

# Welcome to First Lutheran Church

309 Second Street North, PO Box 21, Pine River, MN 56474

Church Office: 587-2316

[www.1stluth.org](http://www.1stluth.org)

Pastor Hans Anderson

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2024

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

*(Please pass the attendance pad along the pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address.)*

## Opening Hymn: "The Power of Your Love"-

### Verse 1

Lord I come to You  
Let my heart be changed renewed  
Flowing from the grace  
That I found in You  
And Lord I've come to know  
The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away  
By the pow'r of Your love

### Chorus

Hold me close  
Let Your love surround me  
Bring me near  
Draw me to Your side  
And as I wait  
I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You  
Your Spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of Your love

### Verse 2

Lord unveil my eyes  
Let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love  
As You live in me  
Lord renew my mind  
As Your will unfolds in my life  
In living ev'ry day  
By the pow'r of Your love



### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
creator of darkness and light,  
word of truth,  
wind sweeping over the waters.

**People: Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: God our rock and refuge,

**People: we pour out our hearts before you.**

**We have known you but have not always loved you.**

**We have wounded one another  
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit  
dwelling in each of us.**

**Remember your covenant.**

**Renew your creation.**

**Restore us,**

**that we might proclaim your good news to all.**

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words:*

Pastor: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

**People: Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of the Day:**

Pastor: Let us pray

**People: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

BLESSINGS  
FROM  
GOD

## First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

<sup>1</sup> Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

<sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; <sup>3</sup> the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup> and ran to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. <sup>6</sup> The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

<sup>10</sup> Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

## Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> **Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

<sup>13</sup> For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup> **I praise you, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made.**

**Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

<sup>16</sup> **Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.**

**In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup> How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup> **I try to count them—they are more than the  
sand;**

**I come to the end—I am still with you.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

<sup>12</sup> “All things are permitted for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are permitted for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup> “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for sexual immorality but for the Lord and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup> And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” <sup>17</sup> But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> Shun sexual immorality! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against the body itself. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

## \*Gospel Announcement

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**People: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## \*Gospel: John 1:35-51

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter). <sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." <sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" <sup>48</sup> Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

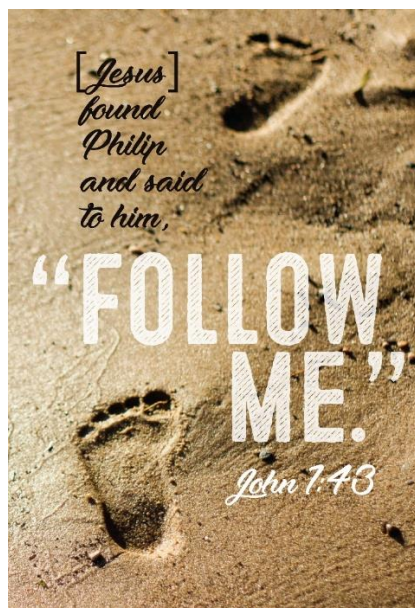
**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children's Message**

**Sermon- "Come and See!"**

**Pastor Hans Anderson**



## **Song of the Day: "Messiah"**

### **Verse 1**

Someone's shouting from the desert  
Someone's shouting from the sea  
Someone's shouting from the mountain  
Someone's shouting from the valley

### **Chorus**

Messiah  
Come and be our King  
Messiah  
Come and be our King

### **Verse 2**

Someone's shouting from the city  
I am young I am cold  
Someone's shouting from the country  
I am lonely I am old

### **Verse 3**

Someone's shouting I am broken  
Someone's shouting make me whole  
Someone's shouting come and change me  
Someone's shouting save my soul



## **\*Statement of Faith – The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

The  
Apostles'  
+ Creed +

**\*Prayers of Intercession:**

Pastor: As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Pastor: Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration. God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

**People: receive our prayer.**

Pastor: Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: Amen.**



## Offering

### \*Offertory Prayer

**People: Blessed are you, Holy One,  
for all good things come from you.  
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.  
Meet us at this table,  
that we receive what we seek  
and follow your Son, Jesus,  
in whose name we pray.  
Amen.**

### \*Words of Institution

### \*Lord's Prayer

**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;  
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.**

## † Communion †

*All who believe in the death and resurrection as given in this bread and wine are welcome to the table today.  
Please follow usher's guidance to come forward to receive communion and then return to your seat.  
Gluten free wafers are available from the communion server upon request.  
You are welcome to this Table of our Lord.*

## Holy Communion Distribution

### \*Post Communion Blessing

**Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
People: Amen.**

### \*Post Communion Prayer

**People: Giver of every gift,  
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
Raise us to life by your power  
for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### \*Blessing:

**Pastor: God who names you,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
† bless you and remain with you always.**

**People: Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:** “Great is the Lord”

**Verse**

Great is the Lord  
He is holy and just  
By His power we trust in His love  
Great is the Lord  
He is faithful and true  
By His mercy He proves He is love

**Chorus 1**

Great is the Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great is the Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great is the Lord  
Now lift up your voice  
Now lift up your voice  
Great is the Lord

**Chorus 2**

Great are You Lord  
And worthy of glory  
Great are You Lord  
And worthy of praise  
Great are You Lord  
I lift up my voice  
I lift up my voice  
Great are You Lord

**Ending**

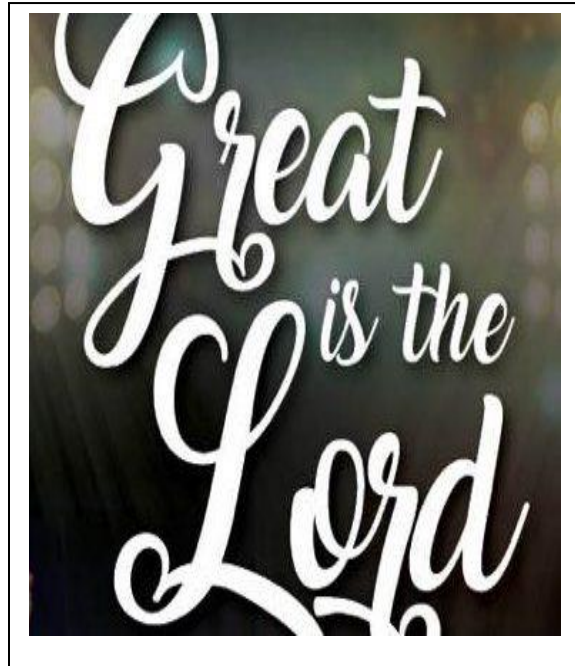
Great are You Lord  
Great are You Lord  
Great are You Lord  
Great are You Lord

**\*Dismissal:**

**Pastor:** Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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**Reader:** Penny Siewert  
**Communion Assistant:** Val Johnson  
**Zoom:** Cora Hohnstadt  
**Sound:** Sandy Gilbertson  
**Ushers:** Paul Pearson & Paul Sasse  
**Altar Guild:** Jan Brasel & Penny Siewert  
**Counter:** Neil Smith

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12,1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, January 14, 2024

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)

9:00 AM

Coffee & Fellowship,

10:00 AM

Sunday School

10:15AM

### Tuesday, January 16, 2024

FLCW Board Meeting

5:00 PM

### Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Confirmation

6:00 PM

### Thursday, January 18, 2024

Dorcas Circle

9:00 AM

Naomi Circle in Fellowship Hall

1:30 PM

### Sunday, January 21, 2024

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany*

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)

9:00 AM

Coffee & Fellowship,

10:00 AM

Sunday School

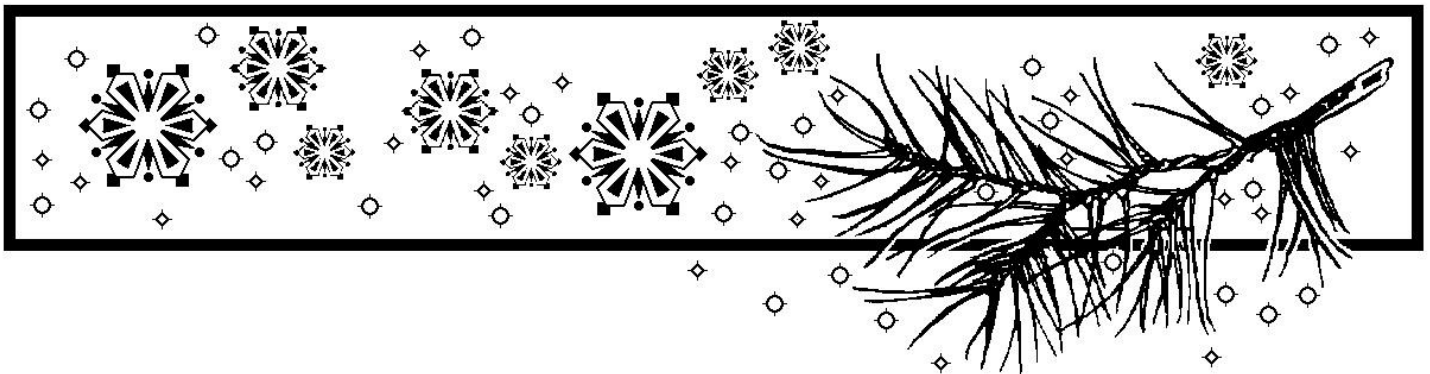
10:15 AM

Church Council

10:30 AM

*If you are not able to attend the Worship Service in person, you will still be able to listen to the sermon or watch video of the service online at the First Lutheran website.*

*Links will be on First Lutheran's website and on our Facebook page by Monday morning.*



## Announcements

**Sunday Services** at First Lutheran continue to be in-person and via Zoom. To join us via Zoom, go to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) and select the blue “Join a Meeting” link at the top center of your screen. (You won’t need to create an account.) Type in the appropriate Meeting ID number and click the blue “Join” button.

Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting ID is 823 6162 1569 Passcode is 367288.

**Bulletins** can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

**Pine River Area Food Shelf** has the following needs for January: Peanut butter, Pasta, Soup, Oatmeal, Flour, Granola bars, Gluten free items, Vegetable oil & Laundry soap.

**PLEASE** consider signing up for assisting with worship. We are in need of readers, communion assistants and fellowship hosts. The sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. THANK YOU

“**Quiet Activity Bags**” are available for children’s use during worship. They are at the back of the sanctuary on the right hand side.

### Clearwater Couple’s Retreat 2024:

## *Dare to Date...Your Spouse!*

When: **Mar. 1-3, 2024** (8 pm on Friday until 11:30 am on Sunday)

Where: Clearwater Forest Camp & Retreat Center

Cost: \$300/couple

Leaders: Pastors David and Sarah Parker

Pastor Hans and Erin Anderson

Come to Clearwater Forest to enjoy a meaningful weekend with your spouse! There will be time for couples to be together on their own as well as time for large-group activities. Topics that will be addressed include communication, conflict styles, finances, parenting, dreams, and future goals. Here are some of the fun activities we have planned:

- ♥ Love Song Karaoke
- ♥ Couple’s Board Games
- ♥ Worship with Vow Renewal
- ♥ Quality time with your special someone!

#### Goals for the weekend:

1. Improve communication
2. Increase intimacy
3. Learn from other couples
4. Set goals & plan how to meet them.
5. Have fun!!!



This retreat will be partially based on the book *Eight Dates: Essential Conversation for a Lifetime of Love* by John Gottman, PhD and Julie Schwartz Gottman, PhD. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Anderson, Clearwater Forest Executive Director, at [eanderson@clearwaterforest.org](mailto:eanderson@clearwaterforest.org) or (218) 678-2325



To register, go to [clearwaterforest.org](http://clearwaterforest.org)!

## Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Those with medical concerns...

Caleb Prushek, great nephew of Jane Orth  
Cleone Hoplin  
Barb Richards  
Lars Larson  
Clifford, great grandson of Leonard and Jan Nelson  
Bonnie Bandy, sister of Shirley Schmidt  
Andy Anderson  
Mary Harrison



Those grieving...

Anita Cadwell and family with the passing of Doc.

Those in the service...

MSgt Bradford, son of Bill & Kaye Schroeder  
Captain A.J. Depman, nephew of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

Attendance: 85

#### Offering:

Jan. 7, 2024	\$4,448.00	Weekly Budget:	\$3,132.40
Direct Deposit:	\$ 275.00		
Monthly Transfer:	\$1,566.00		
Total Offering:	\$6,289.00		

Year-to-Date (Fiscal year starts September 1)

Giving:	\$58,096.10	Expenses:	\$44,272.09
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Income less Expenses for December:

\$15,471.00 - \$11,182.32 = \$4,288.68

If you would like a visit from pastor or have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Hans Anderson at 218-820-2969 or email him at [pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com)

## The Church Season of Epiphany

The Festival of Epiphany is always on January 6<sup>th</sup> (thirteen days after Christmas) and the season of the church year that follows is about the unwrapping of the Father's gifts to the world of his only-begotten Son ('epiphany' is a Greek word for 'to be visible'). Christmas was about Jesus as fully human -- a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger. But Epiphany is about a Jesus who is fully divine—the Son of God.

On the first Sunday after the Epiphany we always observe the Baptism of our Lord, and on the last Sunday of the season—before Ash Wednesday—we always read about Jesus' Transfiguration. These two occasions bracket the season of Epiphany because they most clearly reveal who Jesus is: the divine Son of God. At both occasions the voice of God the Father spoke from Heaven, declaring what Jesus' human flesh had hidden from the world: "This is my Son!" At the same time, the readings for the Sundays in Epiphany present us with a real conundrum. Jesus hid the manifestations of his deity, so that his glory remained a secret and a mystery, even while he was revealing it to those he called.

Epiphany is the second oldest festival of the Christian church (only Easter is an older observance). Originally, Epiphany celebrated four different events, all on one day: the birth of Jesus, his Baptism, his first miracle, and the visit of the Wise Men. Each of these is a revelation of God to humanity.

Eventually, the celebration of Christ's birth was separated out and became Christmas, twelve days earlier, so that the season of Christmas began with the revelation of Christ to Israel (represented by the shepherds at Bethlehem) and ended with the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (represented by the Wise Men). Epiphany is therefore sometimes called "The Gentiles Christmas."

Over the centuries, the other two celebrations were also separated. The celebration of Jesus' Baptism was moved to the first Sunday after Epiphany and the commemoration of his miracle at the wedding at Cana moved to the second Sunday after Epiphany.

