

Preparation for Worship:

Paul says: “Rejoice in the Lord always,” but what if I don’t feel joyful today? I will “present [my] requests to God” and wait for God’s peace beyond understanding (Philippians 4:4-7, NIV).

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items read in unison*

GATHERING - We come together to worship God

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: **May [the Lord] strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.** (1 Thessalonians 3:13)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Red #5

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ’s sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response (sung,#6, v.3): **Di-vine Re-deem-er, glo-rious King, Re-pent-ant heart to Thee we bring. Thy ho-ly blood for us was spilt; Cleanse us from all the stains of guilt.**

Declaration of Grace

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

WORD – We seek guidance from God’s Word

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Old Testament

Psalms 85 Responsive Reading

* Luke 7:18-28 * Gospel

* Confession of Faith (Apostles’ Creed): **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Children’s Sermon & Lighting of the Candle of Joy

Hymn – *Joy to the World* Red #18

Philippians 4:4-7 Epistle

Sermon – *May the Lord Draw Near to You* Pastor Barry Nelson

SENDING We go out to live in & share God’s Word

* Closing Hymn – *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Red #19

* 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; and 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.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**



Christmas Adam

Need a fun new tradition to liven up your Christmas celebrations? Then join the growing number of Christians who observe Christmas Adam — the day before Christmas Eve!

In honor of the first human, enjoy some barbecued ribs and an apple salad or dessert. Your family might exchange small gifts on Christmas Adam or do last-minute shopping together. Some people temporarily rename their pets that day, just as Adam named the animals in the Garden.

No matter how you celebrate, have fun on December 23 as you remember why Jesus had to come to earth in the first place!

This Week in the Parish - December 15 - 22

WEDNESDAY 5:00 pm Confirmation at Hope
7:00 pm FA WMF w/ Potluck & \$10 wrapped gift exchange
THURSDAY Newsletter Deadline!
SUNDAY 9:00 am First American Worship
9:30 am Hope Sunday School
10:45 am Hope Worship

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – December 8, 2024

First American: General—\$1551. Benevolence—\$85. Thanksgiving Offering for Samaritan's Purse—\$50. AFLC Home Missions—\$50. Sunday school—\$11. Budget per Sunday—\$1742.

Welcome! Isaiah declares: "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (12:3, NIV). May we be nourished by God's gift of salvation as we worship. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.

Our time of prayer during our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be printed in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off the next week will be in italics.

Health Needs of our Members: Sandy Baier. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Brian Mogck. Norma Mogck. Del & Sue Neumeister.

Health Needs: Mary Bartunek (Tripp community).

Sympathy: Prayers for the friends and family of *Duane Mogck* (brother-in-law of Norma Mogck).

Birthdays: 15 Jenna Herman. 19 Glen Dewald, Wilma Herr.

AFLC Churches: Mt. Zion Lutheran, Landisburg, PA; Green Lake Lutheran, Spicer, MN; Skrefsrud Lutheran, Beresford, SD.

Mission: Alpha Center in Sioux Falls

Our Military Personnel:

Andrew Hanson: Hope member. Stationed in Kentucky; Army.

Austin Lien: nephew of Glenn & Tammy Ziegler. Stationed in Washington; Navy



Congratulations to Matt & Macey Schempp on the birth of their daughter, Ruby Louise. Ruby was born on Friday, December 6 and weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 21 inches long. Ruby joins big sisters, Eleanor & Charlotte. Proud grandparents are Dennis & Jodi Fuerst.

"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child himself."

—Charles Dickens

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches
Pastor Barry Nelson

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Today's Readings

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

Old Testament

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." ¹⁸ "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

Psalm 85

- ¹ You, LORD, showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- ² **You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.**
- ³ You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
- ⁴ **Restore us again, God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward us.**
- ⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- ⁶ **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- ⁸ **I will listen to what God the LORD says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.**
- ⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- ¹⁰ **Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹² **The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.**

¹³ Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 7:18-28

¹⁸ John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" ²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." ²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

** Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to You, O Christ.*

Sermon Text: Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Lessons – December 22, 2024 Old Testament – Micah 5:2-5a Psalm 80:1-7
Epistle – Hebrews 10:5-10 Gospel – Luke 1:39-56

Philippians 4: 4-7

"May the Lord Draw Near to You"

December 15, 2024



1. Presence of the Lord Brings Joy

2. Presence of the Lord Brings Peace

3. Presence of the Lord Brings Protection

Sunday Services

*"Advent Prayers:
May the Lord..."*

December 1

*1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
...Clear the Way for You*

December 8

*Philippians 1:2-11
...Do His Good Work in You*

December 15 (Hope Only)

*Philippians 4:4-7
...Draw Near to You*

December 22

*Hebrews 10:5-10
...Sanctify You*

Special Services

"Christmas Songs"

Advent Service at Hope

*Luke 1:67-79
Song of Zechariah
Wednesday, Dec. 4– 7:30 p.m.*

Advent Service at First Am.

*Luke 1:46-55
Song of Mary
Wednesday, Dec. 11 – 7:30 p.m.*

Carol & Candlelight Service at

First American

*Luke 2:28-38
Song of Simeon
Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm*

Christmas Day

*Luke 2:13-14
Song of the Angels
Wednesday, Dec. 25*

Christmas Programs

First American:

Sun, Dec. 15th, 10:45 a.m.

Hope:

Christmas Eve, 6:00 p.m.

