

First Fruits

December 2020

Volume 24, Number 12

Worship Ministry

WORSHIP PLANS:

AT CHRIST THE SERVANT IN CORYDON:

Christ the Servant will worship at 11 AM each Sunday in the church sanctuary.



AT FIRST LUTHERAN:

Drive-thru Communion will be held at First Lutheran on the first Sunday of December, January, February, & March beginning at 8:45 AM:

December 6	February 7
January 3	March 7

There will not be a worship service at First Lutheran on those Sundays. Please listen to the sermon on the radio at KIIC – 96.7 FM at 10:30 AM.

ALL OTHER SUNDAYS AT FIRST LUTHERAN WILL BE HELD INSIDE IN THE SANCTUARY AT 9 AM.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

We will have Mid-week Advent Services on Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9, & 16, at 7 pm, at First Lutheran. We will focus our worship around a new liturgy – “Joyous Light” and lessons from the prophets (Isaiah, Zechariah, and Daniel). We hope you’ll join us for these festive services!



CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

**4 PM—Chariton Drive-Thru Communion
& Live Nativity by the Youth**

6 PM – Chariton Worship in Sanctuary

6:30 PM – Radio Broadcast on KIIC

Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia

7:30 PM – Corydon Worship in Sanctuary

Christmas Program/Live Nativity

The traditional Christmas Program just didn’t seem like a good idea this year, even though everyone enjoys it so much. After much thought and prayer I have decided to have a **Live Nativity** on Christmas Eve at the 4 PM drive-thru communion service on December 24. Speaking with Pastor, we both decided this would be a great alternative. The Nativity would be set up on the west side of the church on the concrete pad. You can view the scene (with our youth as the characters) as you finish communion. For those attending only the drive thru communion, Pastor will have his Christmas sermon at 6:30 PM on KIIC. We will also have the traditional Christmas Eve service at 6:00 PM. We pray this will accommodate our family at First Lutheran. More information will be forthcoming for the youth and their families.

Gayle Bortz

Worship Ministry

Chariton Community Longest Night VIRTUAL Service

Monday, December 21, at 7 PM

They are planning the Longest Night Service as a virtual service over Zoom. We will pass along the link to the service as it becomes available.



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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



AT CHRIST THE SERVANT:

Sunday School will resume in January.

AT FIRST LUTHERAN:

There will not be Sunday School on December 20 & 27; as well as January 3. Sunday School will resume on January 10.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS READY!!

The new church directory is ready for you to pick up!

They are available in the narthex at First Lutheran and in the basement at Christ the Servant. **They will also be available at the drive-thru communion on December 6 at FLC.**



THE BAPTISMS OF CARSON & ALEX OXENREIDER

On Sunday, November 22, Carson James Oxenreider and Alex Andrew Oxenreider were baptized at First Lutheran. Carson & Alex are the sons of David & Carrie Oxenreider; and the grandsons of Marleen Oxenreider. This was a great joy to celebrate these baptisms as Carson looks forward to confirmation early in January.

It is always a joy to celebrate young adult baptisms in worship for they are a great testimony to the faith of our young people willing to share the grace of God with all the congregation.

Pastoral Pondering

The Prophet Isaiah wrote: “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, ... prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, ... then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.” (Isa. 40:1-5)

Advent is a time in which we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Advent is derived from the Latin word “advenio,” which means “to come to, to arrive.” Our preparation, however, does not cause him to come. Such was true in Jesus’ time, is true in our time, and will be true at the end of time.

Paul Gerhardt in his great hymn, “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” doesn’t sing about our preparation, but rather about God’s coming - God became incarnate in the past, God comes to us in word and sacrament, and God will come again at the end of time. The only question is, “O Lord, how shall we meet you, how will we welcome you?” The hymn goes on to describe Christ’s work—kindling a lamp within us, giving us a crown, embracing us in love, and guiding us safely home.

Advent focuses not on our preparation, but on God’s work for us, coming to us repeatedly to kindle, give, embrace, and guide.

Isaiah knows a people who have experienced defeat and destruction. In that situation, it is easy to question what kind of God we have and what that God has in mind for us. To the people to whom Isaiah directs his message, God is bringing comfort. Isaiah is firm in the knowledge that their Lord is coming. So, the lasting quality of our existence contrasts sharply with the Word of God that stands forever. Isaiah assures us that God has not forgotten or forsaken His people. The one who is coming indeed comes with might and in a way that changes the very landscape. God does not come to destroy us but rather to comfort us, feed us, and gather us to Himself. God’s coming is not to be feared but to be welcomed. Truly, these are wonderful “tidings” for all people!

Now, in the midst of a rising Covid 19 virus infection rate, it is easy for us to forget the promises of a gracious God. We wonder what the future will look like, how long before God puts an end to this horrible infection, and where will we find comfort? However, in this darkness, there is a light that inspires and lifts up, there is the cry of a tiny baby who bears our burdens and comforts us with loving forgiveness and hope, and there is an angelic choir that sings “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and earth peace among those whom he favors.”

Advent prepares us for the miracle of Christmas, the dawn of a new day beyond Covid, and the promise of one who is always there to walk with us.

So let us rejoice, God has not forsaken us but rather is here to comfort us with tidings of good news and great joy!

Pastor Dick

Discipleship Ministry

THE RADIO BROADCAST OF PASTOR HUTTON'S SERMONS WILL BE AN ONGOING MINISTRY OF FIRST LUTHERAN and CHRIST THE SERVANT

Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:

KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia

The radio stations website: kiicradio.com
(click on the “Listen Live” button)

If you miss the broadcast on Sunday, you can also catch it as a podcast on the church's website: firstlutheran-christtheservant.org

THANK YOU for your support of this ministry!!

For more information on sponsoring a broadcast, please call the church office and talk to Wendy – 641-774-4875.

Broadcast Sponsors:

November 29: Jo Aulwes & Family in honor of Bernie's 90th birthday which he will celebrate on November 28

December 6: Dr. John & Arta Harman in observance of their 66th Wedding Anniversary which they will celebrate on December 19

December 13: Del & Karen Kray in honor of their 52nd Wedding Anniversary and Del's birthday which are both celebrated on December 14

December 20: LuAnn Mosbach & Family

December 27: Dave & Patty Mason in memory of Patty's mother, Minnie Berner

Stewardship Ministry

CHRIST THE SERVANT HAS A NEW ROOF AND NEW WINDOWS!

On Monday, November 2, basement windows were put in. On November 3, the roof was completed by Albert Troyer. When you are in the area, please make a point of driving by the church and seeing how nice it looks!!



ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Christ the Servant

Sunday, January 10, 2021

The meeting will begin about noon following regular Sunday worship.

First Lutheran

Sunday, January 17, 2021

The business meeting will follow the morning worship service at around 10:15 AM.

∴∴∴∴ On the Vine

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA & THE BREAKFAST GALS WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER!!

“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING at CTS will take place on Tuesday, December 8, from 9 AM-3 PM.



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

1004 Curtis Ave • Chariton, Iowa 50049

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December

- ** ADVENT MIDWEEK
SERVICE SCHEDULE**
- ** CHARITON COMMUNITY
LONGEST NIGHT VIRTUAL SERVICE
– Monday, December 21**
- ** CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**
 - 4 PM–Chariton Drive-Thru Communion
& Live Nativity by the Youth**
 - 6 PM – Chariton Worship in Sanctuary**
 - 6:30 PM – Radio Broadcast on KIIC
Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia**
 - 7:30 PM – Corydon Worship in Sanctuary**

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

(First Lutheran Mission Statement)

THE *Wonder* OF
CHRISTMAS

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 &
 Sunday School 9 AM

Pastor Dick Hutton

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

December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Wendy's Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 8 AM – 3 PM</p> <p>AA – Alcoholics Anonymous</p>		<p>1 <u>11:30 am</u> – Lucas Co. ICC Meeting</p> <p>Wendy Vacation: December 1 - 3</p>	<p>2</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>3</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Slavic Worship at FLC</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p> <p><u>9 am</u> – Budget Planning Meeting at FLC</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>6 Holy Communion <u>8:45 am</u> – Drive-Thru Communion at Chariton <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship</p>	<p>7</p> <p><u>9 am</u> – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room</p> <p><u>6 pm</u> – Quilt Guild in Fireside Room</p>	<p>8</p> <p><u>9 am-3 pm</u> – Blanket Making at CTS</p>	<p>9</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Slavic Worship at FLC</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline!</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>13 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship & Sunday School <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship</p>	<p>14</p> <p><u>2 pm</u> – Laplanders Quilt Guild at CTS</p> <p><u>6:30 pm</u> – Council at FLC</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Mid-Week Advent Worship at FLC <u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Slavic Worship at FLC</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>20 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship <u>Noon</u> – CTS Task Force</p>	<p>21</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Longest Night Virtual Service</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>24 Office Closed</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE: <u>4 pm</u> – Chariton Drive-Thru Communion & Live Nativity <u>6 pm</u> – Chariton Worship <u>6:30 pm</u> – Radio Broadcast on KILC Radio – 96.7 FM <u>7:30 pm</u> – Corydon Worship</p>	<p>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</p> 	<p>26</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>
<p>27 Holy Communion <u>9 am</u> – Chariton Worship <u>11 am</u> – Corydon Worship</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Wendy Vacation: December 28-31</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p><u>8 pm</u> – AA @ CTS</p>	<p>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</p> <p><u>7 pm</u> – Slavic Worship at FLC</p>		