



## First Lutheran Church

Box 98 Akeley, MN 56433

Office 218.652.3335

firstchurchl@arvig.net

www.flcakeley.org

Pr. Maribeth McGoven

## **Being Present with Assurance**

December 31, 2023

PRELUDE

Barb Hanson

BELLS

GATHERING HYMN

*I Wonder As I Wander*

WOV #642

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

THE GIFT OF BEING PRESENT

### **BECOMING PRESENT – A Christmas Ritual of Light**

CANDLE LIGHTING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray: Holy Living Light of God, you are our Reassuring Presence.

C: Let this assurance grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Assurance to others. May it be so. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

WOV #699\*

### **THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US: PROCLAIMING**

FIRST READINGS

*Isaiah 62:1-3 and Galatians 4:4-7*

THE GIFT OF CHILDREN

HYMN

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

LBW #44

GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22-40*

SERMON

Written by Pr. Maribeth McGoven

### **FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: PRAYING**

### **OFFERING**

MISSION FOCUS: ELCA GOOD GIFTS & ARCC EMERGENCY SHELTER

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYER

**PRESENT TO THE WORLD: SENDING**

BENEDICTION

BELLS

CLOSING SONG

*Go Tell it on The Mountain*

*LBW #70*

DISMISSAL

**P:** Now go forth, and be the presence of Hope and Peace, Joy, Love, and Light to all the world.

**C: Amen! Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Barb Hanson

\*denotes a favorite hymn. From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #468

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READINGS

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>Mon</b> | <u>Psalm 8; Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21</u> |
| <b>Tue</b> | <u>Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18</u>                |
| <b>Wed</b> | <u>Psalm 110; Proverbs 1:20-33; James 4:1-10</u>               |
| <b>Thu</b> | <u>Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17</u>               |
| <b>Fri</b> | <u>Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31</u>                |
| <b>Sat</b> | Psalm 72:1-15; Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12 |
| <b>Sun</b> | <u>Psalm 29; Genesis 1:1-5; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11</u>     |

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

|                 | <b>This Week</b>         | <b>Next Week</b>                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Greeters</b> | Wayne & Heather Lenander | Chrissy Majors                       |
| <b>Ushers</b>   | Jay & Heather Johnson    | Duane & Cina Pidde                   |
| <b>Reader</b>   | Mike Jones               | Billie Marie Larson                  |
|                 | No Communion             | Communion Assistants: Raylan Stanley |

*Prayer Concerns: The people of the Ukraine, The people of Israel and Palestine, The ARCC Emergency Shelter, ELCA Good Gifts; The family of Glenn Anderson; Marlys Stainbrook, Dorothy Pohl, Kristine Schlagel (Carl Anderson's niece), Carl & Linda Anderson, Sharon Arvik, Billie Marie Larson, Phyllis Carlson, Tim Atwater (brother-in-law of Carol Jones), Johanna Jones, (niece of Mike Jones), Jean (cousin of Vi Sundermeyer), Emily (friend of Vi Sundermeyer), Elaine Kelsey (friend of Peg Davies), Lori, Rose & Don (Vi Sundermeyer's sister and brother-in-law), Jerry Johnson (brother of Jay Johnson), Ryan Lau, Suzanne Dock (friend of Carol Lenander & Larry Gass), Don(Corina Bronczyk's brother-in-law), Carla & Scott (friends of Corina Bronczyk), Ryan Wood (Darrin & Corina Bronczyk's nephew), Mike O'Rourke (friend of Peg Davies), Karen Rich (sister of Mike Jones), Bonnie & George Lueck, Peggy Lindstrom (friend of Cina Pidde), Carole Olafson (friend of Peg Davies & Aunt of Wayne Lenander), Tina Riggs (friend of Bobbie Wosika), Jerry Leverson (Resurrection Band singer), Jim Thomsen, Lee Johnson (husband of Denice Johnson), Deb Britton (friend of Cina Pidde), Gail Buck, Mark Hiene (Linda Anderson's brother-in-law), Mike Husby (friend of Peg Davies), Bryanna Hegg (granddaughter of Denice Johnson), Matthew Lane (Carl Anderson's step grandson), Erika W. (friend of Vi Sundermeyer), Liz Lau and her family, Laurel Yae (niece of Vi Sundermeyer), Christina & Emmy Rose (nieces of Dave & De Carlson), Carrie Dunham (granddaughter of Cina Pidde), Jimmy Lecy (brother of Harry Lecy)*

---

Opportunities This Week

---

|              |                                    |            |
|--------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Today</b> | Worship Service                    | 10:00 AM   |
|              | Coffee Fellowship                  | 11:00 AM   |
| <b>Tues</b>  | Quilting – contact Bernie or Shane | 9:30-11:00 |
| <b>Sun</b>   | Worship Service                    | 10:00 AM   |
|              | Coffee Fellowship                  | 11:15 AM   |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Adult Education study on the Gospel of John will resume next Sunday, January 7, at 9:00 am. All are welcome to join in the discussion anytime.

- January 14 we will celebrate the Sunday of the Epiphany, which is also “Star Word” Sunday. All will receive a star with a word on it, and we will hear stories of what your 2023 word meant to you some of you.

Also, on January 14, we will be welcoming all our newest members to our First Lutheran Family. If you would like to be included in the welcome of new members, please let Pastor Maribeth or a Council Member know.

Annual Meeting will be held January 21 after worship.

## **The December Missions of the Month**

### **ELCA Good Gifts**

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference.

We are following tradition at First Lutheran this December by once again featuring ELCA's Good Gifts and God's Global Barnyard as our mission of the month. Once again our Giving Tree in the Narthex will have suggested gift ideas. The gifts will support the sustainable development programs of ELCA World Hunger. Choose a specific gift by taking the ornament off the tree and writing your check to First Lutheran Church with "Good Gifts" on the memo line. Put your check with the ornament in the offering plate.

Good Gifts can also be given by following the ELCA link from [www.flcakeley.org](http://www.flcakeley.org) or [www.ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://www.ELCA.org/goodgifts) to give on-line in honor of a loved one.

### **ARCC Emergency Shelter Christmas Project**

We are also following tradition and buying actual gifts for families in need in our local community. This year our gifts will go to the families residing in the ARCC Emergency Shelter. The gifts have been delivered. They were much appreciated!