



GATHERING

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW #288



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

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HYMN OF PRAISE

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Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father. Receive our prayer. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord. You alone are the most high, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit. In the glory of God the Father, Amen, Amen, Amen. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

KRISTY WICKLUND

READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

A reading from Colossians.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:41-52

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

"A New Chapter"

VICAR LYNN MELCHIOR



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Merciful God, receive our prayer. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Good and loving God, 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 blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

OFFERING

What Child Is This

ELW #296



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

Away in a Manger
Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

ELW #277

ELW #286

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

THANKSGIVING AT CONCLUSION OF INTERNSHIP

Lynn, on June 15, 2020, we of First Lutheran Church welcomed you to be an intern in this place: to observe, participate in, and lead in the ministry among us. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell and Godspeed. We pray for God's blessing in your life and in your ministry.

People of God, members, and friends of First, do you release Lynn from service as your intern?
We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Lynn, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with First's congregation?
I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

(Formation Intern Team lays hands on Vicar Lynn)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for Lynn's ministry among the people of God in this place.

As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

This Sunday, December 26, 2021 -First Sunday after Christmas

- 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion, Send-Off Service for Vicar Lynn, followed by coffee, cookies & fellowship, *Narthex*.
- NO Sunday School & Butterflies

Monday, December 27:

- Office Closed
- NO Love Days Quilters
- 5pm Al-Anon

Tuesday, December 28:

- Office Closed
- 12:00pm Yoga, *Narthex*
- 5:30pm Yoga, *Narthex*

Wednesday, December 29:

- Office Closed
- 9:30am Al Anon
- 10:00am AA
- 1:00pm Cookie Monster AA
- 5:00pm OA
- 6:00pm Non Smokers AA
- NO FLY K-6
- NO FLY 7-12
- NO Handbells Practice
- NO Choir Practice

Thursday, December 30:

- Office Closed
- 6:00pm Women's AA, zoom id #147353510; passcode 999

Friday, December 31:

- Office Closed

Next Sunday, January 2- Second Sunday after Christmas

- 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion, followed by coffee, cookies & fellowship, *Narthex*.
- NO Sunday School & Butterflies

Welcome to 1st Lutheran!

- * We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.
- * The invitation to Holy Communion comes from our Lord Jesus. You do not need to be a member, or Lutheran, to receive Holy Communion. All who trust Christ's promises are welcome.
- * Children are sometimes wiggly and noisy. We don't mind. They are always welcome here. If your small children are needing to move around or need comforting, there is space in the back of the Sanctuary with quiet toys and a rocking chair.
- * If you have prayer concerns, please be sure to let the church office know. Church phone number is 739-3348.

Kid Worship Challenge – Today we are celebrating Vicar Lynn's going away and Pastor Gretchen's birthday. Draw a picture or write a little note and pass it to them after the service to celebrate their day.

The flowers this week are sponsored by the Pearsons and Vaughns in honor of their anniversaries.

The radio this week is sponsored by the Pearsons and Vaughns in honor of their anniversaries.

In the bulletin last week the flowers and radio sponsorships were mistyped. On Dec 19th the radio was sponsored by Katie Haugerud in memory of Judy Peterson. The flowers were given by Mary Bjorgen Johnson in memory of Greg Johnson and Ida Mae Bjorgen. I apologize for the mistake! Thank you for your understanding, Katie.

We have openings to sponsor the radio broadcast in 2022; Cost: \$100. **Providing altar flowers** is available in 2022. Please sign up on the kiosk in the Narthex or call the office at 739-3348. Thank you!

The Church Office will be closed December 27-31st. Happy New Year!

Sunday School/Butterflies will resume Sunday, January 9th.

Thank you to Valerie Clark for making Vicar Lynn's cake today!

Also, thanks to the FIT Team for their wonderful support of Vicar Lynn during her time here at First! Al Jensen, Cindy Larson, Vicki Hanneman, Curt Rotto, Denny Hystead, Pam Western, Jennifer Smestad.

Offering Envelopes have been ordered but have not yet arrived. Remember, this year we have ordered generic envelopes, so please remember to write your name on them when you turn in your offerings. Thank you! Please contact the office with any questions. 218-739-3348.

24 Days of Giving – Join the First Lutheran Sunday School students in giving to the Community Food Shelf with the gift of money as we count down the days to Christmas. Envelopes can be found in front of the church office. Please turn in your envelopes by Jan. 16th.

We need one more person to help call volunteers for funerals at church! If you are willing to help let the office know.

Thank you to those who helped prepare and deliver Christmas Baskets to various members of our community! We delivered 23 baskets total this year.

We are seeking volunteers to provide rides to members from Pioneer Pointe and individual homes. Please contact the church if you are available to do so. Thanks! 218-739-3348, office@flcff.org.

As of 12/23/2021. Pledge year to date: \$160,240. Given year to date: \$158,685.