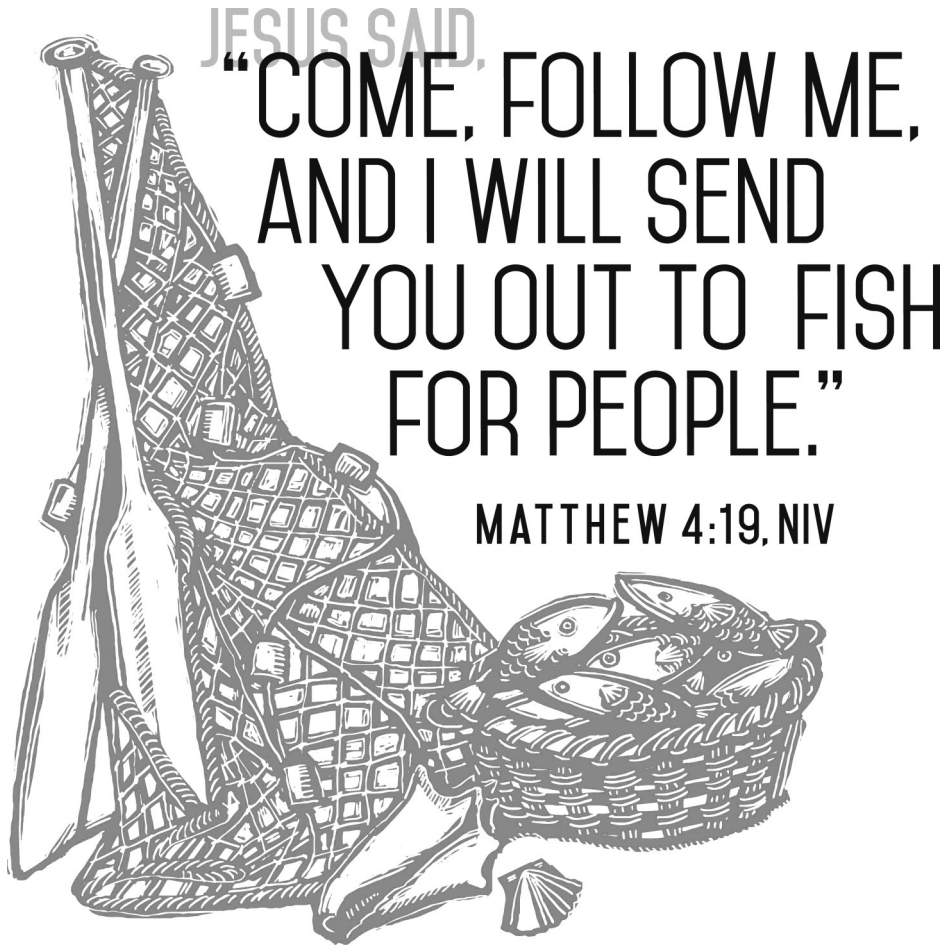


THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 2023



JESUS SAID,

“COME, FOLLOW ME,
AND I WILL SEND
YOU OUT TO FISH
FOR PEOPLE.”

MATTHEW 4:19, NIV

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
507-665-2615

Rev. Samuel Mailleue
office@firstlutheranlesueur.org
www.firstlutheranlesueur.org

UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Sami Pollack/Callie Greisen

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,
and cannot free ourselves.
We have not practiced your righteousness.
Our hearts have turned away from you.
For the sake of the world you so love,
forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another
for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

Thus says our God:
“The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare.”
God’s mercy makes us new.
We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story” ELW #661
(Vs. 1 & 2)

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.

KYRIE

ELW page 120

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.
Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that
come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”
Arr. Lloyd Larson

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that

you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow and peace is understood.

The Holy Gospel according to the third chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***“Will You Come and Follow Me”* ELW #798
(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)**

THE APOSTLES' 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**

THE PRAYERS

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

Make your church one in purpose, proclaiming the message of the cross. Help us to work together across differences. Energize ecumenical partnerships, including the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation along with the Le Sueur Ministerial Association.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rejoice at the bounty of your creation. Fill the land and sea with your abundance. Bless harvests in the southern hemisphere and fallow fields in the northern hemisphere. Equip farmers to till and keep the earth sustainably.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

In Christ your reign comes near and calls all to repentance. Break the rod of the oppressor in every nation. Dispel the shadow of death in places of war and persecution. Grant us leaders who lift the yokes that burden those in need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Be a stronghold for those in trouble and a rock for all who are afraid. Rouse communities to care for neighbors who need shelter, are facing maltreatment, or are isolated and lonely. Especially we pray for our homebound and those residing in care facilities.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain the ministries of this congregation and all churches in this community. Nurture each congregation's unique witness to your presence; foster mutual respect; inspire our cooperation in loving our neighbors.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We praise you for the faithful who have gone ahead of us, both famous and unknown. Help us to leave our nets and follow, and bring us with them to the fullness of your promise of eternal life.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

Liberating God,

**you break the bonds of injustice
and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving
for all your works of merciful power,**

and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.

You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

SENDING

The God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✚ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Here I Am, Lord" ELW #574
(Vs. 1 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held following worship service today. A pancake breakfast provided by the Christian Education Team will follow the meeting.

Pictorials—Church pictorials sign up is available online for families to schedule photos for the church directory and Nikki Kiemele will also be in the gathering space before and after services over the next few weeks to sign people up as well.

The flowers today are given by the Alinder Family in honor of the 140th Anniversary of First Lutheran Church.

Social Ministry Team is looking for a volunteer to send out cards on behalf of First Lutheran. The Card ministry sends out cards to individuals and couples on significant birthdays and anniversaries as well as get well cards. Cards, stamps, and addresses are provided. The Church Office provides this volunteer with the list of significant upcoming birthdays, anniversaries, and, when church is notified, the get-well recipients. If you are interested, please contact the church office or social ministry team members.

A long time former member, Mary Roop of St. Cloud, passed away at the age of 98 on Monday, January 16, 2023. Arrangements will be at a later date. Blessed be her memory!

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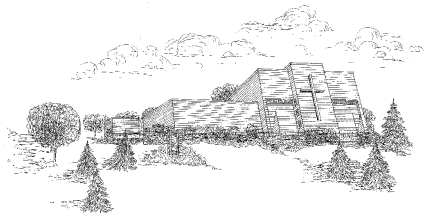
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Shift Worship—Membership
Expires 12-25-2023

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
1-15-22	\$3,660	\$4,431
YTD	\$9,699	\$13,292

YTD Financial Actual Through month of December			
Date	Income	Expenses	Net Gain (Loss)
12-31-2022	\$235,612	\$207,225	\$28,387



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, January 22	9:00a 10:00a	Worship ANNUAL MEETING
Monday, January 23	10:00a 7:00p	Le Suer Food Shelf Meeting/First Church Council
Tuesday, January 24		Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, January 25	6:00p 6:00p 6:30p	Scholarship Meeting Meal—GNH/GIGG/FLY GNH/GIGG/FLY
Thursday, January 26	4:00p	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Sunday, January 29	9:00a 10:00a	Worship Baptism—Avery Jane Boeck First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

January 22, 2023		January 29, 2023	
Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller	Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick	First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Evelyn Haemig	Acolytes:	Sallie Nesbit
Reader:	Rita Patrias	Reader:	Marcie & Everett Greisen
Usher:	LeRoy May	Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	John Miller	Greeters:	
Council Member:	Renae Sater	Council Member:	
Fellowship:	Christian Education Team	Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team	Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team	Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack	Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May John Miller	Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson Randy Baum
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker	Altar Guild:	Marie Walker