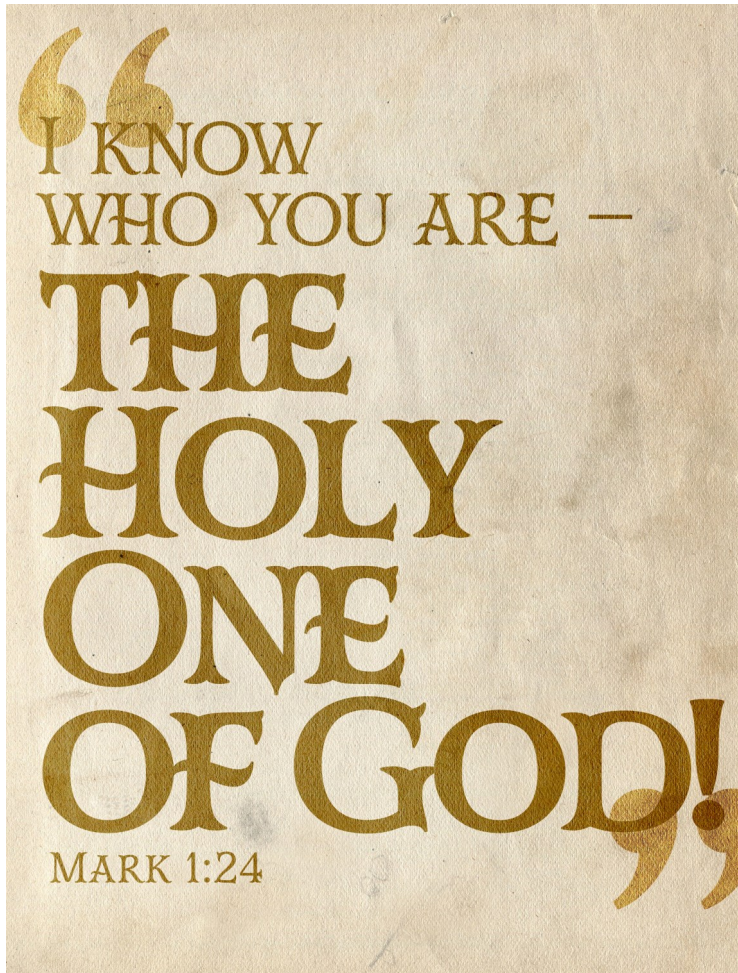


Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024



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

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

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.
We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.
We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✝ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
You are God's beloved.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

***"Rise, Shine, You People!"* ELW #665
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)**

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray
**Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING—Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Today's reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

PSALM: Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O LORD,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered;
you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;

all of your precepts are sure.

**⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome is your name.

**¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures
forever.**

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Word of God. Word of Life
Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to the first chapter of Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL—Mark 1:21-28

Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***"There Is a Balm in Gilead"* ELW #614
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

BAPTISM—Lola Irene Skelly

THE PRAYERS

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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:

Blessed are you, Holy One,
for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.

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

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW #886
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.
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

Baptized today is Lola Irene Skelly. Lola is the daughter of Andrew and Wendy Skelly. Her sponsors are Sara Svihel and Hootie Lieske.

Social Ministry Team will be meeting on Monday, January 29 at 4:30pm.

Christian Education Team will be meeting on Wednesday, January 31 at 5:00pm.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
1-21-2024	\$4,917	\$4,548
YTD	\$14,809	\$13,643

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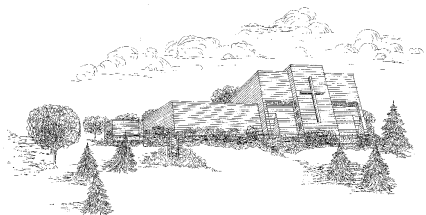
Songselect Advanced—Expires 6/30/2024

Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2024

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2024



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, January 28	9:00a	Worship Baptism Lola Irene Skelly
Monday, January 29	4:30p	Social Ministry Team Meeting
Wednesday, January 31	6:00p 6:30p	Meal—GNH/GIGG/FLY Lesson—GNH/GIGG/FLY
Thursday, February 1	6:30p	Adult Bible Study/Next Chapter Winery
Sunday, February 4	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion First Choir Rehearsal

Worship Assistants

January 28, 2024

Organist/Pianist:	Jenna Rame
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Caleb Sullivan
Reader:	Caleb Sullivan
Usher:	Steve Olson
Greeters:	Brenda Liebhard-Johnson
Council Member:	
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson Randy Baum
Altar Guild:	Roxanne Kisling

February 4

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Oliver Carlen
Reader:	Bob Reasoner
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Bob & Joan Reasoner
Communion Asst:	Chuck Frauendienst Sue Michaelis
Council Member:	Mike Johnson
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Joan May
Altar Guild:	Jan Rhode