

The monthly newsletter of
First United Lutheran Church Sheboygan, Wisconsin

GOOD

December

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NEWS!

2023

Facebook: First United Lutheran Church - ELCA

YouTube channel: First United Lutheran Church - Sheboygan WI

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Sharing God's Word * Strengthening Faith * Serving Community

Thoughts from Pastor Heidi

I was at a retreat once, years ago, where we were invited to consider what "Liturgical Season" best described our lives. As I was in a time of transition, I chose Advent - the time we prepare for what's coming next, the birth and the return of Jesus.

Something about Advent has always drawn me in. Lighting the Advent Wreath is a highlight of worship. I love watching the light grow each week as the candles are lit, one by one. Seeing the decorations being put up around the church and participating in collections for those in need helps me feel the anticipation of Christmas. I love reading about Mary and hearing her reaction to the news that she would bear the Son of God.

But my favorite part of Advent might just be the hymns. There's something special about them for me. The imagery and the melodies fill me with excitement as I prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, and they steel my soul as I wait for his coming again.

My favorite verse of Advent hymns (and maybe of all hymns) is the last verse of "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" (ELW 242, Text and Music by Marty Haugen).

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.*

We know a thing or two about a dark and cheerless winter, living in Wisconsin. However, we are also blessed to see the beauty that cold and dark can bring, whether that comes in a glorious sunrise over Lake Michigan or a sparkly, snow-filled winter day. We have the love of God woven within our songs, prayers, and lives. Our faith and the love of Christ can truly bring us through those dark, cold nights.

The liturgical color for Advent is a deep blue, meant to symbolize the sky just before the dawn. Sunrise and sunset are times of transition that bring incredible beauty to our world. As you continue in this time of transition as a congregation, may God open your eyes to the beauty that can come through change. May love fill your hearts and your days as you serve God and your neighbor.

Rejoice, and take heart. God is coming, and God is here.

Advent Blessings,
Pastor Heidi Borkenhagen

FULC HAPPENINGS

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 3

ADOPT - A - FAMILY DUE

8:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service
9:30 AM - Annual Congregational Meeting
9:40 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 7

CHRISTMAS TREASURES

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 10

CHRISTMAS TREASURES

8:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service
9:40 AM - Sunday School
10:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 14

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 17

8:30 AM - Children's Christmas Program & Service
9:40 AM - Birthday Party for Jesus
10:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service

Thursday, Dec. 21

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

6:30 PM - Contemporary Worship Service

Sunday, Dec. 24

10:00 AM - Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 PM - Christmas Eve Worship
6:00 PM - Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, Dec. 28

NO SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 31

9:30 AM - Traditional Worship Service



Can you help us to get ready for Christmas Eve?

Let's Decorate First United!

Sunday, December 17

11:30 a.m.

(as soon as worship is over)

See you in the Sanctuary!

Pizza lunch will be served
as soon as we are finished.



Christmas Treasures

December 7 & December 10

Bring your unwrapped toys for children between the ages of 0 - 18.

Help spread a little Christmas cheer this season locally and with the families of Wellington Park Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.



Our Staff

Transition Pastor • Heidi Borkenhagen
Children & Family/ Great Beginnings Preschool
Administrator • Mary Gorges
Youth/Technology • Thom Nicla
Church Administrator/
Discipleship • Debbie Schneider
Administrative Assistant • Kelly Stoelb
Preschool Lead Teacher • Ellen Yedica
Financial Secretary/Community Ministry • Cheryl Nicholson
Children & Family Ministry Assistant • Gabrielle Huolihan

Let us know how we can help you. 920-452-2401



Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1

Sunday, December 3
9:30 a.m.
FULC Sanctuary

Grab a cup of coffee and join us between worship services as we vote on the nominations for our elected officials.



CONFIRMATION CORNER

7th & 8th Grades:

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
in the Confirmation Room

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
ringing bells for Salvation Army

NO CONFIRMATION DEC. 20 & 27

9th Grade:

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
in the Genszler Room

Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7:00—9:00 p.m.
ringing bells for Salvation Army

"The Christmas Story: From Four Perspectives"

Join Pastor Heidi in the Genszler Room as we look into each gospel and what they say about the story of the birth of Christ.

Each week will include a study guide with questions, prayers and reflections to do as a group and to take home to explore further.

Sundays, November 26; December 10;
December 17 - held at 9:40 a.m.
Sunday, December 3 - held at 11:30 a.m.



Longest Night

Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Let us lift up our concerns, grief, and sadness with a time of prayer, reflection, & candle lighting as we are reminded of the ever - present comfort and hope we know through Jesus.



Children's Choir Sing and Play

Wednesdays: Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, & Dec. 20
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

We'll sing on Sunday, Dec. 17 at the 8:30 a.m. worship service and Sunday, Dec. 24 at the 4:00 p.m. worship service.

Children's choir with games and activities!
Preschool - 4th Graders
(But all are welcome)

Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/FULCchristmaschoir#/>



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 17 at the
8:30 a.m. Worship service

Rehearsal will be on
Wednesday, December 13
from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary



Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for the warm welcome these past few weeks - it is so great to be part of the team at First United. I would like to return your warm greetings and invite everyone to be part of "Curiosity Caught the... Choir!" For the month of December, FULC is offering the opportunity for anyone and everyone to explore what it's like to sing in a group. No musical knowledge or experience is required, and there are no commitments. We hope to see you at one of the rehearsals!

December Rehearsals:

Sunday, December 3rd, 11:30am
Sunday, December 10th, 9:30am
Sunday, December 17th, 9:30am
Sunday, December 24th, 5:00pm
Sunday, December 31st, 8:45am

Grace and Peace,
Matthew Thorne
Director of Music Ministries



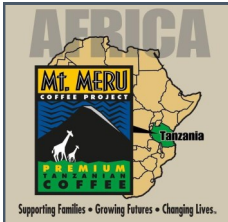
Birthdays & Other News

Grief Warriors
 Wednesday, December 20
 at 6:30 p.m.



All are welcome to join us in the
Old Library

First United Lutheran Church



Calling all coffee lovers! If you love Mt. Meru coffee and would like to support its mission, please consider picking

up a bag or two in the Gathering Area or stop by the Church Office during our regular office hours to choose your favorites.

First United FOOD PANTRY

If you or anyone you know needs food, please check out our Food Pantry located in the Serenity Room. We have everything from canned goods to baking supplies to household items. The front office can assist you if you need help.
 Mondays 9AM - 12PM
 Wednesdays 1PM - 4:00PM

Great Beginnings

We have been very busy and hard at work learning about farm animals, Thanksgiving, nursery rhymes, and traditional games. We have also been working on two service projects, and we want to thank our families for their support as we have been collecting gifts and making cards for the Sunny Ridge and Rocky Knoll nursing homes. In addition, we also sponsored five children through the Adopt - A - Family program. We couldn't do any of this without the support and love of our families. Next up, it's Christmas program time!!

- 1 Ryan Dicke
 Carly Grohall
 Pam Stanford
 Ellen Yedica
- 2 Kathryn Dahl
- 3 Jason Dierkes
 Alex Klitzke
- 4 Michael Dins
 Scarlett Thomas
 Shelly Trescher
- 5 Charles Cobb
 Kathleen Schmidt
 Brian Wiggin
 Zack Wisnefske
- 6 Jen Diener
 Judith Reinke
- 7 Amy Belmore
 Antonio Ignacio
 Cing Kim
 Cing Tawi Mung
 Lucy Perez
 David Sachse
- 8 Silvey Anderson
 Ellen Danielsen
 Kenneth Kusel
 Erin Modjewski
 Stacy Schaefer
- 9 Marianne Comstock
 Katie Krebsbach
 Amy Krueger
 Ric Larson
 Benjamin Steinert
- 10 Thomas Kuehl
- 11 Jill Hanes
 Claire Judd
 Xai Pao Lee
 Lian Mang
- 12 Logan Hamilton
 David Kovacic
 Cristi Spence
- 13 Perry Fritz
 Claire Kletzien
 Brian Zschetzschke
- 14 James Hartmann
 Barb Strauss
 Alex Weber
- 15 Richard Kieckhafer
 Mitchell Ryan
 Andy Severance
 Meg Spence
 Brooks Walters
 Caleigh Wilson
- 16 Kendall Harmelink
 Jane Jensen
 Curtis Larson
 Christopher Strauss
 Kristen Weinfurter
- 17 Nancy Eirich
 Maddie Griessmeyer
 Jerry Kohlbeck
 Lynn Schwensow
- 18 Holli Harms
 James Rudlaff
- 19 Dale Bogenschuetz
 Jane Frick
 Megan Gould
 Brenna King
- Olivia Knowles
 John Jr. Roenitz
 Madeline Schultz
 David Warden
- 20 Cheryl Bromley
 Carter Gannaway
 Al Loth
 Fred Prueter
 John Roenitz
- 21 Nicole Dierksheide
 Peg Jones
 Andrew Kissinger
 Mary Raftery
 Patricia Russell
 Sandra Streblov
- 22 Donna Baumann
 Yasmine Brown
 Braxon Freund
 David McDermott
 Owen Menart
 Hayden Streblov
- 23 Derek Billmann
 Nadine Crisp
- 24 Thang Siang Cing
 William Schaefer
 Andrew Schuessler
 Maxim Tabetlo
- 25 Lucca Del Campo
 Emmanuel Kamana
- 26 Nils Lemke
 Jack Saeger
 Robert Sheraski
- 27 Michelle Kelly
 Andy Pipp
 Connie Saeger
 Delaney Shaw
 Beth Stanley
- 28 Tom Yedica
- 29 Ronald Harms
 Caleb Schultz
 Emily Uraynar
- 30 Emma Evraets
 James Goodroe
 Sandi Mendini
 McKenzie Wassink
 Hadley Weber
- 31 Rodney Eissens
 Dawn Gosse
 David Richter
 Lucas Tock



Calendar of Events

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 ADOPT-A- FAMILY IS DUE 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Annual Meeting Part 1 9:30 AM Adopt A Family Bake Sale 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 11:30 AM Advent Adult Education 11:30 AM Choir Rehearsal	4 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Scouts	5 11:00 AM SCARTA Luncheon 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts	6 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 11:30 AM Morning Glories at Café Bella 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Laundry Love 6:00 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation 7:00 PM 9th Grade Confirmation	7 CHRISTMAS TREASURES 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service	8	9
10 CHRISTMAS TREASURES 8:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:40 AM Advent Adult Education 9:40 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service	11 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Scouts	12 1:30 PM Naomi Circle 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts 6:30 PM New Spirit Circle	13 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry 5:00 PM 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Bell Ringing 5:00 PM Christmas Program Rehearsal	14 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service	15	16
17 8:30 AM Children's Program 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Great Beginnings Christmas Party 9:40 AM Advent Adult Education 9:40 AM - Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 11:30 AM Christmas Decorating w/ Pizza	18 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Food Pantry 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Congregation Council 6:30 PM Scouts	19 6:00 PM Pickleball 6:30 PM Scouts	20 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry 6:30 PM Grief Warriors 7:00 PM 9th Grade Confirmation Bell Ringing	21 LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:00 PM ASP Fun & Fellowship Paradigm 6:30 PM Contemporary Worship Service	22	23
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:30 AM Traditional Worship Service 4:00 PM Traditional Worship Service (Children sing) 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM Traditional Worship Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED NO FOOD PANTRY	26 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM Scouts	27 NO CONFIRMATION 9:00 AM Wednesday Guys 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Food Pantry	28 NO WORSHIP 9:00 AM Prayer Group 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	29	30
31 8:45 AM Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service						



Christmas Eve Schedule . . .

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You are invited to join us for in-person and online Worship Services:
Facebook page: First United Lutheran Church - ELCA
YouTube channel: First United Lutheran Church - Sheboygan WI

Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

10:00 a.m. - Joyful Music

4:00 p.m. - Children Sing

6:00 p.m. - Choir



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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2401 Kohler Memorial Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081

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Sheboygan, WI