

Antiphon 3:



Announcements

December 24, 2017

Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by Carole Halverson in memory of her birth family.

Prayer List: John Doyle, Curt Sorum, Kathy Riemer (sister of Bob Schrupp), Linda Nelson (sister of Marlene Erickson), Sierra Waege (granddaughter of Dorothy and Harlen Barck), Brian Brandt, Susan Atkinson, Tonya Ormberg, Rob Yant, Darlene Newman (sister of Janet Landby), Dianne Madrigal, JaRae Lamfers, Julie Roby, Jean Paul Family.

| Thank you for serving! | 9:30am |
|------------------------|---|
| Acolytes | |
| Greeters | Perry & Marquita Banks |
| Ushers | Tom & Marlene Nordby Dave & Becky Gifford |
| Lectors | Marlene Nordby |
| Music | Rosie Sorum |
| Coffee Servers | Audrey Norris, Brian Kruse |
| Altar Guild | Shirley Anderson-Porisch, Kim Christianson, Nancy Grams, Cathy Johnson, Carolyn Marks, Marlene Nordby |
| Van Driver | Dan Marks |
| Video and Projection | Ernie Moe, Ed Henning |
| Snow Removal | December 18-24: Dan Marks December 25-31: Dan Marks, Jim Fischer |

Sunday December 24

No TLC Sunday
9:30am Worship
3:00pm, 5:00pm, 9:00pm Christmas Eve
Worship

Wednesday December 27

No TLC, Worship, or Meal
7:00pm SHA/Alumni Game Night

Thursday December 28

9:30am Shetek Winter Fun Day

Saturday December 30

No Worship

Sunday December 31

No TLC
9:30am Worship

Four candles now shine as God's LOVE is made flesh. The Apostle John says, *God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins* (I John 4:9-10). Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with your love.

What's YOUR Stewardship Story? Time and Talent Worksheets are available in the Narthex. Please fill one out and return it to the Narthex or the church office. Decide how YOU will share in the many opportunities to serve at First Lutheran in 2018!

How do I extend my commitment to First Lutheran? Join a Committee in 2018!

For more information on what each committee does, visit First Lutheran web page at www.1stlutheran.org. Select the STEWARDSHIP Tab and select SHARE, each committee is listed at the bottom of the page. Once you have selected the committee you would like to join, reference your interest on the Time & Talents sheet. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Tami Dahl, 507-828-9559 or bdtddahl@gmail.com.

Wednesday Dec 27th at 7:00pm FIRST EVER Game night for SHA and Alumni FLY! Come back to a night of games, laughing and reminiscing with your faith family!

Hy-Vee Cards available for Purchase! We have \$25, \$50 cards and \$100 cards. The youth will receive 5% of the money. Everyone needs groceries or gas, and its money you would spend anyway, if not all at one time, eventually. Proceeds will go toward the Senior High Summer Trip. Thanks!

"Schwans Cares" Online Fundraiser through December 30, we will receive 20% of product and 40% of e-certificate sales. The rest of the year Schwans will continue 5% profit of sales that use our code. Two ways to order:

1. Visit schwans-cares.com.....click on "find a campaign"..... enter our name "First Lutheran Church, Marshall MN" OR our ID: 35270click "support now" button and shop!
2. Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID: 35270

This is perfect timing because you can purchase for Christmas, and New Years and help the youth at the same time!! Thanks for all of your support!

Effective January 1st, Studio1 will broadcast First Lutheran worship on Wednesdays at 11am and Thursdays at 5pm.

Office Hours December 26th-29th will be 9am to noon.

Pastor Dan Jordahl, former First Lutheran pastor (1960-1993) died on Sunday December 17th. His memorial will be January 5th in Sun City, AZ.

Donations for poinsettias have been given by:

Tom & Angela Larson & family in memory of David Gackstetter, Bernice Larson, & Jim Larson

Daughter Pat Lanoue and Grandson Scott Lanoue in memory of Leslie & Jean Neiman
Doug, Don, Deb, Denise and their families in memory of Helen Gilbertson & Mervin Gilbertson
Jeff Anderson & family in memory of Orville & Mary Ellen Anderson
Mark, Jean, Stephanie, Erik & Cody Mather in memory of Donald Mather
Al & Ann Nielsen-Thielges in memory of Curtis Nielsen & Mary Ann Thielges
Doug & Dorothy Krogen in memory of Willie & Ginny Krogen and Beret Rysdahl
Leon & Vicki Versaevel in memory of Harvey Johannsen and William & Clarice Versaevel
Larry & Sandy Nelson in memory of their parents, Julius & Clara Berre, and Ken & Hazel Nelson
Chuck & Rolly Muller in memory of Charlie & Tweet Muller, and Merv Gilbertson
Doug & Peggy Anderson in honor of Peggy's parents Russ & Mary Jeppesen's 65th wedding anniversary and in memory of Doug's parents Jim & Gloria Anderson
Doug Heise in memory of Rosemary Heise, Margaret (Heise) Racette, Dennis Heise, and Cornell & Bernice Paulson
Their children Dennis, Carol & Laurie in memory of Lawrence & Dorothy Lien
John, Liz & Joe Voit in memory of Allen & Orlinda Voit
Mike, Jennifer, Shelbie & Rachel Thomsen in memory of Richard & Lois Holten, Janet Holten, and Joyce Lane
Brian & Lorinda Coudron in memory of David Peters and Melvin Coudron
Tom, Sherri, Ashley, Brittany & Crista Schultze in memory of Harold Hansen
Jay, Angie, Madelyn, & Macie Murphy in memory of Cheryl Murphy
Carol Purrington in memory of her parents
Gail Schepker in memory of Jackie Solis, Mike Schepker & Joseph Schepker
Dave & Diane Taylor in honor of their grandchildren Hunter, Taylor, Olivia, Luke, Audrey, Caleb, and AnneLiese
Marlene Gannott in memory of Edward Gannott
Chuck & Lori Obler in memory of Gordan Vikesland and Clara Obler
Tom & Pam Odland in memory of Ole & Mavis Odland and in honor of Christ's birth
Tim, Tonya, Bailey & Logan Tomasek in memory of Aaron Hohwieler, Dennis & Joan Tomasek, and Greg Tomasek
Bob & Corlys Knudson in honor of Shelly, John, Joe, Lincoln, & Caleb Rock, Jim, Robin, Keziah, Eden & Jude Knudson and in memory of Janelle Knudson and Elijah Knudson
Mark Schwanebeck in memory of Clarence & Elly Schwanebeck
Carole Halverson in memory of Hal Halverson
Hans, Shana, Sadie & Simon Zahrbock in memory of Darwin Zahrbock
Bill, Becky, Trey, & Taya Weber in memory of Bill & Jane Weber
Pam Russell in memory of her father Robert Stumpf
Lu, Sandy, & Kristi Miller in memory of Reuben & Edith Miller, Larry Miller, and Arthur & Millie Pagel
Bill & Kathy Engler in memory of Jesse & William Jr Engler
Dave & Becky Gifford in memory of daughter Sandra Kae Gifford
Karl & Shirley Porisch in memory of Adolphe & Imogene Porisch and Ronald & Dorothy Anderson

Bob & Kathy Schrupp in memory of Ken & Joy Farr, Orville & Sophie Schrupp, Mary Lukanen,
and Dawson Vanportfliet

Julie, Dallas, Allisa, Andrew & Adelyn in memory of Randy Bahn

Jason, Amber, & Leo Swenson in memory of Sharon Swenson & their grandparents

David & Donna Reaves in honor of grandchildren Brooke, Lauren, & Alex

Karen Murphy in memory of Brian, TW and Sloane Murphy

Ken & Sue Versaevel & family in memory of Elmer & Gwen Geistfeld and Bill & Clarice
Versaevel

Janet & David Landby in honor of their five grandchildren

Paul, Tanya, & Taylor Freeburg in memory of Doris Engler, Taylor's Great Grandmother

Jim & Kim Christianson in honor of their precious children and granddaughters

Christianson Family in memory of their loving parents and grandparents

John & Bonny Doyle in memory of Mr & Mrs Elof Johnson & Mr & Mrs Byron Doyle

Mark Buss & Chris Anderson in memory of Don Nielsen and Paul Anderson

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A Reading from Genesis 1 ¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years...¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars... And God saw that it was good. ²⁶Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

A Reading from Psalm 2 ¹Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? ²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, ³“Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.” ⁴He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord has them in derision. ⁵Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, ⁶“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.” ⁷I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” ¹⁰Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. ¹¹Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling... Happy are all who take refuge in him.

A Reading from Zephaniah 3 ¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

A Reading from Isaiah 40 40Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A Reading from Isaiah 9 ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

A Reading from Luke 1 ³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."