

Sunday, December 24, 2017
Christmas Eve
5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:30 pm



First Lutheran Church
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

Pastor
Rev. Tor Kristian Berg
tberg@flcbothell.org

**Director of
Education & Youth:**
Roger Steinke
rsteinke@flcbothell.org

Office Manager
Kristin Smith
ksmith@flcbothell.org



10207 NE 183rd Street
Bothell WA 98011
(425) 486-2314
office@flcbothell.org
www.flcbothell.org

December 24, 2017
Nativity of Our Lord
5:00 pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

PRELUDE: *Carols for Organ*

WELCOME

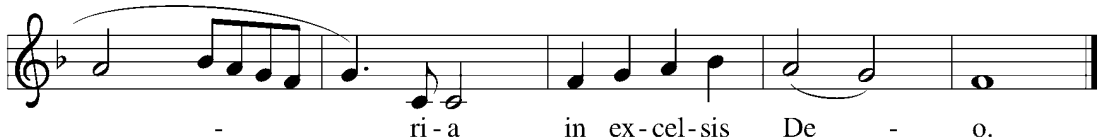
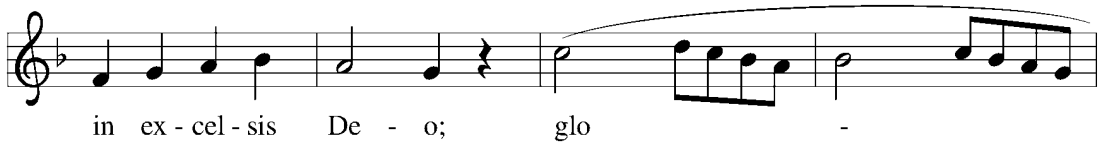
GATHERING CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (ELW 289)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

5 & 7 pm —*A Thousand Candles* (Emmy Kohler), Richard Edmonds

10:30 pm—*In the Bleak Midwinter* (Gustav Holst), Sanctuary Choir

FIRST READING: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

FIRST CAROL: *The First Noel* (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -

Refrain

night that was so deep. No - el, No - el, No -
tin-ued both day and night.

el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

SECOND READING: Luke 2:1-5

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

SECOND CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW 279)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night,
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THIRD READING: Luke 2:6-7

⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

5 & 7 pm THIRD CAROL: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon-der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na-tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er-more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

10:30 PM ANTHEM: *Glory to God in the Highest* (P. Choplin)

FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-14

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

FOURTH CAROL: *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,

The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

FIFTH READING: Luke 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

FIFTH CAROL: *What Child Is This* (ELW 296)



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating,

**who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make
new,**

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

OFFERTORY: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (ELW 288)



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (ELW 290)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time
your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time,
you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness
and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed ... do this in remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup ... do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his birth and life among us,
his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again
when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup,
that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children,
shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.

Come, behold and receive your God.

COMMUNION: *We will receive the body of Christ as gluten-free bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

WHO MAY COMMUNE? *All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.*

DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION: *Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a white pew card.*

COMMUNION CAROLS:

Away in a Manger (ELW 277)



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve (ELW 271)



Jeg er så glad hver ju - le - kveld, ti da blev Je - sus født;

- 1 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
- 2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
- 3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
- 4 I am so glad each Christ-mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
- 5 And so I love each Christ-mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;



da lys - te stjer - nen som en sol, og eng - ler sang så sødt.

Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray.
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270)



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL OF LIGHT: John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

CANDLELIGHT: *We will sing the following carol in candlelight. When your neighbor's candle is lit, tip yours toward their flame and light your own. Then offer your light for your neighbor on the other side. When the hymn is concluded, you may blow out your candle.*

CAROL OF LIGHT: *Silent Night, Holy Night!* (ELW 281)



	<i>Stil - le Nacht,</i>	<i>hei - li-ge Nacht!</i>	<i>Al - les schläft,</i>
1	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	All is calm,
2	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	Shep - herds quake
3	Si - lent night,	ho - ly night!	Son of God,



<i>ein - sam wacht</i>	<i>nur das</i>	<i>trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.</i>
all is bright	round yon	vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight;	glo - ries	stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light	ra - diant	beams from your ho - ly face,



<i>Hold - er</i>	<i>Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar,</i>	<i>schlaf in himm - li - scher</i>
Ho - ly	In - fant, so ten - der and mild,	sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly	hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the	dawn of re - deem - ing grace,	Je - sus, Lord, at your



<i>Ruh,</i>	<i>schlaf in</i>	<i>himm - li - scher</i>	<i>Ruh.</i>
peace,	sleep in	heav - en - ly	peace.
born!	Christ, the	Sav - ior, is	born!
birth,	Je - sus,	Lord, at your	birth.

BLESSING

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.
Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.
Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.
Amen.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING CAROL: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ELW 283)



- 1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
- 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
- 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Joy To The World (R. Hobby)*

INFORMATION For the Week!

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

1:00 pm Youth & Returning College Students Lunch at Beasley Ale House

—Celebrate & reconnect with friends!

3:00 pm FLC Young Adult, College Students & Youth Party—***Reunite with old friends at Beasley Ale House in Bothell. Over 21 may sit anywhere; under 21 must sit in designated area.***

Sunday, December 31, New Years Eve

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

No Education Hour

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

(The FLC church office will be closed intermittently between Dec. 23 –29. Please call the office at 425-486-2314 before going in.)

Assisting With Today's Services:

Presiding Minister:	Rev. Tor Kristian Berg	
Organist:	Lucy Kay Osborne	
Choir Director:	Sarah Moran	
Ensemble Director:	Richard Edmonds	
Worship Assistant:	5 pm	Roger Steinke
	7 pm	Stephanie Almeida
	10:30 pm	Gordy Phelps
Lector:	5 pm	Brian Midtbo
	7 pm	Joyce Thode
	10:30 pm	David Osborne
Acolyte:	5 pm	Alexa Midtbo & Michael Penrose
	7 pm	
	10:30 pm	
Communion Assistants:	5 pm	Brian Midtbo & Jacquie Stoll
	7 pm	Stephanie Almeida
	10:30 pm	Bob Berg & Donna Hillard
Sound Tech:	5 pm	
	7 pm	Christoph Thode
	10:30 pm	Ann Bormann
Ushers:	5 pm	Walt Stoll
	7 pm	Randall, Thor, Olav and Hans Wampler
	10:30 pm	Dan Bormann & David Osborne

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THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF LOVED ONES
We thank everyone who has so generously given the gift of poinsettias to
beautify the chancel this Christmas season.

Given By: Ann & Knut Aagaard
In Memory of: Marian Johnson, Annie &
Gunnar Aagaard; Charotte, Paul and Jan
Heide.

Given By: The Adjorlolos
In Memory of: Marvin & Ruth Boyd;
Laurence & Antoinette Adjorlolo
In Honor of: Maoulay Adjorlolo's return
from the Peace Corps.

Given By: Jerry & Cindy Bannister
In Memory of: their fathers, Iorwerth
Jones & Robert Bannister, and niece Katie
Nicole Pierce
In Honor of: their mothers, Marge
Bannister and Joanne Jones.

Given By: Clint & Dawn Bastin
In Memory of: Clint Bastin Jr.
In Honor of: Tom & Dorothy McMaster and
Barbara Bastin

Given by: The Batstone Family
In Memory of: Ron Batstone-Cunningham

Given by: Dominic Battle
In Memory of: His mother,
Stephanie Battle

Given by: Robert Beckstrom
In Memory of: his brother Steve
Beckstrom
In Honor of: Our military veterans

Given by: Beth & Chris Burns

Given by: Karey & Steve Coble
In Honor of: their children, Trevor,
Nathan and Brandon

Given by: Ginny & Jim Conricode
To beautify our sanctuary

Given by: The Daane Family
In Memory of: Bill Gonyea
In Honor of: Marge Gonyea

Given by: Paul and Darci Desilet
In Memory of: Dennis Pemberton, Gene &
May VanAlstine, Des & Elaine Desilet and
Neil Beechinor

Given by: Trudy Eichelsdoerfer
In Memory of: Karen Eichelsdoerfer

Given by: Nancy Funsinn
In Memory of: Vivian Carlton

Given by: Evelyn Gaylord
In Memory of: Jim Gaylord & George
Kelley

Given by: Paula Glandon
In Memory of: Gil and her parents

Given by: Allen & Sandy Glenn
In Memory of: Their parents

Given By: Marge Gonyea
In Memory of: Bill Gonyea

Given by: The Hatlen Family
In Memory of: Matthew Oliver Danforth,
Bob & Rachel Zitzewitz and Alan & Mavis
Hatlen

Given By: Dan & Sandy Hendricks
In Memory of: Their parents

Given By: Dave & Donna Hillard
In Honor of: Nicholas, Elizabeth, Brian
and Erica

Given By: Marilyn Iverson
In Memory of: Her beloved Jim, and her
mother, father and sister

Given by: Darryl & Debbie Lageson
In Honor of: our children, Heather, J.J.,
Jenni, Mark, Jeff & Kristy and
grandchildren, Colin Kyle, Shelby,
Katelyn, Carter, Jamie & Harley
In Memory of: their parents

Given by: The Lichtensteins
In Memory of: our “bean”
In Honor of: our grandparents

Given by: Nancy & Neil McGee
In Memory of: Their parents

Given by: Mark & Ruth Neitzel
In Memory of: Their parents, Lowell &
Shirley Neitzel and Charles & Rosalie
Robillard

Given by: Beth & Gordy Phelps
In Memory of: Their parents, Bill &
Winnie Ramstad & Tracy & Annetta Phelps
In Honor of: Their granddaughters,
Reagan & Marin Rahlfs

Given by: Jean Pickens
In Memory of: Jerry Pickens & Betty
Mollet

Given by: Tanya & Michael Preston
In Memory of: Michael’s mother, Jessie
Eve Preston

Given by: David & Judy Richards
In Memory of: Their parents, Chuck &
Alice and Gene & Leona
In Honor of: Their children &
grandchildren

Given by: Sandy & Karl Sailand
In Memory of:
Dorothy & Donald Ricbhoff and Myrtha &
Karl Sailand
In Honor of: Their children &
grandchildren

Given by: John & Lynn Scoggins
In Memory of: Parents
In Honor of: Their children &
grandchildren

Given by: Joe & Linda Siebert
In Memory of: Mallory Rose Spurrier

Given by: Roger, Ryan & Tori Steinke
In Memory of: Paul and Herta Steinke

Given by: Terry Straka
In Memory of: Her dear husband,
Rowland

Given by: Nora, Dan & Heidi Strothman
In Memory of: Bill

Given by: The Stute Family
In Memory of: Martin Stute

Given by: Tim & Barb Thieme
In Memory of: Bob & Keira

Given by: Scott, Sue, Cam & Kimi Toyoda
In Memory of: Marge & Bob Burns,
George Toyoda & Jan Minar
In Honor of: Sadako Toyoda



Just this. Just now.

I was driving to work one day thinking about my schedule – the meetings I needed to attend, reports I needed to finish, preparations for upcoming travel, email, phone calls, and making a grocery list in my head so that I could pick up what I needed for supper on the way home from work. All of a sudden, I found myself pulling into the parking garage at the Lutheran Center. I had driven the 9 miles to work and had no idea how I got there. I didn't remember the traffic lights, the turns, the scenery – nothing. I had been so absorbed in what was coming up that I was completely oblivious to the present.

I think this experience is not unique to me. We set part of our lives on autopilot and set the planning, list-making, what-if scheduling part on overdrive. Now, planning is a good and necessary thing. One ought to be aware of what is coming up and what needs to be done, but I found that I was so driven by the contingencies and possibilities that I was everywhere all of the time, and, therefore, not anywhere at all.

I asked my spiritual director about this, and she recommended that I meditate on these four words: "Just this. Just now." It's a simple discipline but not an easy one. It can alleviate all that anticipatory stress but only if we are willing to be still.

Here we are in Advent. This season doesn't exist in secular culture where everything is barreling toward Christmas. No time to wait, no time to notice, no time to be present. Not this. Not now. All of a sudden, we will find ourselves on the day after Christmas not knowing how we got there.

Advent is a holy season, a season that bids us to be present, to be still. So much is evoked in this season – hope, longing, and the bittersweet awareness that the world is beautiful and broken. Consider all of these things. Sit with them. Pray with them. Be aware of this time of great promise that comes, at least in the Northern Hemisphere, when night is longest. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wait for the Lord. Disengage the autopilot. Notice. Just this. Just now.

Blessed Advent and merry Christmas, dear church!

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

SERMON NOTES

Interesting things I heard:

My favorite quote:

Main message:



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.