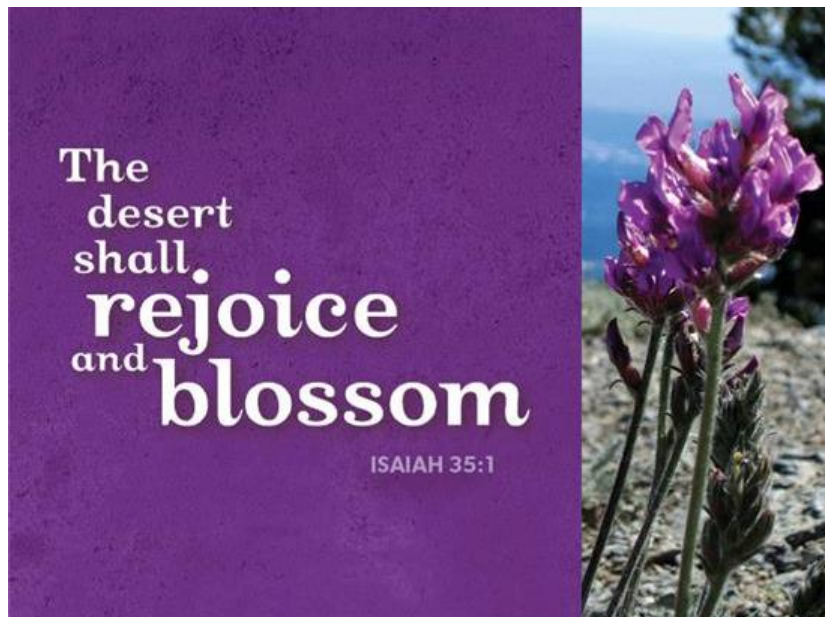


First Lutheran Church

In-person worship at First Lutheran sanctuary,
iHeart radio 620 am and Facebook livestream -
<https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheransiouxcity/>



HOLY COMMUNION The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday ☩ December 11, 2022 ☩ 10:00 am

The forerunner of Christ

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

Mark Sedio

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The first verse of the carol is sung, the prayer is prayed. The second verse of the carol is sung.



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING

The desert blooms

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, come down to us. **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Patience until the coming of the Lord

James 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, come down to us. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting two, page 124

The gospel acclamation is sung by the assembly.



GOSPEL

The forerunner of Christ

Matthew 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

ELW 726



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;

the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!

We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,

as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951
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APOSTLES' CREED

Together let us proclaim the faith we share.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence,
 let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

.....in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs.

By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers
 of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Greet one another with a gesture of peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Come, Emmanuel”

Mary McDonald
Nissa Downing, cello

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

“There Is a Longing in Our Hearts”

ACS 1078
Verses 1 & 4

Refrain – All



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All



1 For jus - tice, for free - dom, for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom, for cour - age, for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing, for whole - ness, for new life:
4 Lord, save us, take pit - y, light in our



hear our prayer. In sor - row, in grief:
hear our prayer. In weak - ness, in fear:
hear our prayer. In sick - ness, in death:
deep - est night. We call you; we wait:



Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

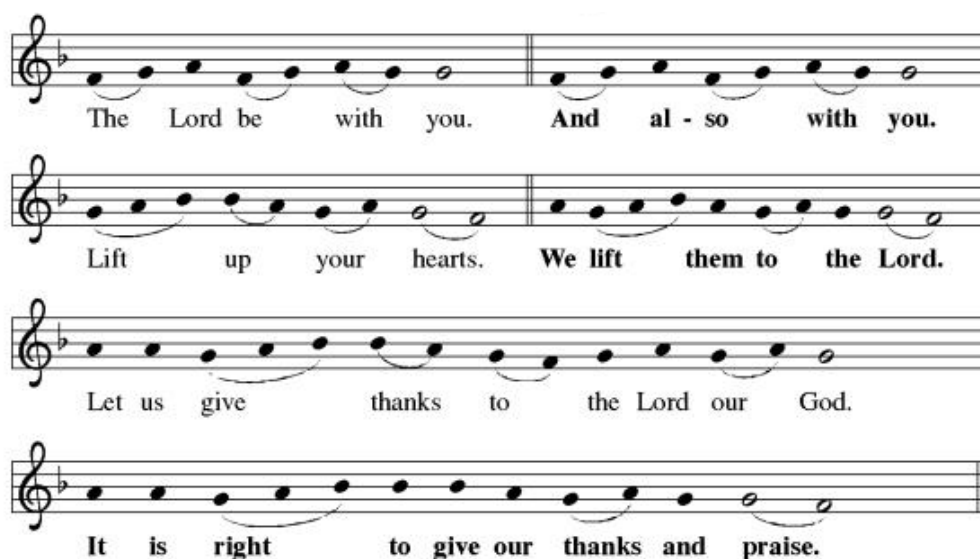
Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955
Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley
Text and music © 1992 Anne Quigley. Published by OCP, 5536 N. Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved.

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

setting two, page 129



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

setting two, page 130



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, living and loving God.....

And let the people cry, O come and save us:

O come and save us.

And let the people pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blest be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Communion

All are invited to receive these gifts of God. Children are welcome to receive communion or a blessing. Communion at this service is served at the communion rail by individual chalices. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Bring your offering or pledge card forward and place in the basket as you come to receive the meal.

Music during Communion

"Lamb of God"

setting two, page 135

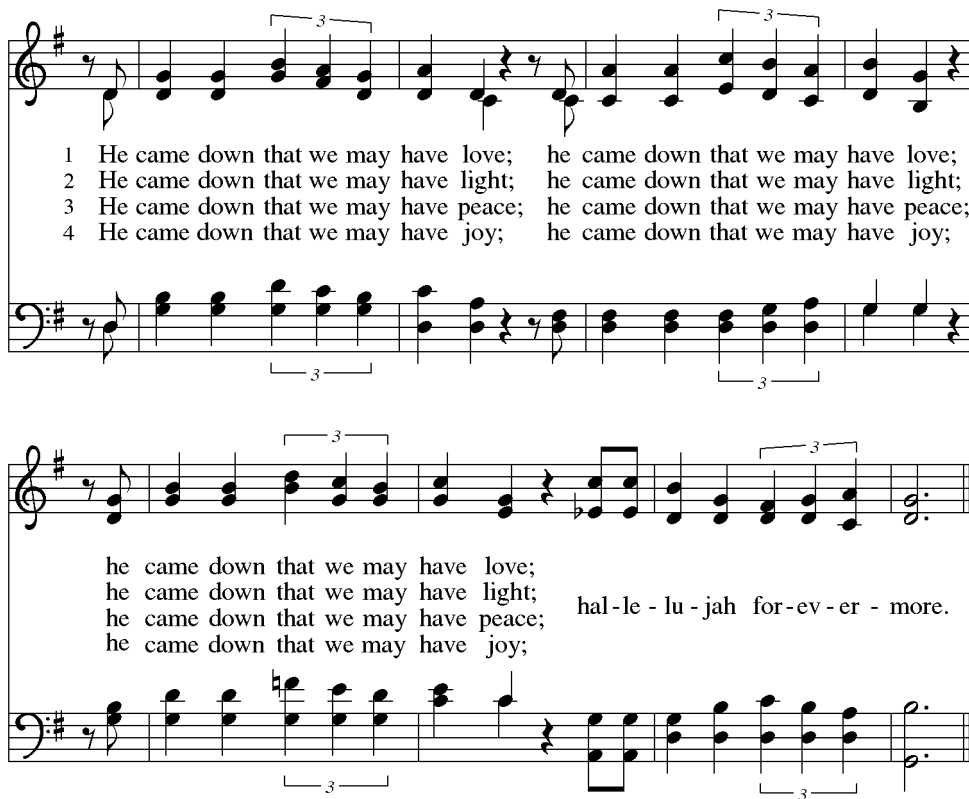




us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

“He Came Down”

ELW 253



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light;
 he came down that we may have peace; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional
 Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.
As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
Guide us toward your promised future,
coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

ACS 901



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GAN, Welsh melody
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"How Great Our Joy"

Dick Torrans

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Kristine Stedje	<i>presider</i>
Alison Hertenstein	<i>assisting minister</i>
Yvonne Hazlett	<i>organist, choir director</i>
Jim Lippke	<i>reader</i>
Ben and Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
Kaia Downing	<i>sacristan</i>
Wyatt and Stacy Hagan	<i>communion ministers</i>
Andrew Hagan	<i>crucifer</i>
Mike, Anya, Wes, Camden and Annika Tillo	<i>advent wreath lighters</i>
Mike VanBeest, David Gross, Emma Gross	<i>usher and greeters</i>
Nadine Holst, Dorothy Chauncey	<i>fellowship hosts</i>
Jay and Lisa Schenzel	<i>radio broadcast</i>
Janet Gross, Candy Johnson, Ann Doellinger	<i>December 14th food pantry</i>

Today's radio broadcast over KMNS broadcast is given by Jay and Lisa Schenzel in celebration of August's 19th birthday and a thank you to the Lord for our special blessing. Our sincere thanks.

All are welcome. As a community of the people of God, the members of First Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people. We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. If you would like more information about First Lutheran Church, please contact us at 712 239 3942, or email flcpastor3939@gmail.com.

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come down the center aisle to receive the bread and wine, returning to your pew by the side aisle. Communion may be received in one kind only (only bread or only wine/juice). Gluten free wafers and juice are available upon request. Bring your offering and place in the basket at the center aisle as you come forward.

NO FUSS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Back by popular demand is our *No Fuss Christmas Program*. On **Sunday, December 18th**, following worship we are all invited to participate in the Christmas Program. Perhaps this year you would like to be a wise one, maybe an angel suits you! Whatever you decide come and join those gathered around the manger as we tell the Christmas story, sing a few carols and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming! If you would like to help prepare for this event, please contact Pastor Kristine.

ELCA Good Gifts

If you are looking for a gift for someone special consider giving a chicken! Or a wide range of possibilities in the ELCA Good Gifts program. The **ELCA Good Gifts** program is often lifted up as an alternative gift-giving option during the Advent season. It is also a program that brings life-giving resources to people around the world living in poverty. Whether or not you have taken part in the Good Gifts program before, consider learning about one or more of the eighty ministries that can be supported through Good Gifts. What might those who are served by these ministries hope for or eagerly await in their lives? Check out the Good Gifts program to support God's advent in lives around the world. This season give with a grateful heart and a generous spirit.

Lutheran Services of Iowa Early Childhood Program

We have an opportunity to provide two Siouxland families with Christmas gifts for their children. If you would like to contribute toward making a happy Christmas for these families please check out the list of needed items in the narthex. There is a deadline for this program, so see Pastor Kristine if you can help out this week. Thank you!

Christmas Eve worship will be held on **Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 5 pm.**
Christmas Day worship will be held on **Sunday, December 25, 2022 at 10 am.** Both
worship services will be livestreamed and available for viewing on you tube.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

December 11 – December 18, 2022

Sunday: 10:00 Worship-SS/In Person/FB

Live/Radio w/Holy Communion

After Worship – Fellowship in FR

Monday: Office Closed;

Carla on Vacation all Week

5:00-6:30 Rising Stars in Gym

7:00 Scouts in FH

Tuesday: 10:00 Text Study

5:00-6:30 Rising Stars in Gym

6:30 Exec in FR

7:00-9:00 Pickleball in Gym

Wednesday: 9-11:30 Food Pantry;

6:00-6:45 Choir in Sanc.

7:00-8:00 Advent Worship in Sanc.

Thursday: 12:30 Rachel Circle

1:00-2:00 Advent Mid-Week Worship in
FR

7:00-9:00 Pickleball in Gym

Friday: 9:00 Quilters in FH

7:00 AA in FH

Saturday: 9:00-11:00 Pickleball in Gym

Sunday: 10:00 Worship-SS/In Person/FB

Live/Radio w/Holy Communion

After Worship – Fellowship in FR; No

Fuss Christmas Program

First Lutheran Church
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Sioux City, Iowa 51104
712 239 3942
www.firstlutheransc.org

Mission and Vision
*We are a Christian community
called by God to respond to God's gift of grace
as servants to the world.*

Pastor Kristine Stedje
flcpastor3939@gmail.com
Carla Flores
firstlutheransecretary3939@gmail.com