



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Advent, Christmas and End of Year Services

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

December 5 – grades K-2 sing

December 12 – grades 3-4 sing
- handbell choir

December 19 – grades 5-8 sing


Children's Christmas Service – Sunday, December 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Monday, December 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service – Tuesday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

“Christmas Around the World” Worship Service – Sunday, December 30th at 9:00 a.m.
(note only one service)

New Year's Eve Service – Monday, December 31st at 6:30 p.m.



Where's Your Joy?

"I've got the joy, joy, joy, you, down in my heart. Where? Down in my heart. Down in my heart. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart to stay." That's one of those songs that once you start singing it, the melody just gets stuck in your head. The song states both a fact and a question. Here's the fact: I've got joy in my heart. Here's the question: Where? Joy fills the hearts, but why? As we approach the season of Advent and Christmas, joy continuously fills our hearts because of what an angel said to simple shepherds tending their flocks one night.

The angel spoke of news that would give joy to their hearts. "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12) They were unexpected receivers of this joyful news, but this news gave them had every reason to rejoice. God kept the promise he made all the way back in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve felt the shame and sadness of disobeying God. God promised to give sinful people a Savior and that is the good news of great joy which this angel proclaimed. The angel even showed them where to look. Their Savior would not be in a palace or some great fortress. He would not have royal robes or the nicest of beds. He was an ordinary looking baby wrapped in strips of cloth. His bed would be a place where animals ate their meal. Yet the shepherds knew from what the angel said this baby was not just human like they were. He was true God who humbled himself to be wrapped in flesh as one of us to save us. "He is Christ the Lord."

The account of Jesus' birth is one we know so well. We know the rest of the story after this news of great joy was given to the shepherds. Yet we cannot forget what their joy filled hearts were led to do that night as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The shepherds didn't just acknowledge the angel and move on. How could they when the night sky was filled with a great company of the heavenly hosts praising God? They heard the news and the joyful song of praise. They went to find their Savior. They wanted to see their Savior for themselves. They found the baby Jesus and joy filled their hearts at the sight of his little body. It was joy, joy, joy, joy down in their hearts. It was joy, joy, joy, joy they had to share with anyone and everyone they met. The promised Savior had finally come. God's promise was fulfilled. They wanted others to know the joy they felt when they saw this little baby who would one day save them from their sins.

We hear the angel through his Word. We have travelled to the manger in years gone by and we are journeying there again to see this baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger, a child who is our Savior. This news that gave the shepherds joy, gives joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts. The joy of seeing Jesus leads us to spread this good news of great joy that is for all people. Like the angel and the shepherds, we are messengers of good news that gives great joy to sinners who need to see that baby in the manger for who he really is. He is the Savior born for them. He is their Lord, the creator of the heavens, who humbled himself to be like one of his creations.

In these days and weeks before Christmas, may we be like the shepherds who rejoiced in the angel's news and went to find the reason for joy to fill their hearts. May the joy that fills our hearts lead us to share it, to invite others to come and see what makes you so joyous not only during this Advent and Christmas season, but every day even into the new year. For true joy down in our hearts is not found in what we can receive. It's in who was born for us - a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Prayer:

My heart for very joy must leap, My lips no more can silence keep. I, too, must sing with joyful tongue that sweetest ancient cradle song: Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us his Son has given! While angels sing with pious mirth a glad new year to all the earth. Amen (Martin Luther - "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" vs. 14-15)

First Evangelical Lutheran Church Information

Worship Services/Classes.

- **Thursday:** Bible Study – 9:00 a.m. (December 6, 13, 20)
- **Sunday:** Services - 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. (December 2, 9, 16)
Bible Classes and Sunday School – 9:15 a.m. (December 2, 9, 16)
- **Saturday:** Men's Breakfast Bible Study – 2nd Saturday – 8-9 a.m.
Women's Bible Study – 1st Saturday – 8-9 a.m. – *note date change!*

- ❖ **Advent Services – 6:30 p.m.:**
 - December 5 – grades K - 2 sing
 - December 12 – grades 3 - 4 sing/handbell choir
 - December 19 – grades 5 - 8 sing

- ✓ **Children's Christmas Service** – Sunday, December 23 – 9:00 a.m. (*only service*)
- ✓ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – Monday, December 24 – 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ **Christmas Day Service** – Tuesday, December 25 – 9:00 a.m.
- ✓ **"Christmas Around the World"** – Sunday, December 30 – 9:00 a.m. (*only service*)
- ✓ **New Year's Eve Service** – Monday, December 31 – 6:30 p.m.

He Comes Bearing Gifts

Curly head dolls that toddle and coo. Elephants, boats, and kiddie cars too. Santa Claus is comin' to town. You'll hear those lyrics often during the holiday season - a song about a man who's coming to bring all sorts of gifts. But, are they *really* gifts? The definition of a gift is "something given voluntarily without payment or condition." The man in red has conditions. *You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good...* If you give someone a gift only if they meet certain qualifications, that is not a gift.

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2. There is one who is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. Jesus came that Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give you the gift of resurrection to eternal life. Our Sunday morning worship services connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. He is coming, bearing gifts. Let us prepare our hearts...and the hearts of others...to meet him.

Getting Ready for Baby

Whenever families are welcoming a new child into their family, there is a lot of preparation that needs to happen as they get ready to welcome a baby into the world. The weeks before Christmas give each of us a reason to make this same kind of preparation. Our Baby Jesus who arrived in our world on that first Christmas would like to take up residence in our hearts and in our lives. This year our midweek Advent worship services will help us get ready for Baby Jesus. Please also note those services will be 6:30.

Parents Night Out

Saturday, December 8th, 4:30 pm-8:00 pm Drop off the kids and enjoy a date night, an evening of shopping, or just spend some time relaxing! Ages 6 months - 6th grade (Older kids can come and help out) The First Lutheran Youth Group will have fun things for everyone to do! The kids will enjoy dinner, games, crafts, gym play, and movies. Please sign up on the brown door or by emailing paul@paulandmichelle.net. Parents Night Out is free. Any donations would help cover food and craft expenses. If a child has special dietary needs, please have them bring their own dinner.

Thanks & Giving Festival!

Thank you to everyone that attended and/or supported in any way our first Thanks & Giving Festival, which benefitted Tree House Child and Family Center. We raised \$2004.00 and gave two baskets full of items from their wish list. Mark you calendar for Saturday, November 2nd – next year's Thanks & Giving Festival.

The Giving Tree

A giving tree is placed in the narthex to collect hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for those in need. All sizes and colors are needed. The tree will be up through December 9th, and all items collected will then be shared between Twin Oaks Homeless Shelter and the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Any questions can be directed to Vickie Mueller at 728-9554. Thank you for helping those less fortunate!

Advent by Candlelight

First Lutheran's Advent by Candlelight will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 2nd. Please contact Amy Schnieder. If you would still like to attend.

Christmas Parade

First Lutheran will have a float in the Elkhorn Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 1st. If you would care to help, please contact Tom Stech, Pastor Meier or Wally Holder. Please watch for more information about participating in the float/parade.

Let's Prepare for the Future!

Crossroads Consulting Ministry is providing a review of our congregation's Diagnostic Analysis and a seminar – "*Preparing for the Future*" on Saturday, January 12, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and you are invited. Arrive before 9:00 a.m. to enjoy some refreshments. To deal effectively with the future, we need to think our way into an appropriate philosophy of ministry, gain insight into the changing approaches and issues which confront the church, and see our purpose on earth through God's eyes. More information will be posted – please mark your calendars!

Christian Assistance Fund

A Christian Assistance Fund has been created for our congregation to follow Christ's directive to "love one another". Contributions to this account are appreciated. Designated Gift Envelopes are available in the rack on the side of the member mailboxes. If a member has need for assistance, application forms are available from pastor. Any requests are kept in the strictest confidence.

Church Library News

The church/school library has been cleaned out and updated. Feel free to check out items you'd like to read. Just fill in the clipboard sheet that is on top of the card catalog with your name, the date, and book title. When you return the books just put them in the crate provided for returned books, and someone will re-shelve the books in their proper place. Parents – feel free to take books from the specially marked children's book shelves to use with your children during church services. Just put them back on that same shelf after the church service. Feel free to enjoy the materials that are in that room!

Toddler Open Gym

This program is for children age 0 – 5, along with the parent/caregiver and will take place from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the school gym in the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from October through May. The program is open to our members as well as the community. Please invite friends! There is open play in in the gym with various toys as well as games, crafts, coloring, an area just for babies, and more! During the hour, we will also have a devotion and snack. As this outreach program is a non-budgeted expense, monetary donations are appreciated!

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be added to our prayer chain and pray for members and present their needs, requests and/or praises to God, contact Kelly Stech - 262-728-8020 or Suzanne Manthe - 262-725-6131. If *you* have a specific prayer request, bright green forms are available in the tract rack - please indicate if you would like the prayer public in church, kept within the prayer chain, or if you only want the pastor to know. Please place prayer requests in the "church" box near the tract rack. *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* James 5:16

Meals on Wheels

Our church helps with the Walworth County Meals on Wheels program. If you would be willing and able to help, or have questions on what meals on wheels is about, please contact Doris Salem at 723-2537.

Christian Education Assistance Fund

No member of First Lutheran will be denied a Christian education in our school because of need. First Lutheran School has a Christian Education Assistance Fund to assist families with tuition costs. The Board of Education then distributes fund based on the application and need. If you would care to contribute to this fund or need a tuition assistance application, please see Mr. Schramm.

Helping Institutional Ministries

WELS Institutional Ministries accepts Meditations booklets that are no more than one year old, along with hotel/travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes. These hygiene supplies are given out to returning citizens after incarceration. Please place these donated items in the box marked "Institutional Ministries" in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

WELS Radio and TV Ministry

Music for The Master followed by **Message from The Master** radio program can be heard each Sunday morning on AM "JOY 1340" WJYI at 7:00 a.m. The Milwaukee television stations that air **Time of Grace** are: WBME (ME Tv) – Sunday at 7:00 a.m.; WDJT (CBS 58) – Sunday at 10:30 a.m.; WWRS – Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and WTMJ (4) – Friday at 12:05 a.m. The cable channels that air the program are Freeform on Thursdays at 5:30 a.m. and TBN (Trinity Broadcast Network) on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Please check your local provider's channel listing for more information.

Thrivent Members

A benefit available to Thrivent members is being able to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to an organization. There is no additional cost to you for this program. Both First Lutheran Church and First Lutheran School are options for designation, along with a list of other organizations. You may go online, log into your account, and designate funds to your choice of organization(s), call your Thrivent representative, OR call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say, "Thrivent Choice". We encourage you to help an organization with this member benefit.

ACH Offerings

First Lutheran Church has set up an automatic payments option through VANCO Payment Solutions for member giving. Authorization forms for your gifts to the church are available in the office. If this form of giving is an option for you, please return completed forms to the office. Please contact the office or Mike Schwark with any questions.

Food Pantry

Our church collects non-perishable food for the Elkhorn Food Pantry. The collection bin for donations is located in the narthex. Please note that the Elkhorn Food Pantry serves Elkhorn Area School District residents and is located at 14 W. Geneva Street.

Representatives of Elkhorn area churches run the pantry. Our members Bill Holtz and Fred Baudais are on the Board of Directors. Our members - Bill Holtz, Carla Baudais, Jim and Vickie Mueller, Doris Salem, and Bonnie Nommensen share their time at the pantry. The Walworth County Food Pantry, which serves the rest of Walworth County and is located at 205 E. Commerce Court, is a *separate* entity from the Elkhorn Food Pantry. Your generosity in helping the less fortunate is appreciated! *The Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping one morning a week (Monday, Wednesday, or Friday) each month, please contact Carla Baudais.*

FIRST LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Schedule of Events

Wed., Dec. 5	Grades K -2 sing in in 6:30 p.m. Advent service
Fri., Dec. 7	Basketball @ WLS – 5:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 12	Grades 3-4 sing in 6:30 p.m. Advent service
Sat., Dec. 15	Children’s Christmas Service practice – 9-10:30 a.m.
Wed., Dec. 19	Grades 5-8 sing in 6:30 p.m. Advent service
Fri., Dec. 20	Special Meal
Sun., Dec. 23	Children’s Christmas Service – 9:00 a.m.
Mon., Dec. 24 – Wed., Jan.2	– NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break
Thurs., Jan 3	School resumes

Be sure to check out our website - www.firstelkhorn.com. – and access the most up to date calendar for school events! You can also sync the calendar to your Google calendar.

Click on School - News+Events to see/print copies of the Wednesday News and/or monthly calendar.

First Quarter Honor Roll

The following students in grades 5-8 made the honor roll for the 1st quarter grading period:

A: Jacob M., Evan M., Landon Y., Caleb G., Miles H., Morgan P., Russell H., Oliver J.

B: Alex P., Olivia L., Trent V., Bennett C., Riley F.

Winter Sports Season Begins

Basketball and cheerleading practices have begun and the first game is Friday, November 30th in Lake Geneva. Be sure to watch the school calendar or add the Google school athletic calendar to yours for up to the minute information. Come and cheer on our Badger athletes!

Children’s Christmas Service

Practice will be held on Saturday, December 15th from 9-10:30 a.m. This will be the only all school/ Sunday school practice, so please make every effort to attend.

The Children’s Christmas Service - “Saints and Angel Hosts Rejoice” will be held on Sunday, Dec. 23rd at 9:00 am. FLS piano students will be playing preservice music beginning at 8:40 am.

School Safety

Recently First Lutheran School was awarded 2 safety grants from the Wisconsin Dept. of Justice totaling approximately \$30,000. The grants were awarded to improve specific security features in our school, as well as to provide training for teachers to help deal with emergency situations. We have been working with the Elkhorn Police Department to help improve our safety plan, and to identify areas of our campus for security improvements. Security film has been installed on the main church and school entryways, and indoor and outdoor security cameras will be installed before the end of 2018. In 2019, improvements will be made to some interior and some exterior door locks.

Save for your School

First Lutheran School participates in a variety of promotions to help fund our school’s non-budgeted expenses; classroom learning aids like TIME for Kids, special programming, and more. Please save and turn in Kwik Trip milk caps and bag tops, General Mills Boxtops, and Frank’s Piggly Wiggly receipts. Note our enrollment number when checking out at Office Max for us to gain credit for supplies. We also are a part of SCRIP – purchasing and/or ordering gift cards to use as gift or your everyday purchasing. An information sheet is located under the stairs near the green SCRIP order sheets. If you order from Amazon, use AmazonSmile and designate First Lutheran Church for a percentage of your purchase to go back to the school. If you have questions regarding any of the programs, please contact Mr. Schramm or the office. *Thank you for helping your school!*

First Ev. Lutheran Church

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FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2018

Council Hosts:
 8:00 10:30
 Dec. 2 *M. Schwark J. Sulik*
 Dec. 9 *T. Stech B. Holtz R. Smith C. Collins*
 Dec. 16 *J. Voigt M. Dorn D. Hintz S. Beaver*
 Dec. 23-9:00 am *B. Brugger M. Papenfus C. Greving M. Yunker*
 Dec. 30-9:00 am *M. Papenfus C. Greving*

Ushers:

8:00 10:30
D. Mangold P. Rote
R. Smith C. Collins
D. Hintz S. Beaver
M. Papenfus C. Greving M. Yunker
M. Papenfus C. Greving

www.firststelkhorn.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Wednesday Advent Services - 6:30 pm: Dec. 5: B. Brugger & D. Hintz; Dec. 12: B. Holtz & P. Rote; Dec. 19: M. Papenfus & C. Greving Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Mon., Dec. 24 - 6:30 p.m.: T. Stech & S. Beaver Christmas Day Service, Tues., Dec. 25 - 9:00 a.m.: M. Dorn & R. Smith New Years' Eve Service, Mon., Dec. 31 - 6:30 p.m.: M. Schwark & C. Collins</p>						
<p>2 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 am Advent by Candlelight - 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>3 MOM Meeting - 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>4 Choir - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5 Ladies Aid- 12:30 pm -Christmas Potluck Advent Service - 6:30 pm~gr. K-2 sing</p>	<p>6 Bible Class - 9 a.m. Toddler Open Gym - 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 Women's Bible Study - 8 -9 a.m. Elkhorn Christmas Parade - 1:30 p.m.</p>
<p>9 Worship Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 a.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Choir - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12 Advent Service - 6:30 p.m. - grades 3-4 sing - handbell choir</p>	<p>13 Bible Class - 9 a.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8 Men's Breakfast Bible Study - 8 am Parents' Night Out - 4:30 - 8 p.m.</p>
<p>16 Communion Services - 8 & 10:30 a.m. BIH - 9:15 a.m. Sparks/Flames - 3:00 pm caroling@Holton Manor</p>	<p>17 Board of Ed. - 6 pm Board Mfgs.-6:30 pm Church Council 7 pm</p>	<p>18 Choir - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Advent Service - 6:30 p.m. - grades 5-8 sing</p>	<p>20 Bible Class - 9 a.m. Toddler Open Gym - 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>15 Children's Christmas Service Practice - 9-10:30 a.m.</p>
<p>23 Children's Christmas Service - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:30 p.m. ~choir</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day Service - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>30 "Christmas Around the World" Service - 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve Service - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NO School - Christmas Break</p>				<p>29</p>

December 2018

Council Hosts:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Ushers:</u>	
Dec. 2	M. Schwark	J. Sulik	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Dec. 9	T. Stech	B. Holtz	D. Mangold	P. Rote
Dec. 16	J. Voigt	M. Dorn	R. Smith	C. Collins
Dec. 23 - 9:00 am	B. Brugger - M. Papenfus - C. Greving - M. Yunker			S. Beaver
Dec. 30 - 9:00 am	M. Papenfus			C. Greving

Wednesday Advent Services - 6:30 p.m.: Dec. 5: B. Brugger & D. Hintz
Dec. 12: B. Holtz & P. Rote
Dec. 19: M. Papenfus & C. Greving

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Monday, December 24 - 6:30 p.m.: T. Stech & S. Beaver
Christmas Day Service, Tuesday, December 25 - 9:00 a.m.: M. Dorn & R. Smith
New Years' Eve Service, Monday, December 31 - 6:30 p.m.: M. Schwark & C. Collins

Greeters:

	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Dec. 2	Beverly Freitag	Bill & Mary Schomburg
Dec. 9	Michael & Marsha Schwark	Mark & Laina Papenfus
Dec. 16	Alice Lembach	Gene & Patty Lauderdale
Dec. 30 - 9:00 a.m.	Glenda Schellin	

Birthdays: shut in members are in **bold print**

1- Amanda Bedard	17- Rachael Hartwick
Agnes Thomas	18- Taylor Young
James Brellenthin	19- Wanda Arens
2- Tammy Holder	20- Mary Schomburg
4- Tim Brellenthin	21- Robert Helfvogt
5- Tony Coletti	22- Haven Dahlberg
6- Beverly Freitag	24- Richard Lauderdale
8- Tucker Rote	Roger Meinen
Heidi Kuehl	Holly Adamson
9- Nicole Voisin	26- Joseph Kuehl
Diana Lambert	28- Timothy Schafer
10- Emma Papenfus	Linda Bowey
12- Caleb Greving	29- Betty Allen
Henry Lauderdale	Samantha Jacobi
13- Reid Collins	
14- Edward Bass	
15- Michael Berg	
16- Diane DeBaere	

Anniversaries:

Tom & Virginia Knutsen, December 1, 2007
David & Rhonda Filter, December 8, 1984
Pastor & Trista Heuer, December 20, 2008
Paul & Bonnie Ihnen, December 21, 1985
David & Wendy Peterson, December 29, 1984