

First Edition

Where the News is Good!

Published by First Lutheran Church

120 Chandler Street

Jamestown, NY 14701

December 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, Gail Espinoza, Terry Horner, Brenda Johnson, Michael Laurin, Karen Linn, Martha Paulson, Jim Wahlberg, Sandy Hatfield, Michael Dearman, Paul R. Johnson, 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

Liz Lobb, Office Manager

Mike Thompson, Sexton

The Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24, 4:00 PM – Contemporary Service in the Parlors

Friday, December 24, 10:00 PM – Traditional Service in the Nave
with Special Music beginning at 9:40 PM.

** Please note that both Christmas Eve Services will be with
communion and individual candle lighting observed.*

Sunday, December 26, 10:00 AM –
Only one service will be held in the Nave.



Well over 700 years prior to the birth of Jesus, one of the great prophets of Israel, a man named Isaiah, spoke with eloquence about the Savior to come. The many passages we now understand as foreshadowing the life of Jesus did relate to events in the life of ancient Israel in Isaiah's time. But as the early Jewish Christians looked back on the book of Isaiah after the death and resurrection of Jesus, they realized Isaiah spoke with a vision that transcended the ancient days and revealed the will and glory of God in ways never imagined.

Isaiah spoke of a sign to reassure the king that God would protect Israel from her enemies. The king didn't listen. But we do. *"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called Immanuel."* The birth of Jesus, which we will celebrate on Christmas Eve.

Isaiah spoke of sinners who are forgiven, not by their own righteousness, but by the will of God. He called them to prepare for the coming of the Lord. *"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."* The call was a promise to Israel that God would gather and restore Israel from a generation of exile and humiliation in Babylon. Centuries later that same declaration pointed to a new prophet of God: John the Baptist as he prepared the way for Jesus. *"Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of*

the Lord has spoken." When Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized by John, God incarnate stood among us. Jesus is the glory of God.

Isaiah promised we will know God as the one who loves us tenderly, gently and without condition. *"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God...the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep."* Jesus himself would declare, *"I am the good shepherd,"* fulfilling Isaiah's word.

Isaiah reveals a Savior gifted with *"the tongue of a teacher"* that *"salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."* Jesus, though, not the Savior Israel imagined, even though Isaiah had envisioned his suffering. *"He was despised and rejected, and we held him of no account."* Jesus, upon a cross, who still loved us with a tender love as he freely accepted *"the punishment that made us whole."* Jesus who in his death and resurrection secured the gift of our salvation and the promise of eternal life in the *"new heavens and the new earth."* New life envisioned in Isaiah's familiar Peaceable Kingdom: *"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."*

May the vision declared in Isaiah, fulfilled in Jesus, fill your hearts and minds with peace.

Christmas blessings to you all, Pastor Dan

NEWS FROM THE FAMILY LIBRARY

DECEMBER 2021



Blessed Christmas to everyone. May the hope and love of the season bring joy and peace to you and your family.

Stop by the Family Library and check out one of the many Christmas books or videos that are available in the special Christmas section. Having trouble finding your favorite old Christmas movie on the streaming services? Take a look at what we have available. You may find it there. If you are a fan of classic films or prefer a new release we have many choices for you. There are also new release and classic Christmas books for children and adults.

Here are some recently added selections on the shelves:

Last Christmas DVD
The Best of Men DVD
Mickey's Christmas Carol DVD
Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas DVD
The Miracle of the Bells DVD
The Stranger in the Lifeboat by Mitch Albom
Together by Luke Adam Hawker

Several Buck Henry children's books in a series by Phil Vischer (creator of Veggie Tales)

As always, thank you for the financial support, appropriate item donations and volunteer time provided (special thanks to volunteers Julie Gable and Sue Keppel who will be covering for me in January and February). For more information about the Family Library contact Wendy Larson at 397-8819, via email wendy.j.larson@gmail.com or stop by the library on Sunday morning. Comments, suggestions, and recommendations are always welcome!



Newsletter
DEADLINE

The deadline for articles for the January 2022, *First Edition* newsletter is Thursday, December 16th. Please have all information into the church office by that date. Thank you.



We extend a sincere thank you to the following people:

November, 2021

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Thomas J. Neelen by:

Sandy & Dan Forsberg
Carolyn Volk
Holly & Peter Sullivan
Jacquelyn & James Casto

In Memory of Gerald W. “Butch” Peru by:

Martha Paulson

In Memory of Katherine C. Santiago by:

Pender M. McCarter

Donation by:

Robert Lake

Memorial Fund – Organ Fund

In Memory of Dennis F. Volk by:

Carolyn Volk

Memorial Fund – M & M Fund

In Memory of Thomas J. Neelen by:

Martha Paulson

Memorial Fund – Drive Thru

In Memory of Dennis F. Volk by:

Carolyn Volk

In Memory of Thomas J. Neelen by:

Marcia Rupp

In Honor of Steve Tedquist by:

Sandi & Brian Bogey

Donations by:

Janet & Jim Wahlberg
Kathy & Terry Horner

Correspondence: Thank You letter from Love Inc for assisting with monetary donation towards a new roof for a needy family

Coffee Hour Discussion: Pastor would like to look at the COVID data after the upcoming Holidays before starting up coffee hour to help make a better decision. But parents waiting for children attending Sunday School are welcome to sit in the Parlors to wait for the children with their own coffee cups while practicing social distancing and mask wearing (when not drinking coffee).

Committee Reports

- Worship & Music – will meet on Thursday, November 18th
- Property – waiting for quote from Jmst Awning on the Martin Luther Rose emblem for possible use on end panel of canvas canopy that will adorn the handicap drive-thru entrance to the church
- Personnel – Pastor is shepherding our Sexton, Mike Thompson, with a checklist of tasks
- Stewardship- Pastor has completed a letter that will be sent out
- Nominating Committee – needs to meet and discuss contacting possible candidates that wish to be part of the Congregational Council – we have 4

to fill and 1 – 1 yr slot due to a resignation

Pastor's Report

- Nov 7th – All Saints Day was well received with the names, ages, and date of death spoken with the toll of a chime/bell
- Nov 14th – 3 baptisms were performed
- Nov 21st – new members will be received at both services
- Christmas services – there will be a Contemporary and a Traditional Service, more to come after W & M mtg
- Treasurer's Report – as expected, endowment has gone up and then down with the deposit/payment to R. Patti

Old Business

- Paul's Ideas for outreach to those who have been disconnected due to the pandemic may still need to wait until the data shows lesser %
- Reminder for Committees to turn in budgets
- Market our missions in the PJ, Gazette, Media One stations – write down ideas
- Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 30, 2022

Christmas planning

- Dec 5th – Amanda Sorenson is planning a scaled back Lucia Fest at 2 PM in the Parlors for the Sunday School children and their families
- Dec 6th – Rotary w/ A Cappella will be using the Nave & Parlors for lunch and singing

- Dec 12 & 19 – A Cappella Vespers – 4:00 – Gail will firm up with Lauren Scharf the need for parent ushers and logistics of following First Lutheran protocol for mask wearing and social distancing- every other pew to be roped off
- Thank you to Steve Tedquist for his woodworking skills once more for another pew bench and coat rack - your unending desire to share your skills with us is beyond words.



CHRIST IN OUR HOME

Devotional Booklets

October, November, December

Now Available in the **Church Office** and also in
the Little Library

Call ahead to the church office to make sure a copy
is available.
716-664-4601



NOTES FROM THE LOFT

December 2021

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

Welcome to December 2021 with our Advent Season already in progress followed by our festive Christmas Season! We will be having our First Lutheran Choir sing at our Traditional Christmas Eve Worship Service on **Friday, December 24th at 10:00 p.m.** in the church nave. Other vocal soloists along with Julie Livengood, pianist, and our Good News Hand Bell Choir directed by Karen Linn, will also participate during our 20-minute prelude of special music that will occur at 9:40 p.m. just prior to the 10 p.m. festive Christmas Eve Worship Service with communion.

Choir members please note that we will have two Wednesday evening choir rehearsals for the month of December. Our first will be on December 8th at 7 p.m. (in the Choir Room) and second will be on December 15th at 7 p.m. (in the Choir Loft). Proceeding the December 15th 7 p.m. rehearsal we will be having a catered holiday light supper in the Fellowship Room for all choir members at 6p.m. We will have a sign-up sheet for those who would be willing to provide a dessert for this event. See Brian and Jane for further details. We will also continue with our 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning rehearsals prior to the 11 a.m. worship service except for Sunday, December 26th in which we have a 9 a.m. rehearsal prior to the 10 a.m. combined worship service.

Below is the list of Liturgists, Lectors, and Hymn Cantors for the month of December. Please note the change of participants names so that the assigned dates will better fit their schedules. Thanks again for your service as liturgical leaders during our Traditional Worship Services!

LITURGIST

12/5 Beth Johnson
12/12 Peter Larson
12/19 Frank Gozdalski
12/24 Brenda Ecklund
12/26 Beth Johnson

LECTOR

Don Sandy
Janet Wahlberg
Ellen Ditonto
Fred Larson
Martha Paulson

HYMN CANTOR

Peter Larson
Julie Costantini
Marika Koch
Beth Johnson
Brenda Ecklund

We continue the series on “**THE SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR AND THEIR SYMBOLS.**” Many Christians are concerned about the secularization of Christmas. People say the season is too commercial and that we have taken out the religious significance of the celebration. Yet if we look closely to the symbols of Christmas you will see that the religious significance is there.

TEN SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

THE STAR: It’s hard to go anywhere during Christmas without seeing stars hanging from street lamps or sitting on top of Christmas trees. The star is one of the most recognizable symbols of the holiday. It represents the star that appeared in the sky when Jesus Christ was born. The star led the Wise Men to Jesus and reminds us to follow the light of the Savior just as the Wise Men followed the light of the star to find Him.

LIGHTS AND CANDLES: Many of our memorable and enduring Christmas traditions include different kinds of lights – lights on trees, lights in and on our homes, candles on tables. May the beautiful lights of every holiday season remind us of Him who is the source of all light. Candles also represent the light of the star that appeared at the birth of our Savior, reminding us that He is the true Light of the World.

TREES: Even before Christ’s birth, trees that stayed green all year long carried special meaning for people. A green, thriving tree in the dead of winter reminded people of hope and new life. Because of Jesus Christ, we can have everlasting life. That is why we choose the evergreen tree as a natural symbol of Him and His gift to us.

POINSETTIAS: Poinsettias are native to Mexico. They were named after America’s first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett. He brought the plants to America in 1828. Mexicans in the eighteenth century thought the plants were symbolic of the Star of Bethlehem. Their shape resembles a star, like the one that led the Wise Men to Jesus. Red poinsettias can remind us of the blood that Christ shed for us. White poinsettias can symbolize His purity.

HOLLY: Because of its red berries and prickly green leaves that last all year round, the holly is used as a Christmas decoration all over the world. The sharp edges of the holly leaf can remind us of the crown of thorns placed on our Savior’s head. The red holly berry reminds us of His blood shed for all of us.

WREATHS: Traditionally, wreaths are made of evergreens such as pine branches or holly. Their circular shape can represent eternity. Wreaths hung on doors or in windows are like a symbolic invitation for the spirit of Christmas to fill our homes with joy of the season.

BELLS: For centuries, bells have been rung to announce the arrival of the Christmas season. They can symbolize the announcement of the birth of Christ when angels in heaven praised God and declared, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14)

CANDY CANES: They remind us of the staffs carried by the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus. During Christ’s time the shepherd’s staff often had a crook, or bend, at the top that was used to hook sheep by the neck to gently lead them to water or food. A reminder that Christ is our Good Shepherd who leads us to safety and peace.

STOCKINGS: Christmas stockings come from an old legend. A poor man had three daughters and he couldn't afford to give them a dowry so they could marry. A Christian bishop named Nicholas heard about the problem and wanted to help. One night, Nicholas threw three balls made of pure gold in through the open window of the man's house. They landed in a stocking of each daughter that hung by the fire to dry. The daughters woke up finding the gold ball in their stockings thus giving them enough dowry to get married. This serves as an example of how we give Christlike service and show kindness to others.

GIFTS: Christmas is the season of giving. Remember the Wise Men who came to see Jesus with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but the greatest gift of all came from our Heavenly Father: "For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." As you open your brightly wrapped presents on Christmas morning, remember that our Savior is the true gift of Christmas.

On a personal note, Sandi and I would like to thank you for all of your loving care and support that she has received from you during her lengthy illness this past year. Even though it will still take a great deal of time for her to fully recuperate, we thank you all for your love, support, and prayers.

*Wishing you and your loved ones
The blessings of this holy season!
"God Jul a Gott Nytt Ar"
(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!)
Love,
Brian and Sandi*

+++++

**DECEMBER, 2021
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP**

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

Hello Everyone,

Exciting!! Advent and Christmas season is upon us!!
Sacred Fire and I are busy planning and rehearsing special music for this festive time!

JOIN US each Sunday, for great music with Sacred Fire and inspiring messages from Pastor Dan Rumfelt. On November 28th, the first Sunday in Advent, we will start lighting our Advent candles and displaying our Advent banners, along with special Advent readings. Each week a new candle is lighted and we add our Advent banners. First week is Hope, then each week in order, Love, Joy and Peace. Invite family and friends to join us! Also, you can let others know that our service is on Facebook, Vimeo, and our church website.

Our **Contemporary Christmas Eve service** will be at 4:00pm. This service is “Family Friendly” with a special Children’s message. There will be Candle lighting, Christmas Carols, a special Christmas message, communion (Covid safe), and singing of Silent Night.

Contemporary Worship Service continues each **Sunday at 9:00am** in our Worship Center in the lower level of the church. The service lasts about 35 minutes. The first Sunday of each month we celebrate Holy Communion (COVID safe). Facial masks are now required for all within the church building.

Sunday School Our Contemporary Service ends with enough time for you to go to prepare and participate in Sunday School.

A GREAT Outreach Ministry - The service is videotaped each week and posted on Facebook, Vimeo and on our new church website. You have access to our current and 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 11.14.2021. Don’t forget to share these services with your friends and family!!

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
Great site! They have an “App” too.

Remember that God is ALWAYS with us!!

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!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

From All of Sacred Fire and

Kimberly King, Worship Leader and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship

“The Kingdom of God”

New Women’s Bible Study

Scripture has a way of captivating our attention by using phrases and images that may seem mysterious or unclear. So, New Testament scholar Mark Allan Powell looks at one of these phrases, “*the kingdom of God*” – repeatedly used by Jesus – and similar expressions in the Bible to help us unravel scripture’s deeper meaning for our faith lives.

Join women from First Lutheran for a four-session study entitled “*The Kingdom of God: what does it mean for God to be in charge*”. We discover how “*the kingdom of God*” reflects an activity *not* a location *or* an earthly monarchy with a tyrannical ruler. And we explore its meaning for our lives now and in the eternal kingdom.

The study begins Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 1:30 PM, in the Fellowship Room. Each session is self-contained, so come for all sessions or as you are able.

Contact Lois Rumfelt (664-4409 or rumfelt@stny.rr.com), for more information.

NOTE:
All sessions take place
on the *third* Thursday
January – April at 1:30 PM
in the Fellowship Room

Poinsettia Memorials

It’s that time of year again! Advent begins Sunday, November 28th, and is the time we begin to think about memorial poinsettia gifts. Gifts may be given in any amount of money that you wish, but we ask that they be at least \$7.50. Poinsettias for decorating our worship area will be purchased and paid for from the money collected. Why not take the opportunity to memorialize a loved one while at the same time beautifying our lovely worship area for Christmas?

As in years past, a list of loved ones for whom memorials are given will be published in the Christmas bulletin.

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION

Your name

Amount of Contribution

\$ _____

In memory of

***NEED HELP FINDING A
MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT
FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY THIS
YEAR?***

Tired of giving money or gift cards to people who don't need anything? Or searching high and low for the perfect gift only to find out that your loved one returned the item or already has one just like it? Shop **ELCA Good Gifts** this Christmas and select gifts that will make a difference in the world, grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. With 50 giving options – from 10 little chicks to help a family escape poverty to a scholarship to help a young leader attend an ELCA seminary – there's something meaningful to choose for everyone on your list.

Acknowledgement cards may be sent to let your loved ones know that you have made a special gift in their honor.

Good Gifts catalogs are available in the pamphlet rack outside the family library or you can go to ELCA.org/goodgifts to shop online. Also available in the pamphlet rack are God's Global Barnyard coin boxes that are a great way to teach children about the joy of giving globally, coloring books and stickers.

***Feel good about your giving
especially during this challenging
year. Make a difference. Good Gifts
purchases won't be returned.***



Outreach Mission

The former Outreach Store is being converted into an Outreach Mission. We welcome anyone who is willing to help sort and arrange donations. Work crew hours are Monday 10am-noon, Wednesday 10am-noon and Thursday evening 6pm -8pm. There will be a sign-up sheet located on the Bulletin Board at the Education Building entrance.

Currently we are accepting a few donations of items that are clean and in good repair. **No Electronics.** Donations may be left in the Education Building entryway Monday thru Friday.

For more info, please call Janet Wahlberg at 716-567-4064

To our First Lutheran family:

Thank you for your cards, memorials, and kind expressions of sympathy following the death of my father, Walter Finley. We are blessed by your thoughtfulness!

Gail Espinoza



Income & Expenses through October, 2021

Month	Income	Expense	Total
January	*66,770	40,226	26,544
February	18,785	19,887	-1,102
March	23,295	24,553	-1,258
April	*57,791	14,919	42,872
May	14,209	25,246	-11,037
June	21,247	19,958	1,289
July	*52,548	17,288	35,260
August	13,288	24,522	-11,234
September	15,280	**97,326	-82,046
October	*52,307	26,137	26,170
November			
December			
Total			
	335,520	310,062	25,458

Mailing Address:

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

MASR Scott D. Johnson
8318 O'Connor Cres
Norfolk, VA 23503-2716

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

Attendance for November

November	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday
2020	89	76
2021	101	140
	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday
2020	69	69
2021	107	

On-Line Views of Worship Video

Date	Contemporary & Traditional	Total
10/17/21		105
10/24/21		117
10/31/21		132
11/07/21		121

*** 40,000 from Endowment**

****Money transferred to Memorial Fund to pay for Drive Thru Project**

Thank you to all who are mailing their offering!

Church Mailing Address

When mailing information to the church please use:
120 Chandler Street, Jamestown, NY 14701.
We are trying not to use the PO Box any more.

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
Julie Gable
Tracy Grey
Peter Larson (Chairperson)
Lee Lindeman
Glenn Utter

(Jeanine & Mike Dearman – Non-Voting Members)

Synod Mission Message



PLANNING A CRUISE THIS WINTER??

Perhaps you won't want to try and beat the record for the longest time at sea set by the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, an aircraft carrier of the US Navy. Chaplain A. J. Striffler began his command aboard the "Ike" in December, 2018, and 2019 was spent preparing the ship for deployment. Sea trials began in March 2019, and in early 2020, it set sail for the Middle East. Already on edge because of tensions

around the world, the crew soon learned of the growing pandemic. From then until the ship returned to Norfolk, in August, they did not step on dry land, or even dock at any ports, to prevent the virus from coming onboard. 206 consecutive days at sea, the longest of any naval vessel.

So, how does a chaplain spend long days at sea? "I lived into a ministry of presence that everyone seemed to connect with." No matter what the crews' religious background, their race, ethnicity, language, sexuality, or rank, they all found a friend ready to listen. He also supervised, and wrote a liturgy for, burials at sea, which some veterans request, committing more than 100 as a final tribute. Most of the time, though, was just spent talking with any of the 4800 sailors and airmen who were often frustrated or scared. They found a safe place to share all their fears and anxieties. Of course, they also do anything any other pastor does, holding worship services, administering the sacraments, counseling, teaching...

ELCA chaplains serve all over the world, on land, at sea, in hospitals, in prisons. Your congregation's mission support makes this ministry possible.
Thank you!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

There will be many warm hands and hearts at Love School this winter thanks to two wonderful ladies!

Jessie Bloomquist, our "Mitten Lady" has again given us her usual wonderful gift of mittens for our "Mitten Tree".

She was joined this year by Caroljean Almquist who also gave us mittens and hats. Because we will not be having our Christmas Dinner this year, all these beautiful mittens will be given to the children at Love School.

A HEARTY THANK YOU TO TWO VERY TALENTED CARING LADIES!



SCRIPTURE READINGS IN DECEMBER

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5th

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12th

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19th

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45[46-55]

Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve

December 24th

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14[15-20]

First Sunday of Christmas

December 26th

Samuel 2:18-20,26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

**Baptismal
Anniversaries**

We celebrate with you!

*indicates birthday when baptism is not known

December Baptisms:

01	Kathryn Bogey Danielle Johnson Alexis Peterson
03	Britta Livengood
04	Randall Olson Sandra Webster
05	Thomas Nagle Timothy Nyman
06*	Janet Wahlberg
07	Suzann McGraw
07*	Daniel Johnson
08	Sandra Forsberg
09	Crystal Todd Ryan Main
10*	Harold Sodeur
11*	Eric Livengood
12	Suzanne Keppel Lindsay Mericli
14*	Kathy Raymond
17	Daniel Forsberg
18	Dori Harshaw
20	Martha Paulson Cooper Shelters
21	Jeremy Hatfield
22	Colette Livengood
23	David Johnson Jill Napierala Sally Walsh
24	Jonathan Bogey
28	Barbara Braley
29	Killian Seekings Mickey Sorenson
31	Lee Lindeman Hannah Sorenson



Prayer Ventures December 2021

1 *World AIDS Day* Join in prayer with our siblings around the world to remember all in our communities who have been and continue to be affected by HIV and AIDS. Pledge to God that we will work together to raise awareness and recommit ourselves and the church to a faithful and dedicated response.

2 Give thanks for Advent wreaths and other faith traditions that remember and celebrate God's dwelling among us in Jesus, God's gift of eternal life, and Jesus' enduring presence and light in the world and within us.

3 *International Day of Persons with Disabilities*
Pray that we will grow stronger and more aware in our church's commitment to seek full inclusion and equitable participation of all people within the life of society and the church, embracing the whole person — abilities, questions, life experiences, complexities and all.

4 "Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation" (Psalm 25:5). Pray that God will be patient with us as we strive to be faithful followers and students of Christ; ask the Spirit to stir our hunger for understanding the word of God and reveal its implications for our daily lives.

5 Pray that we will be eager to share the gospel and will welcome the Spirit to use our gifts, abilities, insights and life experiences to prepare the way for others to believe in Christ.

6 Give thanks for the opportunities provided by the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog to respond generously to the unique needs and priorities of congregations, companion churches and partners — close to home and around the world.

7 Pray for congregations in your community and for ELCA congregations and ministries across the country, that we will thrive in our witness and service and will encourage one another in doing God's work in the world.

8 Pray for our global companions and our companion synods as we journey together during Advent, drawing on our diverse traditions and practices to focus on the coming of Jesus, the gift of salvation and our unity in the body of Christ.

9 Praise God for looking upon us with mercy and love, for liberating us from the consequences of human weakness and sin, and for restoring our relationship as children of God.

10 Reflect on your hopes and what you anticipate as a child of God; express them to God and thank God for accompanying us in times of waiting and anticipation and for remaining faithful to the promises God has made to us.

11 Give thanks for how our siblings in Christ observe and celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ in diverse cultures. Pray that these rich and meaningful traditions, practices and perspectives will deepen our understanding and appreciation of the gift and good news of Jesus Christ — God's sacrificial expression of love and mercy.

12 Pray that, through the work of the Spirit in us, every aspect of our life will manifest the good fruits of love, generosity, justice, peace, service and faithfulness to the word of God.

13 Pray for congregations and youth ministry leaders who are making decisions about participating in the ELCA Youth Gathering and for those who have decided to attend and are beginning to prepare for their faith-building experience.

14 Remember in prayer seafarers and fishermen of all nations whose work separates them from family, friends and community for long periods of time. Pray that they will be uplifted and sustained by the assurance that they are remembered, valued, loved and always connected with their siblings in Christ, everywhere.

15 Pray that we will be filled with “the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7) and that our most burdensome worries, concerns and anxieties will be calmed and diminished.

16 Las Posadas (“The Inns”), a tradition observed in Latin America and in some congregations in our country, remembers and reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter just before the birth of Jesus. Give thanks for his birth and remember in prayer refugees, immigrants and people everywhere who are homeless and seek shelter, rest, sanctuary and hope.

17 Living in the promise and reality of the new covenant God has made with us in Jesus Christ, remember in prayer the words of Isaiah: “I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation” (Isaiah 12:1-2).

18 *International Migrants Day* Pray for our siblings who are refugees and immigrants around the world, in our country and at our borders. Ask the Spirit to fill us with generosity and renew our commitment to justice, compassion and empathy, recognizing both our unique needs and our common desire for safety and security, the best for our children and families, meaningful and life-sustaining employment, caring communities, opportunities to use our gifts and skills, and mutual acceptance and respect as children of God.

19 Rejoice in God our Savior, who shows us love and mercy and attends to the needs of people who are poor, hungry, ill, neglected or excluded by society. Pray that God will work through us, using our unique gifts and passions to respond to, serve

and embrace our neighbors in need while respecting their dignity.

20 *Katharina von Bora Luther (1499-1552)* Remember and give thanks for the witness, leadership and service of women who help strengthen our faith, share the gospel, grow and provide leadership for the church, deepen our understanding of Scripture, and serve neighbors in need around the world.

21 *Winter solstice* As the days get shorter in our hemisphere, pray for people of all ages who suffer depression and loneliness, especially during the holiday season; pray that they will be comforted and uplifted by their faith and the knowledge that God is ever-present and sees our suffering, loneliness and despair; and ask the Spirit to help us be attentive, caring and empathetic friends and siblings in Christ for one another.

22 Pray that God will hear and attend to our every prayer — spoken or silent, individual or communal — and that God will restore us, strengthen our faith, guide our lives and help us respond to perplexing problems in our communities and the world.

23 Let our prayers echo Mary’s song of praise for God’s power, presence and life-giving activity in the world, and for looking upon humanity with undeserved love and mercy and blessing us with the promised messiah, Jesus Christ.

24 *Christmas Eve* What an awesome gift has been given to us in the birth of a tiny, unassuming baby — the son of God, our true Savior and the redeemer of the world. “Glory to God in the highest” (Luke 2:14)!

25 *Christmas Day* Sing and shout prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God for living among us in the person of Jesus to help us experience and understand the good news of God’s saving grace, truth and amazing love for humankind and all creation. Again, we say, “Glory to God in the highest!”

26 Pray that our life together in the church and as siblings in Christ will help us mature in faith, understand God’s word and ways, face the

challenges of daily life, serve our neighbor and be confident in inviting others to believe and have faith in Jesus.

27 Kwanzaa begins this week. Give thanks to God for the richness and significance of the traditions, cultures, values, stories, faith and leadership of our siblings of African descent.

28 Let us join earth and the heavens in praising God, from whom all things are brought into being and imbued with life and purpose.

29 Pray that our lives will shine brightly with the love and mercy God has shown us, so that we are clear witnesses to the gospel and bold and unconstrained in serving our neighbors in need who yearn for hope, relief and good news.

30 In a world where anger, vengeance, division, impatience and self-interest are all too familiar, pray that we embrace together the freedom, new self and purpose that we have received in baptism, so that we, too, will take to heart the words of encouragement Paul wrote to the Christians in Colossae: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love” (Colossians 3:12-14).

31 *New Year’s Eve* Give thanks that we are new creations in Jesus Christ and that we can begin each day of every year with hope, renewed faith and restored vision for the work that God calls us to do in the world.



Sunday School News

Thank you to all the parents and students for your participation so far this year. We have decided not to have our Christmas Program this year due to restrictions. We will have lessons in Sunday School around Advent and Christmas. Remember the first Sunday of each month is Family Devotions from 10:00-10:15 only in the chapel. We will only have regular Sunday School on December 12 for the month. We will not have classes on December 19 or December 26. If you are interested in teaching Sunday School or possibly taking over the program, please reach out to Pastor Dan or Tracy Grey for more information. Thank you!

PARISH RECORD

Funeral Service:

Albert E. Anderson – November 2, 2021

Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

Kortni Marie Covell – November 14, 2021

Alexander Richard Lee – November 14, 2021

Olivia Jean Lee – November 14, 2021

Confirmation Class Schedule for December via Zoom

Sunday, December 5th

Sunday, December 19th

WORSHIP AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

**11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Main Sanctuary**

- If you are ill, we ask that you remain at home out of concern for the health and wellbeing of others
- Beginning August 22nd masks will be required at First Lutheran for both of those who are fully vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. Thank You!
- 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
 - Pews in the Nave will no longer be blocked, but please continue to practice social distancing
- Offerings will be placed in a box at the entrance to the worship area
- The congregation may continue to sing liturgy and hymns while wearing a mask
- Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month with personal communion cups
- We will video record both worship services and post the recordings online through: Vimeo, YouTube, Facebook and the First Lutheran website: 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
120 Chandler Street
Jamestown, NY 14701

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

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First Edition

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