

December 2018-The First Word



Advent Christmas 2018

It is Advent and Christmas time of year. I'm glad that black Friday and cyber Monday have come and gone. I suspect many of us still have shopping to do, but let the Christmas carols, Advent worship, trees, manger scenes, children's programs and the smells of this holy season begin.

On the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will rejoice in the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ.

To help us celebrate, we will be lighting the candles of the Advent wreath. The candles signify that Jesus is the Light of the World. The evergreens remind us that He is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end.

On the first Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of **hope**.

On the second Sunday, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of **peace**. Jesus Christ is our peace. He is the Prince of Peace.

On the third Sunday, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of **joy**. When Christ comes into our lives, He brings the fullness of joy.

On the fourth Sunday, as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ, we light the candle of **love**. How great is the love the Father has lavished on us!

Worship - Advent and Christmas

Advent, December 2 and 9 at 9:00am with Lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath (and a Christmas hymn)

Advent, December 16 at 9:00am Youth and Children Led worship including the lighting of the candles and the sing of Go Tell it On the Mountain.

Advent, December 23 worship at 9:00am lighting the candle of love.

Christmas Eve worship at 4:00pm with communion.

Christmas Day worship at 9:00am with Intern Sara Martin preaching.

Sunday, December 30 worship at 9:00am Lessons and Carols

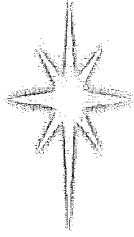
Wednesday evening worship on Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 6:00pm with the lighting of Advent Candles

2019 Offering Envelopes

Please look for your envelopes beginning on December 16th in the narthex.



Thank you to Fred Barsness for ringing our church Bell 11 times on November 11 to honor Armistices/Veterans Day. This year marked 100 years since the end of WW1. It was very moving to stand near by and count the tolls. Others remarked they could hear it from their homes.



Blue Christmas

A service of remembrance and hope

The holiday season can be hard when your heart is hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Join us, all are welcome

Wednesday, Dec. 19 ~7:00 PM

A community service at
Gol Lutheran

Welcome back to Carmen Nesseth

I am excited to share Carmen is returning First Lutheran staff to continue working on several of the areas she has been doing behind the scenes and help me dream about some other opportunities. Carmen will be part-time or less with a great deal of flexibility.

At this time, we have created a budget that does not reflect the \$28,000.00 First has committed to the KNW Youth and Family position for the past three years.

Help me welcome Carmen back to First Lutheran Staff – it is priceless! I am grateful.



Guatemala Intergenerational Journey - June 19 – 29, 2019

Experience the people, sights, sounds and amazing work at the Community Cloud Forest Conservation in Guatemala.

The itinerary includes:

- Cultural tour of Guatemala City
- Community Cloud Forest Conservation (CCFC) learning and working alongside Rob and Tara Cahill and the women at CCFC
- City of Coban visit
- Cloud Forest Village Visit
- Engaging conversations as the day is reflected upon
- Hiking, new friendships, surprises along the journey
- Ending the trip in historic Antigua

The land cost is approximately \$1,250, which includes food, lodging, ground transportation, and medical travel insurance. In addition, airfare is approximately \$1200/person (from Minnesota). Deposit of \$300 holds your place for this adventure.

Leadership on this trip

Pastor Julie Rogness - This will be my third trip to Guatemala and CCFC.

Trisha Hall, Physician who has been working with CCFC for many years. This will be her next trip of many.

Rob and Tara Cahill, Founders of CCFC, living in Guatemala and empowering women and children living in the remote areas of the cloud forest.

Please contact Pastor Julie for more details.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Council
November 14th, 2018 at 8:00 pm

Welcome and Call to Order: Pat Schreiber

Present: Pat Schreiber, Bill Lewis, Kevin Kruger, Pastor Julie Rogness, Cora Lee Monroe, Jim Fountaine, Wayne Spidahl, Don Herrlich, Sue Wold

Devotions: Wayne Spidahl

Adopt Agenda: Motion to Approve. M/S Don/Bill. Carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve as printed. M/S: Bill/Kevin. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance as of November 1, 2018 in checking account: **\$3,742.94.**

Tuck point account balance due: **None**

Motion to accept report. M/S Sue/Don. Carried.

Motion to accept the recommended budget proposal for 2019. M/S: Kevin/Cora Lee. Carried.

Pastor's Report:

Continuing with: Worship services (7) , visits (hospital, communion & other – 14), 1 funeral, 1 wedding, text study, weekly planning w/Annette, attending committee meetings, Intern Program supervision and retreat, will speak to Literary Guild, clergy coaching, Confirmation Rehearsal and Dinner for 11 students, made 67 hospice kits with 7th & 8th grade confirmation students and also worked with Feed My Starving Children with 16 church youth, working with KW Collaboration – K W Community CARES.

Looking Forward: Thanksgiving worship service at 1st Lutheran Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 pm. Advent and Christmas. Blue Christmas at Gol on Monday, December 19th at 7:00 pm.

Church Services for Sunday, December 23rd will be at 9:00 am; for Monday, December 24th will be at 4:00 pm; and on Christmas Day will be at 9:00 am.

Continuing and New Business:

Youth and Family position approved. M/S. Don/Bill. Carried.

Working on a job description with the Personnel Committee, Pastor Julie and Carmen.

Christmas at First Lutheran.

Tuck pointing and budget update.

Nominating Committee update.

Readers/Greeters/Communion Helpers/Coffee Servers notification process. New process for notification will start 2019. Will make it easier for people to find replacements when not able to serve.

KAIC offered suggestions for committee members.

SE MN Synod of ELCA asked our church to prayerfully consider increasing our contribution to mission support from \$12,000.00 to \$13,000.00 in 2019. These gifts support two campus ministries: Crossroads Campus Ministry in Mankato and Lutheran Campus Center in Winona.

Please contact Church Council or Pastor Julie for more details on this request.

Committee Action Items/Action:

Worship and Evangelism

Continue to work on Friendly Visit program. Worship Assistant and Coffee Server list has been updated.

Discussed Communion procedures and set-ups. Will fill glasses ahead of service.

Discussed the Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 20th at 7:00 pm at First Lutheran.

Discussed Advent Services, use of Marty Haugen Book and Blue Hymnal.

FLCW: See separate report in newsletter.

Property and Management:

Frontier phone contact updated. Plan to hire a person/business to plow sidewalks.
Discussed future projects. Working on outside lighting.
Removed parking lot slabs. Reviewing insurance contract costs.

Stewardship:

Fall Festival went well. Considering holding it on Rally Sunday in 2019. May hold a raffle vs a silent auction at 2019 Fall event. Want to call attention to the information posted at church on the Missionaries. May move to a more visible site.

Ed Youth:

16 youth participated in Feed My Starving Children on November 3rd.
Christmas Shopping for youth will be Sunday, December 9th. The 3rd and 4th grade SS students will designate where the globe offerings will go. The Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 16th at 9:00 am. Students are asked to be in their Sunday School room by 8:30 am. Spring activities may include a road ditch cleaning.

Kenyon Area Intern Committee (KAIC):

(From the October 23rd meeting)

Intern Sara Martin has been busy with preaching and liturgy schedules. She plans to meet with all the pastors and secretaries of the 8 churches. The committee discussed the budget, which was deemed on course. The Soup Cook-off is scheduled for Sunday, April 7th, 2019 at Gol at 11:00 am. There will be no meeting in December.

(From September 25th meeting)

The new intern Sara Martin was introduced. Sara provided sermon feedback forms to be handed out when she preaches. Committee members were encouraged to attend events that Sara was participating in and provide comments about her participation. Committee meetings will be held at First Lutheran (starting in October).

Next Church Council Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 19th at 8:00 pm
May bring treats to share.
Devotions: Pat Schreiber
Adjournment/ Lord's Prayer. M/S Don/Wayne. Carried.



The new Mitten Tree is up in the narthex and ready to accept your donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves.

FLCW Board met on Wednesday, November 7th 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Co-president Candy Herrlich called the meeting to order. Jan Ashland gave devotions. Secretary's report was approved as read & placed on file. Treasurer's report was accepted as read and placed on file. Balance through October 31 was \$3,122.22. Balance to date November 7 is \$4,016.15. Correspondence included letters from Ruth's House and Global Missions. Also received several thank you notes. No major items to report from the church council meeting.

Old Business:

Donation Drive to date- \$2036. Alter Care Committee met prior to FLCW meeting to discuss any needed changes etc. Remember Flower Chart for donating flowers for specific Sundays. Report from Cindy and Jackie (nominating committee) on FLCW officer nominations. Still in need of Vice President for 2019. Lefse Making will be from 9-1 on November 8, 9, 10th. Lunch will be provided. Thank Offering Service will be Sunday, November 11. Offering envelopes will be handed out at the service. Women of the congregation will participate in the service. Donations go to the ELCA. Thanksgiving Church Service will be at First Lutheran on Tuesday, November 20 at 7 PM. Food committee will call for bars and service group for workers to serve coffee following service. Sunday school Christmas shopping will be Sunday, December 9th. Need for Christmas gift bags, men's gifts. Quarterly Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 16th at 10:15. There will be short program & business meeting. Annual FLCW money disbursements were discussed and will be finalized at the quarterly meeting.

New Business:

Pastor Conference meeting at First Lutheran on January 3 2019. Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 7 PM. Candy will give devotions. We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Ashland, Secretary

Ladies Clubs & Bible Study News

*Morning Circle Bible Study
First Tuesday of the month in the
Joy Room at church.
Everyone is welcome!
December 4th meet at 9:30 a.m.

Our Advent devotional, "Fear Not," by Rev. Katie Hines-Shah will focus on how this oft-repeated phrase in the Bible provides comfort to those who hear it. In January we will begin a four-session study-The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus.



**The Monthly Bible Study is found
in the "Gather" magazine.**

To order this magazine through the
order center at Cambey & West
call 844-409-0576 (toll free)
or 845-267-3074

Gather Subscription Center PO Box 336
Congers, NY 10920-0336
gather@CambeyWest.com



***Christian Mission**

Thurs., December 6th, 1 p.m.

Thurs., December 20th, 1 p.m.



***Priscilla Club**

Tues., December 11th, 1 p.m.

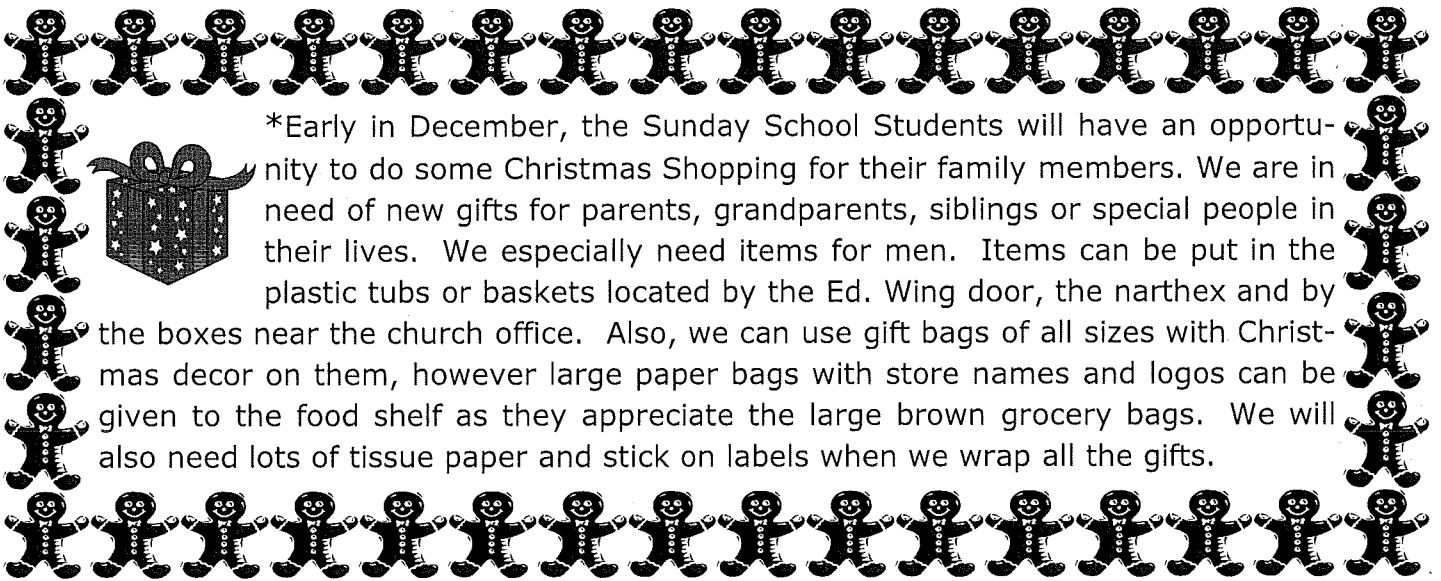
Tedda Gleissner is the hostess

From the Intern Sara Martin

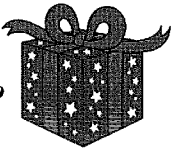
Month three has already come to a close, and I cannot believe all the opportunities I've been given thus far. I've assisted with weddings and funerals, preached more times than I can count, led the liturgy on days I'm not preaching, and lead countless Bible studies. I've also learned so much from you all including how to quilt, how to engage the children (with paper airplanes or science experiments), and how to love each one of you. While I still may not remember your name (remember there's a lot of them), I'm doing my best, and appreciate the grace and encouragement you give me each time I see you.

As we move into this Advent season, a word has stuck out to me: *wait*. While it doesn't seem like anything major, or really something worth noting, I keep thinking about how we are anxiously *waiting* the arrival of our Savior and all the festivities that come with it. I keep looking at my calendar filled up with all kinds of fun holiday activities from Advent services to Christmas lunches, and keep getting overwhelmed by all that is going on. However, I keep reminding myself that God is present in each of those activities, and if I patiently *wait* for the concert to begin or individuals to arrive for Bible study or whatever it may be, I will get far more out of the experience and likely see Christ more clearly. I encourage you this holiday season to look for Christ in the midst of your *waiting*. Whether that is at a stop sign or in a line at the grocery store, I know Christ is present. So seek Christ out this holiday season, and not just on Christmas when we get to put him in the manger. Seek Christ out amidst the chaos, the snow, and the days where *waiting* seems impossible.

KAI Pastor Sara Martin



*Early in December, the Sunday School Students will have an opportunity to do some Christmas Shopping for their family members. We are in need of new gifts for parents, grandparents, siblings or special people in their lives. We especially need items for men. Items can be put in the plastic tubs or baskets located by the Ed. Wing door, the narthex and by the boxes near the church office. Also, we can use gift bags of all sizes with Christmas decor on them, however large paper bags with store names and logos can be given to the food shelf as they appreciate the large brown grocery bags. We will also need lots of tissue paper and stick on labels when we wrap all the gifts.


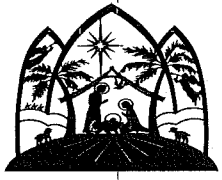
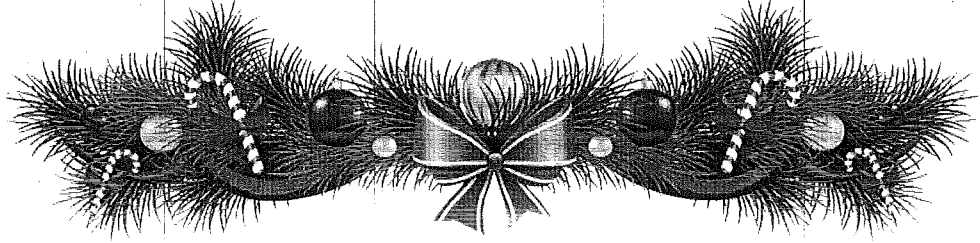


If you would like a plant in church for Christmas in honor/memory of a loved one. Please purchase your own and deliver it to the church. If you would like it listed in the Christmas bulletin please fill out and leave in the offering plate or bring to the church office. **Deadline is December 17th.**

In honor/memory of _____

Given by _____



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">December 2018</h1>						1
2 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Ed/Youth Committee 7:00 AA Meeting	3	4 5:30 Worship/ Evangelism @ Gunderson Gardens 7:00 FLCW Board	5 1:30 Merry Makers @ All Seasons Com- munity Center 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Senior Choir	6 10:00 Cannon River Conference 1:00 Christian Mission Society Love Day 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA Meeting	7	8
9 <i>Sunday School Christmas Shopping</i> 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:00 Sunday School Christmas Shopping 7:00 AA Meeting	10 1:00 Literary Guild 5:30 Property & Management	11 1:00 Priscilla Club	12 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Senior Choir	13 6:00 Sons of Norway 6:30 Scouts 7:00 AA Meeting	14	15
16 <i>Sunday School Christmas Program</i> 9:00 Worship/Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 Coffee 10:15 FLCW Quar- terly Meeting 7:00 AA Meeting	17	18	19 6:00 Worship 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 Blue Christmas @ Gol Lutheran 8:00 Church Council	20 11:30 KAI Roundtable 1:00 Christian Mission Society Love Day 7:00 AA Meeting	21	22
23 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee	24 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship 	25 9:00 Christmas Day Worship	26 No Worship	27 7:00 AA Meeting	28	29
30 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee	31					

The First Word

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*Change service requested

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First Evangelical Lutheran Staff

Pastor	Julie Rogness
Intern	Sara Martin
Secretary	Debbie Eggert
Accountant	Julie Dyr Dahl
Custodians	Dave & Betty Redfield
Keyboardists	Annette Thunhorst, Tammy Hanson
Choir Director	Carol Lozon
Bell Choir Director	Tanya Short
Missionaries	Stephen Deal, Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke Karen Anderson

Mission Statement of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

“Through God we are creating a vibrant, welcoming faith community, embracing all, providing harmony among generations, while lending compassion locally and globally.”

Volunteers for December - Ushers

John Estrem, chr.
Tom Thunhorst, chr.
Aaron Bauer
Charles Gaasedelen
Ron Grose
Allen Hoversten
Bill Lewis
Wayne Spidahl
David Erickson
LeRoy Ashland
Sherman Benson
Jim Marcuson
Scott Androli
Kevin Hildebrandt

Altar Care

Rhana Olson
John & Debi Maki
Linda Barsness
Marcy Gaasedelen

Communion Set-up

Dec. 2: Harris & Heidi Haugen
Dec. 24: Kaia Lehman

Communion Helpers, Acolytes, Coffee Servers:

December 2:
Reader-Doehling Family
Greeter-Doehling Family
Com-Doehling Family
Coffee-Doehling Family
Acolyte-Emma Paulson, Reganne Androli

December 9:
Reader-Steve Alger
Greeters-Androli Family
Com-Scott & Lisa Androli
Coffee-Steve & Karen Alger
Acolyte-Ashley Rechtzigel, Josi Quam
December 16: Sunday School Program

Reader-Youth
Greeters-Youth
Com-Josh Lerfald, Les & Angie Eggert
Coffee-Lerfald Family
Acolyte-Corrie Born, Leah Berg

December 23:

Reader-Jim Fountaine
Greeters-Audrey Nesseth, Colleen Estrem
Com.-Jim & Karen Fountaine, Doug Henke
Coffee-Wayne & Marie Spidahl
Acolyte-Julia Dahl, Stella Rechtzigel

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve-4 pm

Reader-Lorrie Walker
Greeter-Lorrie & Kathleen Walker
Com.-Rhana Olson, Ed & Tammy Fletcher

Dec. 25: Christmas Day -9 am

Reader-Dan Rogness
Greeter-Dan & Shari Quam
Com-Dan & Shari Quam

December 30:

Reader-Sue Wold
Greeter-Glenn & Carol Ronning
Com-Ken & Sue Wold
Coffee-Dennis & Cora Lee Monroe
Acolyte-Ben Short