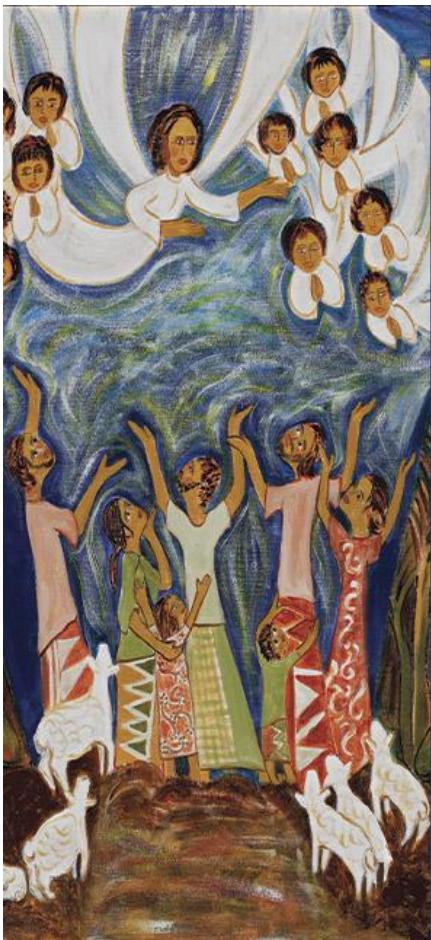


First Lutheran

relationships that transform



Glory to God in the highest!

LUKE 2:14

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary,
near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together this evening.! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

The Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP

What kind of hope can endure this world?

The hopes and fears of all the years are met right here tonight.

How can we speak peace when the world is at war?

Tonight, there will be heavenly peace and mercy mild; God and sinners, reconciled.

Where is the joy of celebration when so many are hungry and hurting?

All heaven and nature sing; the weary world rejoices

When will love come and save us?

The wonders of God's love are made flesh tonight. The angels sing "gloria," and we have nothing to fear.

WELCOMING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

THE LIGHT OF HOPE

Isaiah 11:1 – 9

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

THE LIGHT OF PEACE

Luke 1:46 – 56

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
“My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

THE LIGHT OF JOY

Psalm 118:1 – 7, 22 - 24

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
³ Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
⁴ Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”
⁵ Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.
⁶ With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?
⁷ The Lord is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
²³ This is the Lord’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE LIGHT OF LOVE

Luke 1:1 – 7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And 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 in the guest room.

THE CHRIST CANDLE

Luke 2:8 – 20

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And 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!”

¹⁵ When 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

We welcome hope, peace, joy, and love tonight. The light of the world is born, bringing all that and more! It is a light for the ages. God's people answer the call to keep the light and shine it for all to see. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.

REFLECTION

Wathen, Erin. "Worship Resources." *Calling All Angels*, Westminster John Know Press, Louisville, Kentucky, 2024, pp. 133–134.

ANTHEM

O Holy Night (Refrain)

The Chancel Choir

SERMON

The Purpose of Christmas: Peace

Pastor Jeff Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

HYMN

ELW 267

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
4 He rules the world with truth and grace



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord, in your mercy

Congregational response: Hear our prayer

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight

The Chancel Choir

The Christmas Eve offering is designated for Longview Community Ministries Food Box. An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card, you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate or by scanning the QR code below.



Please stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

HYMN

ELW 300

The First Noel

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, by your merciful hand
abundance springs up from the earth.
Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.
Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people,
through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . . .

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that
Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine.
For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you
wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.*

What Child Is This



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.

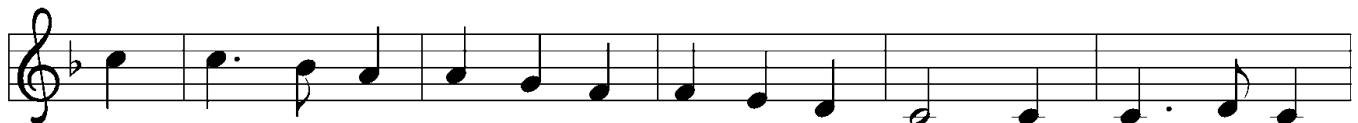


This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



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!

Away in a Manger



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.

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF LIGHT

As we light our candles, it is a sign that Christ is the light of the world. The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People seated along the aisle, please receive the light from the usher and pass it to those seated in their row. The light is passed by dipping unlit candles into the flame. Lighted candles are never tipped but always held upright. When the light reaches the rear of the church, the service will continue.

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Silent Night, Holy Night!
Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht!



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



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,



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



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.
Amen.

As we extinguish our candles, may we continue to carry the light of Christ and his peace and love into the world.

Amen

Candles are extinguished.

SENDING SONG

ELW 290

Go Tell It on the Mountain

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-en-s 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.

Go in peace! Serve the newborn King!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary this Christmas Season

GIVEN BY	IN HONOR OF	IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Stewart & Leslie Jenkins	Our Children and Grandchildren	
Stewart & Leslie Jenkins		Our Loved ones
Robert & Gloria Bero	Our Family	
The Topel Family	Our Family	
Ted Greene	Aundrea Greene	
Glenn & Judy Weiss	Pastor Jeff & Diane	
Glenn & Judy Weiss	Tina Sewell	
Glenn & Judy Weiss	John Parsons	
Glenn & Judy Weiss	Our Family	
Mike & Di Teegardin		Richard & Mary-Jean Halvorson
Mike & Di Teegardin		Jack Teegardin
Arlin & Sara Braun		Lydia & Leon Braun
The Greifenkamp family		Linda Anderson
Tim & Pam Owens		Pete & Eunice Cooksey Frank & Farris Owens
Bob & Debbie Moody		Our Parents
Joe & Donna Louvier	Our Family	
Joe & Donna Louvier		Loved ones
Joe & Donna Louvier	Our Grandkids	
Joe Derry & Allison Derry		Mary Alice Derry Hans & Myrle Larson
Sharon Pope		Katherine Caraway Holland Caraway
Tim O'Sullivan		Donna O'Sullivan
Charlotte Cherry		My Precious Donna O'Sullivan
Kaplan & Martin Families		Zack Thompson
David & Betty Kirkindoll		Our Parents
Carolyn Ramirez & Jeff Buehring		Joe Ramirez Charles & Dorothy Berg
Belinda Walenta	Amy Ripley, Cheryl & Alfred Gorvie and Evan and Willow	
Donna Ashby	My children & grandchildren	Logan Ashby
John Parsons	Alice Parsons	
Tina & Durwin Sewell	My family	
Karen & David Smith	Our children & grandchildren	



If you placed a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone,
the plants may be taken home after 6:00 pm Christmas Eve
Worship or on Sunday, December 28 after our 9:30 am service.

Thank you!

**On December 28th, the Sunday following
Christmas, there will be worship
at 9:30 am only.**

**YEAR END GIVING
PLEASE HAVE ALL OFFERINGS IN BY DECEMBER 28TH
SO THEY MAY BE CREDITED ON YOUR
2025 GIVING STATEMENT.
THANK YOU!**

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 24, 2025

What Really Matters

“All the world should be registered” (Luke 2:1). This announcement from the emperor was an order for all people to stand up and be counted, to prove their worth by stating their name, their lineage, and the details of their existence, like the stats on the back of a trading card.

But an angel made a different sort of announcement: “This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12). The shepherds would need to look for a baby just lying there, doing nothing but existing in all his God-given glory.

This baby is such good news in a world that tells us every day, in every possible way, that we need to prove our worth, that we need to convince the world and everyone around us that we matter. In what ways do you repeatedly try to prove your worth to the world? To your friends and family and colleagues? To yourself? To God?

What would it feel like—in your body, in your heart, in your gut—to just exist in all your God-given glory? To remember that the Savior of the world came to us as a baby who couldn’t do a single thing besides lie in the straw? And what would it be like for you—for all of us—to live each day in response to this wild grace?

Each of us matters to God, who sent Jesus into the world for us and all creation. God loves us, claims us in baptism, and continues to sustain us in holy communion. This indeed is good news of great joy for all people. Glory to God!

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller
and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: Deb Butts, Diane Borgwardt,
Eric Chandler & Danny Chandler

Lectors: Diane Borgwardt & John Parsons

Flowers: Patti Meyer

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Alex Enich, Maintenance

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Kyle Lybarger (*President*)

Beverly Bell (*Vice-President*)

Rachel Grundmann (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Peri Topel (*Relationship with One Another*)

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churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

We receive gifts for the mission of the congregation and the Church in the world.

An offering plate is available in the back of the sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate or by scanning the QR code below



FLC regularly supports the work of the following ministries of our denomination and community with financial, volunteer, and food offerings:

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

For more information on how to get involved contact the church office (903)295-7423.