

FIRST LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

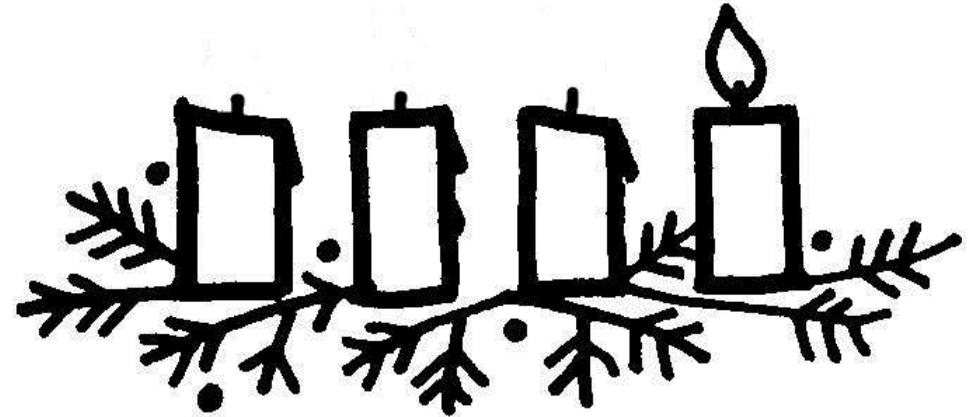
SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

First Sunday in Advent



NOVEMBER 29, 2015

First Sunday in Advent
November 30, 2014
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348
www.firstlcffmn.com firstlc@live.com

Online
Giving
(QR Code)

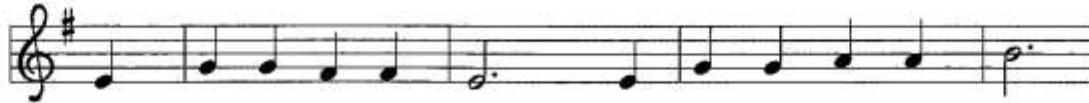


Advent is about waiting. It is about waiting for God to keep his promises to us and to the world. *"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made..."* How do we wait for a promise so long delayed?

Prelude

Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

P: We gather to bless the holy Trinity, † one God, who spoke light into creation, who calls us into community, who sends us to be hope for the world.

C: **Amen.**

P: Holy and merciful God,

C: **we confess we have sinned against our brothers and sisters and against you. We cherish the values of this world instead of yours. We cause others to stumble and take delight in their failures. The earth is wounded by our excess. Have mercy, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and raise us up on eagles' wings, that we may do your will with courage and delight.**

P: God looks on us with love and sees our need. In Jesus, God has come among us – in our joy and grief alike – bearing forgiveness and salvation that last forever. Our sins are deeply known and completely forgiven by the One who makes all things new. For this great gift, we give thanks

C: **Alleluia! Amen.**

Senior Pastor:	Saul Stensvaag
Associate Pastor:	Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor	Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent:	Cindy Larson
Council President:	Lisa Wolfe
Organist:	Keith Melberg
Ushers:	8:30- Tom & Jeani Trosvig & family
	11- Brian, Patty & Madisen Becker, Ron Spangler
Advent Wreath Lighting Families:	8:30- Greg, Tara, Alyssa, Emma & Isaac Wagner
	11 – Ty, Katie, Elly & Maya Stortroen
Lectors:	8:30- Dolores Simdom 11- Ashley Shuck
Acolytes:	8:30- Sydney Batzlaff 11- Olivia Becker
Greeters:	8:30- Kile, Tonya, Ellie & Katie Bergren
Sacristan:	8:30- Mark & Susan Hermes 11- Mary Kay Stensvaag
PA Operator:	8:30- Kevyn Heck 11- Margaret Ness-Ludwig

This Week at Lutheran:

Today:	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY
Monday:	9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	WELCA Love Days Al-Anon Boy Scouts
Tuesday:	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting Altar Guild Meeting in Kairos Room Girl Scouts
Wednesday:	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:10 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Al-Anon AA Adult Bible Study in Conference Room Worship Christ Care in Kairos Room Children's Choir Hosanna Handbells Vespers Adult Choir High School Senior FLY Games & Cookies
Thurs.:	8:45 a.m.	Morning Watch – Pastor Saul – KBRF AM 1250 NO Sr. Bible Study & Coffee
Friday:	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Saturday:	12 p.m.	Baby Shower
<u>Next Sunday, December 6th:</u>		
	8:30 & 11 a.m.	Worship/H. Communion/7th Grade Milestone Blessing
	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Bible Study

***Opening Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1-2 & 4)

ELW 257

***Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 138

***Prayer of the Day**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 (v. 1)

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Prayer

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

(congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

(congregational response after reading: **Thanks be to God**)

***Gospel Acclamation & Procession**

(Please turn as the bible goes by)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

(Congregational response after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

Sermon

The God of Promise-Keeping

Pastor Saul

Hymn of the Day

God's World is Changing

God's world is changing; where is it going?
Nations are raging; look at their fear!
Many are anxious, filled with foreboding;
We wait in faith, for God's reign is near.

"Look at the fig tree!" See what it's doing.
Look at the signs in heaven above.
God is at work here, building, renewing,
Some are afraid, but we know God's love.

This world is drifting, filled with distraction!
Many are wandering; some fall away.
We wait in faith! We're ready for action.
We're on our guard to greet God's new day.

What should we do, Lord, while we are waiting?
Some just sit back while troubles increase.
Others respond by fighting and hating.
We hear your call to work for your peace.

Lord, may we use each day that we're given—
Helping the hungry, homeless and poor.
Then we'll be ready for what you're bringing
When Christ will come and reign evermore.

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Tune: Gaelic melody, BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D ("Morning Has Broken")
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Sacrament of Holy Baptism (11:00)

ELW Page 227

Nicene Creed (8:30)

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God
from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the
power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he
was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in
accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We
believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of
sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Next Sunday, Dec. 6th will be the Choir Showcase and short sermon at both services.

Fellowship and Refreshments this morning will be served by the families of Corbin Vogl and William & Matthew Pajari in the narthex between services.

Known Hospitalized: Bill Watkins and Irene Kraning at Lake Region Hospital.

Radio Broadcast & Altar Flowers are given by the Simdorn Family in memory of Lavern Simdorn.

Rose on the Altar is in celebration of the baptism of Landry Dean Sonmor, son of Logan & Jasmine Sonmor. Sponsors are Alexandra Floersch and Clayton Mertz. Guardian Angel is Madisen Muchow.

Sympathy to Greg & Mary Jo Marcus and family on the death of Mary Jo's father, Ken Kronemann, whose funeral was held here yesterday.

Visitors! If you didn't get a "Visitors Bag" when you came in this morning please pick one up on your way out after worship. You'll find them in a basket located on the small table on the ramp coming up from the narthex into the sanctuary.

Large Print Edition of the order of worship, the lessons, and the hymns for today are available. If you would like copies for worship, please ask an usher.

College Student Care Packages - we need your help to send a little cheer to our college students who are studying for finals! Please pick up a box in the narthex, fill it, and bring it back to the church by December 7th (We will mail it!) Thank you!!!

Join Us for the Beautiful Evening Vespers Service on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. during Advent. It's a wonderful play of darkness conquered by the light of Christ and includes some of the best music of the Christian tradition. Worship will be done by 7:40 p.m. **We will also have the 12:10 p.m. service** with soup lunch to follow on Wednesdays. **BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2nd!**

Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday December 20th at the 11 o'clock service ONLY. There will be a regular worship service at 8:30. Christmas Program dress rehearsal is December 13th!

FLY Christmas Party – Wednesday, December 16th at 3:30-5:00 p.m. There is no Children's Choir, but we will still have the church bus pick up kids at the school for this exciting event!

Christmas Books & DVDs will be on the table in the library for easy check-out! Come see our big selection!

The Christmas and Advent offering will be divided among the Mama Naomi Clinic in Tanzania and one of our local benevolences.

Y's Folks Cookie Sale – December 2, 2015 at the YMCA beginning at 6 a.m. Come early for the best selection of homemade krumkake, rosettes, sandbakkles, and other holiday favorites.

Lenten Planning Task Force for 2016: Yes, believe it or not, it's time again to ask for volunteers to serve on the Lent/Easter Worship Planning Task Force. This group will work with Pastor Saul to come up with a theme and ideas for visuals and decorations to help the congregation have a meaningful worship experience during the seasons of Lent and Easter. No special artistic ability required. Everyone is welcome. Please talk to Pastor Saul or call the church office. (739-3348) We will begin meeting in December.

The Pastors would like to ask for your help is making sure that everyone who needs a visit from our Visitation Pastor, Stan Satre, is on our visitation list. We do not want anyone to be missed. Please let one of the Pastors know if you, or anyone you know that would like a visit. Thank you for your help.

Christ Care group will be meeting on Wednesday, December 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Kairos Room.

OFFERING UPDATE			
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual (11-1 to 11-22)</u>	<u>Difference</u>
November	\$ 40,040.00	\$ 37,715.93	-\$ 2,324.07
Year to date	\$440,520.00	\$401,722.48	-\$38, 797.52

***The PEACE is shared**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
 C **And also with you.**

Offering

***Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

*** The Prayers**

P ...Lord, in your mercy, OR P ... Let us pray to the Lord,
 C hear our prayer. C Lord, have mercy.

***The Lord's Prayer**

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

*** Benediction**

*** Threefold Amen**

*** Sending**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
 C Thanks be to God.

*** Closing Hymn**

Standing on the Promises

see insert

* Indicates when to stand

Standing on the Promises

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises . . . II Pet. 1:4

PROMISES 11 11 11 9 Ref.
R. Kelso Carter, 1886

t. Kelso Carter, 1886

1. Stand-ing on the prom-is - es of Christ my King, Thro' e - ter - nal a - ges
 2. Stand-ing on the prom-is - es that can - not fail, When the howl-ing storms of
 3. Stand-ing on the prom-is - es of Christ the Lord, Bound to Him e - ter - nal
 4. Stand-ing on the prom-is - es I can - not fall, Lis-t'ning ev - ery mo-ment

let His prais - es ring; Glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,
 doubt and fear as - sail, By the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,
 ly by love's strong cord, O - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,
 to the Spir - it's call, Rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all in all,

Refrain
 Stand-ing on the prom-is - es of God. Stand-ing, stand - ing,
 stand-ing on the prom-is - es,
 Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior; Stand - ing,
 stand - ing, I'm stand-ing on the prom - is - es of God.
 stand-ing on the prom - is - es,

Calling All Cookie Bakers! On Tuesday, December 15, First Lutheran Church will be delivering plates of holiday cookies to shut-ins and members unable to bake anymore. We need help from those of you who enjoy baking to spread Christmas joy in this way. Cookies should be dropped off in the church kitchen on Tuesday (Dec 15) by 9 am. You can also leave them in the church kitchen on Sunday (Dec. 13) and label them for "Cookie Plates for Special Friends". We are looking for additional drivers to help deliver the cookies later that morning. Previous drivers have found it to be a very rewarding experience. Please call the church office at 218-739-3348 if you can help in this way, or if you have questions. Together we can spread lots of Christmas love and cheer!

Christmas Giving Trees are up and ready for you! Please take an ornament (or more!) from the trees, purchase the item listed on the ornament and return them to church, unwrapped, by Tuesday, December 15. If you are interested in delivering the gifts to A Place to Belong and/or Someplace Safe, please contact Rick at 205-6963. Deliveries will take place between Wednesday, December 16 and Friday, December 18.

The First Lutheran church council will deliver Christmas Food Baskets to community members on the morning of Saturday, December 19th. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Christmas Food Basket, contact the church by Monday, December 7. Please include their name, number of children and ages (if applicable), phone number and address. If you are interested in helping pack the food baskets on the evening of Friday, December 18, please contact Rick at 205-6963.

Olson Funeral Home Annual Community Service of Remembrance will be held on Saturday, Dec. 5th at 3:00 p.m. in the Funeral Home Chapel on 711 Pebble Lake Road in Fergus Falls.

Have you seen the new debit and credit cards with micro-chips for added fraud protection? Many people are receiving these new cards, which mean your card information needs to be updated wherever you have automated purchases set up. Please keep your church in mind and update your card if you give online with auto-pay. It is very much appreciated!

Thankoffering: Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to mission through Thankofferings for more than 100 years. Last year, Thankofferings totaled \$903,374 to support Women of the ELCA church wide ministries, with offerings coming from 2,450 congregations. First Lutheran sent \$845 in 2013. Thankofferings are sent in full to the church-wide women's organization and help do mission and address concerns of women and children in crisis—especially the crisis related to poverty, health/AIDS and domestic violence. Please place your thankoffering for 2014 in an offering marked "Thankoffering" and place it in the Sunday offering plate or bring it to the office. If you have questions, call Margaret Kratzke 736-3697

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH FOUNDATION REQUESTS FOR 2016: The requests should be approved by the Church Council. The written request for funds should be sent to Orrie Leabo, Foundation President, before December 14th, 2015. This will help the Foundation Board to prepare for the Foundation's Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or comments please contact the board members. They are as follows: Chad Felstul, Vicki Hanneman, Leonard Hatzenbuhler, Tim Johnson, Orrie Leabo, Missy Mattson and Linda Mellon.