

First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024



FIRST SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT

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

*Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.*

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## **GATHERING**

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

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING REFLECTION**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through + Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

**“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” ELW #244**  
**(Vs. 1 & 4)**

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## **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.**

## **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Timmers Family**

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

## ADVENT HYMN

**“He Came Down” ELW #253  
(Vs. 1) - change word “love” to “hope”**

CCLI #4679219

**1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

**Jodi Bruns**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

***Thanksgiving Medley*  
Zach Sullivan, Trumpet  
Virginia Miller, Piano**

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## WORD

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

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## FIRST READING—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 God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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."

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

### **PSALM—Psalm 25:1-10**

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup> **Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.**
- <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- <sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**
- <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your  
goodness, O LORD.
- <sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and upright, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup> You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.
- <sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

### **SECOND READING—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.*

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

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

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Alleluia***

**ELW #151**

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-first chapter of Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL—Luke 21:25-36**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> "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. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> "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, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> 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."

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Sam Mailleue

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*"The King Shall Come"* ELW #260

(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)

CCLI #3600818

## 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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering especially those on our prayer list and those we name in our hearts. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another especially through Adopt-A-Family and Love Basket ministries. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

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## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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**WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**



**OFFERTORY HYMN**

**“With Glory Bright and Heavenly Peace”  
Sung to the tune of “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”**

Copyright Rev. Cathy Ammlung, STS  
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**With glory bright and heav’nly peace,  
come quickly, Lord, again.  
With judgement true the earth renew;  
the gates of life unpen.  
God, Father, glory gilds your name;  
we worship and adore,  
We bless and praise, our thanks we raise;  
your mercy we implore.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW page 144**

**The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***Holy, holy, holy* ELW page 144**

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

*Lamb of God* ELW page 146

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.  
**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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

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### BLESSING

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection—  
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.

**We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,  
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.**

The good news of Advent is this:

Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.

**We will welcome Christ into our hearts.**

**We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.**

**We will go forth from this place in hope.**

### CLOSING HYMN

*"Blessed Be the God of Israel" ELW #250*

**(Vs. 1 & 3)**

CCLI #5070965 & One License #01300

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**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.*





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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**December Ministry Focus: Love Baskets**—Please consider taking the time to deliver and visit with members of our congregational community who don't get out to socialize for the holidays, or they recently lost a loved one, or are working through health concerns and could use some cheering up. People are social creatures and visits will not only bring you great joy but those blessed with your visit may feel a decrease in depression and loneliness. You will brighten their day and show them they are important people amongst our congregation. Please contact Sue at 651-367-4221 or the church office to help deliver one or of the baskets.

**Thank You**—A very special thank you to the talented decorating crew for preparing the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. We appreciate you Edrie Barton, Sandy Johnson, John and Virginia Miller, Mark Sullivan and Rachel Wagner.  
Thanks!

**Volunteer Calendar**—Please take time to look at the volunteer sign-up sheet—there are places for your talent!

**Adopt-A-Family**—Final date to drop off wrapped gifts is Wednesday, December 4.

**RISE Christmas Program** will be held on Sunday, December 8 at 4pm.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Budget Amount Needed
11-24-2024	\$3,331	\$4,548
YTD	\$185,379	\$218,296

Year to Date Financial Results			
Month Ending	Actual Received	Actual Expense	Net Gain/(Loss)
9-30-2024	\$155,168	\$169,499	(\$14,331)

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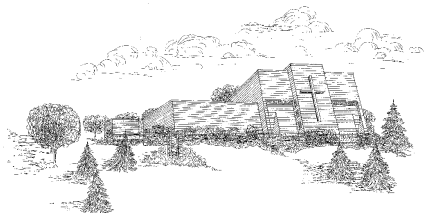
Shift Worship—Membership  
Expires 12/25/2024

Sharefaith—Membership  
Expires 6/2025

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Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy and Blessing  
Contributed by Jeanyne Slettom  
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Offering Hymn - "With Glory Bright and Heavenly Peace". Permission on copy in the office.



## Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 1	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a	<b>Worship w/Holy Communion</b> First Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, December 3	10:00a	Nursing Home Service
Wednesday, December 4	6:00p 6:00p 6:30p 7-7:30p 7-8:00p 7:00p	FLY @ FLC RISE & RISE UP Meal @ FLC Worship RISE RISE UP Adult Bible Study w/Brittany @FLC
Sunday, December 8	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a 4:00p	<b>Worship</b> First Choir Rehearsal RISE Christmas Program

### Worship Assistants

#### December 1, 2024

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Liam Haaland
Reader:	Brittany Mailleue
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	Jodi Bruns
Children's Message:	Jodi Bruns
Communion Servers:	LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member:	Sara Carrigan
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Joanne Graff
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker

#### December 8, 2024

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen
Reader:	Edrie Barton
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member:	Vic Pengilly
Fellowship:	Alinder Family
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Marie Walker