

First Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELC)



To Our Guests,

It is a blessing this morning to have you joining us in lifting our praise and prayers to our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

If you are a guest please know:

- * Words in **bold print** are meant for the congregation to say.
- * We will be celebrating our Lord's supper today. We invite all who are baptized and believe in Christ to his table. At FELC we believe Christ's promise that in receiving this bread and wine, we receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins.
- * We have hearing devices available, just ask one of our ushers for assistance.
- * We have children's quiet activity bags available in the lobby.
- * We invite you to sign a guest card (in the pews) or our guest register in the entryway. Let us know how we might help you in your faith journey or lift you up in prayer.
- * **Following worship, everyone is invited into our Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.**

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Here at First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

we take prayer seriously. We know that life can be overwhelming, stressful and chaotic. We are here

for you! And we want to know how we can pray for you.

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email prayerchain@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.



Prayers for those who are ill, recovering or going through a difficult time:

Matt Kunnary (Elaine Harris's brother); Nick Abreu; Wendy Magnuson (Richard & Geri's cousin's wife); Wanda Pilkington (Tom Pilkington's sister-in-law); Wayne Burton (Rebecca DeVore's father); Marie Cleverly; Caroline Davis; Carla Benson; Mike Bean; Judy Sahr; Christina Townsend; Debbie Horton; Brent Thyssen (Ellie Lerum's dad); Dieter Tretzen; Greg Davis (Jim Sahr's nephew); Dorothy Sowa (Bev Novak's mom); Steve (Julie Sundberg's brother); Debbie Brown (DiAnn Brown's sister-in-law); Bobby Jo Stiener (Elaine Harris's cousin); Laura Hundley (Dave and Diane Sheldon's daughter); David Douglas (Bev Novak's brother); Mickey Kunnary (Elaine Harris's niece); Dan Lance (Cal Miller's brother-in-law); Debbie Holden.

Prayers for friends and family serving in the military:

Tyler Donnelly; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Mike Stultz; Skylar Hudman; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Kyle Skeen; Thomas Butler; Alton Helm; Eric Gratzke; Mike Monroe; Jody Townsend; Brianna Townsend; Craig Bukowski; Michael Smith; Jack Hogan; Marc Schoonmaker; Andrew Mitchell.

In our prayers for you we always thank God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Colossians 1:3

Please be aware, this worship service is being streamed to the internet. While the focus is on the worship leaders, members of the congregation may be inadvertently caught on camera.

Worship Assistants

Greeters: Anne Mitchell, Bev Novak

Liturgist: Sheryl Schaffer

Communion Assistants: Linda Lerum, Carole Mason, Debra Holst, Cathi Bean

Usher Coordinator: Jim Sahr

Ushers: Lisa Swenson, Dick Mitchell

Counters: Lisa Swenson, Janice McBride

Altar Guild: Jan Galbraith, Marda Kirkwood

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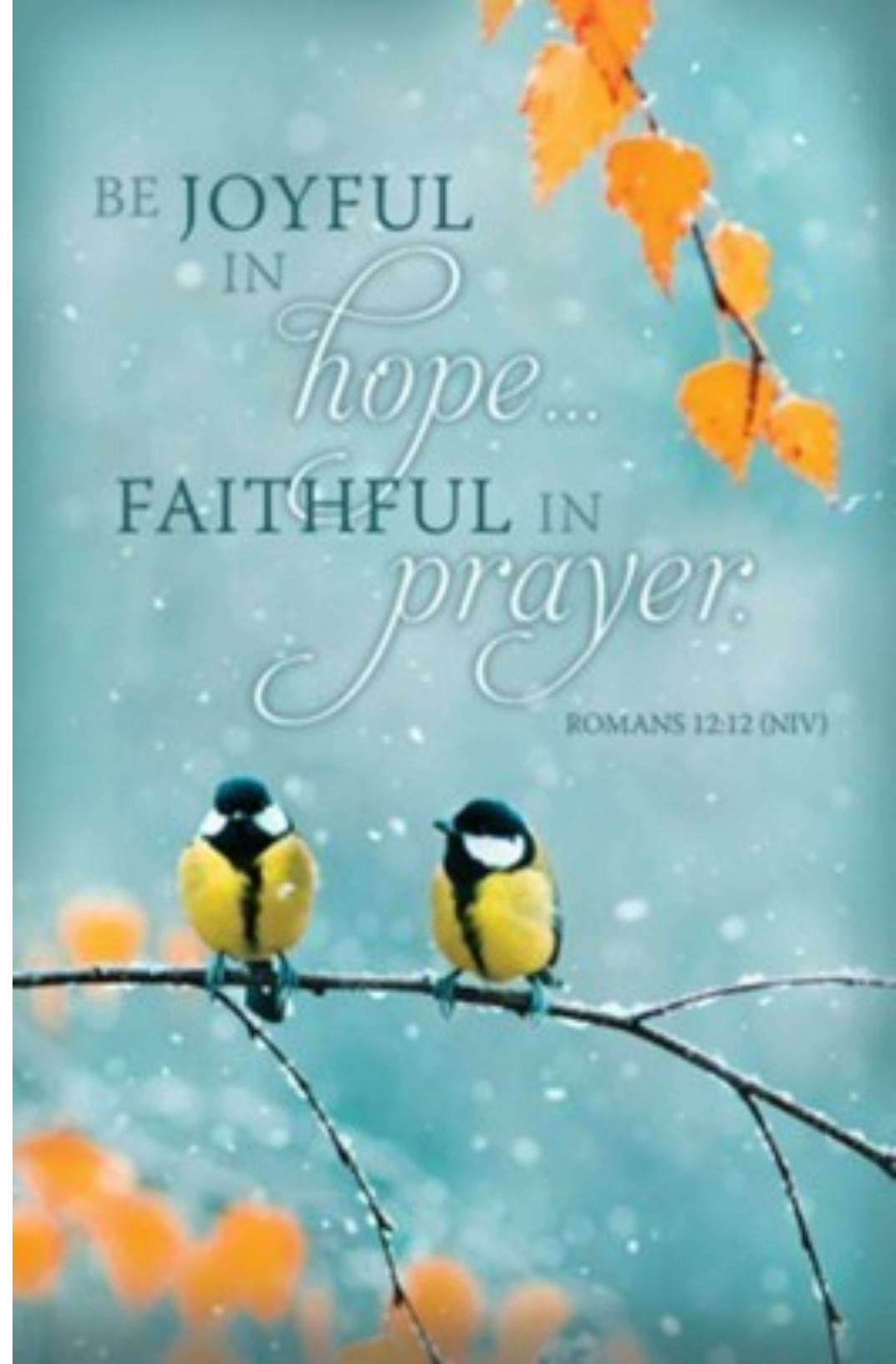
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
455 W Sunnyside Rd, Idaho Falls ID 83402

Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff
e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com

Church Administrator: Heide Larsen
e-mail: office@firstlc.com

Pastor Emeritus: Pastor Larry Cudmore

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed
Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301



THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Today Sunday 12/4/2022

9:00 am	Adult Bible Study/Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Children's Sunday School (PreK-6th grade)
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
10:15 am	Worship with Holy Communion
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall
12:00 pm	Youth Group/Youth Room/6th-12th grade
1:30 pm	Cantata Choir Rehearsal
3:00 pm	King's Men Rehearsal
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice/Narthex

Monday 12/5/2022

10:00 am	Staff Meeting
7:00 pm	Executive Council Meeting/Lounge

Tuesday 12/6/2022

9:00 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers
1:00 pm	Preschool
7:00 pm	Bell Practice

Wednesday 12/7/2022

9:00 am	Preschool
1:00 pm	Women in Prayer
1:00 pm	Preschool
6:30 pm	Advent Soup & Bread
7:15 pm	Advent Worship

Thursday 12/8/2022

9:00 am	Preschool
10:00 am	Kaffeeklatsch
1:00 pm	Preschool
3:30 pm	Finance Team Meeting

Friday 12/9/2022

1:00 pm	Friends in Stitches/Fellowship Hall
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Saturday 12/10/2022

10:00 am	Cantata Rehearsal
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Sunday 12/11/2022

10:15 am	Cantata Presentation
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour/Fellowship Hall
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice/Narthex
6:00 pm	Confirmation

Order of Worship

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

FAVORITE CAROLS

PRELUDE: Michelle Hanson

WELCOME: Pastor Mike Knauff

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYERS TO GOD

OPENING HYMN: **Hymn #240 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" vv. 1-2**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Our thanks to Armando and Renee Gonzalez for leading us today, in the devotions and lighting of the advent wreath.

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru October \$245,797, Year to date Expenses thru October \$264,939,
Year to date net Cash Flow thru October -\$19,142. (which includes a one time expense of
\$23,080 for moving Pastor Mike which was approved by the congregation separately)
Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 133, Live Stream: 58

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10 (Bible page 558)

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter eleven, beginning with verse one.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is God's Word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 72:1-7, 18-19 (Bible page 464)

Our Psalm for today is Psalm seventy-two verse one through seven and eighteen through nineteen. I invite the congregation to read it aloud with me.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son. ² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. ³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. ⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. ⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. ⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. ⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. ¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. ¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 15:4-13 (Bible page 924)

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome, chapter fifteen, beginning with verse four.

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Advent Season started and FELC still needs individuals or families willing to provide the reading for the lighting of the Candles on the Advent Wreath. This includes opportunities for our midweek Advent Worship services, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day as well Sunday the 18th. The sign-up list is at the welcome window or contact the church office if you can help.

Advent mid-week services will continue on the following Wednesdays December 7th, 14th & 21st. We will start with a Soup & Bread Potluck at 6:30 pm with Worship following at 7:15 pm.

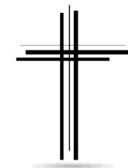
Advent Booklets are available at the Welcome Window. If you're looking for some guidance as to how to make the holidays more holy, peaceful, and meaningful rather than chaotic and crazy, read through this short booklet for helpful hints. Another helpful item at the back of this booklet are readings for lighting the candles of the Advent wreath.

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM: You're invited to join us in a short study series for an in-depth look at an often overlooked character from the nativity story: Joseph, husband to Mary and stepfather of Jesus. Pastor Mike will be leading this study based on the Lutheran Hour Ministries series "Joseph: Carpenter of Steel," Joseph certainly wasn't Superman or the Man of Steel but scripture reveals him to be a Super-Guy and a Man of Faith. Discover why God might have chosen this man to raise Jesus. Join in discussing how the challenges Joseph faced and the choices he made might inform and transform our faith lives today.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday December 6th at Jaker's restaurant at 1:00 pm

You are invited to join us for our 2022
CHRISTMAS CANATA PRESENTATION
Sunday December 11th at 10:15 am

Join us for our
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP
December 24th at 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm



ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Pastor Mike Knauff

HYMN OF THE DAY: **Hymn #249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**

SERMON: Pastor Mike Knauff

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE FAITHFUL - **Response "Hear Our Prayer"**

OFFERING:

OFFERTORY: **Hymn # 182 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord"**
WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 and 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who are baptized and believe in Christ, and in receiving the bread and wine they receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins, to join us.

Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. Gluten-free wafers are available. Return by a side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS: **#272, #239, #254**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

And now may the Almighty God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: **Hymn #264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED
LET THE SERVICE BEGIN!**

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME? FELC is offering its six session “What does it mean to be a Lutheran?” starting in January. In it we cover some of the basic building blocks of the Christian faith giving opportunities to show where Lutherans are similar to most expressions of Christianity and where Lutherans differ. If at the end of the study you’re comfortable with joining our family, we welcome you! If not, we’re sure we can still be friends. Below is a class schedule of times and topics. *(Those wishing to join need to attend 4 of the 6 sessions.)* if interested please contact the church office at 208-521-4777.

Inquirers/New Member Class “What does it mean to be a Lutheran”

Sunday, Jan. 15th @ 9am - **Grace Alone** - “What’s so Amazing about Grace?”

Sunday, Jan. 22nd @ 9am - **Faith Alone** - “How does Faith Life deal with Real Life?”

Sunday, Jan. 29th @ 9am - **Scripture Alone** - “What kind of authority does ancient scripture have in a modern world?”

Sunday, Feb. 5th @ 9am - **Baptism & Communion** - “Rituals meant to grow Godly relationships”

Sunday, Feb. 12th @ 9am - **The Body of Christ** - “Church: A hospital for sinners or a museum for Saints?”

Sunday, Feb. 19th @ 9am- **Holy Spirit happenings**- “What God’s Spirit has been doing among us in the past, the present, & where it might lead us in the future.”

Friends & Family of FELC...help us get the word out on that FELC is searching for a candidate to fill our Office Administrator opening.

Know a friend, family member... looking for a part-time position with a professional and caring environment, that doesn’t require working weekends? First Evangelical Lutheran Church is seeking an Office Administrator to work Monday-Thursday. Must have comfort level working in a Christian Lutheran environment, above average organizational and communication skills and be competent in using Microsoft Office Word and Publisher programs. If interested send resume to office@firstlc.com. For further details see our job posting and job description at our website www.firstlc.com.

Other Openings at FELC: We’re currently looking to fill a few key positions:

Choir Accompanist and **Youth Coordinator**. If you or someone you know might be interested in these important part time positions @ FELC have them contact our church office. They can also check out our website where the positions and job description are listed.

Penny Power for December will support “The Village” foster care closet in Blackfoot. KIDS - your pennies DO make a difference! Thank you.

Missions will be setting up a **Foster Angel Christmas tree** in the Narthex starting December 6th to help support “The Village” foster care closet in Blackfoot. If you wish to share Christmas joy in such a way, please take one of the tags, purchase one or more of the items listed and return it to the box that is provided by the tree. Please DO NOT WRAP the items. Please have items to the church by December 22nd. Your kindness and generosity will make a significant positive impact on their young lives.

Missions is looking for a person or persons to offer housing to Pastor Michael Megahan. He is coming to First Lutheran to tell us about the ministry of translators. Translating the Bible into different languages. Pastor Megahan has many stories and will be sharing these with us Sunday January 1st. He is arriving December 30th evening and leaving January 3rd very early. Call the church office at 208-522-9301 if this is something you would like to do.

might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰ and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹ and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹² and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is God’s Word.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 3:1-12 (Bible page 784)

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter three, beginning with verse one.

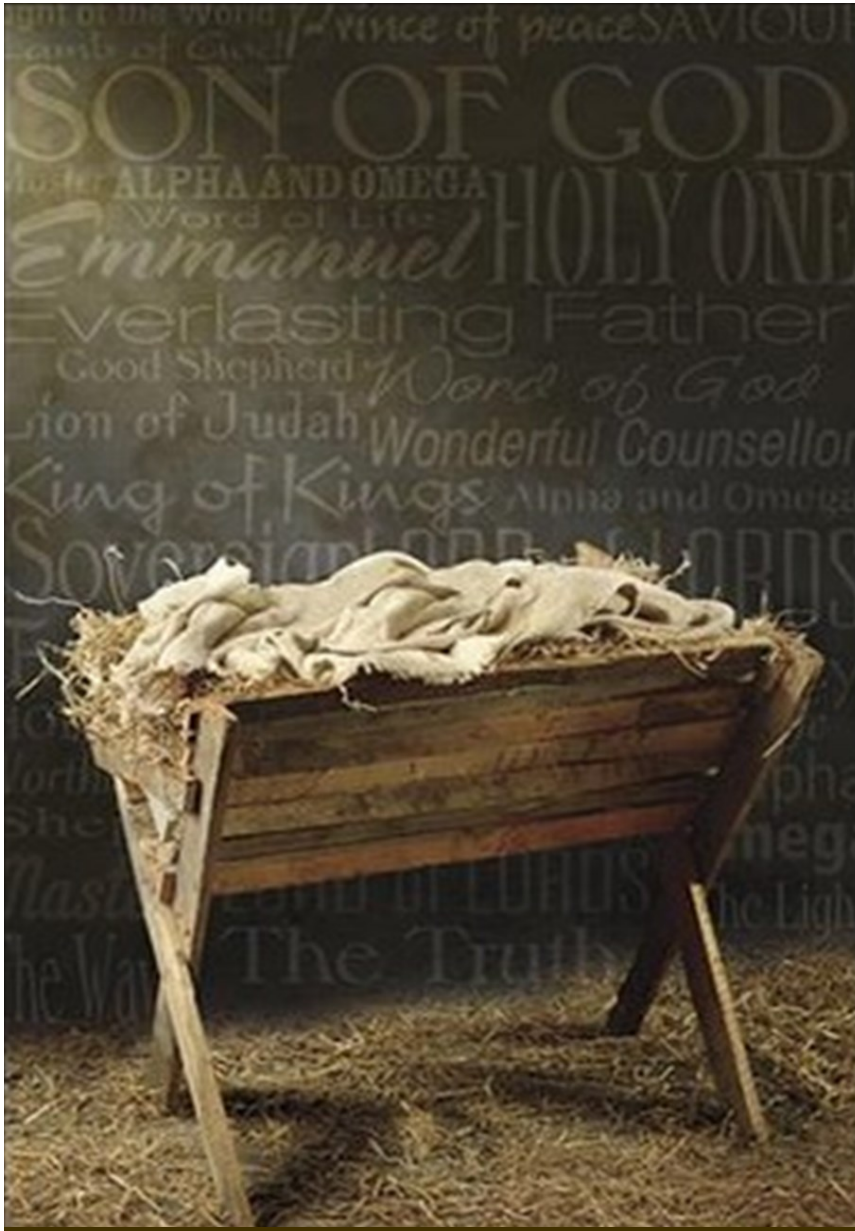
Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our

First Evangelical Lutheran Church invites you to our

2022 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 11th at 10:15 am and online at www.firstlc.com



A Night in the Manger

Free-will monetary offering for Idaho Falls Community Food Basket,
Soup Kitchen and Meals on Wheels

Installation Service for 2023 Council Members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho

The following persons, having been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership, are asked to come forward as their offices and names are read:

Council President, Raff McDonald. Vice President, Randy Kay. Treasurer, May Hustad. Secretary, Sheryl Schafer.
Council Members: Paul Bayless, Barbara Carlson, Margaret Contor, Greg Hanson, Renee Gonzalez, Evelyn MacPherson, Amelia McDaniel, Dave McDaniel, Tom Pilkington, and Gregory Potter.

St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The spirit is presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

As members and officers of our council you are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect the God in whose name we gather. You are to work together to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, out into the Idaho Falls community and into the world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, so the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your church family, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected?

Yes, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Yes, and we ask God to help and guide us.

I now declare you installed as officers and members of First Evangelical Lutheran Church council. God go with you and bless you so you may prove faithful servants of Christ. I invite the congregation to join me in prayer for our council members...Let us pray:

Almighty God, look with favor upon our newly installed council members. Let your Holy Spirit guide their hearts to serve you with courage, compassion, vision and patience this upcoming year. Grant our whole church your spirit of humility and harmony that this family of faith may call forth, and combine, your diverse gifts of time, talent, and treasure to the praising of your name and loving service of your people this coming year. Amen.