

THE SUNDAY PAPER

December 2019

The Parish Calendar

TODAY, First Sunday of Advent - the new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon!

8:00 a.m. Worship-Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:15 a.m. Worship-Holy Communion/Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Coffee/Goodies/Fellowship-Gathering Area

In Ministry Today

Asst. Minister: 8-Farris Parker/10:15-Melanie Apicella

Usher: Janice Hogan

Acolyte: Landon Ruggiero

Reader: Nicole Lewis

Counters: Lois Kummer/Peter Susling

Altar Guild: Melanie Apicella

We welcome and thank the Rev. Bruce Bassett for preaching and presiding at our worship services this morning. Pastor Mike, our interim pastor, begins next Sunday, December 8th. He will minister to us on Sunday mornings and in the office on Wednesdays while we go through the vacancy process.

Toni's Kitchen: St. Thomas Team

LAST WEEK

8:00 a.m. 11 10:15 a.m. 28 Pledge Income \$725

NEXT SUNDAY, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m. Worship-Holy Communion

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:15 a.m. Worship-Holy Communion/Sunday School

11:30 a.m. Sunday BLAST in the Fellowship Hall

In Ministry Next Week

Asst. Minister: 10:15-Megan Wills-Llewellyn

Usher: Wolfgang Benz

Acolyte: Kierstin Walter

Reader: Tim Ford

Counters: Melanie/Joe Apicella

Altar Guild: Linda Parker

First Sunday BLAST!

December 8th (notice date change)

A Pot-Luck Breakfast following the
10:15 a.m. Worship

for adults/children (members and
non-members)

Free will offering

On that day, expect to see:

- special music -
- a special Stewardship project -
- Evangelism Emphasis: Fill the Church Sunday!

Coordinator Melissa Foord can be reached at 973-296-7655 if you can help with any food items. We will provide the basic breakfast such as casseroles, quiche, coffee, tea, milk. In addition you can bring breakfast or brunch dishes to share (bagels/fruit bowls/breakfast cakes/juice). You do not need to bring something to attend, we just want you to be there.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MONTCLAIR

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FUND (Fellowship and Stewardship)

New Furnace. Our furnace is from 1960 (the original furnace). We have had many repairs these past few years. At the September 22, 2019 Council Meeting a motion was made and seconded to undertake a fund drive of \$19,000 to help defray the cost of a new furnace. Envelopes are available on the table in the entrance way. Remember to add your name and box #. So far, we have raised \$12,100 broken down as follows:

- \$2,500 - 1 gift
- \$1,000 - 3 gifts
- \$500 - 10 gifts
- All others - \$1,600 - 12 gifts

At our last Council Meeting, as we have done in the past at this time, the church council authorized a special designation in the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund for "Deficit Reduction." The simple title "Deficit" will be added to the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund report. Any monies gathered that are earmarked or designated specifically for deficit reduction will be totaled under this category. If you desire to help with the deficit, please use the special Deficit reduction envelopes found on the table in the entrance way. Please make sure your name and envelope # are on the envelopes.

2020 Stewardship. Letters went out this week enclosing an Intention Card. Cards are due back next Sunday, December 8th.

INVITE (Evangelism)

If you are visiting today, our family extends a heartfelt welcome and join us again. Sign our "guest book."

Business Cards - Pick up a few up from the table in the entrance way and hand them out to friends and acquaintances. Help us advertise First Lutheran.

REJOICE (Worship, Music and Arts)

The Icon for Advent, John the Baptist, is displayed at the front of the Sanctuary. It is a gift given in honor of teachers by Ulrike Wiede. The Eastern Orthodox church has a beautiful tradition of using icons to deepen the believer's spirituality. They consider icons to be, "windows into heaven."

Devotionals for Advent are available today on the table in the entrance way. For adults, God Bless Us, Every One! Encountering Christ in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. For our Sunday School age children an Advent calendar was mailed to their homes, and our Confirmation age youth received Lighten Up for Advent in the mail.

Take this challenge for Advent... Beginning today, December 1st read 1 chapter of the Book of Luke in the Bible each evening. There are 24. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing who and why we celebrate!

We are having poinsettias, wreaths and a tree for Christmas Decorations. Use the sheet found on the table in the entrance way to give a \$10+ gift towards these decorations. Checks should be made payable to First Lutheran Church [labeled for Christmas Decorations] and put in the offering place or mailed to the church office. All gifts will be noted in the Christmas bulletins.

SERVE (Social Ministry)

Check out the table in the Gathering Area. Fair Trade Items (chocolates) are available for purchase. Make great Christmas gifts. There is a basket on the table for your payment. Please make checks payable to First Lutheran Church. There is also a sheet available on the table for you to add your name ONLY "if you take an item with you but will send a check to the church office later." No need to sign the sheet if you are paying for the items now!

The Advent Giving Tree has angels with cards attached to them. You leave the angel behind to decorate the tree and bring a gift back for the one you chose. We are supporting this year "2" families through MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity), The Salvation Army (toys), Toni's Kitchen. Backpack Project (provides weekly backpacks filled with healthy non-perishables to local children in need-take a bag from under the tree) and our 4-legged friends at PAWS (Pound Animal Welfare Society-serving over 41 years helping homeless animals-take a bag from under the tree.)

If you are unable to shop but would like to give a monetary gift to help with some items, please call the church office or leave a check payable to First Lutheran Church in the office.

Let's fill the tree with angels and surround the tree with gifts. Please read the angel cards carefully. Sign your name on the sheet indicating which card you selected and be sure to return the gifts by the date on the card. Also attach the blue card as a label. Questions - call Cathy in the church office.

TEACH (Education)

Our Sunday School continues. Students first gather at the 10:15 a.m. service with their families. Children are dismissed after the Children's Sermon and gather for Sunday School with their teacher, Melissa Foord. Sunday School is for youth ages 3 through 6th grade. Each session has a Bible story & craft. Join us!

Church Council

President - Geoff Schmidt
Vice President - Lois Kummer
Treasurer - Terry Benesh

Members of Council and their team responsibilities:

Education/Youth	Geoff Schmidt
Property	Earl Hogan
Social Ministry	Lois Kummer
Worship/Music/Arts	Megan Wills-Llewellyn