

First Fruits

December 2018

Volume 22, Number 11

Worship Ministry



**CHARITON COMMUNITY
THANKSGIVING SERVICE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20
7 PM**

Chariton Christian Church (1027 Ilion Avenue)



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1
4 PM
FIRST LUTHERAN
followed by soup
supper at 5:15 PM**

A BRAND NEW worship experience. Sing, pray, ask for God's blessings AND decorate the worship area. All ages are invited and welcome to participate in this active service. This will be a great start to the seasons of Advent and Christmas and everyone's voice and help is needed. Please see the sign-up sheet for the soup on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room.



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP will be on **TUESDAYS** again this year. There are only three

Tuesdays between the First Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve, so there will be three services, **DECEMBER 4, 11, and 18. Supper is at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM.** We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer and reflecting on the theme: The Magnificat, with readings from the first chapter of Luke's Gospel. Our mid-week offering will be donated to defray food costs for the "End of the Month" meals.



The Christmas Program at First Lutheran will be presented on Sunday, December 16, during the 9 AM worship service. The children will be practicing for the program during Sunday School.

Community Longest Night Service

Friday, December 21
7 PM

First Lutheran Church
Sponsored by Lucas Co. Interchurch Council



Christmas Poinsettias



Please consider providing a poinsettia plant for the season of Christmas.

IN CHARITON, please have them at the church by Christmas Eve morning.

IN CORYDON, please bring them with you on Christmas Eve morning.

Christmas Eve Worship

Eucharist with carols
and candlelight

Corydon 4:30 PM

Chariton 6:30 PM



THERE WILL NOT BE SUNDAY SCHOOL
ON DECEMBER 23 or 30.
SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RESUME
ON JANUARY 6.

Dear Partners in the Gospel,



Grace to you and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ. The Thanksgiving holiday is over, and this is clearly the time we turn toward waiting (Advent) and celebrating (Christmas). This letter is a reminder of all the opportunities we have for worship this month. It is an invitation to you to immerse yourself in waiting for the coming of Jesus and in celebrating his birth (the Incarnation of God come to earth). That's a lot to take in. Last year, we held an Advent retreat to help you turn your hearts, minds, and actions toward meaningful Advent/Christmas observances. This year, we're offering at least twice weekly opportunities to share Advent with your church family.

We begin together on Saturday, December 1, with a new worship service, The Hanging of the Greens. Together, at **4:00 PM**, we will give thanks to God for this special time of waiting. We will read some of the significant scriptures, sing a few favorite Advent hymns, pray, and ask God's blessing on all the things we use during the season to enhance our worship experiences. And we will all be able to participate in the actual decorating, as we choose. This service will be followed by a simple soup supper. I can see us enjoying our soup and bread and sharing some of our favorite waiting activities and Christmas traditions with one another. This will be a special "faith family" time for us. Please come!

On Sunday, December 2, and for the next three Sundays, we will hear the stories of promise as we wait for Christmas to arrive. The children and youth will present their Christmas program, *Gifts in the Manger*, on Sunday, December 16. On the final Sunday in Advent, December 23, we will sing with longing for the next week of celebration.

On Tuesday, December 3, and the two following Tuesdays, we will gather in the Fireside room for supper at 6 PM and will adjourn to the worship area by 7 PM for Holden Evening Prayer. The three midweek services will follow the theme of Mary's Magnificat when told of the impending birth.

We are hosting the Inter-Church Council's Longest Night service at First on Friday, December 21 (the longest night of the year) and I am looking forward to our members welcoming others from the community to this special service. It will begin at 7:00 PM and will acknowledge the difficulty many people have with all of the festivity of Christmas at a time when they are struggling with loss, illness, pain, depression or other challenges. God's Good News, Prayers, and hymns of hope and consolation will be included. It is a meaningful service for any of us, whether we are enjoying getting ready for Christmas or not. Knowing we can always trust God's promises and can always hope is great news for all of us.

Our celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ will take place at 4:30 PM at Christ the Servant in Corydon and at 6:30 PM at First Lutheran in Chariton. This will be a family (child-focused) candlelight service, complete with the stories and carols we look forward to each year. The services will be Services of Holy Communion, by intinction.

Rather than a healing service on the 5th Sunday in December, we will have a Service of the Word. Readings & Carols will be led by lay members of the congregations.

You are invited and encouraged to participate in as many of these worship opportunities as possible. God come to earth – it's almost impossible to believe, but it happened, it happens. Don't miss it!

With anticipation,
Pastor Sally

Worship Ministry



Beginning January 6, 2019 and continuing through March 3, we will be “trying out” a pastor-crafted blended liturgy for our Sunday worship. All of the key elements in the order of worship will be present – Gathering, The Word, The Meal, and the Sending.

We will be using familiar words, perhaps in different places and different from the words we are accustomed to in our worship. We will be singing familiar hymns, as well as less familiar songs to some, including the three we learned this past fall.

Why this “experiment” when we have 10 perfectly good settings in our ELW Worship book? We know that many (maybe even most) of our worshipping community values the traditional services with traditional words and very familiar hymns, so why change it up? Unlike many congregations across the country, who are comprised only of older adults, we have ALL generations represented in our faith community. And, to the best of my knowledge, we want to keep the children, youth, and younger people involved in worshipping and serving God together.

We may not all be entirely comfortable with the pilot liturgy, but there will be something for everyone in every service, AND, we are still going to be following the ancient pattern of worship as the church has done since the house churches described in the book of Acts, including the four key elements mentioned above. Above all, we will gather to worship God, just as we have always done.

Let’s open our hearts and minds to what God can do with us in a different worship style.

Stewardship Ministry

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT, we will be taking up a “noisy” offering. This offering will be used to purchase ELCA Good Gifts. Our goal for this offering will be to purchase 3 goats and 5 water filters.



DECEMBER 16 - CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY



The youth attending the next Youth Gathering will be serving cinnamon rolls on Sunday, December 16, in exchange for a free-will donation. All donations will be put toward the next Youth Gathering!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH!

Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

Christ the Servant

Sunday, January 13, 2019

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual meeting for ministry at Christ the Servant in Corydon. The meeting will begin about noon following regular Sunday worship. A potluck meal will be shared after the business portion of the meeting is concluded.

First Lutheran

Sunday, January 20, 2019

On this day, Christ the Servant and First Lutheran will gather for joint worship at Chariton beginning at 9 AM. The business meeting will follow at around 10:15 AM. Following the business items of the day, we will join in the sharing of a potluck meal in the Fireside Room. Those who are able are invited to bring two dishes to share with others.

Discipleship Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Please welcome and thank
KATIE SHORE for taking on
the Sunday School



Coordinator (Superintendent) role - beginning in December. She will be scheduling teachers, preparing materials, and providing support to teachers, relieving Allison and Pastor Sally of some of the tasks they had been doing. Yay, Katie!

UPDATE ON GIF, YEAR ONE

The following young people are now participating in Growing in Faith on the third Wednesday of every month (except December, when they will be helping with the children's Christmas program): **Madison Buckalew, Sidney Cain, Kendall Watson, Addie Peterson, Carson Oxenreider, and Logan Shore.** They are a delightful group of growing Christians and are a joy to work with. So far, we have talked briefly about Luther's small catechism, Luther himself, the 10 Commandments, and studied two major Bible stories – Creation and Sin & the Flood. The parents are taking turns providing a substantial snack for the students as we gather right after school on Wednesdays at 2:00 PM and they are hungry.

Please pray for all of us – each student individually and for Pastor Sally as we learn and grow together.

TWO GREAT BOOK FAIRS



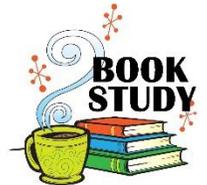
Stop by and look through the sample books and place your order for any of them and others being offered. **The Book Fairs will close on December 5 at noon and orders will be submitted so books may be received in time for Christmas-giving.**

Sign up any time at the Book Fair to be eligible for a monthly \$100 cash drawing.

First Lutheran Church will receive 20% of all sales over \$200 (the value of the sample books we get to keep).

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

A NEW BOOK/BIBLE STUDY BEGINS ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019 IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM AT FIRST LUTHERAN. We will be using our Bibles and reading through the book, *We Make the Road by Walking*, written by Brian McLaren. A Thrivent Action Team grant has been submitted to purchase the books. The group will meet from 4:00 – 5:30 PM on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. It is the kind of study that needs a commitment to attend as regularly as possible and the group size is limited. If you are interested, please talk with Pastor Sally.



Re:Newed

December Baptismal Anniversaries

During this month, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

12/4	Alex Kuball
12/5	Joanne Fletcher
12/6	Arta Harman
12/6	Monte Brown
12/9	Rob Johansen
12/18	Christine Atwell
12/22	Devon Brown
12/23	Kim Francisco
12/23	Bradley Krutsinger
12/23	Joey Krutsinger
12/24	Emily Miller
12/25	Deb Clark
12/25	Kelly Krutsinger
12/31	Ed Tighe

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)

:::~::~ On the Vine

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group will gather on **Wednesday, December 5**, at First Lutheran, beginning at 1:30 PM. All are invited to participate.

Women, Wine & Witness Group

(WWW): The Women, Wine and Witness group meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at the parsonage. In December, we will meet on **December 3 & 17**.

“COFFEE, CONVERSATION, CAMARADERIE”

CCC@CTS: There will not be an event in December due to the holidays. We will resume on Friday, January 4.



The Women of the ELCA will meet on Thursday, **December 13**, at the home of Geralda Wiig, beginning at 1 PM. All women are invited!

“Sharing the Weight” Blanket Making

Parties at CTS are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9 AM-3 PM. **Our next gathering will be on December 11**. We invite everyone to come and join us. We have sewing and non-sewing jobs so all skills are welcome. Come as early as you can and stay as long as you like.

The CTS (Christ the Servant) Women’s Bible Study

has been increased to TWO studies per month! All are welcome to these studies, whether you can attend all the time or once in a while. Here are the meeting times for December:

December 4: 1:30-3 PM at CTS

December 18: Noon-3 PM at the parsonage

LAF :: Lutheran Adult Fellowship

A small group ministry of First Lutheran Church that gathers monthly to share food and fun. Newcomers are always welcome.

We will gather in the Fireside Room at First Lutheran beginning at **6 PM** on **Sunday, December 9**, for our Christmas party. Please bring finger foods.



First Lutheran Church
Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

1004 Curtis Ave • Chariton, Iowa 50049

Pastor Sally Wilke
email: flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
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and Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry
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December

- ** CHARITON COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Tuesday, November 20**
- ** HANGING OF THE GREENS & SOUP SUPPER - Saturday, December 1, 4 PM**
- ** MIDWEEK ADVENT at FLC**
December 4, 11, & 18
 - Advent meal at 6 PM
 - Worship at 7 PM
- ** CHRISTMAS PROGRAM at FLC**
- December 16 at 9 AM
- ** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**
 - Corydon: 4:30 PM
 - Chariton: 6:30 PM

**Be Bold in our Faith as Children of God
and Share the Good News of Salvation with All People**

(First Lutheran Mission Statement)



Share the Joy of Christ, and Serve Others

(Christ the Servant Mission Statement)

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<http://twitter.com/iowalutheran>



First Lutheran Church Chariton, IA
 flcchariton@iowatelecom.net
 (641)774-4875
 Worship 9 AM
 Sunday School 10:15 AM

Pastor Sally Wilke

Christ the Servant Corydon, IA
 Office: 641-774-4875
 Worship 11 AM

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
AA – Alcoholics Anonymous						1 World Aids Day <u>4 pm</u> – Hanging of the Greens at FLC <u>5:15 pm</u> –Soup Supper <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	
2 Holy Communion <u>10:15 am</u> – Sunday School at FLC <u>1 pm</u> – Slavic Worship	3 <u>6 pm</u> – WWW at the parsonage <u>7 pm</u> – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room	4 <u>10 am</u> –FLC Worship Committee <u>11:30 am</u> –Lucas Co. ICC at St. Andrews Episcopal <u>1:30-3pm</u> – CTS Women’s Bible Study at CTS In Chariton: <u>6 pm</u> – Advent Meal <u>7 pm</u> - Worship	5 <u>1:30 pm</u> –Prayer Shawl Ministry at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	6 <u>9 am</u> – FLC Quilting	7 Office Closed <u>7 pm</u> –Slavic Worship	8 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	
9 Holy Communion <u>10:15 am</u> – Sunday School at FLC <u>10:15 am</u> – Executive Comm. <u>1 pm</u> – Slavic Worship <u>6 pm</u> – Lutheran Adult Fellowship	10 <u>2 pm</u> – Laplanders Quilt Guild at CTS <u>7 pm</u> – Council at FLC	11 <u>8 am</u> –Breakfast Gals <u>9 am-3 pm</u> – Blanket Making Party at CTS In Chariton: <u>6 pm</u> – Advent Meal <u>7 pm</u> - Worship	12 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	13 <u>9 am</u> – FLC Quilting <u>1 pm</u> – Women of the ELCA	14 Office Closed Newsletter Deadline! <u>7 pm</u> –Slavic Worship	15 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	
16 Holy Communion Cinnamon Roll Sunday <u>9 am</u> – Christmas Program at FLC <u>1 pm</u> – Slavic Worship	17 <u>6 pm</u> – WWW at the parsonage	18 <u>Noon</u> –CTS Women’s Bible Study at parsonage <u>3:30 pm</u> –CTS Worship Committee <u>4:30 pm</u> –CTS Task Force In Chariton: <u>6 pm</u> – Advent Meal <u>7 pm</u> - Worship	19 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	20 <u>9 am</u> – FLC Quilting <u>Noon</u> – WCMA meets at Allerton Community Center	21 Office Closed <u>7 pm</u> –Longest Night Service at FLC (Sponsored by ICC)	22 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	
23 Holy Communion No Sunday School at FLC <u>1 pm</u> – Slavic Worship	24 Christmas Eve-HC <u>4:30 pm</u> –Corydon <u>6:30 pm</u> –Chariton	25 	26 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	27	28 Office Closed <u>7 pm</u> –Slavic Worship	29 <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS	
30 Service of the Word Readings & Carols No Sunday School at FLC <u>1 pm</u> – Slavic Worship	31 Office Closed NEW YEAR’S EVE	Pastor Sally Vacation: December 25-January 2 Wendy Vacation: December 24-31					