

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prepare

Days More Important Than Others

December 5, 2021

Elder of the Day: Howard Warner



First Lutheran Church LCMS

Sunday Divine Holy Communion Services

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Keep up to date by going to our

Website: 1stLutheran.Church

Members and Guests

As you attend service this day, please be sure to sign the attendance book in each pew. It is an important way to greet & welcome guests. Members please use this to update information such as address and phone number.

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION — COMMUNION STATEMENT

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at First Lutheran in the confession that as He says, our Lord gives not only bread & wine but His very body & blood to eat & to drink for the forgiveness of sins & to strengthen our union with Him & with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, & set aside any refusal to forgive & love as He forgives & loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. We do this because as Lutherans we take very seriously the advice of St. Paul in I Corinthians 11:28-29, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread & drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats & drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats & drinks judgment on himself."

SELF-EXAMINATION

- I. Do I believe that I am a sinner?
- II. Do I believe & trust in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord & Savior, redeeming me from sin, death, & the power of the devil?
- III. Do I believe that I receive forgiveness for all of my sins through Christ's true body & blood, present in the Sacrament? (real presence of Christ's body & blood)
- IV. Do I promise to amend (change) my sinful life with the help of the Holy Spirit?

If you have so examined yourself & are in full agreement with us, you are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. If you desire to learn more about these beliefs, or you are interested in learning how to become a member of First Lutheran Church, please ask Pastor Beaverson, an Usher, or Elder.

PLEASE!!!

There are many times that we do not find out that you or a loved one has been in the hospital or has gone away until you are home. PLEASE call the church office and let us know. Even if we are not in, the phone is checked frequently and your message will be passed on.

Elders: Gus Navarro, Leon Doescher, Mark Hanenberger, Howard Warner, Fred Weng, and Luis Marin.

Do Not forget The LJC container in the Narthex. Check your dollar bills for a L, J, or C, in the Circle, place it in the little church in the Narthex. This will help pay ongoing expenses.

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Glad, Thrilling Repentance

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AS WE GATHER

Preparing for Christmas, we buy presents, attend social gatherings, decorate, make plans to gather with family, and some will brace for the pain of grief that can be so difficult this time of year. In the middle of all our preparing, today the voice of John the Baptist rings out, “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Undergirding all the preparing we are doing is preparing for the Lord. John calls us to “bear fruits in keeping with repentance.” In worship, we do just that. We repent. We turn again to God, seeking His mercy, receiving His forgiveness, partaking of His grace. This leads to bearing the fruit of the Spirit. John highlights the fruit of generosity and contentment. What fruit is God calling you to bear as you prepare for Christmas?

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” (*LSB* 345) is a cherished Advent hymn. That thrilling voice is that of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, “The Savior is near! The kingdom of God is near! Repent, and live out your new life in Christ! Produce fruits worthy of repentance!” In many ways, we still live in the wilderness. Our nation continues to polarize, causing us to lose friends and feel as though we are alone in the world. Many of us walk through the wilderness of serious disease, job loss, or watching our children or grandchildren walk away from faith. There is also the self-created wilderness of our own sin—the damage we have done in relationships with others. But John’s thrilling words bring us hope. While we are powerless to make it through the wilderness ourselves, God is powerful and sees us through. By the gift of repentance in turning to Him in our desperation and pain, God restores a right relationship to us and then sets us free to bear fruit worthy of repentance. We are not stuck. God can change and restore us! A thrilling voice indeed!

PASTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIDEO PRESENTATION

PRELUDE TO OUR LORD

✠PREPARATION✠

INVOCATION HYMN LSB 379 "O Come All Ye Faithful" [Vs. 1 & 3]

- 1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O, come ye, O, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels:**

Refrain:

**O, come, let us adore Him,
O, come, let us adore Him,
O, come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!**

- 3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing, in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: *Refrain***

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Two Advent candles are lit.

Pastor: O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6–7*

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

VIDEO HYMN OF THE DAY "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" [LSB 345...Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne, Ind]

✠ **WORD** ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Malachi 3:1–7b* (Malachi declares the coming of a messenger, which would be fulfilled in John the Baptist.)

Reader: Lyn Senkarik

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

⁷Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?"

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:2–11* (Paul encourages that the Church be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Luke 3:4b, 6*

Pastor: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

People: Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 3:1–14* (John the Baptist urges everyone to repent, and he points to Jesus.)

³In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet

Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" ⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 685 "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

- 1. Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.**
- 2. Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth here-after.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.**
- 3. Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.**

4. Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

MESSAGE OF THE DAY *“Walking in the Wilderness!”*

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third
day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits
at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will
come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SILENT PRAYER

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times
and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting
God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming John the Baptist pro-
claimed in the wilderness and by whose death and resurrection calls us to
repent, turning again and again to the font of His mercy, so that our lives
bear fruit worthy of repentance. Therefore with angels and archangels and
with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name,
evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS “This is the Feast” [Video Presentation LSB 171]

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lord God, we give You thanks for Your thrilling words of life and salvation, made real and tangible to us today in Christ’s body and blood. As You have touched our lips and our hearts with the body and

blood of Jesus, so let the words that come from our mouths speak Your message of restoration into this broken world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.


BENEDICTION HYMN LSB 364 "Away in a Manger" [Vs. 3]

- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.
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A Poinsettia Sign up sheet has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up.



**Poinsettia
Orders**

Today is our Voter's Assembly Meeting after the service. Please plan on attending. This is an important meeting to approve our budget and elect officers for 2022

ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

"With Ugly Sweater Contest and Wacky Ornament Exchange"

Date: 18 Dec 2021

Time: 2 – 5 pm

Place: The Thatcher's Residence

11554 E Springs Lane, Floral City, FL.

(580) 461-9025

Bring:

- A. 3 Dozen Cookies for Exchange & 1 Dozen to Share
- B. An Ornament (new \$10.00 or less) for the Wacky Christmas Exchange. (Couples bring one for spouse and yourself or families bring one for the Children also)
- C. Wear Your Ugly Sweater (ugliest voted for wins prize)
His & Hers Category for these prizes
- D. An Christmas Favorite Appetizer to share for an appetizer feast!



Drinks and Christmas Atmosphere Provided

See Pastor for any Details or Questions

All Are Welcome Sign up in Narthex

LWML Meeting in December: 10:30 am on Wednesday, December 8th
Christmas devotion and pending decision for recipients of rummage sale funds.

Christmas luncheon at Olive Garden at 11:45 following meeting.

Please make your reservation—list is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. All members, spouses and friends are welcome Ya'll Come, Ya Hear?!



Anyone interested in playing hand bells???

There will be a short informational meeting on Sunday,
December 12th after the Sunday service about starting up the
Bell Choir.

Please see Carolyn Thatcher or Judy Mastrangelo.
Also, there is a sign up sheet posted in the Narthex.

On the calendar this week:

Voters' Assembly Meeting No Bible Study today.

Women's Bible Study Dec 7, 2021, 10:00 am

Women of First Lutheran, 10:30 am, meeting followed by luncheon at Olive Garden

Midweek Advent Service and supper, 5:30 pm

Trustees meet Friday's at 8 am

Prayers: Please pray for Austin; Finley and Zebediah Beaverson; Wilma Beaverson; Curtis Beckman; Liz Bedford; Terry Brown; Rhonda Chamberlin; Sandy Cobb; Peg Contestible; Dick & Dot Cornell; Barb DeLong; Terri Destefano; Pearl Donaldson; Arne Ekeli; Cre Ekeli; Maydell Ernsting; Shirley & Bill Falk; Cassandra Forti; Fred; Janet Hebl; Terry Ibach; Karen Inwood; Curt Manning; Diane Kopilec; James May; Jim & Diana Meister; Mason Navarro; Virginia Navarro; Maynard Quast; Samantha Berry Raines; Chris Reckline; Rob Reynolds; Michelle Ricci; Steve Rinard; Gloria Riney; Tom Rugante; Robert Scott; Dick Schmitt; Kathy Schlueter; James Sleighter; Chuck Smith; Dick & Judi Smith; Judy Stubstad; James Risher; Dr Russell Thatcher; Ciara Warden; Tim Warner; Glenn Weber; Grant Weber; Rob Weigand; Peter & Holly Wilk; Amanda Wilt; Annette Young.

Heavenly Father, we pray for all those mentioned at the Altar Sunday; May Your gracious mercy be with them, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Please pray for our Elders, Deaconess and Church Officers, and our Seminaries.

Continue to pray for all the Covid patients and that other countries may see a decline in cases.

May God move in the hearts and minds of us all to live our lives for His glory and honor.

Pray for friends and family serving in the Military and Veterans; and those with long-term illnesses and those who are homebound.

Pray for all law enforcement agents, firefighters, medical workers, and all who serve as elected officials, local, state and federal.

If you have a prayer request please write it in the book in the Narthex. For any additional requests during the week, please call the church office or Digna Beckman at 527-2680 or by email at jkdf50@outlook.com.

Birthdays

**Wardell Lott (5th), Pat Childs (7th), Larry Puhmann (10th),
Jerry Williquette (11th)**

Have you ever wanted a "Secret Pal"? If so, please add your name to the list posted or contact Stewardship Chairperson, Linda Locascio (352) 804-6525.