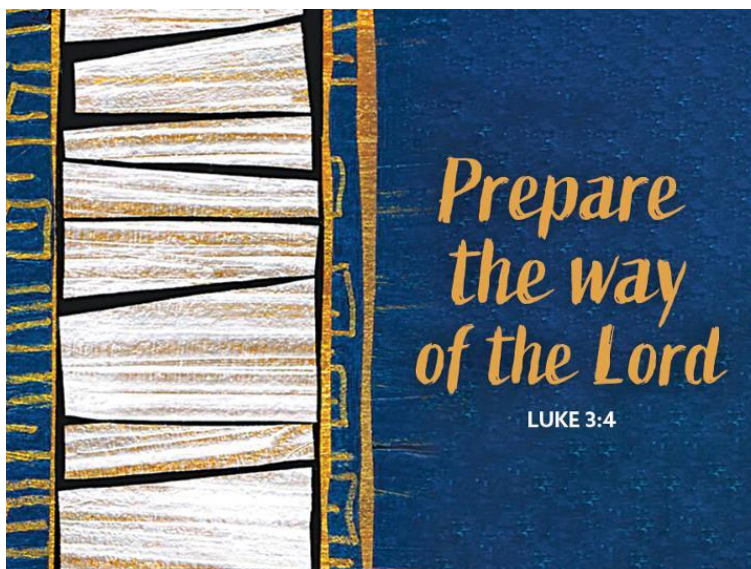


First Lutheran Church

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



HOLY COMMUNION Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday ☩ December 8, 2024 ☩ 10:00 am

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

We Gather in Mystery, We Wait

PRELUDE

"Aberystwyth"

Wilbur Held

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

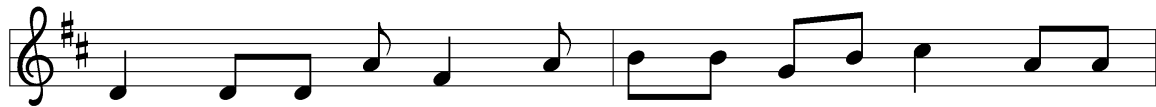
"All Earth is Hopeful"

ELW 266

Stand and face the entrance to the sanctuary as the cross is processed to the chancel.



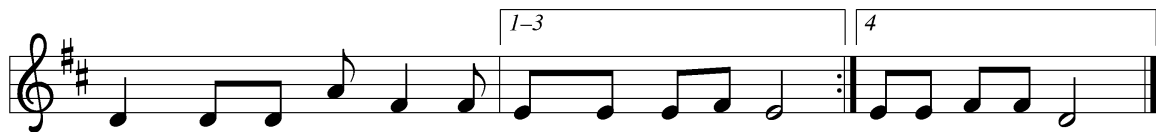
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.
By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your
salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

ADVENT WREATH CANTICLE “We Are Waiting for Jesus” ACS 905

The children are invited to come forward and gather near the wreath as we sing together.



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

We praise you, O God, for this light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
calm our hearts, that we may be ready to welcome Jesus.
Give us your peace, and make us ready for the holy days to come.
As we watch the lights grow brighter, may we wait with patience.

Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.
Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.
Amen.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY

We Listen to God's Word

READING *My messenger is a refiner and purifier* Malachi 3:1-4
God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

READING

A harvest of righteousness

Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL CANTICLE

Song of Zechariah

Luke 1:68-79

The cantor will sing the refrain, the assembly repeats and sings as indicated.

ELW Morning Prayer, page 303

Refrain

In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God, the
dawn from on high shall break up - on us.

Text: Luke 1:78

Music: Mark Mummert © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

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GOSPEL

Watch for the coming of the Son of Man

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

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

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.



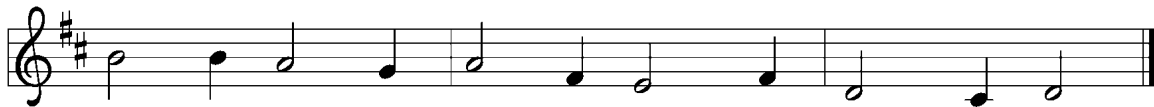
HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" ELW 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith in the words of the apostles' creed.

**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 Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.
A brief silence.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of
our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We Feast around the Table of the Lord

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

"Bring Us Peace"

Craig Courtney

OFFERTORY SONG

“We are Awaiting the Coming” *Paul Friesen-Carper*

Verse one



1 We are a - wait - ing the com - ing of Je - sus,
2 We are the vine you have plant - ed and tend - ed;
3 We bring these signs of our lives whol - ly giv - en;



yearn - ing in dark - ness for light and for peace,
we are the wheat you have wa - tered and sown.
let them for us be Christ's wine and Christ's bread



long - ing at last to re - jice on that
Take our first - fruits, take our bowed heads of
poured out in love for the heal - ing of



day when all peo - ple join in this feast.
grain, in - crease them and make them your own.
all and bro - ken that all may be fed.

Text and music: Paul Friesen-Carper

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

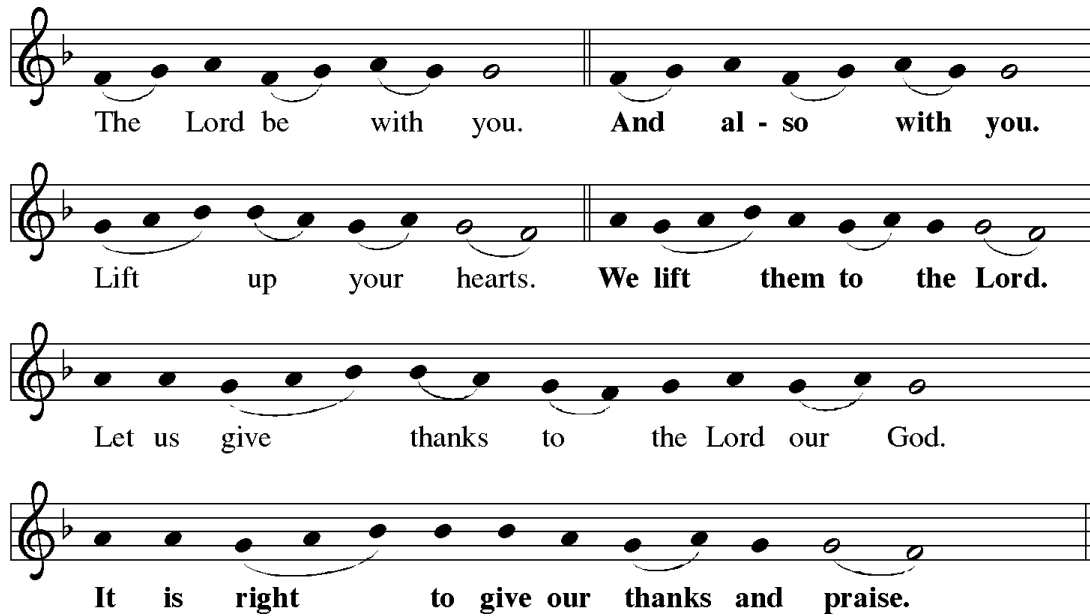
Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

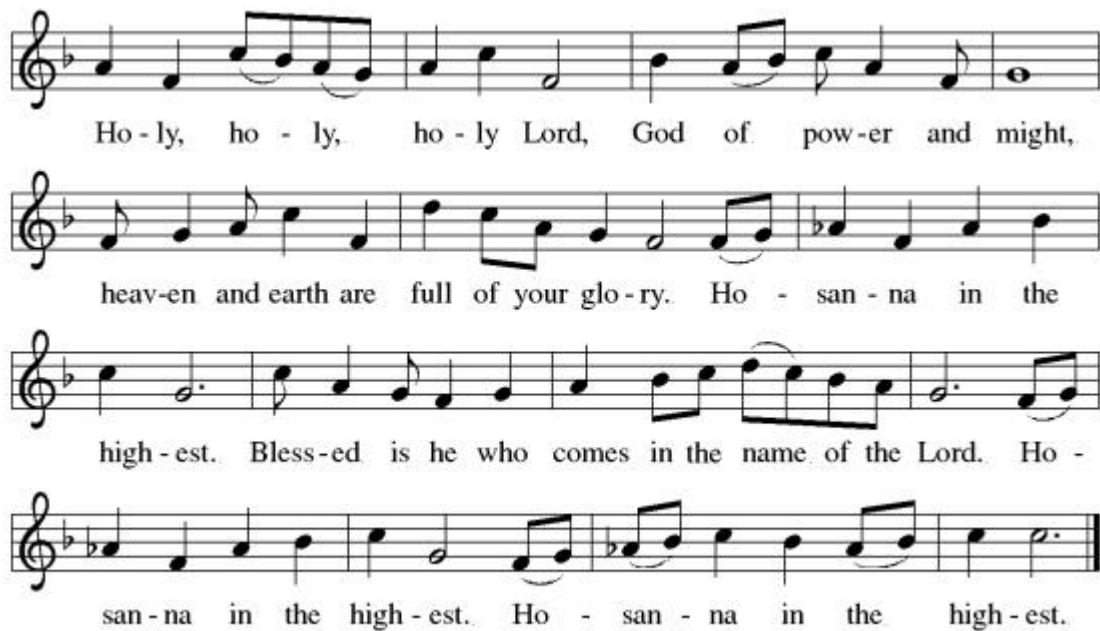
setting two, page 129



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.

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 -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table prepared for 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 by individual cups of wine and juice at the rail. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Music during Communion

Lamb of God

setting two, page 135



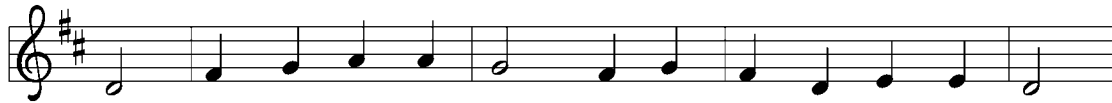
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



Communion Hymn "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" ELW 241



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

We Are Sent to be God's Hands in the World

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

DISMISSAL

Please face the processional cross for the dismissal.

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Paul Manz



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

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Kristine Stedje	<i>presider</i>
Gary Troth	<i>reader</i>
Yvonne Hazlett	<i>organist, choir director</i>
Zach Hagan	<i>crucifer</i>
Julie Thiele	<i>sacristans</i>
Jim Lippke	<i>communion minister</i>
Mike VanBeest, Carole Heider, Becki McGlaufflin	<i>usher and greeters</i>
Ben and Ellie Hertenstein	<i>sound and media technicians</i>
Denne Family	<i>radio & livestream broadcast</i>
Alison Hertenstein, Pastor Kristine	<i>coffee fellowship</i>

WELCOME. WORSHIP. SERVICE.

Announcements

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church. We are a welcoming congregation who worships and serves the God we love.

Holy Communion will be served today at the rail with individual cups of wine and juice. Gluten-wafers are available, simply ask your server. If you prefer to remain in your pew, a minister will come and serve you there. All are welcome at Jesus' meal.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), will join congregations in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula on **Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 12 p.m.** Central time for a regional conversation on God's Love Made Real. The **Rev. Lorna Halaas, bishop of the Western Iowa Synod**, will host the online conversation.

God's Love Made Real is a movement encouraging the ELCA to create a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. During this discussion, the presiding bishop will share why God's Love Made Real is meaningful to her and the future of the church. Participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and ask questions. "The Spirit is calling us to move together as one

church to share the grace and love we experience every day,” said Eaton. **Join** the discussion! You can learn more about God’s Love Made Real at lovemadereal.elca.org.

Nordic Christmas Baking ...join other bakers as we gather in Fellowship Hall to make **Christmas Cookies on Saturday, December 14 beginning at 9:30 am**. The church will provide butter, sugar and flour. You bring your apron, a rolling pin, whatever else you need to make your recipe, 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, including those who gather for worship on Sunday morning, December 15th! Come join us for this time of fellowship, fun and fabulous sweets!

Share your Nativity Set with the Congregation

Do you have a beloved nativity set...many of us do! Is there a favorite among your collection with an interesting story behind it? Would you be willing to share your set with the congregation? In the bookcases in the hallway off Fireside Room, we will be featuring a display of nativity sets. Please ensure you identify your set with your name, and if you wish, you may tell us a little of the history of your set.

Thank you to the volunteers who served at the Soup Kitchen on December 2nd: Janet Gross, Lori McClaren, Candi Johnson, Chris Taylor, Lisa Schenzel, Becki McGlauflin and friend.

Weekly Schedule, First Lutheran Meetings and Activities

Today, December 8, Advent Two

Following worship, coffee in Fireside Room

Tuesday, December 10

12 noon, A Conversation with Bishop Eaton and Bishop Lorna, Zoom Call

You can learn more about God’s Love Made Real at lovemadereal.elca.org.

Wednesday, December 11

9-11:30a Holy Family Food Pantry, volunteers: Sue Bowers, Sue Mullin

12 noon Mid-week Advent Worship, Restore Our Hope, in Fireside Room

6p Handbells, in the choir room

6:25p Choir, in the choir room

7p Mid-week Advent Worship, Restore Our Hope, in the sanctuary

Thursday, December 12

7p Sioux City Transition Team, at St Luke

Saturday, December 14

9:30a Nordic Baking, Fellowship Hall

12 noon Youth Seasonal Décor, sanctuary

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

10a Worship in the sanctuary, followed by bake sale of Nordic goodies, and fellowship in Fireside Room