



First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

320-839-2527

Reverend Denise Fossen

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania



First Sunday of Christmas

END OF CALL

9:00 am

December 31, 2023

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.**

Confession and Forgiveness *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **C: Amen.**

P: God of life, **C: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news: We... shall know the salvation of God. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

'What Child Is This?'

#296

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall

pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

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

'Praise the Lord! O Heavens'

#823

1. Praise the Lord! O heav'ns, adore him; praise him, angels, in the height; sun and moon, rejoice before him; praise him, gleaming stars and light. Praise the Lord, for he has spoken; worlds his mighty voice obeyed; laws which never shall be broken for their guidance he has made.

2. Praise the Lord, for he is gracious; never shall his promise fail. God has made his saints victorious; sin and death shall not prevail. Praise the God of our salvation; hosts on high, his pow'r proclaim; heav'n and earth, and all creation, laud and magnify his name!

Text: Foundling Hospital Collection, London, 1796. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809.

Prayer of the Day: P: Almighty God, **C: you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Psalm 148

L: ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD! from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C: ² Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

L: ³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C: ⁴ Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

L: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

C: ⁶ who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

L: ⁷ Praise the LORD! from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C: ⁸ fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

L: ⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C: ¹⁰ wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

L: ¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C: ¹² young men and maidens, old and young together.

L: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C: ¹⁴ The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!

Lesson: Galatians 4:4-7

NT pg. 145

Children's Message

Pastor Denise Fossen

Noisy Offering

Gospel Acclamation

'Alleluia'

#175

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

NT pg. 45

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

Hymn of the Day

'Away in a Manger'

#277

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent. Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905.

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:Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn *'Of the Father's Love Begotten'* vs. 1, 2, 5 #295

Offertory Prayer **C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call and Farewell

L (Brent): Pastor Denise, on February 21, 2021, we.... we pray for God's blessing.

Pastor: I thank you, the members and.... carry with me all I have learned here.

C: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to retire. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.

P: I accept your gratitude and forgiveness... you and for your new pastoral leader.

L: People of God, members of First English Lutheran Church, do you release Pastor Denise Fossen from service as your pastor?

C: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

L: Pastor Denise, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with First English?

P: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, through... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

Farewell Message

Brent Zahrbock

SENDING

Benediction

P: God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal

P: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C: We Will! Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn *'God Be with You 'Til We Meet Again'* #536

1. God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain Till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again,) till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again.) God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

3 God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904. Music: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896.

Bells

Postlude

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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..."

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 in memory of Mark Block from David & Debbie Ellingson and family. [Radio broadcast cards are available on the information kiosk in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

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



Please join us downstairs after service for coffee fellowship to wish Pastor Denise farewell on her retirement.

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Kate Heinecke whose birthday is today and Carol Knutson whose birthday is this Wednesday.

Just a reminder we ask you to get your opportunity sheets & pledges in. If you haven't done so, please fill them out and place them in the box in the Narthex.

If you want to receive a box of donation envelopes in 2025, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. We need to know ASAP because we order in January.

There are items in the pickup room still needing to be picked up. If you've ever been told to pick something up & don't remember doing so, check the room.

“Caring Friends” to meet January 14th 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.



Green Lake Lutheran Ministries' summer programs opened, and spots are filling up fast. There is a \$50 early bird discount by Feb. 15th. If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota will be holding a Caregiver Support & Respite meeting 10 a.m. January 11th at the Big Stone County Courthouse (Commissioner Room) so you can learn about the advantages of volunteering in your community and how simple it is to become a volunteer. Contact Information: Kim.Brehmer@lssmn.org (218) 539-1333 or Jamie.Aubart@lssmn.org (320) 979-4068.

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.



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 and on the bulletin board (kiosk) in the narthex. The church office number is (320)839-2527.

This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 31st

Greeters: TBD

Acolytes: Miley & Mason

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Lector: Liz Ketz

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson

Coffee Servers: Nornes

Ushers: Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, Rob Randall, & Josh Wollschlager

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—January 7th

Greeters: Sandy Brown & Justice Wittnebel

Acolytes: Hannah & Brooke

Coffee Servers: **NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Organist: Amy Adelman

Tech Desk: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson **FWV:** Miley Block & Marilyn Chindvall

Ushers: Ev Johnson, Rodney Torgerson, Jon & Kim Anderson

Weekly Calendar

Sun – 12/31 NEW YEAR'S EVE (Pastor Fossen's Last Service)

9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO & FB Live Broadcast

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

Fairway View Service Cancelled due to health concerns.

Mon – 1/1 NEW YEAR'S DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

Tues – 1/2 4:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (Fairway View)

Wed – 1/3 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study in Church Lounge

9:30 am Channel 3 broadcast

3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th grade)

4:30 pm Confirmation (9th grade)

5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12th grade) & Channel 3 broadcast.

7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fri – 1/5 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 1/7 9:00 am Worship (w/Lisa Berdan) – KDIO & FB Live

10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-Recorded