



# LAMPLIGHTER

*First Evangelical Lutheran Church*



Great job to all our kiddos at the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 14.

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# JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAYS**  
at 9:00 A.M.

**WEDNESDAYS**  
at 6:00 P.M.

We also offer a live radio broadcast of our Sunday service on KMCH 94.7 FM and a live video stream on our FaceBook page, First Evangelical Lutheran Church - NALC.

## HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be offered each Sunday and Wednesday worship service.

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday  
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

## Thank You to our January Radio & Flower Sponsors!

### KMCH Radio Ministry Sponsors

Jan. 4...In memory of Button Sutton from her family  
Jan. 11...Ron & Tirzah Wedewer  
Jan. 18...  
Jan. 25...

### Altar Flower Sponsors

Jan. 4...In memory of Button Sutton from her family  
Jan. 11...  
Jan. 18...  
Jan. 25...

## Thank You Notes

Thank you to those who provided the poinsettias for our Christmas season: Diane Childs, Julie English, Roger & Donna Hanson, Chris & Amy Heims, Rayma Huggins, Jan & Corene Messer, Bill & Laura Thomas, Doran & Billie Zumbach.

The family of Dorothy Hartman Hoffman would like to extend their thanks to the individuals who assisted with the preparation of the meal, provided desserts or salads and served the meal. Your kindness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

A sincere thank you for the congregational gift at Christmas. Your generosity is appreciated. Warm wishes for the new year!  
-Jason, Susi, Kenzie, Katelyn, Kathy, and Dulcie

## Fellowship Following Sunday Church Services

The Fellowship hour has been well attended. Thank you to all the members who have served and participated.

Fellowship Hour continues each Sunday following 9 AM church service. We need more volunteers to sign-up to bring food and serve/clean-up. Please sign up on the Lay Ministry Board or online.

Any questions about Fellowship Hour, contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.



## A Word From Pastor Jason

Another Christmas Day has come and gone. Though the season continues until January 6th, many of us already find ourselves packing away decorations, storing leftovers, and hauling bags of wrapping paper to the curb. The weeks of searching for perfect gifts, baking cookies, cleaning, and preparing festive meals quickly fade into memory. New Year's Eve arrives with its celebrations and resolutions, but those promises often break within days. Once the tree is down and the lights are boxed away, we may wonder: Is that all there is? What's missing?



Too often, what's missing is Jesus. In our commercialized culture, we demand that Christ remain in Christmas, yet treat Him like a resolution—important for a few days, then forgotten. Christmas is not merely a day or event; its meaning is found in a living relationship with Christ Jesus. It is about seeking hope and purpose in a broken world, not simply worshiping an infant once a year, but following the Savior daily.

As we move from Christmas to New Year's to Epiphany, I'm reminded of a bumper sticker: "Wise men still seek Him." The Magi had a clear purpose. They traveled from afar, following a star to Bethlehem, where they bowed before the Christ child and offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Only after worship did they present their treasures. Their journey was not about ritual or obligation—it was about devotion.

Do we see in Jesus what the wise men saw? Do we bow in worship and offer our gifts with the same spirit? God still calls wise men and women today to imitate their example. Two thousand years ago, the Magi sought the infant Messiah. Today, we are called to worship the risen Lord and Savior. Their gifts were symbolic; ours are the talents, time, and resources entrusted to us. Christ asks us to bring our best, serving Him wholeheartedly and sharing His love with others.

Perhaps this year our resolutions could be different. Instead of promises that fade, we might resolve to seek God daily, to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is not a fleeting resolution but the very command of Jesus. In doing so, we discover that the true meaning of Christmas extends far beyond December 25th. It is a call to live each day in faith, hope, and love.

As the wise men once followed the star, may we follow Christ with the same devotion. Let us worship Him not only in season but in every moment, offering our lives as gifts of gratitude. In this way, the joy of Christmas becomes the foundation for the year ahead, guiding us to live as people of grace, generosity, and steadfast faith.

<>< Pastor Jason

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## Music Notes

### Adult Choir Schedule-January 2026

Jan. 11	Warm-up @ 8:20 a.m. Sing @ 9:00 a.m. service Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.
Jan. 25	Rehearsal @ 10:15 a.m.

A special thank you to our accompanists, our choir, the Holden leaders, the Sunday School youth, our Christmas Eve musicians and to all those who provided special music during worship in the season of Christmas. You are all appreciated for sharing your special gifts! "Glory to the newborn king!"



## Vision Board Workshop

First Lutheran Church is hosting a Vision Board Workshop in the fellowship hall on Thursday, January 22nd at 6pm! Vision Boards are a tangible way to visualize your goals and intentions for the new year in a creative format. We will guide you in exploring themes and ideas to help you clarify your goals for the year.



The Evangelism team will supply poster boards, markers, scissors, glue, and some magazines to get you started. If you have any supplies of your own that you'd like to use or old magazines you don't mind cutting up, feel free to bring them.

It is helpful to reflect on how the past year has gone and brainstorm your intentions for the upcoming year before you come.

Please bring a snack to share. Invite your friends and come create your vision for 2026! You may RSVP to Jen Cassutt or contact the church office.

## Annual "Souper Bowl" Chili & Soup Cook-Off

Our "Souper Bowl" Chili and Soup Cook-off will take place on Sunday, February 8th.

We will have social time after church until soup is served at 11:00 a.m.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are planning to bring soup.

In order to include as many people as possible, we are asking those who wish to join us to RSVP to the church office by Thursday, February 5th so there will be enough soup for everyone.



## Valentines for Vets

Help show some love to our veterans by writing a valentine! If you and your family would like to show your appreciation and love to our veterans, please drop off any cards to our valentine box in the narthex by Sunday, February 8th.

We will be delivering valentines to veterans at the American Legion on February 11th during their Wednesday morning coffee.

Anyone interested in helping to deliver treats and valentines, please contact the church office or Jen Cassutt.



## First Lutheran Church Council Minutes – December 8, 2025

**The regular meeting** of the First Lutheran Church was called to order at 6:08pm by President Max Andrews. Meeting was held at the Parsonage with a meal served by Pastor Jason and Julie.

**Members present:** Max Andrews, Donna Millenkamp, Lucas Thomas, Billie Zumbach, Connie Wright, Millie Kehrli, Duane Nieman, Jen Cassutt, David Johnson and Pastor Jason. Absent: Cathy Glew.

**Opening devotions** were given by Pastor Jason

**Approval of November Council Minutes:** Motion by Duane, seconded by Max to approve minutes; motion carried.

**Approval of November Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Duane, seconded by Max to approve treasurers report; motion carried.

<b>Total Income YTD (November 2025)</b>	<b>\$38,742.95</b>	<b>Total Income previous YTD</b>	<b>\$244,812.87</b>
Total Income YTD budgeted	\$52,025.00	Total Income YTD vs budget	\$(13,282.05)
<b>Total Expenses YTD (November 2025)</b>	<b>\$36,343.05</b>	<b>Total Expenses Previous YTD</b>	<b>\$24,222.67</b>
Total Expenses YTD Budgeted	\$52,887.44	Total Expenses YTD vs budget	\$4,015.04
<b>Operating YTD Loss/Profit</b>	<b>\$(18,159.53)</b>	<b>Operating Previous YTD Profit</b>	<b>\$(3,979.03)</b>

### Treasurer's Report – David Johnson:

- Income for the month of November was \$20,635.13, which is \$5,377.37 less than budget.
- Expenses for the month of November were \$20,559, which is \$5,884 under budget.
- Net Operating Income for the month of November was \$75.20 compared to (\$431.22) that was budgeted.

### President – Max Andrews:

- We will look at all requests for First Lutheran through out the year, not just at Christmas time.

### President – Elect – Millie Kehrli: No report

### Christian Education – Lucas Thomas:

- Christmas program will be December 14 at 9:00am service.
- No Sunday School 12/21 & 12/28.

### Evangelism – Jen Cassutt:

- Gifts are being collected for Touch of Christmas Love, and we will wrap them on Saturday, December 13 at 9:00am for anyone who would like to help.
- Small gifts and notecards are being handed out after each Advent service to remind members about the reason for the season, as well as to encourage others to come.
- We will be having a Vision Board Workshop January 22, more info to come.

### Lay Ministry – Billie Zumbach:

- Poinsettias are here.
- Wednesday Meal and a Message –
  - Wednesday, December 3rd @ 5:00pm Wednesday Men's Bible Study
  - Wednesday, December 10th @ 5:00pm Heaven Bound
  - Wednesday, December 17th @ 5:00pm Evangelism and GIG
- Christmas Program Sunday, December 14th @ 9:00 AM
- Christmas Eve Services 4:00 PM (Facebook live only at 4:00pm service) and 7:00 PM
- Sunday, December 28th @ 9:00 AM lessons and Carols – Pastor Kurt
- Wednesday, December 31st – No Service @ 6:00 PM
- Pastor Jason's Retreat is January 23 – 29, 2026. Pastor Jason gone from January 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29th .

- Pastor Kurt will have the service Wednesday, December 28th @ 6:00 PM
- A variety of Liturgy will be used in the upcoming weeks.
- Council installation will be January 4, 2026.

**Properties – Duane Nieman:**

- Looking at having a committee for properties to review/look into what is needing to be done.
- Dan Glew is working on windows in the church (painting around, etc.).
- Started to look into a buzz system for the office door at church.
- Still having issues with dishwasher at parsonage, will look into cost of replacing it.

**Social Ministry – Cathy Glew:**

- 11/12 Funeral meal honoring Dorothy Hartman Hoffman.
- 11/15 meal served for Bishop Dan Selbo congregation gathering.
- Ongoing Coffee Fellowship following Sunday church service.
- Breakfast will be served on December 14 following the Children's Christmas Program.
- Continuing visitations with homebound and residents of the Meadows and the Good Neighbor Home.
- Continuing to provide food for the community using the outside food box. Many donations. Avoiding items that will not withstand freezing.
- Freezer meal team and volunteers made and delivered 120 Thanksgiving meals to 75 individuals 75 and older.
- Thanksgiving Day Meal hosted with 12 participating and additional 3 meals takeout. Bingo played following the meal.
- Congregation filled 83 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Boxes were delivered.

**Stewardship – Donna Millenkamp: MOTM update:**

- We raised \$158.02 for Touch of Christmas Love in November.
- We are collecting for Delaware County Pay It Forward on Dec. 14th and 17th .
- We will be collecting for NALC Disaster Response on January 11th and 14th .

**Secretary of the Council – Connie Wright: No report**

**Pastor Jason Cooper:**

- We will be emailing The Right Now Media Source info out to all congregation members starting December 15th . Eric Walker will be the contact person.
- Men's Group off until January 7 th – Good Wednesday meal/ fellowship served December 3rd .
- Holden evening prayer went great!
- Visiting Bruce S. and Bruce N. – Bruce Nieman has been moved to Brio of Johnston, a WesleyLife Community for Healthy Living to be closer to family.
- Good Neighbor Home communion – have had problems getting a time scheduled with them on their end.
- Christmas open house at the parsonage December 18.
- Will be on vacation December 29th – January 2nd .

**Old Business:**

- Church Fee Schedule – still reviewing.
- NALC Constitutional Amendment request – Congregation Meeting to be called in January 2026.

**New Business: No New Business**

**Next meeting** will be held on January 12, 2026 @ 6:00pm.

**Meeting adjourned** at 7:12pm

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Connie Wright**

## Mission of the Month (MOTM)

Our January Mission of the Month for our noisy can offering is the NALC Disaster Response Fund. We will be collecting for them on January 11th and January 14th.

This fund provides resources for:

- A rapid response when domestic natural disasters occur
- Alleviation of human suffering
- Provision of transitional assistance
- Enabling those affected to begin the rebuilding process

Our annual youth group mission trips work with the the NALC disaster response team to provide help to those in need at various disaster locations within the United States.

For more information, please visit <https://thenalc.org/nalc-disaster-response>. Please consider donating to this worthy cause.



### Food Box Outside (near driveway)

Many thanks to all the food for the food box. Due to cold temperatures, please put only items that withstand freezing temperatures. Avoid items with liquids at this time. When temperatures warm, the items collected that don't withstand freezing will be placed in the outside box.

Questions contact Cathy Glew, Social Ministry.

## Monthly Offering Comparison

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	\$13,690.10	\$18,937.13	\$21,906.87	\$13,353.69
February	\$30,109.94	\$28,414.39	\$17,120.64	\$16,450.02
March	\$19,866.51	\$33,049.82	\$18,216.41	\$18,306.05
April	\$17,566.50	\$20,542.21	\$20,210.51	\$17,359.59
May	\$14,277.58	\$25,993.18	\$18,624.85	\$13,893.45
June	\$17,597.90	\$22,744.81	\$13,614.20	\$15,796.30
July	\$20,417.36	\$28,784.78	\$15,272.71	\$13,557.29
August	\$14,562.30	\$22,196.56	\$15,206.24	\$13,397.73
September	\$19,239.02	\$23,810.07	\$12,636.67	\$13,114.42
October	\$15,733.97	\$29,430.84	\$16,694.94	\$16,919.28
November	\$13,196.34	\$20,937.08	\$11,898.12	\$19,161.69
December	\$54,975.22	\$32,662.87	\$8,854.54	
Yearly Totals	\$251,232.74	\$307,503.74	\$190,256.70	\$157,911.78



**SCRIP ORDER FORM**

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
Amazon.com	2%	10____25____100____
American Eagle	10%	25____
Applebee's	8%	25____
Arby's	8%	10____
Aunt Emmy's (L)	4%	10____
Barnes & Noble	9%	5____10____25____
Bath & Body	13%	10____25____
Bed,Bath & Beyond	7%	25____
Best Buy	4%	25____
Boubin Tires (L)	5%	See Brenda
BP Gas	2%	50____100____
Buckle	8%	25____
Bushel & A Peck	3%	10____
Burger King	4%	10____
Cabela's	8%	25____
Casey's	3%	25____50____100____
Castle Theatre (L)	10%	5____
Cenex	3%	25____
Chili's	11%	25____
Chuong Garden (L)	10%	10____25____
Culvers Restaurant	5%	10____
Dairy Queen (5-L) 10 & 3%		5____10____
Darden/Olive Garden/Cheddars	8%	10____25____
Dick's Sporting Goods	8%	25____100____
Dollar Fresh	3%	25____100____
Express	10%	25____
Exxon/Mobile <*>	2%	50____
Fareway	3%	25____100____
Gap/Old Navy	14%	25____
Gift Holder	10%	2____
Hardee's	5%	10____
Home Depot	4%	25____100____<*>____
Honey Creek Furn. (L)	3%	See Brenda
iTunes	5%	15____

**Contact Brenda with questions: 563-920-3191**

BUSINESS	%	DENOMINATIONS
JCPenney(CC)<*>	5%	25____
Joanne's Fabrics	6%	25____
Kohl's (CC)	4%	25____100____
Kwik Trip	4%	25____50____100____
Kwik Trip Grocery	15%	25____
Lowe's <*>	4%	25____100____
Maurices	7%	20____
Menard's	3%	25____100____
Michaels	4%	25____
Old Navy/Gap	14%	25____
Outback Steakhouse	8%	50____
Palmer Hdwe. (L)	5%	See Brenda
Panera Bread	8%	10____25____
Pizza Hut	8%	10____
Pizza Ranch (L)	8%	5____25____
Posy Place (L)	5%	10____
Red Lobster	8%	10____25____
Red Robin	9%	25____
Staples	5%	25____
Starbucks	7%	10____25____
Subway	6%	10____
Sunset (L)	10%	10____20____
Target	3%	10____25____100____
Texas Roadhouse	8%	25____100____<*>____
TJ Maxx	7%	25____
Ulta Salons	4%	25____
Visa/Discover pp (CC) 1%		<*> 50____100____
Walmart	3%	10____25____100____
Wendy's Carwash(L) 20%		25____

**KEY TO SYMBOLS**

&lt;\*&gt; Not stocked, can be ordered

\*\*\* See Brenda for special details

(L) Local participating businesses

(CC) Can be used to pay on credit card

For a full list of participating businesses, go to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>





# JANUARY 2026

## First Evangelical Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>Happy New Year</i> OFFICE CLOSED	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	5	6 9:00 a.m. Quilting  6:00 p.m. Lay Ministry Meeting	7 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation	8	9	10
11 8:20 a.m. Choir Warm-up 9:00 a.m. Worship MOTM-Noisy Can Choir Sings 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Choir Rehearsal Fellowship	12 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting	13 9:00 a.m. Quilting	14 6:00 p.m. Worship MOTM-Noisy Can 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation	15	16	17
18 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship	19	20 9:00 a.m. Quilting	21 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation	22 6:00 p.m. Vision Board Workshop	23  February Lamplighter Deadline	24
25 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School Fellowship Choir Rehearsal	26	27 9:00 a.m. Quilting	28 6:00 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. GIG Mens Bible Study Confirmation	29	30	31