First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2026

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE ***Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*** LASKY

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. ***Amen.***

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin and turn back toward God's love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God, **we are your people, but we have neglected to call on your name. We are your people, but we have not remembered your ways. We are your people, but we have forgotten your hold on us. We are your people, but now we fade like a leaf, and our sins, like the wind, take us away. Restore us as your people. Cleanse us from our sin, and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.**

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord! Amen.

HYMN #242 ***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*** REJOICE, REJOICE

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ["Welcome to the Waiting Room"]

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, stanza 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.
O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

L2: We gather together to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.
O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

L1: We wait for the day when God will recycle tanks into tractors
and transform minefields into soccer fields.
O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

L2: We stay awake by telling stories that offer a glimmer of a future
and agitate dormant hope within us.
O Emmanuel,
Wake us up to your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle,
whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope
Amen.

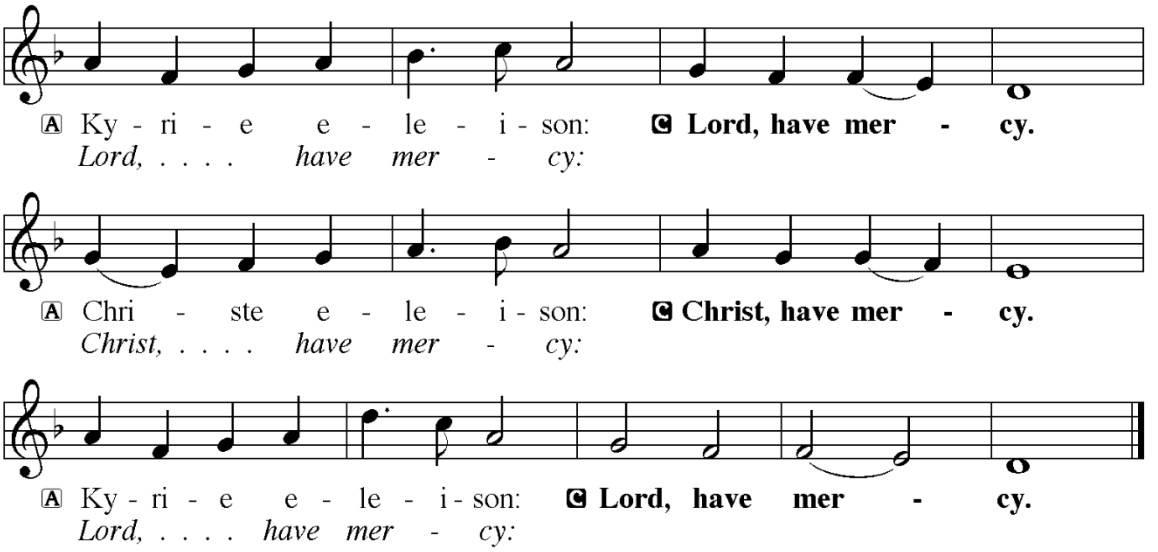
Light the first candle.

Song
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, st. 3

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
As to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times you gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God which surpasses understanding, be with you all! **And also with you.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord, Have Mercy)



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray together. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. **By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64: 1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would
quake at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your
presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the
mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5 You meet
those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and
we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name or attempts
to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the
hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our
potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not
remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 80: 1-7, 17-19 *(sing responsively)*



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O Lord | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**

the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

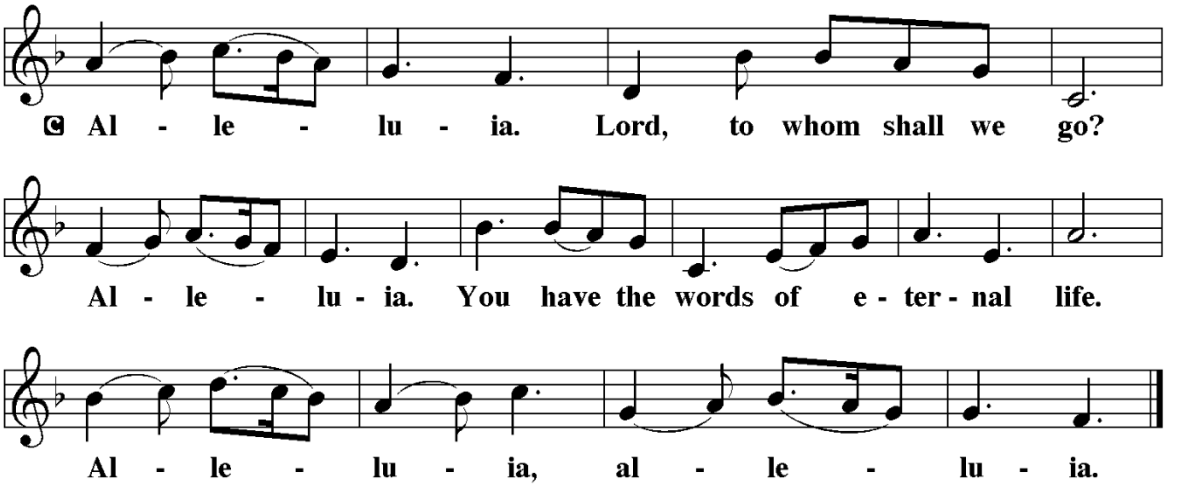
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL
The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13: 24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *Pastor Tucker O'Leary,* n/OLF

HYMN #438 ***My Lord, What a Morning*** BURLEIGH

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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.

THE PRAYERS

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

…*God, in your mercy,* **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

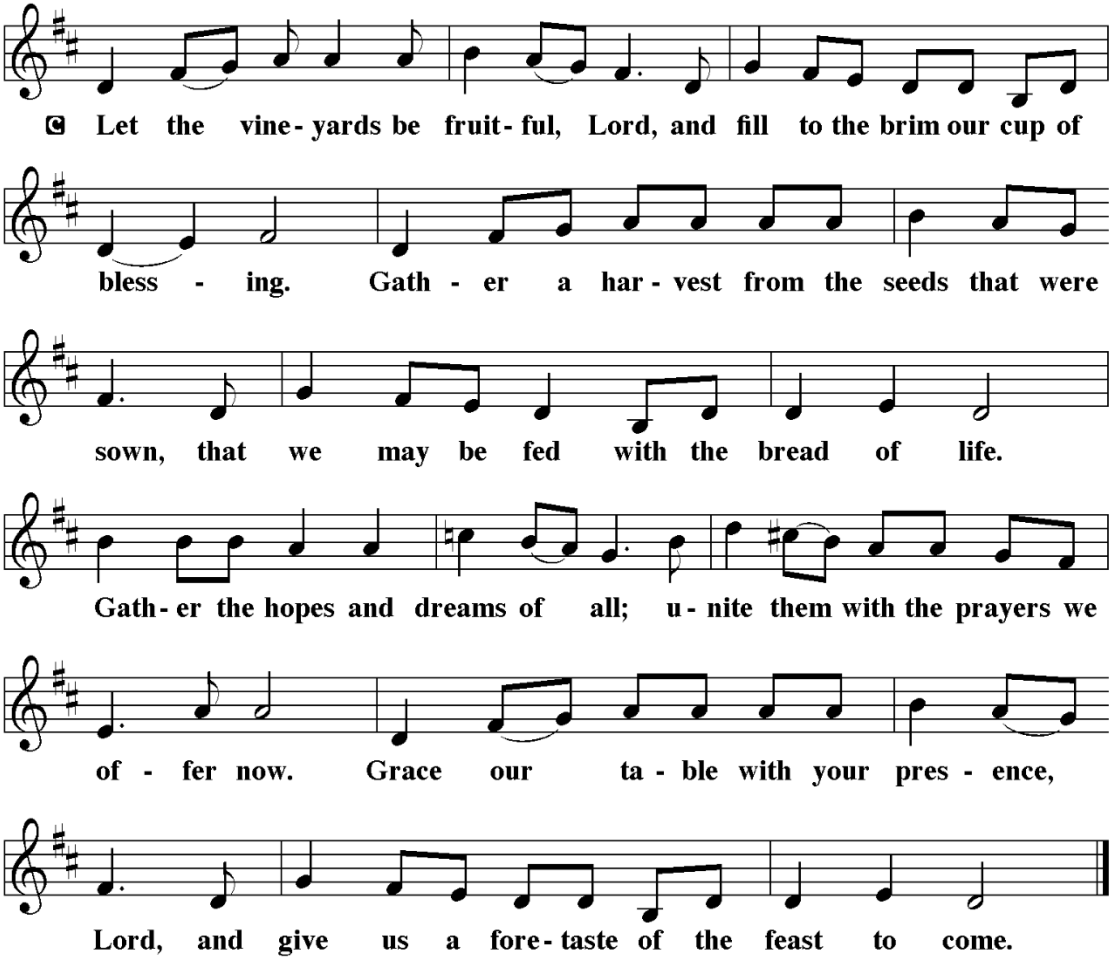
CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING (8:15) ***Savior of the Nations, Come*** BUTTSTEDT

(10:45) Senior Choir ***Is Your Heart Prepared for a King*** LAU

OFFERTORY



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy Creator, **we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

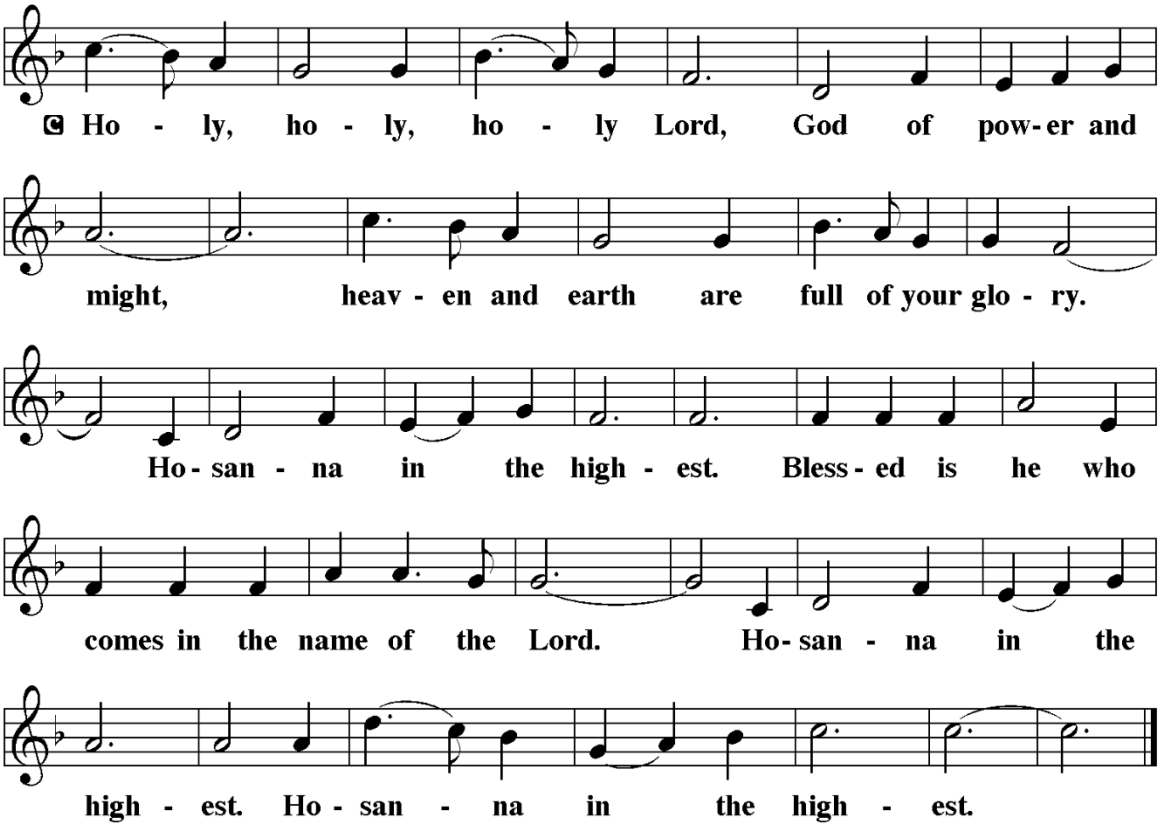
GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

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

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOLY]



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

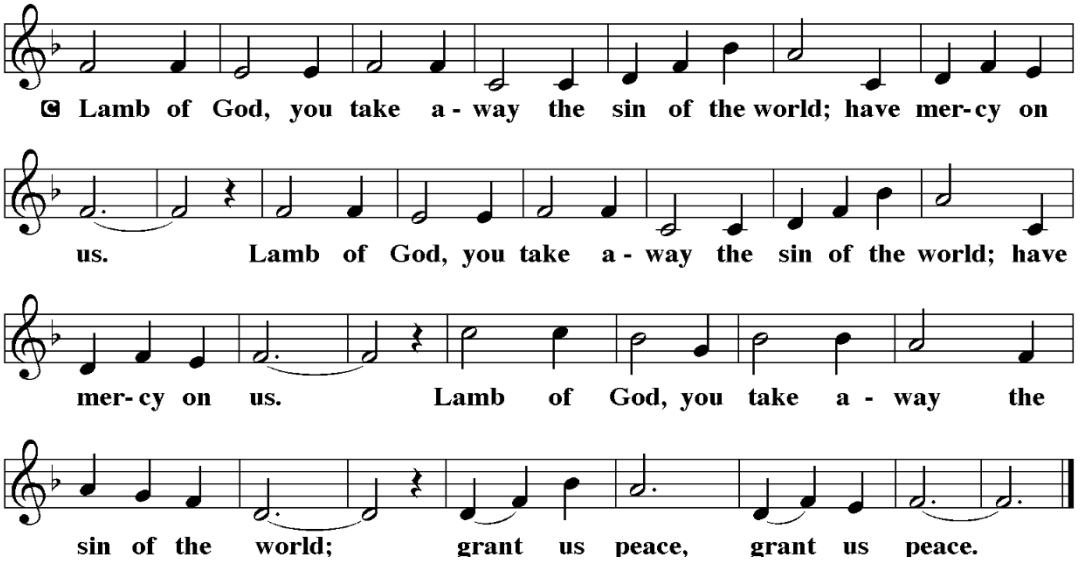
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The glory of the Lord is revealed!
Come and taste God's presence.

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]



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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Providing God, **you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN #244 ***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*** HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE ***Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*** WESTENHUEHLER

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #31076. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

First Lutheran



Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45

Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

Welcome to First Lutheran Church. During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Brent & Miriam Gibson in honor of all God's blessings we see around us every day.

OUR TRADITIONAL "LOVE AND MEMORY TREE" has returned. Please feel free to place your donation in one of the envelopes provided in the bulletin and fill it out. You can place it in the offering plate, send it to the church, or drop off to the office. Your monetary donation will be recognized by hanging a card "ornament" on our narthex tree in memory or honor of loved ones and friends.

GIVING TUESDAY! Make Your Gift to First Lutheran Church Go Further on Giving Tuesday! On Tuesday, December 1, Thrivent is offering up to $3 million in matching funds to boost online donations made through their giving platform. Anyone can participate—you do not need to be a Thrivent member—and Thrivent covers 100% of the processing fees so your full gift goes directly to First Lutheran Church. Visit Thrivent.com on December 1 and search for First Lutheran Church to make your boosted gift!

THE NEW 2027 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact the office or Social Ministry committee if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

52 WEEKS WITH WOMEN OF THE BIBLE
The Monday morning Bible Study will be using the book ***52 Weeks with the Women of the Bible*** by Ann Spangler & Jean E. Sysweda. If you would like to know a bit more about Tamar (week 8), Abigail (week 20), or maybe Herodias (week 42) come join the group whenever you can, of course we'd like to see you there every week. We meet in the church lounge on Monday morning at 10:30 am. If you want to purchase the book it is available on many sites online. If you need additional information call Marilynn Dunn 419.722.8543.

BLESSING BOX REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR
WELCA is again sponsoring food donation for the blessing box food pantry. You can take part by collecting items each day until Christmas Eve! Feel free to take a guide from the bulletin board.

PRAYER Pastor Tucker will be offering two prayer opportunities Monday through Thursday, Morning Prayer (Matins) at 9:30am, Midday Prayer (Sext) at 11:30am, and on nights when committees will meet, he will offer Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6:00pm.

SEVERE STORMS, HURRICANES, AND NATURAL DISASTERS across the United States have left many without power and/or without homes. With your support our church stands ready to walk with our neighbors as they rebuild. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that survivors don't have to face the road to recovery alone. Through these disasters and others across the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities for as long as the recovery process takes. Together we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need. There are Lutheran Disaster Response envelopes in the narthex or you may mark your gift Lutheran Disaster Response.

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!