



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

3939 Cheyenne Blvd.
Sioux City, IA 51104
Office Phone: (712) 239-3942
Website: firstlutheransc.org

Advent

Contrary to what you may have been led to believe, Advent is not about getting ready for Christmas! Advent is about getting ready to receive Christ. And yes, there is a difference!

Getting ready for Christ is about making room in our lives to have a space for Christ to dwell. Like the season of Lent, Advent began as a period for those seeking baptism to prepare their lives for Christ to come in....to clear away the clutter.

The good news is that in all things, God will provide. And the preparing is not all our work. In Advent we pray for God to prepare us, to get us ready, to make us more open, to stir us up to receive Christ. This is why we pray each Advent Sunday, stir up your power and come!

It may be fine for the marketers and retailers to jump immediately to Christmas after Thanksgiving, but the Church cannot. Advent has its

Breathe.
Release.
Receive.

own beauty, its own logic, its own purpose, and it will not be rushed into Christmas. The Church is in expectant mode as it awaits Christ.

We know that Christ comes to us all year long... in baptism, in our neighbor, in the word and in the Lord's supper, at the end of the age....and at Christmas. To receive all of the love, we have some preparing to do! We have room to prepare, a space must be found. Like preparing for a new relationship, or a new baby, room must be found in our lives for God. Welcome to Advent...love is on the way!

Pastor Kristine

Christmas Cookie Bakers



Christmas Cookie Bakers....join other bakers as we gather in Fellowship Hall to make **Christmas Cookies on Saturday, December 9 beginning at 9:30 am.** The church will provide the butter, sugar and flour. You bring your apron, a rolling pin and a large container to take home cookies! This fun event will bring together a host of traditions of our favorite cookies we love to make this time of year, but don't need three dozen of one kind! We will try a variety of delicious recipes and share the results of our labors with all who gather. Come join us for this time of fellowship, fun and fabulous sweets!

Midweek Advent



Midweek Advent worship begins on Wednesday, December 6, at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The theme, *Stir up your power, and come*, will feature three Advent words, Breathing, Receiving and Releasing. Holden Evening Prayer will center our worship. Join us as we make time in our busy schedules to breathe, receive and release this holiday season.

Advent Adult Bible Study meets each week in Advent on Thursday afternoons at 1 pm in the Fireside Room. Each week we will look at the scripture lessons for the upcoming Advent Sunday. Join us for an engaging discussion.

No Fuss Christmas Program

Mark your calendar for December 17th when we will gather following worship for our **No Fuss Christmas Program**. If you haven't participated in previous years, you won't want to miss out this year! Everyone gets to choose a part and together we tell the story of Jesus birth!



Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve worship will be held on Sunday morning, December 24th at 10 am, to celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent, and Sunday afternoon at 5 pm, for a candlelight worship service with holy communion. Both services will be livestreamed.



Life Passages

*Let your light so shine
before others*

*Nothing can separate us
from the love of God*

Holy Baptism

Maeve Elyse Sweeney
November 12, 2023

Orville Thiele
September 13, 1933 -
November 17, 2023

Christmas Cards



We would love to receive a Christmas card photo of you and your family. If you would share we will post on the bulletin board, in this way we can get to know families and names. Thank you for contributing your photo.

Soup Kitchen



Another evening of dedication from First Lutheran members at the **Soup Kitchen** was Tuesday, November 7th. Thanks so much to Becky McGlaufflin, Gary Troth and Laurie & Doug Webb for serving 145 meals!! Candy is looking for more volunteers for Wednesday, December 6 @ 4:00 PM. Give her a call if you would like to volunteer 712-251-9411.

Financial

Below is an account of attendance and offering received for the month of November.

Date	In-Person	Facebook	YouTube	Offering
11/5/2023	79	32	19	\$9194.00
11/12/2023	65	32	14	\$5057.40
11/19/2023	75	30	2	\$4179.25
11/26/2023	76	40	7	\$3640.20