



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.



## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

**GATHERING HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW #257, vs 5 & 6*

5. O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **Refrain**

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

6. O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. **Refrain**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**KYRIE** | *Create in Me a Clean Heart* | ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**HYMN OF PRAISE** | *Glory be to God* | ELW pg 204, vs 1

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth.  
We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord God: **C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## MUSICAL MESSAGE | *Alleluia Ringers*

**FIRST READING** | *Isaiah 35: 3-9*

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

### RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 146:5-10*

R: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

R: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**C: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

R: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**C: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!**

### SECOND READING | *James 5:7-10*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

### GOSPEL | *Matthew 11:2-11*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." <sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON | Pr. Matthew Rossler

### HYMN OF THE DAY | *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* | ELW #288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

## NOISY OFFERING | *December: FLC Agape Fund*

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN | *In the Bleak Midwinter ELW #294, vs 3*

3. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME

*Melissa Bleyle*

*Steve Futchko, and children Mason, Lincoln & Piper*

*Robette "Bobbi Jo" Guck*

*Li Junglin*

*Katherine Kraetsch & child Saige*

*Linda & David Rossow*

*Geri & Brian Skogen*

*Wang Yongxin*

## BLESSING

P: Let us pray. **C: Grant grace, O God to our newest siblings in Christ. Forgive us, renew us, and send us together into your service. Through the waters of baptism empower us to serve one another. In the breaking of bread keep us united. In the proclamation of your Word form us into the communi**

## BENEDICTION

### SENDING HYMN | *Angels We Have Heard on High | ELW #289*

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? **Refrain**

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. **Refrain**

## SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADVENT MINI-CONCERTS

Wednesdays 12 – 12:30pm

Lunch to follow

**December 17**

Rich Johnson, saxophone  
Emma Duncan, vocal  
Karen Bimberg, accompanist

### ADVENT BOOK STUDY

Wednesday December 17 from 11 – 11:50am, just prior to the Advent concerts, in the church library. They will study the book, "The Purpose of Christmas" by Rick Warren

### ANGEL TREE

Grab a tag off of the tree by the office and help someone in our community this Christmas! Deadline to turn in your wrapped gift is December 21.

### ALTAR GUILD

Help is needed for the Christmas Eve services and other dates in December. Please consider volunteering! The sign up is in the sacristy.

### FLC QUILT SALE

Looking for that perfect gift for a special someone? Consider giving a quilt this Christmas. They are warm, colorful, and made with love!

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thursday, December 18

Do you have questions about life, God or both? Grab a cold drink, and let's ponder life together. Theology on Tap meets the first & third Thursday of each month at 7pm at Bucks Mill Brewing.

### SWEET SALE

The annual bake sale hosted by the FLC Women Is TODAY Money donated at the sale funds local and area projects.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 17 at 6pm  
Oasis Meal at 5pm

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS SALE

Purchase poinsettias in honor of, or in memory of a loved one.

Cost: \$13. Deadline

to order is

December 15.

Order forms on the

volunteer table or

scan the QR

Code >>



### HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

Thursday, December 18 @  
11:30am at Pizza Ranch.

### LAKES AREA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

19th Annual Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 14, 2025  
At First Lutheran Church - 4 pm  
Featuring many of FLC's finest,  
including the Alleluia Ringers and  
is directed by Gene Gaffney.

## Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:

Bill Wegschie, Cole Woltjer,  
Doreen Tollefson, Vern, Gretta  
Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kiono,  
Tyler Wilson, Iain, Cliff Adkins,  
Greg Buckley and  
Cami Eckhoff.

Prayers of comfort for those who  
mourn the loss of a loved one,  
including the family of Don Getz.

## CREATION CARE NOTE

The city of Sun Prairie, WI (population about 36,000) became the first city in Wisconsin to operate on 100% renewable energy for all city operations. This transition not only reduces emissions but also lowers energy cost for residents.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP DECEMBER 24

3:30 & 5:00pm

7:00pm Candlelight service

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

December 24 & 31  
No Oasis

December 21 & 28  
No Kids Fellowship

December 25 & 26,  
January 1 & 2  
Church Office  
Closed



## Thanks for worshipping with us!



First  
Lutheran  
Church

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo  
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler  
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

## GIVE ONLINE

### Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the QR code.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

