

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Diana Murphy, Lewis Murphy**

Liturgist: **Sheryl Schaffer**

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

Elaine Bengston, DiAnn Brown, Debra Hogg

Usher Coordinator: **Jim Sahr**

Ushers: **Phil Forbord, Cal Miller**

Counters: **Phil & Tessa Forbord**

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

Collection Specialist: **Andrew Swenson**

Streaming Technician: **Paul Bayless**

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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

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Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Phone # (208) 522-9301

www.firstlc.com

January 4, 2026

2nd Sunday of 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 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. 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

#514

“O Word of God Incarnate”

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. 641*)

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter thirty-one, beginning with verse seven.

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 are starting back up on January 4th. We will be 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 on January 1, 2026 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 time required to make a quilt. The quilts will be presented during worship service the first Sunday of May 2026.

⁷ Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the Lord

This is God's word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 949*)

Ephesians 1:3-14

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus, chapter one, beginning with

verse three.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 862*)

John 1:10-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, chapter one, beginning with verse ten.



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; 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; Syllas Jackson; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

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

There Is A Redeemer

Words and Music by
Melody Green

VERSE

♩ = 92

1. There is a Re - deem - er Je - sus, God's own Son;
2. Je sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names;
3. When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;

5

Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, Ho - - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes - si - ah, O for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for - ev - er in that ho - ly place.

CHORUS

14

Thank You, O my Fa - ther, for giv - ing us Your Son, and leav - ing Your
Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SONG OF THE DAY

#510

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth"

THE SERMON

Pastor Mike Knauff

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.

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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

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

#294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

#272 "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming"

#268 "From Heaven Above" (vv. 1-3, 12-14)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING