



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

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

455 West Sunnyside Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Phone # (208) 522-9301

www.firstlc.com

January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

Welcome: On this second Sunday of the New Year, we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. Although Jesus was without sin, his baptism affirms that he wanted to identify with all who desire new life under God. While baptism is a holy sacrament to Christians, we welcome all – the baptized and non-baptized – to this service of worship. We pray our hearts will reach out to God and our faith will be fed. Following the service, everyone is invited for 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. Nursery 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, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#454

“Remember and Rejoice”

OPENING RESPONSIVE READING (*based on Ephesians 4:4-6*)

Almighty God, on this day when we celebrate the baptism of our Lord,

We recall, with thanksgiving, the stories of the earliest Christians to be baptized.

We thank you, above all, for the amazing wisdom and humility of our Lord Jesus,

Who sought baptism at the hands of John, the desert prophet of righteousness.

John preferred to be baptized by our Lord, who alone was without sin, **But our Lord insisted — and you approved, and confirmed him in his mission.**

We praise you for Christ passing on your commission to the apostles and, through them, to us;

And we pray that we may be more discerning, more faithful in the use of this symbol of your grace.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for your empowerment of Peter and the other disciples at Pentecost;

For the conversion of those 3,000 souls, from every race and nation; and for the miracle of a common language transcending all barriers between them.

We thank you for the ministry of the deacon Philip and particularly for his witness to the Ethiopian statesman;

For the Ethiopian's kindled love for our Lord and his request to be baptized in Jesus' name without delay.

We praise you also for the vision and dauntless courage of the apostle Paul

And for his baptism of Captain Cornelius and his household, the first Gentile family to be baptized into the church.

With the Apostle Paul, O God, we proclaim that "There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling: **One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.**"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 584*)

Isaiah 42:1-9

Our first lesson is from the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah, the forty-second chapter beginning with verse one.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
 or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
 and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
 he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
 until he has established justice in the earth,
 and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
 ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*Pew Bible pg. 438*)

Psalm 29

Our Psalm for today is Psalm twenty-nine. I invite the congregation to read it aloud with me.

**1 Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

**2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

**3 The voice of the LORD is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over mighty waters.**

**4 The voice of the LORD is powerful;
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

**5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.**

**6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

7 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**8 The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

9 The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare,
and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

**10 The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

**11 May the LORD give strength to his people!
May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

This is God's Word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible pg. 895*)

Acts 10:34-43

Our second lesson is from the New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles, the tenth chapter, beginning with verse thirty-four.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,” ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are

witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abundant in steadfast love.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 784*) Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the third chapter
beginning with verse thirteen.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SONG OF THE DAY

#305

“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

SERMON

Pastor Mike Knauff

“Baptism, the First Miracle? The Ongoing Miracle!”

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.

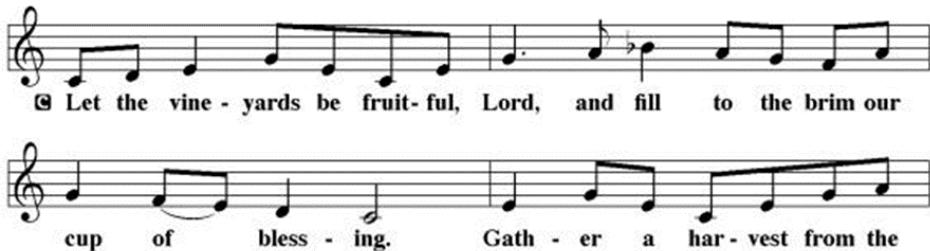
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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 blessing. Gather a har-vest from the



WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

CALL TO CHRIST'S TABLE

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray...

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 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 hypoallergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

- #453 "Baptized and Set Free"
- #303 "Brightest and Best of the Stars"
- #302 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Almighty God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

#310

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED
LET THE SERVICE BEGIN!**

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.



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

Friends and family of Dale Clements. Dale passed away on January 1st.
Friends and family of Carla Benson. Carla passed away on January 1st.

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 Mullinx's mother); Andrew Bessette; Dean Benson; Peggy Buhr; Kevin Call; Tracy Coburn; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Joan Douglas; Bobbie Eddie (Barbara Carlson's father); 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; Pat Matthews; 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; Sylas Jackson; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW 2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS HERE!!

The new church directory is available now. You can find your copy at the welcome window. The directories are in alphabetical order by last name. Please stop by and grab your personal copy! Additional copies are \$5.00

PENNY POWER

The Penny Power focus for January is our Missionaries - Pastor Jeff and Mim Nellermoe. They support, teach and preach to Chinese Christians and provide Hong Kong refugee camps for children in California, Hawaii and England.

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

We are looking for those interested in finding out more about what a “Lutheran Christian” is. You don’t need to commit to joining FELC to be part of the study, but it is required if you do want to become a member. The class is designed to cover at a glance some of the basic foundational parts of Christianity. Please contact Pastor Mike or the church office if you’re interested in attending.

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.

QUILTS FOR OUR UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Happy Stitchers would like to design and complete a queen-size quilt for any eligible graduating high school senior. To be eligible, you must be graduating from high school in 2026, and you, your parent, guardian or grandparents must be a voting member of FELC. If you are interested, please submit your name to the office administrator as soon as possible. A letter from the Happy Stitchers will be mailed to you asking for information regarding your favorite colors and Bible verse. Please return this letter by February 1, 2026. The Happy Stitchers cannot accept a request after February 1, 2026 due to the time required to make a quilt. The quilts will be presented during worship service the first Sunday of May 2026.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Bible study makes for a terrific new year’s resolution. Beginning January 7, the Ladies’ Book Club will tackle the book of Acts. Join us as we study how the Holy Spirit worked through the Apostles to spread the Gospel through the known world. There are lots of great stories to enjoy as we follow Peter and then Paul in their leadership roles. We will meet Rhoda and Lydia, and be shipwrecked with Paul. You won’t want to miss it! We meet Wednesdays from 2 to 3 PM. As always, there is no outside reading or study, and no extra book to buy. Just bring your Bible – and maybe a friend. If you forget your Bible or don’t have one, the church owns many for your use. (So – no excuses!)

CONFIRMATION CLASS IS BACK

Confirmation classes started back up on January 4th. We are focusing on the Apostle’s Creed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all the Sunday School Volunteers! Week after week they are dedicated to teaching the message of Jesus’ love and planting the seeds of faith in our children. We are always looking for those who would like to serve in our youth ministry. Specifically, for somebody willing to volunteer to be a second or assistant to Heather Catanese in the confirmation classes. She will do all the planning and instructional time and needs someone willing to contribute to the open discussion as well as being a second person in keeping with the FELC “Two Deep” policy.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**Today 1/11/2026**

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	Potluck during Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
12:00 pm	Common Ministry Team Meeting
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice
Monday 1/12/2026	
10:00 am	Happy Stitchers Stay-In Retreat
7:00 pm	Staff Meeting - Library
	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Tuesday 1/13/2026	
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers Stay-In Retreat
12:00 pm	Preschool
1:00 pm	Care & Concern Meeting
6:00 pm	Preschool
6:30 pm	Girl Scout Troop #930
	Handbell Rehearsal
Wednesday 1/14/2026	
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers Stay-In Retreat
1:00 pm	Preschool
2:00 pm	Preschool
5:00 pm	Ladies' Book Club - Library
	Praise Band
Thursday 1/15/2026	
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers Stay-In Retreat
9:00 am	Men's Bible Study
10:00 am	Preschool
1:00 pm	Kaffeeklatsch
7:00 pm	Preschool
	Stephen Ministry Team Meeting
Friday 1/16/2026	
10:00 am	Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall
Saturday 1/17/2026	
Sunday 1/18/2026	
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
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru December \$394,870; Year to date Expenses thru December \$342,513

Year to date net Cash Flow thru December \$52,357

Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 126, Live Stream: 48

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Jan Galbraith, Mary Hanek**

Liturgist: **Steve Galbraith**

Communion Assistants: **Linda Lerum, Kim Bermensolo**

Carole Mason, Debra Holst, Ginny Conricode

Usher Coordinator: **Dave Sheldon**

Ushers: **Lisa Swenson, Paul Worth**

Counters: **Lisa Swenson, Janice McBride**

Altar Guild: **Diana Murphy, Cheryl Swenson**

Collection Specialist: **Andrew Swenson**

Streaming Technician: **Paul Lerum**

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Streaming License #20272565 One License #A-736147



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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 Sagnimenti 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: Pastor Larry Cudmore

Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed

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