

# First Edition

Where the News is Good!

**Published by First Lutheran Church**

**January 2021**

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Do you have Questions? Or Feedback? A Suggestion?  
Contact a Congregation Council Member listed below.

**Eugene Comber, Brenda Ecklund, Gail Espinoza, Sharon Hamilton, Terry Horner, Brenda Johnson,  
Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Pam Marchincin, Martha Paulson, Jim Wahlberg, and Jane Young**

### **First Lutheran Staff**

**Daniel S. Rumfelt**, Pastoral Leader in Transition

**Brian A. Bogey**, Minister of Music

**Kimberly King**, Worship Leader and Coordinator  
of Contemporary Worship

**Elizabeth Lobb**, Office Manager





*“The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”* Mark 1:1

All stories begin somewhere. The Gospel of Matthew begins with the genealogy and birth of Jesus. Luke narrates two birth stories: John the Baptist and Jesus. The Gospel of John opens: *“In the beginning was the Word.”* But Mark is silent about babies and cosmic light.

As Mark begins, Jesus is already a grown man. By the 10<sup>th</sup> verse Jesus rises from the waters of his baptism while the Holy Spirit descends on him like a dove. In short order Jesus is tempted in the wilderness; begins proclaiming “good news” to all who will listen; calls his first disciples; preaches in the synagogue; casts out an unclean spirit; heals Simon Peter’s mother-in-law together with “all who were sick or possessed;” makes a preaching tour of Galilee and finally cleanses a leper who afterward can’t stop blabbing about it. That’s just chapter one and it’s not a long chapter.

Mark eagerly begins the “good news” and his enthusiasm never wanes. Clearly, Jesus Christ, the Son of God has captured his faith, reshaped his person, and inspired his voice, his pen, his witness. And though Mark sprints through the telling, his witness is never superficial. Each scene remains rich, like the depth of a faceted gem-stone into which we peer. We will, in fact, spend

four upcoming Sundays just in Chapter One. They will be worth our attention. These stories, brief as they are, are in fact the very same stories that inspired faith in Mark, Matthew, Luke, John and countless Christians before us.

That the Church tells these stories at the beginning of a new year is also purposeful. The 2020 Christmas Season comes to a close. The 2021 Epiphany Season commences. “Epiphany.” It means: to appear, to reveal. For Mark it means to reveal “Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark reveals Jesus, whose person and calling are hidden in Nazareth for thirty years, until that day he suddenly appears at the river Jordan, is baptized by his kinsman John, and before we know it, Jesus is risen not just from the Jordan, but from the dead.

All stories begin somewhere. Not all stories end. The story of 2020 ends with a date on the calendar. Eventually, many books will claim to make sense of 2020, though few are likely to succeed. We do not know yet the story of 2021, though many themes will carry over: some of conflict, some of hope. Then after 365 days, the story of 2021 will close and the story of the next new year will begin. But the story of the “good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God” – that story endures, remains, never ends and is forever “good.”

Pastor Dan Rumfelt



## January 2021

**Please make sure you stop and visit the library!!**



## December, 2020

- Council met Monday, December 21 via Zoom. Meeting opened with The Lord's Prayer.
- Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. in the Parlors, and 10 p.m. in the Nave. In-person worship could change at any time, if Covid cases continue to rise.
- Pastor Rumpfelt continues to hold office hours Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is available for pastoral care. He has written a Stewardship letter to go out in early January, with pledge information.
- Worship services will continue at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. thru January, with postings online continuing. Masks are required,

and use of hand sanitizer and social distancing being maintained. Sunday School is on hold, with regular contacts with youth ongoing.

- The Pastoral Call Committee has finished the draft of the Ministry Site Profile, and Council is in the process of reviewing it.
- Jim Wahlberg reported that the Drive-thru drop-off project has been approved and just needs a permit to proceed. The planter near the front of the church will have to be moved to allow for the exit to Chandler Street. A further update will be given at the Annual Meeting.
- Acting on the Property Committee recommendation, Council accepted a bid from Fiske to repair leaking in the bell tower, including fixing mortar and painting.
- The Personnel Committee is still trying to fill the sexton position. Meanwhile, Property Committee members and other volunteers are filling in.
- Terry Horner gave the Treasurer's report and reviewed a proposed church budget for 2021. Income is down slightly, but expenses are down even more. Budget is under review and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- The Community Outreach Store continues to be open 3 days per week, receiving donations, and serving the community.
- The Broken Bootstrap Counseling Service offered by Ned Lindstrom will be moving from the church to a new location as of the end of the year.
- Annual meeting is set for Jan. 31, plans are for one service in the Nave with meeting to follow.



## **NOTES FROM THE LOFT**

**January 2021**

**Brian A. Bogey, Minister of Music  
and Organist**

Thank you so very much to our select First Lutheran Choral Ensemble members, soloists (both instrumental and vocalists), specifically vocal soloists Julie Costantini and Marika Koch, along with pianists Gail Espinoza and Julie Livengood for the beautiful music that they performed for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. What a wonderful evening of music, word, and worship it was!

Below is a list of Lector/Liturgists and Hymn Cantors/Soloists for the month of January. Please contact me if there is a conflict and we will find alternate persons to fill-in.

### **LECTOR/LITURGIST**

### **HYMN CANTOR/SOLOIST**

**January 3 Fred Larson**

**Brenda Ecklund**

**January 10 Peter Larson**

**Marika Koch**

**January 17 Brenda Ecklund**

**Julie Costantini**

**January 24 Frank Gozdalski**

**Beth Johnson**

**January 31 Beth Johnson**

**Peter Larson**

We continue with Part 5 of the History of Music at First Lutheran Church that starts at 1982 and covers the major pipe organ restoration by the Kegg Organ Company of Hartville, Ohio.

# Musical History of First Lutheran Church

## Part 5

In 1982, Brian Bogey was appointed to the position as the Director of Choral Activities at the Jamestown High School, including being the director of the beloved Jamestown High School A Cappella Choir. Bogey resigned his position as First Lutheran's Organist-Choirmaster in 2002 to take a new position as Minister of Music at the Zion Covenant Church. Before leaving however, they raised \$150,000.00 for the major organ re-leathering and renovation project slated for the future.

Julie Livengood took over the organ position for the next year with Kimberly King directing the choir. Kimberly King became the new Organist-Choir Director at First Lutheran from 2003-2015. During Kim's service as Organist-Choir Director, the church raised additional funds and hired the Kegg Pipe Organ Co. from Hartville, Ohio, to restore the entire organ taking every pipe out to their factory and cleaning them along with the re-leathering of each wind-chest for every one of the 3776 pipes! Brian Bogey was called back to give the Celebratory Organ Recital on the newly refurbished Casavant Pipe Organ with several hundred people in attendance. Kimberly King is credited with also establishing a new contemporary worship service led by the talented Sacred Fire Contemporary Band in the church parlors at 9 a.m. every Sunday that has been very successful.

Bogey returned to First Lutheran Church as the new Minister of Music and Organist at the 11 a.m. worship service with Kimberly King continuing as the Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship with the Sacred Fire Contemporary Praise Band at the 9 a.m. worship service held in the church parlors. Karen Linn also continued as director of the First Lutheran Good News Ringers Hand Bell Choir. Since her taking over the bell choir they have increased in numbers to 14 faithful bell ringers and have extended the octaves of bells from three octaves to five octaves. They have played concerts both at First Lutheran Church as well as other churches here in the Jamestown area and in Dunkirk, New York. What a wonderful addition to our musical ministry here at First Lutheran!

The First Lutheran Choir has also sponsored several other projects with choral/organ concerts including the new stair lift to the choir loft that assists those members who need an "extra lift." We helped purchase new chairs for the newly renovated choir loft. We celebrated the "500 Years of the Reformation" with a special concert on June 11, 2017 featuring the First Lutheran Choir, the Good News Ringers Bell Choir, and Brian Bogey as organ recitalist. We also raised funds for the 515 new red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnals for both the church nave and Memorial Chapel in 2017. Every December at the annual choir Christmas dinner, we bring toys for the community sponsored "Toys For Tots" event spearheaded by the Resource Center for the entire Chautauqua County. Our choir continues to be very active and contributes to many different projects at the church and in the community. It was this past September that Brian Bogey began his 36<sup>th</sup> year as organist at First Lutheran Church. What a wonderful congregation to serve! "A Tusen Tac!"

*May God richly bless each of you in the New Year!  
Happy New Year 2021  
In Christian Love,  
Brian*

**January, 2021  
First Lutheran Church  
Contemporary Worship**

**Kimberly King  
Worship Leader & Coordinator of Contemporary Worship  
Sacred Fire – Praise Team**

Hello Everyone,  
Happy New Year! Hope your New Year is going well!!  
A New Year and New Beginnings.

Our “in person” Contemporary Worship Services continue each Sunday in January **at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church. The service last 30 minutes.

**Exception:** Annual Meeting date on **Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** which will be **one service** in the Nave at 10:00am with our Annual meeting following the service.

**REMEMBER:** Masks are required and temperatures taken at the door. Please keep 6 feet distance from others and use social distancing inside the church and entrance areas. If not feeling well, please remain at home.

Sacred Fire members share music and scripture each week, we have digital inspirations, along with a special message from Pastor Rumpfelt. The service is planned with safety and health precautions for you and your family, while keeping a relaxed and friendly environment. Seating is spread out with variations for singles, couples and families.

We WILL continue to video tape the services each week and post on Facebook, Vimeo and on our new church website, for those who would like to remain at home. So, everyone can have options to worship at their own comfort level during the Pandemic.

**Remember you have access to our Past Contemporary Services** on both our church Facebook page, Sacred Fire’s page and on Vimeo.com. On Vimeo, search First Lutheran Contemporary Service and Sunday’s date. For example, First Lutheran Contemporary Service 12.6.20. **Don’t forget to share these services with your friends and family!! A GREAT Outreach Ministry!!**

**You can continue to listen** to contemporary music and inspiring messages everyday on FM radio channel 90.9 Family Life Network Or online at **fln.org**. Also, on **Sirius XM radio**, “The Message” on channel 63.

If you are looking for a devotional type inspiration, check out [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com)  
Great site! They have an “App” too.

**As God continues to shine Love and Blessings on you! .... Remember to share God’s Love with others!!**

**Take Care and Be Safe!!**

God’s Blessings to you all  
From All of Sacred Fire and  
Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship



**Income & Expenses through November 30, 2020**

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Income</u>  | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Total</u>  |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| January      | *71,954        | 28,220         | 43,734        |
| February     | 14,125         | 35,149         | -21,024       |
| March        | 16,082         | 29,856         | -13,774       |
| April        | *56,975        | 16,208         | 40,767        |
| May          | 19,295         | 30,186         | -10,891       |
| June         | 15,241         | 15,845         | -604          |
| July         | *53,600        | 22,710         | 30,890        |
| August       | 19,055         | 16,292         | 2,763         |
| September    | 13,846         | 38,962         | -25,116       |
| October      | *52,445        | 11,190         | 41,255        |
| November     | 15,621         | 22,870         | -7,249        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>348,239</b> | <b>267,488</b> | <b>80,751</b> |

**Mailing Address:**

Jeffrey Clauson (Finished his tour in the Air Force)  
 6444 Starfish Cove (New address)  
 Bull Creek, FL 32563

LCDR Andy "SMEDIUM" Carlson  
 VFA 211, Unit 200204, Box 4  
 FPO AE 09502

MASR Scott D. Johnson  
 12440 Chickadee Ln., NW  
 Apt. 102  
 Silverdale, WA 98383

CAPT Eric Spitzer  
 850 Ticonderoga St., Ste. 100  
 JBPHH, HI 96860-5102

**Attendance for December**

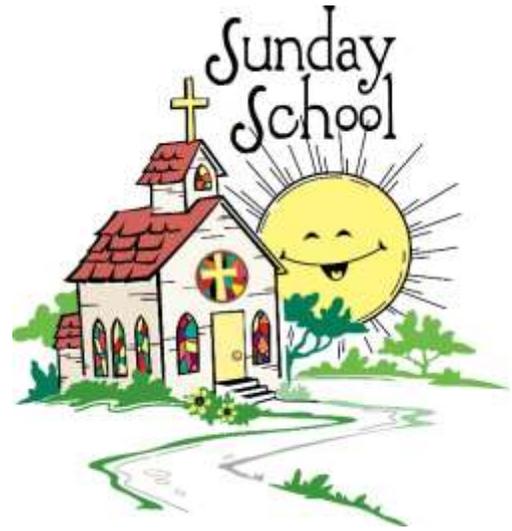
| December      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday |
|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2019          | 95                     | 191                    |
| 2020          | 70                     | 87                     |
|               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday |
| 2019          | 167                    | 205                    |
| 2020          | 99                     | 44                     |
| Christmas Eve |                        |                        |
| 2019          | 253                    |                        |
| 2020          | 80                     |                        |
|               | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday |                        |
| 2019          | 115                    |                        |
| 2020          | N/A                    |                        |

**\* 40,000 from Endowment**  
**Thank you to all who are mailing their offering!**

**PARISH RECORD**

**Wedding:**

Brittany Wright & Anthony Paterniti on Saturday,  
 December 12, 2020.



*We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:*

**Memorial Fund – Library Fund**

**In Memory of Constance Swanson by:**  
Janet and Jim Wahlberg

**Memorial Fund**

**In Memory of Frank and Marion Linn by:**  
Karen Linn Femia

**Memorial Fund – Organ and Endowment Fund**

**In Memory of Gordon Black by:**  
Sally Black

**Memorial Fund – Drive Thru**

**Donation by:**  
Larry Ross

**Memorial Fund – Drive Thru**

**In Memory of Myrtle & Herb Rahm and Richard W. Carlson by:**  
Sue & Pete McGraw

**Sunday School News**

We are continuing with Remote Sunday School with videos being posted weekly to the First Lutheran Sunday School Jamestown, NY page. We are posting videos for Preschool/Kindergarteners, Grades 1-3 and then Grades 4-6. All the students were given leaflets that go with the lessons. The children and their parents can send pictures on Messenger to Tracy Grey or post to the Sunday School page of completed pages. If your child didn't receive the leaflets, please contact the Church office of Tracy Grey 485-3754. Thank you to all the parents and kids who are working so hard this year!!

Thank You!  
Tracy Grey

**Confirmation Class Schedule for January via Zoom**

Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

# POINSETTIA MEMORIALS 2020



THANKS to our Altar Society and all others  
who helped decorate the Main Sanctuary  
and Contemporary Worship Center this  
Christmas season.

GIVEN IN  
LOVING MEMORY OF:

Bruce Johnson  
Donald E. Owen  
Bennie Ditonto, Sr.  
Laverne & Helen Hanson  
Evald & Ella Forsberg

Bonnie S. Rhodes  
Robert & Hildur Lee  
Jeanette Perry  
Roberta Schnars  
Robert Perry

Daniel Hill  
Emil & Tillie Puder  
William & Sigrid  
Hendrickson

Rachel Boerst  
Jon Gronquist  
Gordon Black  
Warner & Gerda Black

Reuben & Marian Rinaldo  
Leonard & Hildur Tedquist  
Fred & Ellen Johnson  
Emmy Lou Weaver  
John Harold Olson

Francis & Betty Webster  
Fred & Ellen Johnson  
Reuben & Marian Rinaldo  
Alf & Viola Ecklund

John & Jane Wahlberg  
John & Esther Platt  
Ashley Wahlberg Reed  
Valorie Wade  
Tom Espinoza  
Loved Ones  
Steve Marchincin  
Steven D. Marchincin  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Waite

Doug & Nancy Kling  
Don & Helen Alden  
Burt & Dora Rose  
Ronnie Rose  
Evelyn Gustafson

Loved Ones  
Nick Ingrao  
Grace Ingrao  
Mikey Rusignuolo  
Greg Olson

Alan "Sam" Keefe  
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon  
Burmeister  
Robert Burmeister

Mr. & Mrs. David Keefe  
Lawrence Keefe  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul McDonald  
Mark LeRoy  
Betty F. Carlson

Gary VanStee  
Jack Burmeister  
David Hegedus  
Jon Anderson  
James Costlow  
Norman LeRoy

Martin & Elaine Bogey  
Stephen & Daisy Bogey  
Eric & Louise Johnson  
Delores M.J. Nelson  
Gustafson

Harold E. Nelson  
Elmer & Mildred Nelson  
William & Ebba Christianson  
Gustaf & Daisy Johnson  
Walter & Frances Bogey  
David A. Bogey

Arnold & Louise Lundberg  
Dr. Robert G. Ney  
Allison Wells Ney  
Christa Stineman  
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Paul A.  
Westerberg

Jean E. Peterson  
Carl & Ethel Peterson  
Lt. Col. Robert H. Johnson  
Howard Johnson  
Lawrence Johnson

Harriet Johnson  
Harold & Britta Rubens  
Stanley & Elizabeth Andersen  
Florence Zenghi

Ida Swift  
Willaim Schaff  
Marianne McElrath  
Almeth & Anna Skoglund  
Harry & Laura Skoglund  
Timothy Skoglund  
Jonathan Skoglund

Louise Roskamp  
Frances DeAngelo  
Sherwood Wright  
Dr. Wesley Chall  
Rev. & Mrs. Eldon Johnson

Ward W. Westerberg  
Rev. & Mrs. Arthur Henne  
Clifford & Martha Lee  
Frances Paterniti

Randy Hofgren  
Alton Hofgren  
Marion Hofgren  
Oscar Hofgren

Reynold F. Almquist  
Pamela Almquist Turner  
Marilyn Ross  
Karen Crossley

Peggy & Clifford Lindstrom  
Evalyn & Carl H. Paulson

Randall Bloomquist  
Richard & Joyce Johnson  
Sherwood & Marian  
Bloomquist  
Jeffrey L. Bloomquist

Joyce & Harry Rissel  
Myrtle & Herb Rahm  
Randall & Jake Hofgren  
Cody Muscarella  
Beverly & Milan Walrod  
James Walrod  
Michael Seeley  
Russel & Hazel Jacobson  
Gordon & Mary Larson

GIVEN IN HONOR OF:

Barbara Keefe  
Marcia Rupp  
Liz Lobb  
Rev. & Mrs. Daniel K. Nagle  
Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Rumfelt  
Richard Burmeister  
Jane Young  
Lucy Ryder  
Joe Bender

**The 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting**

The 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2010 in the Nave following the 10:00 AM service. Only one service will be held that morning; no luncheon. Options for remote attendance are being explored. More details to come.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



First Lutheran Church has a job opening for a Sexton (Maintenance and building management).

This is a full-time position that requires weekday, Sunday, and holiday availability. A full job description is available at the church office.

**Applicants for the Sexton position must have a background in maintenance with skills in electrical and plumbing repair very helpful.**

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume or letter of intent to:

Personnel Committee  
First Lutheran Church  
PO Box 183  
Jamestown, NY 14702

If you have questions, please ask a member of the personnel committee or Pastor Dan. The members are: Beth Johnson, Ellen Ditonto, Fred Larson, Mike Laurin, Shelly Wendt.

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the February 2021, *First Edition* newsletter is Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please have all information into the church office by that date. Thank you.

## Community Outreach Store

The Community Outreach Store is now opened. The store will be open M - W - F, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. We are also accepting donations during that same time frame. Face Masks are required.

## **PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE**

The Church Council would like to thank the following individuals who have accepted the Council's invitation to be on the Call Committee for a new pastor:

Hannah Dearman  
Brenda Ecklund  
Gail Espinoza  
Sandy Forsberg  
Julie Gable  
Tracy Grey  
Gregg Guichard  
Peter Larson (Chairperson)  
Lee Lindeman  
Emily Ryberg  
Glen Utter

(Jeanine & Mike Dearman – Non-Voting Members)





**SCRIPTURE READINGS IN JANUARY**

**Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Psalm 147:12-20  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 John 1:10-18

**Baptism of Our Lord**

**First Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

Genesis 1:1-5  
 Psalm 29  
 Acts 19:1-7  
 Mark 1:4-11

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Samuel 3:1-10  
 Psalm 139:1-6,13-18  
 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
 John 1:43-51

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Jonah 3:1-5,10  
 Psalm 62:5-12  
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
 Mark 1:14-20

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 31<sup>st</sup>**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
 Psalm 111  
 1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
 Mark 1:21-28

**Baptismal  
 Anniversaries**

We celebrate with you!

\*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

**January Baptisms:**

- 1/1 Chris Baglia  
 Candace Carlson  
 Marie Carlson  
 Tammy Donato  
 Sandy Kindberg
- 1/2 Glenn Utter
- 1/4 Rebecca Van Tassel
- \*1/4 Karen Linn
- 1/5 Matthew Bloomquist  
 Diane Kling
- 1/6 Ashley Harshaw
- 1/7 Brenda L. Johnson
- 1/8 Reed Livengood  
 Erica Webster
- \*1/8 Luke Lindman
- 1/11 Cheryl Harvey
- \*1/12 Robert Kent
- 1/13 Laura Livengood  
 Karen Magnuson  
 Kathryn Teeters  
 Michael Magnuson
- \*1/13 Brenda Johnson
- 1/17 Hannah Dearman  
 Aiden Dearman
- \*1/17 Heather Potter
- 1/22 Marcus Lindstrom
- 1/23 Ingrid Kraft
- \*1/23 Nancy Ferguson
- 1/26 Robert Winterburn
- \*1/26 James Bolles
- 1/27 Finley Holt  
 Grayson Holt
- 1/29 Sally Treadway
- 1/30 Jackson Grey
- \*1/30 Lorie Johnson

## Synod Mission Message



### **NEW YEAR - NEW BEGINNINGS**

As we flip the calendar page over and celebrate a new year, think of millions of people in circumstances that are just another day of misery—the refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers of the world.

There are 10 million refugees in the world, 5% of them children who have been separated from their parents. Many have been publicized in papers and news magazines—the Syrians, the Central American children who are sent north. But there are so many more whose stories haven't been told. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) is a mission of the ELCA, founded in 1939 with other partners, which addresses these nightmares. LIRS draws from the deep well of our Lutheran theological understanding, our cherished Lutheran heritage, our commitment to humanitarian relief and our identity as people with immigrant roots as faith is put into action in solidarity with migrants and refugees, working from a grounding in deep core values, reflecting the understanding of how we witness to God's love for all people to realize a vision of just and welcoming communities.

Refugees are resettled, connected with employers who can use their talents. Children are reunited with their parents, or are placed in new loving homes. Migrants receive social and legal services, resources for safe integration into US communities, trauma rehabilitation. In this way, they too can celebrate a new day in their lives, just like we see a new year full of anticipation and promise.

Your mission support helps the work of LIRS.  
*Thank you!*

We are church together for the sake of the world.  
God's Work. Our Hands.



### **Prayer Ventures January 2021**

- 1** Give thanks and praise that God knows intimately our complexities, failures, accomplishments, questions, goals and hopes, and still looks upon us with loving kindness, newness and a desire for us to thrive as individuals and communities.
- 2** Pray for our companion churches and international leaders as they confront multiple waves of the pandemic. Ask the Spirit to fill them with hope, resilience and reassurance that our faith in the presence and love of God, which we share as siblings in Christ, will unify us in caring for one another and in doing God's work in the world, using our diverse gifts, cultures, languages, resources and perspectives in every circumstance.
- 3** Give thanks and praise to God that we are children of God, knowing and testifying to the good news that Jesus Christ became flesh and lived among us, and that we have seen the glory of God's only son, full of grace and truth for the world.
- 4** *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* We remember and pray for victims of sex trafficking, involuntary servitude, debt bondage and forced labor in our nation and around the world, and we ask God's guidance in

caring for victims and actively working to end this abuse, injustice and oppression.

**5** Pray for Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, members of the ELCA Church Council and the Conference of Bishops. Give thanks for their humble service, their faith in Christ, their leadership and gifts, and their commitment to wrestle with difficult decisions and issues for the sake of the church and the world.

**6** *Epiphany* As people of faith, we are not immune from wondering about God, Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Pray that God will be patient with us, illuminating the truth of who we are as baptized children of God and the reality and certainty of the good news of Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, our Savior, Messiah, Redeemer and teacher.

**7** As the pandemic continues, pray for doctors, nurses, emergency responders and health care workers who need renewal, strength and our gratitude and recognition as they continue to serve at great personal risk and sacrifice for the sake of our health and well-being.

**8** Give thanks for the people in our lives who inspire hope, faith and courage, and whose words and actions touch us, teach us the meaning of grace and move us to become bearers of mercy in the world.

**9** In Christ we have received forgiveness of our sins and salvation through God's unfathomable grace, showered upon us every day. Praise God!

**10** Give thanks for God's love and forgiveness in baptism, which marks the beginning of our journey with our siblings in Christ to share the good news, serve all people, grow the church and strive for peace and justice in the world.

**11** Pray for parents, students, employees and business owners whose plans and routines change day by day and week by week due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, that they might be hopeful, resilient and able to adapt, change and endure.

**12** Pray for our faith-based schools, early childhood education programs and day care centers as they provide experiential education, social interaction,

stability and calm for the youngest of our children, who are often most vulnerable during times of uncertainty and anxiety.

**13** God is mighty, majestic and eternal throughout the universe, generously sharing strength and blessings with us. Give glory and thanks to God, and shout for joy!

**14** Ask God to help us practice justice, generosity and care for creation, sharing our resources with others who have few or who have lost resources or productive land as a result of natural and human-caused disasters.

**15** Pray for the young adults who have applied for a yearlong journey in international service with our companion churches and organizations through the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, which will resume in 2021-2022 after a time of sabbath during the pandemic.

**16** Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its members and its leaders, and pray that together we will find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor, especially in these uncertain and challenging times.

**17** Jesus invited Philip to follow him as a disciple, and Philip, in turn, invited Nathanael. Ask God to help us be faithful followers, students and, at the same time, disciples eager to invite others to join in God's good work in the world.

**18** *Martin Luther King Day* Today we remember the life, ministry, sacrifice and activism of Martin Luther King Jr. Pray that his life and the legacies of others who have fought for civil rights and social reform will inspire our own commitment and persistence in working for racial justice, dismantling racism and combating white supremacy.

**19** We may argue about what is legal, what we are entitled to or what we have the right to do with our bodies and lives. But Paul reminds us that we have been made one with the body and spirit of Christ;

we “were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” Pray that the Spirit will guide us to live with humility and deference for who we are in Christ and in obedience to the ways and desires of God.

**20** *Inauguration Day* As members of society and the church who represent varied political affiliations and perspectives, pray together for our nation’s newly elected president and vice president, that the Spirit will grant them wisdom, strength, commitment to serving all people, a deep understanding of justice and mercy, and the courage to enact change for the well-being of our communities and nation.

**21** Pray for the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering, an online event happening right now that gathers ELCA World Hunger leaders for learning, networking, sharing ideas and planning for our common ministry to address hunger and its root causes.

**22** Pray for reconciliation, understanding and renewal in our divided nation so that we might work together for justice, compassion and generosity, serving our neighbors in need and the well-being of our communities as they struggle with vexing, deep-rooted problems. Ask the Spirit to inspire and guide our lives so that our values, decisions, actions and words reflect the gospel, the teachings of Jesus and the ways of God, who is good, gracious, merciful and just.

**23** Praise God that, as small and insignificant as we might be in the vast universe, we are wonderfully made and God knows every little thing about us and our human ways.

**24** In Scripture we read about Jesus’ simple, personal and compelling invitations to Simon, Andrew, James, John and the other disciples to drop everything and follow him. Pray that when God calls us to follow and serve, we will respond with faith and trust, even if we do not yet know where God is leading us or what God is calling us to do.

**25** Pray for ministries, nonprofit organizations and agencies that serve the daily needs of communities, families and individuals; pursue justice and equity;

build resilience to cope with disasters and crises; accompany immigrants and refugees; and bring the hope and love of Christ where there is despair and weariness.

**26** When, like Jonah, we are reluctant to forgive, practice mercy or share the gospel with those we deem undeserving, ask the Spirit to help us discern God’s ways, grace and mercy for all people, and to act boldly without personal bias.

**27** *Lydia, Dorcas and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith* Praise God for the witness and ministry of women of the early church. Give thanks for women of all ages and backgrounds who, responding to God’s call, continue to use their gifts, life experiences, knowledge and passions to grow the church, serve all people and be bearers of hope and healing in the world.

**28** Give thanks for the Lutheran liturgy and worship practices that equip us for daily life, helping us to praise God, listen to God’s word and experience unity in the body of Christ.

**29** Give thanks for the self-sacrificing generosity of people who demonstrate their gratefulness for God’s gift of life and their concern for their neighbors’ well-being by donating blood, plasma and even organs.

**30** Remember in prayer those who continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and job searching as a result of the economic and health impacts of COVID-19.

**31** Though our creeds do not speak of Jesus’ teachings, miracles or example, give thanks that, through Scripture, the Spirit reveals Jesus to be the source of our redemption and a trustworthy guide, instructing us how to live with one another, serve our neighbor and do God’s work in the world today.



## CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional Booklets

January, February, and March

Now Available in the “**Little Library**” (*in box on stand between Center St. & Chapel*)

Call ahead to the church office to make sure a copy is available.

716-664-4601



A year like no other – even Santa Bob has to wear a mask!!  
Happy New Year – Stay Safe!!

## **A HUGE THANK YOU**



Once again our “Mitten Lady” has come through presenting us with 60 pair of mittens to distribute to area children!

This year because we were unable to have our Neighborhood Christmas Dinner the mittens have gone to the children at Love School.

For over 15 years our Mitten Lady, Jessie Bloomquist, has been knitting mittens for our neighborhood children. Truly a gift of love from a very special lady



### **Your Donation is Greatly Appreciated**

Our Community Outreach Store is in need of donations of new or gently used clothing, toys, and household items (no old TV's, refrigerators, etc.). Please make sure items are clean and in working order.

Donations can be brought to the church store Monday-Friday, 10:00AM – 2:30 PM. There is an elevator for your convenience..

# **WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**9:00 am Contemporary Worship Service  
Contemporary Worship Center**

**10:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
Main Sanctuary**

What's new?

- If you are ill, we ask that you remain at home out of concern for the health and wellbeing of others
- We will wear masks – Bring yours from home
- Temperatures will be taken when entering the building
- Hand sanitizer stations will be in place at entrances to the church and worship areas
- Everyone will be asked to fill out attendance cards
  - These cards will be used to contact individuals if someone tests positive for COVID19 at a later date
  - Please place the cards on the chair/pew where you are seated
- Social distancing will be practiced
  - Chairs will be spaced six feet apart
  - Two of every three pews will be blocked
- Offerings will be placed in a box at the entrance to the worship area
- The liturgy will be spoken, music will be sung by musicians
- We will not celebrate Holy Communion at this time
- We will video record both worship services and post the recordings online through: Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook and the First Lutheran website: [flcjny.org](http://flcjny.org)
- Worship services will be approximately 30 minutes in length

We will adjust our practices as health concerns evolve.

We will celebrate Jesus Christ, risen from the grave!

We understand that some of our church family will refrain from attending worship due to health concerns. This is a personal choice and we support all our family in this decision-making process.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
PO Box 183  
Jamestown, NY 14702

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 664-4601 or by e-mailing us at:  
[firstlutheran@flcjny.org](mailto:firstlutheran@flcjny.org)

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# First Edition

*Living the Good News at First Lutheran Church*