

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday in Advent

FIRST LESSON. Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

SECOND LESSON. Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL. Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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8:30 a.m.

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8:30 am
firstlc@live.com

First Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota
(218) 739-3348

Online
Giving
(QR Code)
www.firstlutheranchurchff.org



Prelude

Announcements

*** Confession of Sin**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: God of all time,

C: **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

L: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

C: **Amen.**

Entrance Hymn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

ELW 242

***Apostolic Greeting**

ELW Page 138

***Kyrie**

ELW Page 138

*** Hymn of Praise**

Glory to God

ELW Page 139

***Prayer of the Day**

ELW Page 142

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264 (v. 4)

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding;

Refrain

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

Prayer

This Week at First Lutheran:

Today: 8:30 am Worship
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Adult Bible Study
11:00 am Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program

Mon.: 5:00 p.m. Al-Anon

Tues.: 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
6-8:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

Wed. 9:30 a.m. Al-Anon
10 a.m. AA.
10:30 a.m. Sr. Coffee & Bible Study (Conference Room)
12:10 p.m. Advent Mid-Day worship (No soup lunch today)
3:45-4:30 p.m. Children's Choir rehearsal
4:30-5:15 p.m. FLY K7 Christmas Party
5:30 p.m. Hosanna Handbell rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers
7:45 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal (following Vespers)
7:45 p.m. Senior FLY (following Vespers)

Thurs.: 8:45 a.m. Morning Watch – Pr. Jennifer– KBRF AM 1250
No Sr. Bible Study (See Wednesday)

Friday : CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday: **CHURCH OFFICE OPEN FROM 8-12 PM**
3 & 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services/Family Blessings
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service/Holy Communion

Next Sunday, December 25th:

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship/Holy Communion
No Sunday School (Will resume Jan. 8)

Interim Senior Pastor: Erick Thompson
Associate Pastor: Jennifer Rose
Visitation Pastor: Stan Satre
Sunday School Superintendent: Cindy Larson
Council President: Elizabeth Abrahams
Lector: Rick West
Acolyte: Spencer Wasvick
Organist: Keith Melberg
Lighting of Wreath: Ryan & Sarah Cheshire Family
PA Operators: Margaret Ness-Ludwig

Fellowship and Refreshments will be served in the narthex following worship. Serving today are the families of Cyntreya & Andreyra Lockett and Alison & Emilie Koch.

Altar Flowers this morning are given by Richard & Jennifer Smestad in honor of Jennifer's grandparents wedding anniversary.

Rose on the Altar is in celebration of the baptism of August Henry Rogers, son of Zach & Susie Rogers. Sponsors are Erin Feliciano, John Ouren and Sarah Duffy. Guardian Angel is Kaden Haarstad.

Large Print Bulletins are available. **If you would like a copy for worship, please ask an usher.**

FLY K7 Christmas Party – Wednesday, December 21st from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Please come for a fun time with grades K-7! We will watch a Christmas Movie and eat some yummy treats!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Giving Trees! Your generosity truly made an impact on the lives of those receiving the gifts. Thank you!

Winter Weather Information: If Fergus Falls school close due to bad weather, the activities at the church that day will be cancelled and the church office will be closed. (If a leader of an evening activity, such as the adult choir, decides they WILL HOLD THEIR EVENT, they should contact the members. Sunday morning worship will never be cancelled, but please use your good judgment when deciding if you should come to worship or not, REMEMBER, you can always listen at home to the 8:30 a.m. worship on KJK AM 1020.

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

The Christmas and Advent offering will be divided among the Mama Naomi Clinic in Tanzania and one of our local benevolences. Our Advent Coin Folders are available to be picked up at the info counter or in the rear of the sanctuary.

If You Want to Receive Your Messenger via Email, please send the church office an email at firstlc@live.com with Messenger in the subject line and we will add you to the mail list. Thank you.

If you or a loved one would like a visit from our Visitation Pastor, please let someone in the office know. Thank you for helping us continue this important ministry for our members.

Love Days Quilters will not meet until January 8th.

First Lesson

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

Isaiah 7:10-16

Second Lesson

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

Romans 1:1-7

*** Gospel Acclamation**

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.

(Congregation responds after Gospel is announced: **Glory to you, O Lord.**)

*** Gospel**

Matthew 1:18-25

(Congregation responds after Gospel is Read: **Praise to you, O Christ.**)

Sermon

Pastor Erick

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vs. 1-6)

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

ELW Page 227

*** The PEACE is shared**

C: And also with you.

Offering

***Offertory Response**

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,
C hear our prayer.

OR

P ...Let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

***The Lord's Prayer**

ELW Page 145

Benediction

Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude**

* Indicates when to stand

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

3 & 5 p.m.	Blessing of the Family of God Everyone will receive a family blessing from the pastors. (If you are a family of one, we invite you to receive a blessing for yourself and your loved ones wherever they may be.)
11 p.m.	Holy Communion On this holy night we participate in the mystery of the incarnation as Christ comes to us in the bread and wine.

Christmas Day - One Service at 10 a.m.

A Festival of Lessons & Carols/Holy Communion
(There is no sermon.)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1st
THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL, NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Christmas Cookies for Special Friends was a huge success! We delivered over 75 generous plates of Christmas cookies to shut-ins and members of our congregation who no longer bake. Our sincere thanks to the many members who donated their homemade cookies and candies for this special event. We are also grateful for the dedicated drivers who delivered these plates to our church members. The feedback the drivers have shared is that the recipients were delighted to receive this Christmas gift from First Lutheran. Thank you, thank you!

Electronic Giving!

First Lutheran Church now has a more convenient way to give your offering!

You can now give your offering whenever, wherever you want. To give, visit the First Lutheran Church website-www.firstlutheranchurchff.org. Click on the "Donate" tab at the top of the page. Once you create an online profile, you can give by credit card or bank account (checking or savings account). You can make a one-time donation or you can schedule automatic weekly or monthly donations. Once you make a donation, you will receive a confirmation email and will be able to print out a donation summary at your convenience. You can also access the online giving site by using a Quick Response (QR) decoder on your Apple or Android device. Simply scan the QR code above or on the first page of your bulletin and you will be directed to the giving website.

2017 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up in the Narthex on tables. They are in alphabetical order. If you don't see your envelopes stop in the church office and see Katrina.

In Order to Claim a Charitable Contribution Deduction for 2016, contributors **must deliver** checks to the church **on or by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 31**. Checks must be **written, postmarked and mailed in 2016** to qualify for this year. Please keep this in mind when making your year-end donations.

2017 RADIO BROADCASTS & FLOWER CHARTS are up and ready for you to sign up on. They are located on the kiosk in the new narthex. Sign up early to get the dates that you want!!! If you consider the radio ministry important, please sponsor a broadcast at a cost of \$100. You will receive a postcard prior to the date. Thank you for your partnership in making our worship available to shut-ins and the community-at-large.