



## First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

**Sixth Sunday of Advent – Dreamlike Time**



**December 17, 2023**

**“Out of Time”**

**9:00 am**

### PREPARATION

Prelude

Bells

Welcome & Announcements

### GATHERING

#### **Greeting & Passing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

#### **Call to Worship**

P: We gather today. **C: It is time to worship!**

P: We listen for God. **C: It is time to hear!**

P: We receive God's grace. **C: It is time to be loved!**

P: We leave in peace. **C: It is time to serve others!**

P: As we wait for Jesus' arrival, Emmanuel, God-with-us, is already here in this time and place.

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

P: People of God, when we think that we have nowhere ...Holy one,

**C: We have not stayed awake. We have missed you when you appeared in our neighbors, in strangers half a world away, in the suffering planet. We have wasted the time and the skills that you gave us and assumed we were powerless to mend the breaches in our world. Sometimes, we even gave up on your mercy, justice, and love. God, is it too late for us? Speak tenderly to our anxious hearts. Tear open the heavens and heal what we have done.**

**Amen.**

P: People of God, God's judgement... we will witness wonders. **C: Amen.**

#### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Courtney & Arlie Giese

Psalm 126:1

Advent Prayer L: Let us pray: Almighty God, you are outside our days, weeks, and months; you are beyond time. When you draw near, you disturb our schedules and our certainty. As we light another candle on this wreath, disrupt our time as only you can— to teach us, to free us, to be near us.

**C: Amen**

Candle Lighting Hymn

'Out of Time'

SONG SHEET

Greeting

pg. 147

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

**Hymn of Praise**

'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' v. 6

#257

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, **C: and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WORD**

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

OT pg. 536

Psalms 126

ELW Psalm 126

L: <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

**C: <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

L: <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**C: <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

L: <sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**C: <sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

NT pg. 159

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Special Music

'Mary Did You Know?'

Kathy Haukos

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene, Arr. by Jay Rouse

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia'

#175

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994, and the Taizé Community.

© 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc. agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave. Chicago, IL 60638.

Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

NT p. 70

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord... **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Denise Fossen

1. **Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**
2. **He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**
3. **He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**
4. **Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820.

## Apostle's Creed

p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**  
**Amen.**

**Prayers for the People of God**

P: Hurry, God. Hear our prayers **C: Tear the heavens and come down.**

**MEAL****Offering Collection and Presentation**

Offeratory Hymn

'I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light'

#815

Offeratory Prayer

P: Loving God, For the time we have, we say: **Thank you.**

P: For the gifts we offer, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: For the chance to help others, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: For the people whose lives will be better because of these gifts, we say:

**C: Thank you.**

P: For the ways you are changing the world, we say: **C: Thank you.**

P: We pray in the name of Jesus, who appears wherever people need our help **C: Amen**

Lord's Prayer

p. 154

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and**

**lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

Benediction

P: God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you. Jesus our Redeemer, † who arrives at just the right time, blesses you. The Holy Spirit our Enlivener, who sparks hope for the hopeless, blesses you. You are blessed in the name of God, the Three in One. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal P: As you leave this place, remember: whether you dream of the past, the future, or the present moment, God dreams with you. Keep alert; trust God; seek peace. **C: We Will! Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn                      ‘My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness’                      #251  
Bells

Postlude

“Out of Time” Advent Theme is copyright © 2023 Barn Geese Worship. Used with permission.

Music: All Rights Reserved. Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Copyright © 2006. Used by permission of Sundays and Seasons license #SB165499, CCLI License #2288422, & ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION: Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-738935.

---

*Psalm 139:14. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.*

*In other words, “created to be...”*

If you have pastoral needs, please call Pastor Denise anytime at 763-516-2026.

**Welcome to all visitors and guests!** May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

**KDIO Radio Broadcast** is sponsored by your gifts to the endowment fund. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week]. 2024 cards are in the box.

**OFFERING UPDATE:** Here are the expenses for November: \$18,989.29. Here is what we received: \$17,514.25. We deficit spent by \$1,475.04 You're also encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at [www.firstenglish.net](http://www.firstenglish.net).



**We need some volunteers for our holiday services.** Can you help with our Christmas Eve morning and/or afternoon services, or New Years Eve morning? Contact the office to be an acolyte; greeter; lay assistant (Christmas Eve);

tech desk helper (Christmas Eve); usher (Christmas Eve); or lector (NYE Morning).

**We still have room for anyone who wants to be part of special prelude music** for Christmas Eve services at 2 and 4 pm on December 24, 2023. Prelude music starts ½ hour before the church service. We welcome vocal and instrumental. Please contact the church office at 320 839 2527 or Marilyn Hanson.

**If you would like to give a poinsettia** or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office this week leading up to Christmas. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

**GLLM's summer programs opened** and spots are filling up fast. There is a \$50 early bird discount by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

**Please pick up & fill out your pledges & opportunity sheets** and put them in the box in the Narthex before the end of the year. We need new opportunity sheets each year, so that we know you are still interested and willing to continue volunteering. You can also pick up your giving envelopes for 2024.

**If you want to receive a box of donation envelopes in 2025**, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

**Coffee Fellowship needs volunteers** to continue. Please contact the office or sign-up in the fellowship hall if you're willing to help to prepare & serve coffee. If no one volunteers to serve, we won't have coffee fellowship that Sunday.



**"Caring Friends" to meet January 14<sup>th</sup>** during coffee after church. If you are part of the "Caring Friends" group, please stop to check in, tell us who you are seeing and give us ideas for new ways to touch base. If you would like to become part of this group, just come to our informal meeting and see if it is something you'd like to try. Each one of us picks a person from our congregation who we will contact at least once a month either by phone or a visit. Some of the people on the list are in the nursing home, assisted living or just at home and unable to always come to church. Questions or if you know someone who would benefit from a monthly visit call Neva, 320-305-4964.



**Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection** will be meeting on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at Tabor Methodist Church in Big Stone City, SD. Speaker will be Levi Wadell of Marvin, SD. He is the part-time youth coordinator at Central Church in Milbank. He will tell of his work with the youth and his faith

walk. Jim Wagar of Odessa, MN, accompanied by guitar, will lead group singing of Christmas Carols. This cost is \$6.00 and there is a free nursery by reservation. You can register with Carol Rabe at 605-862-8570 or you are welcome to be a walk-in.

**A HUGE Thank You to our entire congregation for your endless support of Katie's Kicks.** I have received many donations from individuals along with offerings and endowment support. In 2024 we gave away 131 pairs of shoes; brand new shoes to Ortonville students. There is such a great need and I am so thankful to have the support of our congregation as we continue to give kids a basic necessity they use daily. Without your financial support we would have to cut corners so THANK YOU for supporting our area kids. ~Kirsten

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT** for Carol Barrett; Marcus Hanson, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Beth Swanson; Brandi Tweeter; Clara Zeek; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Ricky Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Adeline Burgess; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict, especially Alexander Johnson (Ev Johnson's grandson). If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



**REMINDER:** Calendar and other important information is on our website at [www.firstenglish.net](http://www.firstenglish.net) and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320) 839-2527.

### **This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Greeters:** Ginger Athey & Lola Backstrand

**Acolytes:** Miley & Mason

**Advent Volunteers:** Courtney & Arlie Giese

**Organist:** Marilyn Hanson

**Tech Desk:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

**Lector:** Lois Bergeson

**Ushers:** Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

### **Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24<sup>th</sup> (9 AM Advent Service)**

**Greeters: NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**

**Acolytes:** Archer & **VOLUNTEER**

**Organist:** Kathy Haukos

**Advent Volunteers:** David, Deb Ellingson, & family

**Tech Desk:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

**Lector:** Darin Ehrenberg

**Ushers: NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS**

**Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24<sup>th</sup> (2 PM Christmas Eve Service)**

**Greeters: NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**

**Acolytes: NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**

**Organist:** Carol Ydstie

**Lector:** Kathy Randall

**Tech Desk:** Marina Thomson & **VOLUNTEER**

**Lay Assistants:** Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Liz Ketz & **2 VOLUNTEERS**

**Ushers:** Ron Athey, Russ Thielke, Gale May, & Vern Nickolauson

**Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 24<sup>th</sup> (4 PM Christmas Eve Service)**

**Greeters: NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS**

**Acolytes:** Archer & **VOLUNTEER**

**Organist:** Carol Ydstie

**Lector:** Kathy Randall

**Tech Desk:** Marina Thomson & **VOLUNTEER**

**Lay Assistants:** Tami Lundberg, Liz Ketz, & **3 VOLUNTEERS**

**Ushers: NEED 4 VOLUNTEERS**

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sun – 12/17** 9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live  
3:00 pm Christmas Cantata (with refreshments after)  
at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD

**Mon – 12/18** 10:00 am Staff Meeting

**Tues – 12/19** 4:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at Fairway View

**Wed – 12/20** **NO Confirmation or Youth Group (Winter Break)**

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

5:30 pm Channel 3 broadcast

7:00 pm Senior Choir

**Thurs – 12/21** **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

12:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

**Fri – 12/22** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

**Sun – 12/24** **CHRISTMAS EVE**

9:00 am Advent Worship – KDIO & Facebook Live Broadcast

2:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion – KDIO & FB Live

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion

