

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Anne Mitchell, Sheryl Schaffer**

Liturgist: **Steve Galbraith**

Communion Assistants: **Cathy Abreu, Cathi Bean, Elaine Bengston,**

DiAnn Brown, Debra Hogg

Usher Coordinator: **Ryan Dixon**

Ushers: **Scott Berger, Greg Stultz**

Counters: **Greg & Kathy Katainen**

Altar Guild: **Jan Galbraith, Cathi Bean**

Collection Specialist: **Andrew Swenson**

Streaming Technician: **Paul Lerum**

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FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS: **All the Members of FELC**
Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff..... e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com
Church Administrator: Julie Sagnimeni..... e-mail: office@firstlc.com
Youth & Family Minister: Heather Catanese e-mail: youth@firstlc.com
Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com
Music Director: Michelle Hanson e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com
Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette
Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith
Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome: Larry Cudmore.....
Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed
Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301



Praising Our GOD...
Loving GOD's People!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Phone # (208) 522-9301

www.firstlc.com

December 28, 2025

First Sunday after Christmas

Welcome to all who join us in continuing to worship Christ, the new born king. We pray our time together will open our hearts to the gifts of love and salvation brought to us by the "babe of Bethlehem," Christ our Lord. Following the worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and light refreshments in our fellowship hall.

WORSHIP NOTES:

- ♦ **Bold printed words** indicate the congregation's responses.
- ♦ For families with young children, you're invited to take advantage of our worship activity bags for children located in the lobby. A nursery for children 4 and younger is located in Room #7.
- ♦ If you have a moment, please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it to others in your pew.
- ♦ For those with hearing loss, we have hearing devices available at the welcome window; ask an usher for assistance.
- ♦ For those with eyesight issues, we have large print bulletins; ask an usher for one.

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michelle Hanson

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#286

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.

Let us pray...Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 605*)

Isaiah 63:7-9

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter sixty-three, beginning with verse seven.

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
because of all that the Lord has done for us
and the great favor to the house of Israel
that he has shown them according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Today 12/28/2025	
9:00 am	NO Sunday School
9:00 am	NO Adult Forum - Library
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
Monday 12/29/2025	
10:00 am	NO Staff Meeting - Library
Tuesday 12/30/2025	
9:00 am	NO Preschool
1:00 pm	NO Preschool
Wednesday 12/31/2025	
9:00 am	NO Preschool
1:00 pm	NO Preschool
Thursday 1/1/2025	
	New Year's Day - Office Closed
Friday 1/2/2025	
10:00 am	Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall
Saturday 1/3/2025	
Sunday 1/4/2025	
9:00 am	Adult Forum - Library
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal - Fellowship Hall
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
12:00 pm	ERT and Shofar Meeting
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru November \$300,812; Year to date Expenses thru November \$312,893

Year to date net Cash Flow thru November -\$12,081

Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 188, Live Stream: 42



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:

Cathy Abreu; Donna Amundson; Sharon Bauman; Ray Bauer; Tina Bean; Betty Benjamin (Lisa Mullinix's mother); Andrew Bessette; Dean & Carla Benson; Peggy Buhr; Kevin Call; Dale Clements; Tracy Coburn; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Joan Douglas; Bernadette Farrington (Annick Dixon's mother); Josephine Fife (Julie Reinwald's mother); Sharon Gilbert; Scottie Grace; Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammond; Bill Hayes; Jack Heier; Sue Hindman; Mark Holland (Cara Dahlberg's father); Beverly Hudman (Larry Hudman's mother); Larry Hudman; Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mackenzie & Zane Igor; Vickie John; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn (Alecia Coburn's former mother-in-law); Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Andy Kruckeberg; Bud Langerak; Bill Lockman; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Rochelle Mason; Adara McClure (Jeannie Campbell's daughter); Tim Metcalf; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (Larry Hudman's sister); Josh Neis; Don Newman (Richard Magnuson's cousin); Heidi Peoples; Carol Miller Pisher (Cal Miller's daughter); Priscilla Rainey; Bob Scarr; Laura Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son); Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Marie Warwick; Chris Weaver; Daniel & Sarah Young.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Craig Bukowski; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Eric Gratzke; Alton Helm; Jack Hogan; Syllas Jackson; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

⁸For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not act deceitfully,"
and he became their savior
⁹in all their distress.
It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 971*)

Hebrews 2:10-18

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the Hebrews, chapter two, beginning with verse ten.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

¹³And again,

"I will put my trust in him."

And again,

"Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.



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THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 784*) Matthew 2:13-23
The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter two, beginning with verse thirteen.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town

OUR THANKS TO OUR GUEST LAY PREACHER AND LAY PRESIDER

We thank our fellow FELC member, Harlan Lerum (trained speaker for Gideon International) as our guest preacher bringing us God’s Word this morning as Pastor Mike has a few days off. We also thank Brad Kirkwood, a trained lay presider by our predecessor body the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We also thank our present national church body, the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) for allowing Brad to be our lay presider despite determining his certification has expired. Going forward the NALC recommends either having an ordained NALC pastor preside at communion or forgoing communion when Pastor Mike is on vacation.

THANK YOU

Our family would like to express our gratitude to all the members of FELC for another vibrant year of ministry and especially for the many thoughtful gifts and fine food we’ve received this Christmas. Appreciatively, Pastor Mike & Debbie.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

While Pastor Mike is on vacation beware of emails or texts pretending to be from Pastor Mike asking for gift cards or assistance. Before responding make sure the email is from Pastor Mike - “pastormike@firstlc.com” or if it’s a text, the text should come from (330) 831-3177... anything else is a scam.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – FISH OUTREACH

Friends In Service Here is seeking volunteers to help support FISH, a local organization serving individuals and families in need. Help is needed assisting with outreach efforts. No experience required - just a willing heart to serve. If you’re interested, please contact Kären Bateman or the church office.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#299

"Cold December Flies Away"

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED
LET OUR SERVICE TO GOD BEGIN!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PENNY POWER

In December, Penny Power will be used to supply Bibles for the Gideons.

CARE & CONCERN HELP NEEDED

The Care & Concern team is looking for volunteers to help their Meals In Crisis team. You would be asked to help provide a meal occasionally to help a family when needed. Please contact Geri Magnuson if you would be willing to help with this ministry.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The winter Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, January 22nd in the Fellowship Hall. It will be held from 12:30 pm to 5:30 pm. Signup information will be in the narthex or you may contact Cathy Abreu at 916-216-6904 or redcrossblood.org

NEW MEMBER/INQUIRER'S CLASS - COMING SOON

Starting Sunday, January 18th for six weeks. We will be meeting in the church library at 9:00 am during the Sunday School hour. If you're interested in finding out more about what a "Lutheran Christian" is... this your chance. You don't need to commit to joining to be part of the study and questions are highly encouraged. However, if you are interested in becoming part of our FELC church family, this is your opportunity. The class is designed to cover at a glance some of the basic foundational parts of Christianity. Those considering membership need to attend at least four of the six classes. Contact Pastor Mike or the church office if you're interested in attending.

called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SONG OF THE DAY

"I Wonder As I Wander"

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, all in a cow's stall,
came wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,
and high from the heavens a star's light did fall;
the promise of the ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
a star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the king.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor ord'n'ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

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THE SERMON

Harlan Lerum

"Matthew 2, Massacre of the Innocents"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Gathered as a Christian community let us together confess our faith in our Triune God using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Each petition will conclude with "Lord in your mercy;" the congregation responds with "**Hear our prayer.**")

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
 seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
 Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who are baptized in Christ, and believe in receiving the bread and wine they receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins, to join us. Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. The serving station at the center of the altar rail is our hypo-allergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

#295 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

#287 "Let All Together Praise Our God"

#298 "The Bells of Christmas"