



Issue 12

Volume 33



First Lutheran Church, Plano, IL

The Anchor



Pastor's Letter

The season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas) is my favorite season of the church year. I love the themes of watching and waiting and preparation and anticipation for Christmas to come. Despite all that has happened this year, the main joy of the Advent season has not changed for me at all. The decorations are out. We have multiple nativities, both homemade nativities and ones that have specific meaning. The largest and most professional scene is from a company that I worked for. The newest, is a doggie nativity set for Lori's birthday. The lights are on at night, though not enough for me as the days grow shorter. We prepare to hear the Christmas Scripture with the proclamation that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it.

Advent is a time to step back and consider the wonders of the year. Our role in making this a healthy world. Our job to spread hope and resilience. My family created home-made cards for the nursing home residents, 80 in all. I did not participate. I was not sure that stick figures would be a welcome gift. But I do greet the people who bring out my groceries and put them in my car. I do take time to talk to them at a distance and listen to them when they apologize for being slow because they received a complaint that someone's turkey that they picked out was too big. I try to make sure they are appreciated and that it does not bother their day. I call and text and "check in" on people far more than I would have ever in the past. Just trying to do my part. I hum in my head one of my newfound favorite Christmas songs based on the Magnificat.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.



I do see the world beginning to turn. A couple of vaccines are right around the corner. I pray we will find ways to communicate with one another without misinformation and hold the needs of others in our hearts. Advent is our time to watch and wait and prepare for change. What has God blessed you with this year? Are you ready for your heart to grow three sizes? Are you ready to be renewed by salvation that is on the way?

"One of the essential paradoxes of Advent: that while we wait for God, we are with God all along ,that while we need to be reassured of God's arrival, or the arrival of our homecoming, we are already at home. While we wait, we have to trust, to have faith, but it is God's grace that gives us that faith. As with all spiritual knowledge, two things are true, and equally true, at once. The mind can't grasp paradox; it is the knowledge of the soul." Michelle Blake, The Tentmaker

Part of the gift of waiting is to see before our eyes what has already been there the whole time. Emmanuel God with us. We long for God to be made known to us, and at the same time we pause to see the ways in which God already has.

Peace to you and your family during these days.

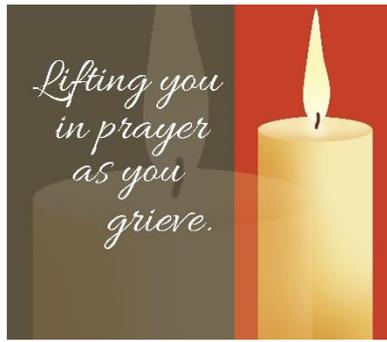
Pastor Jonathan Black

We offer our deepest sympathies to:

Laura and Conrad Smith and family in the death of Laura's dad, Richard Jepsen.

and

Erin & Eric Gillman and family in the death of Erin's dad Tom Paulsen.



Food Pantry

Please remember the Kendall County Food Pantry during the Holidays. There are monumental needs at this time. Some examples of what is needed: pancake mix, syrup, sugar, jam / jelly, dish soap, diapers - size 6, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, band aids, stomach relief, pain reliever (Tylenol/ibuprofen/aspirin).



We offer our congratulations and ask you to keep our newest Confirmands in your prayers as they walk their Faith Journey.

On Sunday, November 8th Paige Phillips and Sara Nicoletti, having been instructed in the Christian faith, made public affirmation of their Baptism. They agreed to assume a greater responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. They agreed to continue in the covenant God made with them in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear His Word and share in His supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

May God bless you Paige and Sara!

DECEMBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Stephen Hoxworth

3 Jayne Turner & Kevin Tierney

6 Jennifer Johnson

8 Barb Sears

17 Deborah Pease

18 Bob Albright & Virgil Hyte

19 Merry Arnett

22 Laila Anderson

23 Kathy Porter & Shannon Tierney

30 Kathy Stuttle & John Englehart

17 Joe & Donielle Anderson

—STAYING—
CONNECTED

Please note: If you do not have an active email address, and have not been receiving any updates from First Lutheran, please call and leave a message at 630.552.8263 for Jerri Lynn of how you would like to receive communication from the Church.

My child,
I see you weary and weighed
in the slow catastrophe,
carrying the wreckage with you.
I know your longing,
the loneliness, the empty place.

Beloved, you are doing a hard thing.
Try to be as kind to yourself as I am.
Forgive yourself. Appreciate your resilience.
Give thanks for what has sustained you.

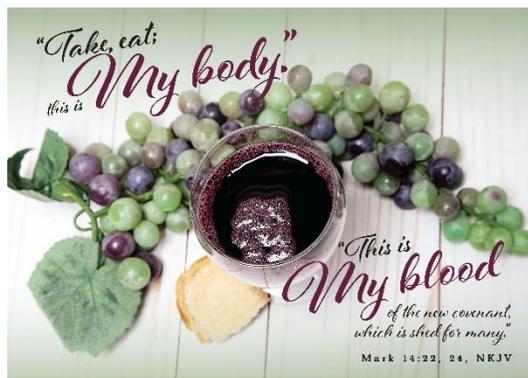
You are weary, as you ought to be.
Give yourself permission
to savor what renews you.

You are grieving, for a horizon
that always walks ahead of you,
for a touch you can't have.
Let yourself mourn, let the sky hear.
The earth knows your song.

Be gentle with yourself, Beloved.
You are doing a hard thing.
I am with you. I believe in you.
This is my word to you, on this long road:
we will make it through.
We will make it through.

Deep Blessings,

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net



COMMUNION

Please remember Communion can be picked up Saturday mornings between 10 and 11AM on the following dates; December 5 & 19, unless otherwise announced.



From the Caring Committee:

Have you had your flu shot yet? It is not too late to get one. It is especially important this year!

OFFERING REPORT

Year to Date Offerings as of 11/22/20

General Fund Income received: \$143,806.64

Budget Amount Needed: \$180,333.83

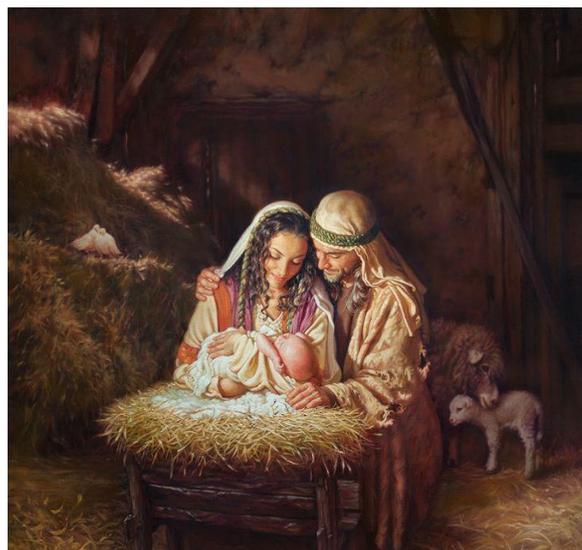
Short: (36,527.19)

Checking Account

Year to Date Income: \$168,165.86 (11,000 from savings)

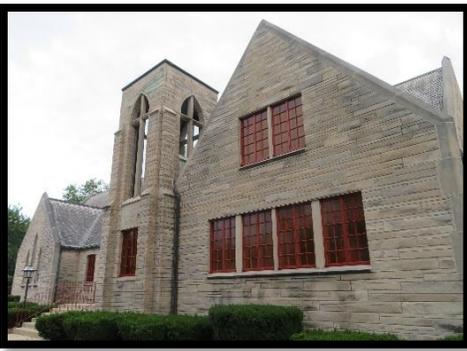
Year to Date Expenses: \$162,156.69

Balance as of 11/22/20: \$8,235.63



Hope came in the form of a tiny baby. We wish you hope this Christmas. We wish you peace. We wish you calm. May God bless you this Christmas and may you be a blessing to others.

Please watch your email for updates concerning a possible Outdoor Christmas time Worship service.



First Lutheran Church

200 N. Center St.

Plano, IL 60545

(639)552-8263

www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com

Facebook:

FirstLutheranChurchOfPlanoIL

Return Service Requested

WALKING TOGETHER...

LOVING CHRIST

LOVING ALL
FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD



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

Pastor

Reverend Jonathan Black
firstplanopastor@gmail.com

Church Office

Jerri Lynn Baker
Firstoffice200@gmail.com
Working from home. In office
by chance on Wednesdays.
Please call first.

Financial Secretary

Ruth Ann Hoehn
Secretaryflc02@gmail.com

Worship services:

Currently no indoor worship.

Radio Ministries

Every Sunday at 10:00AM – a
partial broadcast of the weekend
Worship service airs on WSPY
107.1 FM

Recorded weekly services can also
currently be found on our website.
www.firstlutheranchurchplano.com