


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

MISSOURI SYNOD • KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



[First Hearts November 2019](#)

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But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son...” (Luke 1:13)

If Advent means anything, it means that we should get ready for, and wait patiently for, SURPRISES. Nothing is more surprising that the birth of the Son of God—Him to a pious Jewish girl and her carpenter spouse. And ever since, there’s no telling what surprises the King of Kings and Lord of Lords has in store for His people. Whether we like it or not...

We don’t always care much for surprises. We’re great for planning things out to the “nth” degree, making sure all our “ducks are lined up.” We try our best to make everything work out the way we want: desired and fulfilled outcome.

So...we’ll get married at this point, have a couple of children, earn this much income in a career position we planned on for years, live in this kind of house, take a vacation each summer to this place for this many days.

No surprises! And just in case there should be surprises along our well-planned way, we have insurance policies for that! No way—not God’s way. He elbows His way in wherever and whenever we least expect it, in fact, cannot expect it! Yet there He is, speaking His Word and doing His thing—all His way.

Imagine old Zechariah’s face as the angel delivered to him news that he would least— indeed, could no longer—expect! Imagine him trying to tell this to his wrinkled wife, Elizabeth. Imagine the conversation around their table that evening. Imagine cousin Mary visiting Elizabeth and the non-stop talking of these two women. Imagine little John laid into the old arms of Zechariah.

Imagine the time being God’s timing, and Him sending forth His only-begotten Son, into the arms of a virgin mother, laid into an animal feed box, this little King and Lord come for the entire world. Come for you. Surprise! And what King Jesus has in store for you along life’s way...well. You’re going to be so surprised! Very, very surprised!

Just you wait and see.

Pastor Rockemann



Upcoming Events

Sunday School 9:15 am

Divine Service 10:30 am

Advent Schedule

Sat 11/30, Decorate Sanctuary and set up outdoor nativity

Wed 12/4, Soup Supper (5:30pm) & Midweek Advent worship, 6:30pm

Fri 12/6, Float in WIVK Christmas Parade, 7pm

Sat 12/7, Parade of Homes tours in Sanctuary, 4-9pm

Sun 12/8, Parade of Homes tours in Sanctuary, 12:30-5pm

Sun 12/8, LWML Advent by Candlelight, 6pm

Wed 12/11, Soup Supper (5:30pm) & Midweek Advent worship, 6:30pm

Sun 12/15, Sunday School, Christmas Program, 5pm

Sun 12/15, Live Nativity and Soup Supper 5:30-8pm

Wed 12/18, Soup Supper (5:30pm) & Midweek Advent worship, 6:30pm

Sun 12/22 Caroling to Shut-ins, time TBA

Tue 12/24, Christmas Eve worship, 6:30pm

Wed 12/25, Christmas Day worship, 9am

Tue 12/31, New Year's Eve service, 6:30pm

Beginning December 4th and running through December 18th, a light dinner of soup and

sandwiches will be served at 5:30 before the Advent Midweek Services.

Board Happenings

12/10 Elders Meeting 6:30 pm

12/10 School Board 6:00 pm

12/17 Planning Council 6:30 pm

12/21 Trustee Workday 9:00 am

Monthly Readings:

SEASON	DATE	FESTIVAL	FIRST READING	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
ADVENT	Dec. 1, 2019	First S. in Advent (Ad Te Levavi)	Jer. 23:5–8	Psalm 24	Rom. 13:(8–10) 11–14	Matt. 21:1–9
	Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent (Populus Zion)	Mal. 4:1–6	Psalm 50:1–15	Rom. 15:4–13	Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent (Gaudete)	Is. 40:1–8 (9–11)	Psalm 85	1 Cor. 4:1–5	Matt. 11:2–10 (11)
	Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent (Rorate Coeli)	Deut. 18:15–19	Psalm 111	Phil. 4:4–7	John 1:19–28 or Luke 1:39–56
CHRISTMAS	Dec. 24 Eve	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
	Dec. 25 Midnight	The Nativity of Our Lord	Is. 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 25 Dawn	The Nativity of Our Lord	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalm 80:1–7	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 Day	The Nativity of Our Lord	Ex. 40:17–21, 34–38	Psalm 2	Titus 3:4–7	John 1:1–14 (15–18)
	Dec. 29	First S. after Christmas	Isaiah 11:1–5 or 2 Sam. 7:1–16	Psalm 89:1–8	Gal. 4:1–7	Luke 2:(22–32) 33–40
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus	Is. 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalm 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

In Other News

Stewardship

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven

feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Advent By Candlelight: Ladies, please join the LWML on Sunday, December 8th at 6 pm as we usher in the season of Advent and look toward Christmas. There will be a devotional program, yummy food, and fellowship, so make plans to join us! Please sign up in the hallway or contact Angela (angela.m.lukens@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Poinsettias: It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the 2019 Christmas season. The cost is \$11.00. Order forms may be found in the bulletin or on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please have your order turned in to the church secretary by ***Monday, December, 2.***

The Christmas Program will be on December 15th at 5:00 pm. Rehearsals/Practices will be **Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am** and **Sunday, December 15** during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15). If your child is interested in being part of the program, please complete the sign-up form in your bulletin and return it to Stephanie Daniels or her mailbox before **December 8**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Parade of Homes: We have an exciting opportunity to welcome the community into our facilities in the coming weeks. Keeping this in mind, there will be an effort to spruce up some of our common areas including the Narthex and Meeting Room. As we prepare we welcome your suggestions and ideas for reimagining these spaces! Simply take one of the slips of paper provided and place your suggestion in the feedback box in the rear of the sanctuary. We look forward to all of the creative ideas you come up with!

55 Alive

On Thursday, December 19th, we will have a Christmas luncheon at 12:00 noon. Cost is \$7.00 per person. Our speaker will be Jered Sprecher, Professor of Art at The University of Tennessee, School of Art. He is a member at FLC along with his wife, Christine and 3 handsome boys- Levi, Ezra and Avram. Their children attend our school. Jered has taught at Princeton University and Cornell University. His paintings, drawings and installations focus on the fleeting images and objects that surround us. His work has been exhibited at numerous places including Knoxville Museum of Art, The Drawing Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art. He is the recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Grant. He will be displaying and explaining a number of his art pieces. Hope you'll join us!

THANK YOU ALL!

During that great, delicious potluck luncheon after church last Sunday, I was surprised to receive from the members of FLC a wonderful card of pastoral appreciation and encouragement and a gift card to one of our favorite Knoxville restaurants.

Thank you for your kindness. I count it a privilege—and an honor from the Lord—to be able to serve you during these months as we pray for and work together towards God's full time pastor to continue shepherding you at FLC. Jean and I are delighted to be here. Thank you all.

Pastor Rockemann

News from First Lutheran School

More than Academics: In early November, we had amazing Veteran's Day Assembly. The touching ceremony was lead by our 1st and 2nd Grade classes. DAR Member and school secretary , Amanda Hillard, performed a pinning ceremony specially recognizing veterans in attendance. More importantly, every year our students are reminded of the importance of our veterans. It is not just another assembly, students come away truly respecting appreciating those who have served in our armed forces.

Beyond the Classroom: We have had several field trips in November, and there are more to come. Classes have gone to places like the McClung Museum and Safety City. On these field trips, students are engaged and inspired, and they also experience new things like the KSO Young People's concert and the Appalachian Ballet's production of the Nutcracker. More often than not, these trips remind teachers just how blessed we are. Our students never fail to impress those they meet with their depth of knowledge, great manners, and Christian love.

Holiday Happenings: Our ECE closed out November with a Thanksgiving Feast where they thanked family and friends for supporting their education and for being a blessing in their young lives. In December, we have our Christmas Program on the 13th at 6:00. ECE through 8th grade will be performing. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate the birth of our Lord.

The Season of Giving: One of my favorite stories is *A Christmas Carol*, Ebenezer Scrooge is a fantastic character, but one of the earliest markers of his misery and malcontent is his refusal to share his wealth with those in need. However, after the visits of the spirits he is a happier and more generous man. This classic holiday tale is a reminder: there are no happy misers. A giving spirit is a happy heart.

When you give your time, talents or treasures to First Lutheran Church and School, you are part of something bigger than yourself, and the gifts God has given you to share are being used to expand His Kingdom. The money given to First Lutheran is not hidden away like in the Parable of the Talents. Those funds are a blessing used to reach those who need and allowing children to learn to hear the Gospel every day. I cannot think of a more exciting mission.

So I ask you during this season of giving, learn from Ebenezer Scrooge and from the servant in Matthew 25, be generous with your gifts and let them be used through First Lutheran for God's glory.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Jessie Irwin, Principal



Anniversaries:

16: Chuck and Diane Baum

18: Ed and Jo Niedens

28: Brion and AnnMarie Bissell

Birthdays:

1: Carla Poore

3: Vicki Broyles

4: Diane Baum and Mary Jones

6: Cheryl Denton and Rebecca Keyes

8: Zachary Blais and Mark Daniels

12: Pastor Schulz, Madison Slomski and Justin Turne

17: Robert Boatman

19: Howard Rash and Nelson Tower

24: Stephanie Johnson

25: Rosina Krauss

26: Janice Kaiser, Doc Sternberg, and Marissa Whitehead

28: Gloria Schulz

30: Rose Broyles and Margaret Ortstadt

31: Carlyle Roth

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