

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

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

Church Office: 587-2316

www.1stluth.org

Pastor Hans Anderson

4th Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 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: "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come" (ELW 610)

1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends,
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find

How can we fail to be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
yet in our hearts we would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
our com - mon life de - clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
the whole - ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

***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.

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: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

¹“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷Then the LORD replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’

Psalm 111

¹ Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² **Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.**

³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his
works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and
uprightness.**

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom;**

**all those who practice it have a good
understanding.**

His praise endures forever.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹ Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ² Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, ³ but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵ Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷ It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. ⁹ But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. ¹² But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

*Gospel Announcement

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

*Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

¹They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.” ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, “What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

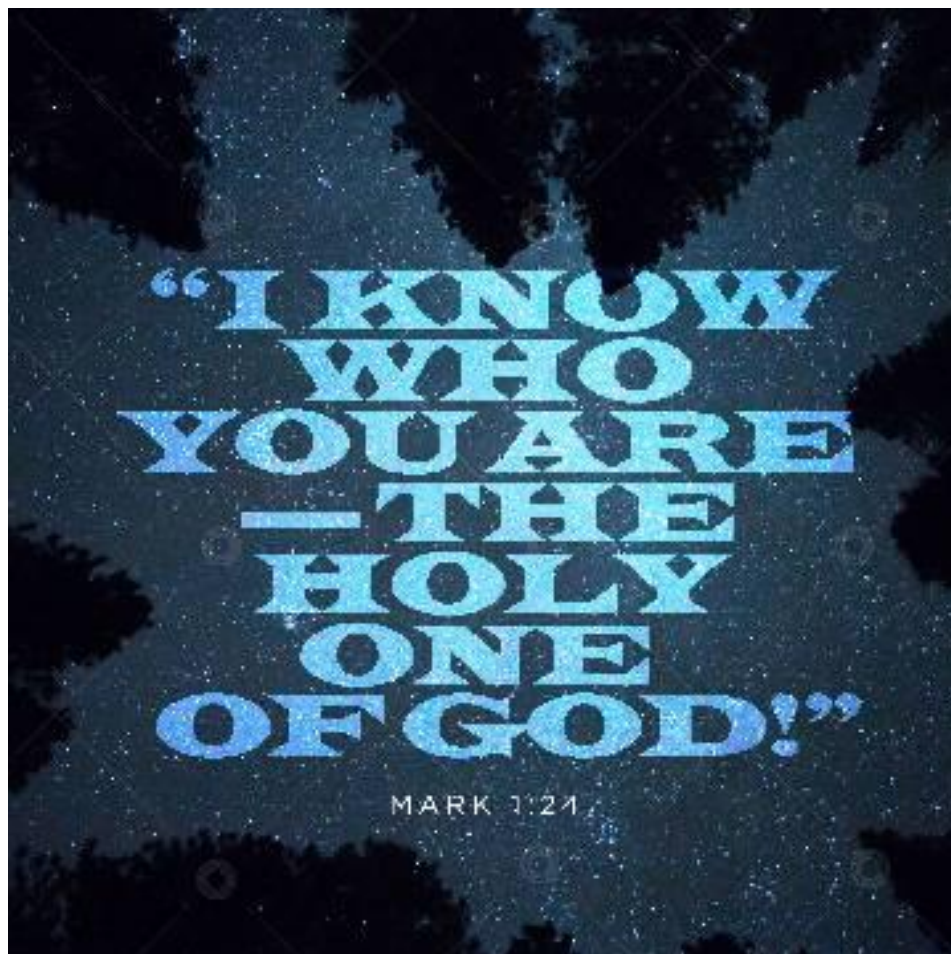
The assembly is seated.

Children’s Message

Noisy Offering

Sermon- “Astounding Love”

Pastor Hans Anderson



Song of the Day: "Cast Out, O Christ" (ACS 1016)

1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
 2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
 3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
 5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
 sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
 Music: A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
 Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

CONSOLATION
 C M

***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.

***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: Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

People: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

People: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

People: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. God of grace,

People: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. 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

The musical score is written for voice and organ. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and an organ line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with mer - cy and love. with mer - cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one." The organ accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960
Music: Anne Krentz Organ
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

BROKEN AND BLESSED
5 4 7 5 4 6

***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: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (ELW 886)**

1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise,
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;

the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are printed between the two systems of music.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Public Domain

***Dismissal:**

Pastor: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Reader: Kaye Schroeder
Communion Assistant:
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt
Sound: Val Johnson
Ushers: Paul Pearson & Paul Sasse
Altar Guild: Jan Brasel & Penny Siewert
Counter: Holly Knutson

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39

The Week Ahead

Sunday, January 28, 2024

4th Sunday after Epiphany/Noisy Offering

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)
Coffee & Fellowship,
Sunday School

9:00 AM
10:00 AM
10:15 AM

Thursday February 1, 2024

Dorcas Circle

9:00 AM

Sunday, February 4, 2024

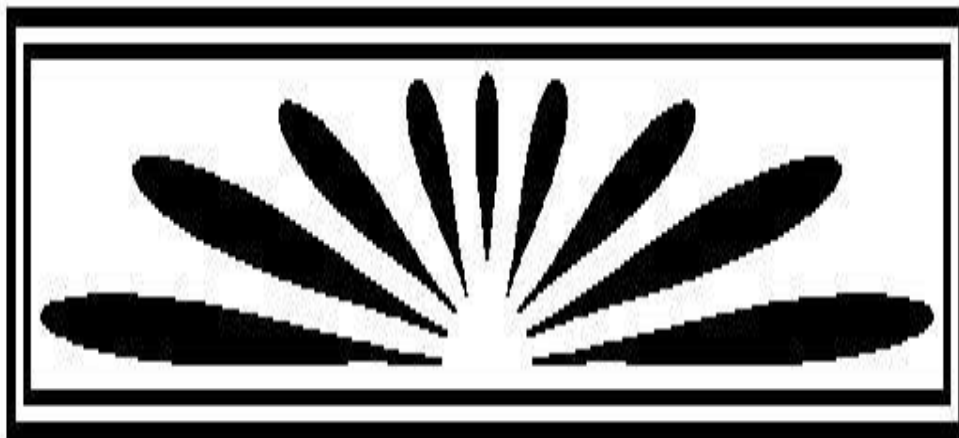
5th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)
Coffee & Fellowship,
Sunday School

9:00 AM
10:00 AM
10:15 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 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. This week’s bulletin is sponsored anonymously to honor Morgan Kepner and Lars Larson’s birthdays. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

Today’s **NOISY OFFERING** will be going to the Freedom Ranch in Brainerd. Freedom Ranch provides housing where girls rescued from the enslavement of human trafficking can begin healing with the help of counselors, educators, and health care professionals in a safe environment. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile cause.

2023 Giving Statements are in your mailbox. Please check for any corrections needed. Thank you.

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 eranderson@clearwaterforest.org or (218) 678-2325

 To register, go to 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
Denny Aleckson
Harvey and Marion Kelley



Those in the service...

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

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 Attendance: 76

Offering:

Jan. 21, 2024	\$1,658.70	Weekly Budget:	\$3,132.40
Direct Deposit:	\$ 275.00		
Total Offering:	\$1,933.70		

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

Giving:	\$60,748.80	Expenses:	\$49,447.30
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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

The Chosen

Lenten Challenge: For anyone who has not joined us for the Chosen Videos this past Fall, the Lenten Challenge will be to watch them at home. For people who have seen the videos, please read the corresponding scripture and/or rewatch episodes:

<https://www.angel.com/the-chosen>

We will start the videos again as a group on April 3, 2024.

“You are Chosen.” The sermon series will be based on the first 6 “chosen” episodes. The format for Wednesday Evenings will be 5:30 soup & 6:30 worship. Holden Evening Prayer will be sung on Wednesdays this Lent.

Wednesday Lent Schedule

February 14 th	no Soup Supper	“You are Chosen”
February 21 st	Soup Supper	“I Have Called You by Name”
February 28 th	Soup Supper	“Shabbat”
March 6 th	Soup Supper	“Jesus Loves the Little Children”
March 13 th	Soup Supper	“The Rock on Which It is Built”
March 20 th	Soup Supper	“The Wedding Gift”
March 27 th	Soup Supper	“Indescribable Compassion”

