

# First Fruits

## Worship Ministry

December 2022  
Volume 26, Number 12

### MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

We will have mid-week Advent services on Wednesday



evenings, November 30, December 7, and December 14 at 7 PM at First Lutheran. There will be **NO** supper before the services.



### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

5 pm—First Lutheran  
6:30 pm—Corydon



### FLC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The First Lutheran youth will be bringing you the Christmas story, "Manger Tales" on December 11 during the Worship service. We've all heard the stories of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wisemen, but what about the others who were there when Jesus was born? We will see a fresh perspective on the wonder of Christmas through the eyes of the animals who were there. Join us on December 11 at 9:00 a.m. for scriptures, readings, skits and music.

### CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation classes will resume at First Lutheran on January 4.



### YEAR-END OFFERINGS

should be in the office by noon on Wednesday, December 28 or received in the mail by December 31 to be recorded in 2022.

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Mid-week Advent, Nov. 27, Dec. 7 & 14
- FLC Christmas Program, December 11
- Christmas Eve Services—FLC 5 PM; CTS 6:30 PM

# Worship Ministry (Continued)

## Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

**Christ the Servant**

**Sunday, January 8, 2023**

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 15, 2023**

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 are encouraged to bring a dish to share with others.

# Discipleship Ministry

## RADIO BROADCAST



The radio broadcast of Pastor Hutton's sermons is 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 (Albia)

kiicradio.com—website  
(Click on "Listen Live")

If you miss Sunday, catch it as a podcast on church's website!

### Broadcast Sponsors:

**December 4:** Marleen Oxenreider

**December 11:** Karen Orwig

**December 18:** Roger & Jean Heston

**December 25:** Dave & Lana Kuball  
in honor of their wedding anniversary

**THANK YOU** for your support of this ministry!!

***We are now taking sponsorships for 2023! With three members now in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across southern Iowa. Sponsorships are \$35. Please call the church office to sponsor a Sunday. 641-774-4875 Thank you!***

# Stewardship Ministry

**DECEMBER IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH** for the Ministry Center. Examples would be toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss, etc. Thank you!



**THE MINISTRY CENTER IS STILL IN NEED OF ½ GALLON MILK JUGS.** Thank you!

**THE SNOW REMOVAL SIGN-UP SHEET** is posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room at FLC. Please check your schedule to see when you may be able to help with this ministry!

## ON THE VINE



**LAST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE** will be on December 4 during worship service.

**PRAYER SHAWL/BABY AFGHAN GROUP** will gather in the FLC Library, beginning at 1:30 PM, on Wednesday, December 7.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT FLC** will be held on Sunday, December 11 during the worship service.

**MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES AT FLC** will be held on November 30, December 7, and December 14.

**THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA** will gather on Thursday, December 8, at 1 PM at First Lutheran.

**LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP** will meet on Sunday, December 11, at 5 PM for a Christmas gathering. Ernie's bingo will be played. Please bring a white elephant gift and treats to share.

**THE BREAKFAST GALS** will meet on Tuesday, December 13, at Hardees at 8 AM.

**"SHARING THE WEIGHT" BLANKET MAKING** at CTS will take place on Tuesday, December 13, from 9 AM-3 PM.

**COUNCIL MEETING AT FLC** will be held on Monday, December 19 at 6:30 PM.

**THE CTS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, December 20, at Christ the Servant beginning at 11:30 AM.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** will be at 5 PM in Chariton and 6:30 PM in Corydon.



### SALVATION ARMY

#### BELL RINGING OPPORTUNITY

First Lutheran will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell on Saturday, December 3, at True Value. The signup sheet is full. But there are plenty of more opportunities for ringing. Please contact Patti Bisgard if you are interested in helping with this ministry. Thank you!



# Pastoral Pondering . . . .

As we come to December this year, it is with excitement and wonder that I ponder what God is thinking and planning for all of us. Remember the angel's message to Mary years ago, the shock of what God was preparing – it caused her to be perplexed and ponder! What was God saying to her about the future and about her life?

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David." (Luke 1:26-32)*

As the angel spoke to Mary causing her to be perplexed and ponder, just what kind of greeting did the angel bring? And, what does that angel say to us, as we hear it during the darkest time of the year? What is God saying to the people of First Lutheran as we approach Christmas? What is God putting on our calendars for the coming weeks? I'm sure there stands before all of us is a variety of thoughts and things.

I wonder. Have you put Midweek Advent services on your calendar (Wednesdays at 7:00 PM)? Have you put Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on your calendar (Saturday, December 24, at 5:00 PM at First Lutheran or 6:30 PM at Christ the Servant Lutheran)?

As we gather to sing and hear the angel's words at Midweek Advent Services this year, Dana Holland, Stephanie Lukavsky, and Dave Kuball will share with us messages of comfort and hope in anticipation of celebrating Christ's birth on Christmas Eve. And then on December 24th we'll gather to celebrate that miracle of love remembering a tiny child that came to be laid in the manger straw centuries ago – a miracle that has brought light and hope into a dark and troubled world.

I know it's a busy time for all of you, as you decorate the house and tree, prepare delicious food for the extended family, and shop for just that special gift – all of which happens because God so loved the world that He came to walk among us. However, amid all this hustle, I pray you'll take time to join us in singing praises to Almighty God, who continues to perplex us and give us reason to ponder.

Truly it is a pleasure to ponder with you what God is doing in our midst as the joy of His angelic messengers tell us: *"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God!"* Come let us celebrate the good news of Jesus with us!

Blessings to all!

**Pastor Dick**

OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES  
GO OUT TO THE FAMILIES OF MIRIAM  
HIBBS AND ED TIGHE.

Miriam passed away on Sunday, November 13  
and Ed passed away on Sunday, November 20.  
Please continue to keep their families in your  
prayers.



It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good  
for us—spiritually, mentally, and even physically.  
Making a Thankoffering is gratitude  
in action. Women of the ELCA is  
grateful to you for taking that action  
on Sunday, November 20.

*Thank  
You*

## Re:Newed

### Baptismal Anniversaries

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

12/4	Alex Kuball	12/16	Angelynne Coleman
12/5	Joanne Fletcher	12/16	Callen Coleman
12/6	Arta Harman	12/18	Christine Atwell
12/6	Monte Brown	12/22	Devon Brown
12/9	Rob Johansen	12/23	Kim Francisco
12/16	Marissa Coleman	12/25	Deb Clark
12/16	Wesley Coleman		

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!)*

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### CORYDON BIRTHDAYS

12/8	Bill Miller
12/10	Wendy Foster
12/11	Becky Allen

#### CHARITON BIRTHDAYS

12/1	Mark White
12/3	Devon Brown
12/5	Alena Umbenhower
12/7	Jaxson Mehlert
12/11	Rhonda White
12/12	Zachary Fisher
12/14	Del Kray
12/15	Tim McGee
12/16	Christina Umbenhower
12/17	Amanda Buckalew
12/19	Rod Bortz
12/21	Tanner Duey
12/23	Hannah Fuhs
12/27	Bob Prather
12/28	Chris Kuball
12/31	Nicki Brown

#### CORYDON ANNIVERSARIES

12/19	John & Arta Harman
12/31	Jean & Shorty Wilson

#### CHARITON ANNIVERSARIES

12/14	Del & Karen Kray
12/28	Dave & Lana Kuball
12/31	Eric & Krista Junkman



#### Minutes and Reports

Copies of recent meeting minutes and financial reports are  
available on site at both First Lutheran and Christ the Serv-  
ant. At FLC, please look on the bulletin board outside the  
church office. At CTS, check the table by the windows on  
the lower level.