



# First Lutheran Church

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Wednesday, December 6, 2023 · 6 PM · First Sunday of Advent

## WELCOME

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.*

### GATHERING SONG

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

### INVOCATION

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P/C: Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. In your compassion forgive us our sins known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

*James 5:7-10*

### GOSPEL

*Matthew 22:37-40*

### SERMON

Pr. Joe Skogmo

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy,      **C: Hear our prayer.**

### SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.      **C: And also with you.**

### NOISY OFFERING

*FLC Agape Fund*

*The FLC Agape Fund is used to help our homeless guests who come into the church with needs including rental assistance, short term hotel stays, bus tickets, food vouchers, clothing vouchers and more!*

**November Noisy Offering total was \$574.23 going towards Feed My Starving Children. THANK YOU!**

### OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER

P/C: Loving God, **receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

### COMMUNION

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

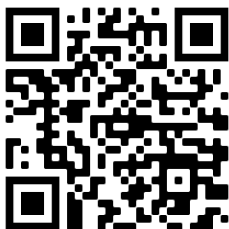
**C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

### SENDING SONG

*Joy to the World*

### SENDING



### Ways to Give

**ONLINE:** [firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com)—One-time, weekly, monthly or quarterly. Checking, savings or credit card. (*fees associated with credit card usage*)

**TEXT:** 218-228-3228—Text your donation amount to the number listed above & follow instructions that are texted to you. (We suggest you add the phone number above as a contact in your phone for future use.)

**CHECK/CASH:** 912 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**—The Advent & Christmas season is made more beautiful when the church is filled with beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to share flowers, please complete an order form & return it to the church office by Friday, December 15. Cost is \$12.00 per plant. Order forms can be found on the on the volunteer table.

**ADVENT MINI CONCERTS**—We are celebrating Advent with our Annual Mini Christmas Concerts at 12:05 PM on Wednesday, December 13th & 20th. Following the concerts there will be a free will offering soup and sandwich lunch. More information about the concerts can be found on the flyer hung on the bulletin board OR on the signs on the dining room tables.

**THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE**—The Christmas Store will be held on Saturday, December 9th. Volunteers are needed for set-up, greeting, shopping, wrapping and clean-up. Please sign-up at the Volunteer Table! The store utilizes over 40 volunteers and serves an average of 120 young shoppers each year! If you or someone you know would like to sign up to be shoppers at the event, go to [firstlutheranchurch.com](http://firstlutheranchurch.com) to register.

**DONATIONS NEEDED**—The kids who attend Wednesday School will be making Birthday Boxes for the Becker County Food Pantry. Please consider donating any of the following items to help: Frosting, Disposable Cake Pans, Balloons, Candles, Streamers, Small Toys, and Wrapping Paper. Donations are needed by Monday, December 11.

**CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**—Please join us on Sunday, December 24 for Christmas Eve worship. We will be offering a contemporary worship service at either 3:30 PM or 5 PM and a traditional candlelight service at 7 PM. There will be NO Christmas Day service this year.

**HOLIDAY HOURS**—The FLC office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Wednesday, December 27 in recognition of the Christmas holiday. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1 in recognition of New Years Day.

**WFLC TREAT SALE**—The Women of First Lutheran are again inviting your participation in this major event. The Sweet Sale will take place from 9:30 AM until noon on Sunday, December 17, just in time to stock up for holiday gatherings with friends and family. Items can be dropped off at the church from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, Saturday, December 16th. If you are unable to drop them off Saturday, you can bring them before the sale starts on Sunday morning. Thank you!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**—The children of FLC will be putting on their annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10 at the 10:45 worship service. We'd love for everyone to come and enjoy the program!

**CHILDREN & YOUTH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**—There is no Sunday/Wednesday School or Confirmation starting December 17 and December 20. Classes will resume on January 7 and January 10.

**BLOOD DRIVE**- December 27, 2023 7:30am-1:00pm. Give the gift of life this Christmas. Currently, there is a CRITICAL NEED for all blood types. Each donation can help multiple patients. Just think, it could be someone you love who needs blood. Please consider donating to help these patients in need. To schedule an appointment, go to [donors.vitalant.org](http://donors.vitalant.org) and use the blood drive code: detroitlakes or call Denise at 218-847-5656.

### Prayers for God's People

Brent Blake  
Joe Morrison  
Dale Pepelnjak  
Bill Wegscheid  
Judy Ford  
Kathy Lampton  
Lisa Weber  
Dave Nustad  
LeeAnn Hanson  
Harriet Barrett  
Isaak Berg  
Sandy Hanson  
Sue Visker  
Ashley Anderson & Family  
Liz Mathison  
Ernie Mancini  
Gill Gigstead  
Dick Dahlin  
B.R.  
Brian

*Names are kept on the  
prayer list for 3 weeks;  
please update the office if  
you wish to remain on the  
list longer.*

### CREATION CARE NOTE

According to the New Buildings Institute, the total number of verified and emerging zero energy buildings in North America has grown to nearly 700 – representing a 42% increase since 2018. Zero-energy buildings are structures that produce the same amount of renewable energy as they consume from traditional sources.

**Welcome Visitor!**

Date of Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Street*

*City*

*State*

*Zip Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a guest of: \_\_\_\_\_ I'm a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in learning more about First Lutheran Church.