

# First Fruits

## Worship Ministry

December 2023  
Volume 27, Number 12

**Come one! Come all!**  
**To witness the**  
**Greatest Story Ever Told!**

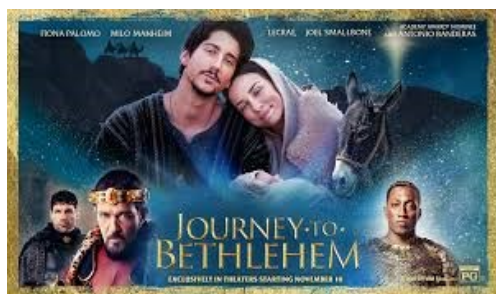
**WHAT:** First Lutheran Christmas Program  
**DATE:** December 10  
**TIME:** 9:00 am  
**PLACE:** First Lutheran Church



**Invite your friends and family to witness some incredible feats!**



We will have mid-week Advent services on Wednesday evenings, December 6, and December 20 at 6:30 PM at First Lutheran. Supper and the service will be held in the Fireside Room.



### COME SEE "JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM"

The youth invite you, your entire family, your friends, your neighbors and whomever else you'd like to invite to see the movie "Journey to Bethlehem" on Wednesday – December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Vision II Theater. The movie will be shown at 6:30 PM, with the doors opening at 5:30 PM. There is no charge for the movie – all are welcome to enjoy the movie as guests of the youth of First Lutheran.

"A young woman carrying an unimaginable responsibility. A young man torn between love and honor. A jealous king who will stop at nothing to keep his crown. This live-action Christmas musical adventure for the entire family weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith and new pop songs in a retelling of the greatest story ever told, the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus. A unique new entry into the collection of holiday classic movies, this epic Christmas musical is unlike any before it."

Come and join the youth of First Lutheran on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM to see a wonderful movie!



5 pm—First Lutheran  
6:30 pm—Corydon

Pastor Hutton presented bibles to Addelynn May Russo for her and her sister, Jaelynn Jade Russo on Sunday, November 26.



# Discipleship Ministry

RADIO

BROADCAST



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS MINISTRY!!**

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 3:** Jack & Arta Harman in honor of their 69th anniversary

**December 10:** Angie & Keith Dachenbach in honor of Del Kray's birthday and Del & Karen's wedding anniversary

**December 17:** Karen Orwig in memory of Dave's birthday

**December 24:** Rod & Gayle Bortz

**December 31:** Rod & Gayle Bortz

***WE ARE NOW FILLING 2024 DATES!*** *With two members now in care facilities, the broadcast brings our worship to those, plus we have listeners all across southern Iowa. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast for 2024, please call the church office. Sponsorships are \$35. 641-774-4875 Thank you!*

# Stewardship Ministry

## CONCRETE FUND STATUS

First Lutheran will complete their fund raising of the Concrete project that provided concrete all the way around the church at the end of this year. As of November 15th we still have \$5,980.88 remaining to raise by the end of this year. Hopefully we can raise sufficient funds to totally eliminate the entire balance. You are all to be thanked for your support of this project. It is amazing what we can do when we all work together. As Jesus said: "if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." It is truly wonderful to witness the support of the entire congregation as this project comes to a completion.

The members of Christ the Servant as they continue to raise money to pay for the concrete work on the highway approach, sidewalk, and by the handicapped area still have \$5,056.22 as of November 14<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully between now and the end of 2024 we will support this project and pay for the work that was done this past summer. Thank you to all who have given to this concrete and will do so in the coming months. Working together the members of Christ the Servant will attain their goal for their concrete fund.

Thank you all for your support!

# Stewardship Ministry (Continued)

## CHRIST THE SERVANT TO CELEBRATE THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, April 7, 2024 Christ the Servant Lutheran Church will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As they do so, they would like to invite everyone to join them for this festive celebration of worship at 11:00 AM, and to be followed by a catered dinner at Ludlow's Steakhouse in Corydon. Please put the date on your calendar and await more details as we get closer to the celebration.



## YEAR-END OFFERINGS

should be in the office by 10 AM on Sunday, December 31 to be recorded in 2023.



## ON THE VINE



**FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Tuesday, December 5 at 10 AM.

**PRAYER SHAWL/BABY AFGHAN GROUP** will gather in the FLC Library, beginning at 1:30 PM, on Wednesday, December 6.

**LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP** will meet on Sunday, December 10, at 5 PM for a Christmas gathering. Ernie's bingo will be played. Please bring a white elephant gift and treats to share.

**CTS WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE** will meet on Monday, December 11 at 11 AM.

**LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS** will meet on Monday, December 11 beginning at 2 PM.

**FLC COUNCIL MEETING** on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 PM.

**BREAKFAST GALS** will meet at 8 AM on Tuesday, December 12 at Hardees.

**“SHARING THE WEIGHT” BLANKET MAKING** will take place on Tuesday, December 12 from 9 AM-3 PM at CTS.

**THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA** will gather on Thursday, December 14, at 1:00 PM at First Lutheran.

**THE CTS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, December 19, at Christ the Servant beginning at 11:30 AM.



SALVATION ARMY

## BELL RINGING OPPORTUNITY

First Lutheran will be ringing the Salvation Army Bell on Saturday, December 2, 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!

## Noisy offerings will continue!

“Noisy Offerings” will continue to be taken on Sundays. Please consider bringing your loose change to church and “noisily” depositing it in the pot!!



# Pastoral Pondering . . . .

There's an interesting quote that applies to the First Sunday of Advent (December 3), from a book you may have read to your children or grandchildren, or that you may remember from your own childhood. The book is by Dr. Seuss, and is entitled "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." The quote to consider is brief:

From there to here,  
from here to there,  
funny things  
are everywhere.

Funny things are everywhere! And there are two things funny about this First Sunday of Advent, the start of a new church year. The first of them is that, here at the start of a new year, we don't look back to the beginning, but we look forward to the end. Here on the first day of the new church year, we do not focus on the past, but we anticipate the future where Christ promises to meet us.

The second funny thing about today is related to the first. When we look forward to the end, when we anticipate the future, we do not treat this conclusion as some distant, far-off event. It is near at hand. It may be as close as the next second. So imminent is it, in fact, that the future comes and takes up residence in the present. The Christ who will arrive with power and great glory at the end of time comes to us also before the end of time.

Looking forward to this month, I'm excited about going to the movie with the youth on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:30 pm. It is our plan to arrive shortly after the doors open at 5:30 pm so we can get some popcorn. The youth are inviting the whole town, friends, neighbors, and everyone else they can think of. Hopefully you'll join the youth to see the film *Journey to Bethlehem*.

Then there are two midweek Advent services at 6:30 pm on Wednesday December 6 and December 20 in the Fireside Room, where there will be soup supper and a video to inspire and provoke some discussion along with prayer and song.

In January, we'll conclude our journey through "The Story." It has been a wonderful way to become more acquainted with God's revelation and the history of His people. There are four chapters remaining and we'll read and discuss those chapters in January.

Finally, Carolyn and I have given some thought and prayer as to what we should give to the Lord in the new year. We recognize the cost of living and increasing prices are affecting everyone of us, and we want to do our part to meet the challenges and opportunities awaiting us. So, with joy we'll increase our gift each week to both of the congregations. It is our pattern to sit down at the first of each month and write checks for both congregations for every Sunday – we enjoy giving to the Lord before we pay our monthly expenses. I pray and encourage each of you to consider increasing your gift to the church as God continues to bless you.

Blessings to all, and let our Advent Christmas journey be just a start as to where Christ will lead us!

Blessings!

*Pastor Dick*

# Re:Newed

## December Baptismal Anniversaries



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

- |       |                 |       |                  |
|-------|-----------------|-------|------------------|
| 12/4  | Alex Kuball     | 12/16 | Angelynn 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

### CORYDON

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



### CHARITON

- 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

## OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THE FAMILY OF NELDA JOHANSEN.

Nelda passed away on Thursday, November 2. Please continue to keep her family in your prayers.



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

### CORYDON

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

### CHARITON

- 12/10 Kent & Cameron Storm
- 12/14 Del & Karen Kray
- 12/28 Dave & Lana Kuball
- 12/31 Eric & Krista Junkman

# Thank You

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 19. Our total was \$182.80!

### Minutes and Reports

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