 **First EDITION**

**DECEMBER 2022**

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



**Happy New Church Year! Advent and Christmas! What do these words mean to you? What difference does it mean for each of us?**

As we begin the new year of the church and begin to celebrate the waiting, wondering and excitement and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, what comes to mind for each of you? What makes the difference? This year what can we do differently?

Before the birth of the Savior, we will hear that we should be ready for the Son of Man at all times (Matt. 44). We will hear of the prophet Isaiah (35:2) see the glory of the Lord. We will examine that the knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence (Isaiah 11:2-3) as well as encouragement to grant and live in harmony with each other (Romans 15: 5). Then the birth of our Lord.

Change this year is coming. My prayer for you is that you share in the quiet and busy times of your life, the joy, peace, love and light that comes to the world. For all, for you and me, and the world.

Maybe you can add some prayer, some devotion, some worship that will help you realize that Jesus is coming to bring you comfort and peace. It might be you sit back and not be in the harried busyness that takes over it seems to as much hectic paces. Might you relax and pray, giving thanks for the Incarnation, God in human form for all of us.

This will be my last Newsletter for you as Pastor. I have totally enjoyed shepherding and leading this church. In our many joys and many sorrows, we have walked faithfully with God the Father, the Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It has been a Holy Honor. Thank you.

Have a peaceful and wonderful Advent, as we stay awake in the hopeful Babe in the Manger. May God Bless you all this Christmas and always.

Peace, Always Peace,

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

***“ 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”***

***13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,***

***14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”***

***15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”***

***Luke 2: 8-15***

**Text

Description automatically generated with low confidencePrayer Concerns and Sympathy** ~ Colleen Volden, Judy Oredson, Wayne Golly, Jerry Shober, Bradley Fairbanks, Kathy Thompson, Leigha Ness, Judy Smith, Lana Jensen, Wally Guptill, Karen Johnson (mother of Jamie and Amy Johnson), Marie Sigler (niece of Virgil and Joyce Seegebarth), Yvonne Guptill, Drew (Mindy’s brother), and MarshaSkoog (friend of Patty Sweeny.)

**Care facility member** ~Dorothy Svendsen.

**For firefighters, EMT’s, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.**

**For world peace**.

**For our companion synods.**

A close-up of a compass

Description automatically generated with low confidence**For our missionaries:** Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



**The Noisy Offering for December goes to**

**our Missionaries the Bencke’s.**





We express our Christian sympathy to the families of David Mickelson (brother of Colleen Volden) and Don Terhell. May they know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and give them peace.

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*Thank you for the caring support we received during*

*Don’s recent illness and death.*

*Shirley Terhell*



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**Women’s Bible Study’s ongoing mission project**

We ask members to join us and bring **SOCKS** during the month of December for the homeless.

Please put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in the Narthex.

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**December 11th Coffee Fellowship treat’s are Christmas Special Treats.**

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**We need people to sign-up to serve coffee** on the second Sunday of the month, starting in January 2023. Sign-up chart is on table in Narthex or contact Elaine Garaghty-763-229-1035.

**Office Hours**

Pastor Brenda Wicklund: 612-390-0915

Mindy Johnson, Director of Youth and Family: 320-469-3774

Donna Martin, Church Secretary: Tuesday-Thursday 9-3

Kathy Thompson, Financial Secretary: Wednesday & Thursday

Rick Bicking, Treasurer: Monday or 320-237-0256

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**12/2** Carolyn Slater

**12/5** Piper DeRungs

Kayde Lancrain/Samuelson-McCormick

Judy Smith **✝**

Tom Strauch

Noah Zamora

**12/6** Paul Shober

Stephanie Maser

**12/7** Wally Guptill**✝**

**12/8** Cassie Gorsegner

**12/9** Christopher Steinke

**12/10** Tim Johnson

**12/12** Lana Jensen

Devon Mulder

**12/13** Samantha Leger

**12/16** Rick Dunkley

Dirk Nelson

**12/17** Jeannette Perua**✝**

**12/18** Bella Mettling

Thomas Wachsmuth

Levi Vickstrom

**12/19** Mark Maser

**12/20** Susan Skalicky

Shayln St. Clair

**12/21** Brydan Hendrix

**12/22** Jill Bonn

Jessica Johnson

**12/23** Cody Klein

Betty Reiter

**12/25** **Our Lord Jesus!**

Nicole VanGunst

**12/26** Jan Lewis

**12/27** Jesse Haugen

**12/28** Iris Ranger

**12/29** David Maser

**12/31** Landon Leger

✝ **Octogenarians**

**Please let us know if there are any corrections or additions.**

**Thank You!**

December’s

Birthday’s

***ACOLYTE, LECTORS, USHERS, KITCHEN AND ALTAR SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER***

***Remember if you cannot serve, to please find your own substitute. Thank You***



Sunday, December 4-Jaden Blesener, Sophie Warman

Wednesday, December 7-Bailey Skutevik

Sunday, December 11-Connor Olander, Owen Johnson

Wednesday, December 14-Ava Scott

Sunday, December 18-Jonathan Olsen, Kenna Barnick

Wednesday, December 21-Nolan Stiel

Christmas Eve-Saturday December 24th 4 pm-Kieran Tvedt, Adam Alexander

Christmas Eve-Saturday December 24th 9 pm-Blake Blowers, Ava Blowers

Christmas Day-Sunday, December 25th-Jaxon Thom, Tom Wachsmuth

Wednesday, December 28th- **NO WORSHIP**

 (Ashley Thompson - usually reads First Reading)

Sunday, December 4-Paul Olson

Sunday, December 11-Elaine Garaghty

Sunday, December 18-Carole Lahti

Christmas Eve-Saturday December 24th 4 pm-Diane Ausmus

Christmas Eve-Saturday December 24th 9 pm-Linda Libra

Christmas Day-Sunday, December 25th- Donna Wachsmuth

 **December Ushers**

Bryan Gorsegner

Paul Olson

 **Kitchen Cleaning**

Sharol Huggett

 **Altar Committee**

N/A



**Women’s Bible Study’s** **ongoing mission project**.

We ask members to join us and bring a **granola bars** during the month of **May** for homeless packets. Please put them in the basket marked “Homeless Packets” in the cabinet in Narthex.

Thank You.



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **DECEMBER 2022**  \*\*Subject to Change\*\*  **Worship Service is available Live on Facebbok, You Tube, and Website.** | | | | | | |
| **SUN** | **MON** | **TUES** | **WED** | **THURS** | **FRI** | **SAT** |
| **Wednesday Night Youth Schedule**  5-7 pm Confirmation  5-6:30 pm FiA  7-8 pm Youth Group  **Wed. Dec. 21st-5- 7 pm Confirmation-Christmas Caroling; 5-6:30 pm FiA Christmas Party; 6:30-9 pm 6-12 gr. Youth Christmas Party at Mindy’s home.**  **No confirmation, FiA or Youth Group Dec. 28th** | | | | **1**  8 am Men’s Text Study | **2**  9 am Decorate Church for Advent | **3**  8 pm AA mtg. |
| **4** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Hanging of Greens Worship  4:30 pm Seventh Day Adventist Program | **5** | **6**  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | **7**  6:30 pm Advent Holden Evening Prayer Worship/HC | **8**  8 am Men’ Text Study  11 am Staff Christmas Party off-site | **9** | **10**  4:30-6:30 Live Nativity at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  8 pm AA mtg. |
| **11** 8:30 am Coffee Fellowship-Special Christmas Treats  9:30 am Worship/HC/  Baptism | **12**  9 am Library  5 pm Women’s Roman Bible Study | **13**  9:30 am Women’s Bible  Study | **14**  6:30 pm Blue Christmas Worship/HC  7:15 pm Church Council | **15** 8:30 am Men’s Text Study  Out to Lunch Bunch-Noon Potluck at Church | **16** | **17**  8 pm AA mtg.  **Christmas Service Project**  **Weekend**  **6-12th grades** |
| **18** 8:30 am Coffee  Fellowship-Parish Nurse Blood Pressure checks  9:30 am First Word Worship/HC  /Christmas Program  Youth Bake Sale | **19 January**  **Newsletter**  **Deadline**  **Sun. Dec. 18th**  **Potluck Dinner Farewell for Pastor Brenda after Worship** | **20**  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | **21** 6:30 pm Advent Holden Evening Prayer Worship/HC  6:30-9 pm -6th-12th gr. Youth Christmas Party at Mindy’s | **22**  8 am Men’s Text Study | **23** | **24**  **Christmas Eve**  4 pm Candlelight Worship/HC  9 pm Candlelight Worship/HC |
| **25 Nativity of Our Lord**  **Christmas Day**  8:30 am Coffee Fellowship  9:30 am Worship/HC | **26**  **Annual Reports Due!** | **27**  9:30 am Women’s Bible Study | **28**  **NO 6:30 pm**  **Worship** | **29**  8 am Men’s Text Study | **30** | **31**  8 pm AA mtg. | |

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The Parish Nurse will be doing blood pressures for anyone who would like one, Sunday, December 18th during Coffee Fellowship.

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*All Boards will not meet in December unless your Board wants to meet on their own.*

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**If you are interested in joining the church, please let Pastor Brenda know or the church office. Thank You!**

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***Please help us decorate the church for Advent-9 am on***

***Friday December 2nd.***

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**Save the Date it’s Christmas Program Time!**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

**Sunday, December 4th at 4:30 pm-Hinckley Seventh Day Adventist Church**

**If you would like to participate, please call: Lori 320-384-7046 OR Jodie 320-279-3000**

**Refreshment following program.**





***Live Nativity***

*Saturday, December 10th from 4:30-6:30 pm*

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 16726 Grindstone Lake Rd.*

*320-245-2449*

*-Live animals and petting zoo.*

*- Warm fires, chili, smores, and refreshment.*

*-Nativity craft for all children.*

*- All are welcome!*

First Lutheran will be collecting

Toys for Tots through Sunday, December 11th

Text

Description automatically generatedHelp make Christmas a happy one for some child by your donation!



**Out to Lunch Bunch- Potluck at Noon on**

**Thursday, December 15th at Church.**

**Sign-up on table in Narthex or let Lois Kunze know if you are coming.**

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*After Worship on Sunday, December 18th there will be*

*a farewell Potluck for Pastor Brenda.*



A group of purses

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Donate to provide warmth to those in need locally by placing hats, mittens, and scarves in the Giving Basket in the Narthex.

Also, Check out the ELCA Good Gifts Basket!

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Donate to fight world hunger and transform lives by purchasing an *ELCA Good Gift* ornament from the Giving Basket.

a. Choose the gift (ornament) that means the most to you, or choose gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones and take a card to give them.

b. Take an ornament, put your money or check (made out to FLC and in memo line mark “World Hunger”) in the World Hunger envelope, and place it in the offering or in the safe in the narthex.



**Treasurer’s Report**

Financial Report for November 2022

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **YTD Income** | **Budget** | **YTD actual** | **Last Year** |
|  | **$194,517** | **$123,495** | **$166,812** |
| **YTD Expenses** | **$171,329** | **$168,812** | **$155,620** |

**Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence***Just a note to let you know, that offering envelopes for giving are always out on the bulletin table. If you need a bigger amount, please contact Kathy Thompson. Also giving statements will be available to pick up around the fifteenth of January.*

*Kathy Thompson-Financial Secretary*

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**Please pick up your 2023 Commitment Card today from the table in Narthex or use the one in this Newsletter.**

All are invited to place your commitment card in the offering plate or put it on Kathy’s desk. You can also, send it to the church- attention Kathy Thompson.

Please return by no later than December 4th. Thank You.



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Description automatically generated **Annual Report time is approaching fast.**

If you are the chairman of a board, a committee, or the Church Council, please select someone to prepare your report for the

**Annual Meeting, which will be Sunday, January 29th.**

**The Deadline for Annual Reports is Monday, December 26th,** so they will be ready before the Annual meeting. Please return your reports to me print ready or email to me at: [firstlcsecretary@scicable.com](mailto:firstlcsecretary@scicable.com)



|  |
| --- |
| **Ushers needed for 2023**  This is an important part of worship and requires a small commitment of one month of Sundays a year.  Fact is, presently 7 of our ushers are 80 or older and 9 of our ushers are 70 or older. We need more ushers willing to serve in 2023 (especially for the month of October) If you are not already an usher and would be willing to help, let Dennis Volden know  (612-390-4829) |

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**“Jesus said; Let the children come to me”**

**Faith in Action:** Reminder that Faith in Action will be every Wednesday night from 5:00-6:30 It is still not too late to join or volunteer. YOUTH GROUP will be from 7:00 -8:00 for 7th – 12th graders will follow the same schedule as FiA. There will not be FiA or Youth Group December 28th. (Christmas break)

**Christmas Program Practice:**  We will have Christmas Program practice during Faith in Action. This year will be an intergenerational program so all are encouraged to join in. If you would like your children to participate in the program please bring them to FiA or call or email to make arrangements. Program will be during worship on December 18th

**Youth bake sale:** December 18th – free will offering

Youth and their families will be making Christmas treats to sell to raise money to buy toys and gifts for families in need for Christmas

**Youth Christmas Party** – December 21st – youth 6th – 12th grade

All youth are invited to Mindy’s house (35257 Two Rivers Rd) from 6:30 – 9 pm. We will have a lot of food, games, movies and gifts

**Christmas Service project retreat: 6th – 12th grade – Dec 16th – 17th**

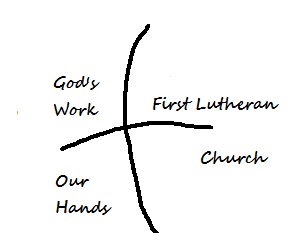
We will spend a weekend in the cities working with Salvation Army (Bell ringing) Christmas wreath at Fort Snelling and Feed my starving children. We will also go to Christmas light displays and Holidazzle village. Cost will be $35. Forms will be out soon.

**Thank you to everyone who volunteers, donates to, and prays for our Youth and Family Program☺**

**“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say, how you live, how you love and what you believe” Timothy 4: 12**

**PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR GIVING FOR THE 2023 YEAR AND RETURN FORM BY DEC. 4TH!**

**THANK YOU!**

**Commitment Invitation for the Mission of**

**First Lutheran Church in 2023.**

Please fill out this statement of intent and return to First Lutheran no later than Sunday, December 4th, or send to Church: attention Kathy Thompson,

**In gratitude for how generous God has been with me/us,**

**I/we offer these gifts with joy and thanksgiving:**

Please print names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My 2023 Total Annual Pledge with be $ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Given: weekly \_\_\_\_ bimonthly \_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Automatic Giving:

* I am currently using VANCO Simply Giving and would like to continue with this program. Please adjust my giving to reflect my 2023 pledge amount. There is no change in my banking.

Provide your signature, no further info is needed. Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* I want to provide my gifts electronically through VANCO Simply Giving. I have completed the secured, automatic giving form….
* I want to provide my gifts by VANCO Mobile which is also available and simple to use. Sheets are available on how to sign up.

Legacy Planning:

* I/We have included First Lutheran in my/our estate.
* I/We would like more information on how to leave a legacy gift to First Lutheran.

I/We would like to help by offering my time and talents. Please contact me about these ways I can serve:

* Lector
* Board Member (ei. Evangelism/Stewardship; Property; Worship/Music; and Youth/Family and Education.)
* Altar Guild
* Ushers
* Assisting Minister
* Fellowship Coffee & Treats
* Music/Choir
* Youth Ministry
* Prayer Chain
* Church Council Member
* Please contact me, I wish to learn more about how I can serve FELC.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

You are invited to make contributions toward the Christmas poinsettias to grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season.

We must have all donations by Sunday, December 5th. Each plant is $10.00

You are also invited to share your Christmas poinsettia from home if you wish. Please have your plant at the church by 9 am Thursday, December 22nd. It’s a good idea to mark your plant with your name so you are sure to get your same plant home with you.

Information for the Christmas bulletin will be taken from this form. Please complete and be sure to list the exact information you wish to have appear in the bulletin. Thank you.

**\*\*Please return this to the office or offering plate by Sunday, December 4th\*\***

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I will bring a Christmas plant for the Sanctuary

***\_\_\_\_\_\_*** I wish to purchase a plant

\_\_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_In loving honor of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Drop your check to First Lutheran Church into the offering plate and be sure to mark it “POINSETTIAS– Altar Guild” on the memo line. Thank you!!

First Lutheran Church Non-Profit Organization

301 Lawler Avenue South U. S. Postage

P.O. Box 459 PAID

Hinckley, MN 55037 Hinckley, MN 55037

Permit No. 37

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED