



FIRST GLANCE

A look at what's happening at
First Lutheran Church

December 8-15, 2024

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran! We're so happy you're here! If you've worshipped with us before, welcome back! If this is your first time, a big welcome to you! We hope you feel God's love, grace and mercy as you worship with us today!

SHOP WITH PURPOSE: 2024 GIFTS OF HOPE MARKET OPEN TODAY!

The 2024 Gifts of Hope Market is open for in-person shopping today until 12:45 PM! Explore the work of 11 incredible partner organizations showcased throughout the Commons and Gathering Area. Take a moment to meet the passionate individuals behind each group, hear their inspiring stories, and learn how your gift can directly impact the lives they serve.

Every dollar you spend goes entirely to the partnering organizations - First Lutheran keeps nothing. If you can't shop in person, don't worry! Our digital catalog is available online until 10:00 PM today at https://bit.ly/2024_GOH.

Happy shopping and thank you for making a difference!

JOIN CLARENCE'S WHIMSICAL CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE AT THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 15, at 9:30 AM, as our sanctuary transforms into a stage for a retelling of the Christmas story. This year, our pageant takes a whimsical twist with "Clarence the Angel." Follow Clarence as he attempts to manage Earth, only to find that humans are far more capable than he initially thought. Through this heavenly adventure, the "humans" in our story will discover the newborn King and experience God's joy in unique and meaningful ways. Afterward, we invite you to join us in the Activity Center for cookies and hot chocolate - the perfect way to warm up and connect with fellow members and families. Bring your family, invite friends and prepare to be inspired by Clarence's celestial escapade!

WELCOME, LYRA ANNE RARIG

This morning, at the 8:15 AM worship service, we joyfully celebrate the baptism of Lyra Anne Rarig, daughter of Chris and Devin Rarig. Lyra's baptismal sponsors are Kaela Kane and Phillip Rarig. Please join us in welcoming Lyra into our faith community with love and support.

ADVENT: EAT. PRAY. SING

Advent is a time of prayer, filled with stories and songs that inspire us to yearn for the Lord's presence. It reminds us, "Refrain not, for God's work is still in progress." During Advent, we gather on weekends and midweek for meals, conversation, music and prayer. This year, our 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer service features a 'pray'ground near the choir area, where children can explore prayer through play and engage in worship, offering families a unique experience. Join us every Wednesday for meals, prayer and singing. Holden Evening Prayer services are at 12 PM and 6:30 PM, with a livestream option available. Stay after the noon service for soup and conversation or come at 5:30 PM before the evening service for a meal and fellowship.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH A FESTIVE FEAST!

Come for a Christmas Day feast at 11:30 AM! We're serving up turkey, dressing and mashed potatoes with gravy. Bring your appetite and your favorite sides - families should bring two and singles one. Make sure to sign up online by Sunday, December 15, at https://bit.ly/flc_christmas_lunch so we can be ready for you!

www.flclincoln.org / 402-488-0919

Follow us on Facebook @First Lutheran Church - Lincoln, NE and Instagram @FLCLINCOLN

HOW CAN YOU SHARE JOY, LOVE, PEACE AND HOPE THIS ADVENT?

As we prepare for four Christmas Eve services, we need many worship assistants to ensure these services are welcoming and meaningful for everyone - whether regular attendees, first-time visitors or those returning home for the holiday. We're looking for volunteers to serve as greeters, ushers, communion assistants and to help prepare for communion. Christmas Eve is a special time and we need your help to make it happen! Bring your family or invite a friend to volunteer with you. Your support will mean so much to our ministry team and the hundreds joining us for worship. Sign up now at https://flclincoln.ivolunteer.com/fourth_quarter_2024. Thank you!

WHAT'S YOUR TOUCHSTONE VERSE FOR THE WEEK?

It could be from a hymn, reading or something in the sermon! Write it below. Read, pray and discuss it this week to help you connect with it!

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

M. Joyce Hansen, Sylvia Kempf, Donna Nelson, Pastor Bill Peterson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Mary Brass, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Mariann Schafer, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Ralph Hayden, Gloria Van Ackeren, Bob Wessels, Tracy Troutman, Elaine Dlouhy, Rod Price, Margrett Wehland, Elaine Kruse, Mike Snyder, Hannah Torrey, Michael Dalton and Verla Youngquist.

CONNECT WITH THE MINISTRY STAFF & LEADERSHIP

Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Lead Pastor (pastorerin@flclincoln.org)

Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Associate Pastor (pastorandrew@flclincoln.org)

Pastor Marsha Anderson, Visitation Pastor (pstrmarsha@aol.com)

Masako and Boyd Bacon, Directors of Music & Worship (musicflclincoln@gmail.com)

Sharon Hardel, Director of Youth & Family Ministry (sharon@flclincoln.org)

Laura Graulty, FaithTrek Coordinator (laura@flclincoln.org)

Kathleen Simley, Director of Communications (kathleen@flclincoln.org)

Mandy West, Parish Coordinator (mandy@flclincoln.org)

Janis Strautkalns, Facilities Maintenance Manager (janis@flclincoln.org)

Wyatt Swanson, Church Accountant (wyatt@flclincoln.org)

Bryan Hanson, Church Accountant (bryan@flclincoln.org)

Lee Rockwell, Council President (leerockwell65@gmail.com)

Stephen Ministry Leader (stephen.ministry@flclincoln.org)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream

8:30 AM - Gifts of Hope Market Opens (Closes at 12:45 PM / Online Market Closes at 10:00 PM)

9:30 AM - Learning Hour for Ages 3-High School

10:45 AM - Worship

11:45 AM - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Noon - Nuer Worship

6:00 PM - Youth Christmas Party

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:30 AM - Fitness Class

10:30 AM - Christmas on the Hill at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE

1:30 PM - Coffee Talk

7:00 PM - Keeping God's People in Stitches

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00 AM - Adult Forum Planning

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

2:00 PM - Lydia Circle

5:30 PM - Fellowship Committee

5:45 PM - Bible Study

6:30 PM - Social Ministry

6:30 PM - Exodus Group

7:00 PM - Church Council

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Noon - Holden Evening Prayer Service

12:30 PM - Soup Lunch

5:45 PM - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

5:30 PM - Soup Dinner

6:30 PM - Holden Evening Prayer Service

7:10 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

9:30 AM - Fitness Class

6:30 PM - Spirit Ringers

7:00 PM - Gather & Gab

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

3:00 PM - Backpack Distribution

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

8:00 AM - Saturday Morning with the Guys

10:30 AM - Christmas on the Hill at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE

5:30 PM - Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream

9:30 AM - Christmas Pageant

10:45 AM - Worship

Noon - Nuer Worship