



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 4, 2026 | Second Sunday of Christmas



Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

### GATHERING SONG | *This is Jesus*

Night of wonder, still and silent heaven's brilliance from above.  
Light of glory pierced the darkness mercy pierced my heart with love.  
This is Jesus, King of Glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.

Oh the myst'ry, who could fathom? God would leave His Holy throne  
For a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own.  
This is Jesus, King of Glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.

This is Jesus, King of Glory, here to rescue from the fall.  
Son of God who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.  
For the hearts so prone to wander for these feet so quick to flee,  
God is here and love is reaching for the lost and least of these.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, **C: You have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalms 147:12-20*

R: Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

**C: For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.**

R: He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**C: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.**

R: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**C: He hurls down hail like crumbs — who can stand before his cold?**

R: He sends out his word and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**C: He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

R: He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his ordinances. Praise the LORD!

## SECOND READING | *Ephesians 3:1-12*

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, <sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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 | *John 1:1-9*

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

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

## SERMON | Pr. Matthew Rossler

## HYMN OF THE DAY | *O Word of God Incarnate* | ELW #514

1. O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.
2. The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.
3. Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

## 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.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

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

## NOISY OFFERING | *January: Global Refuge*

### 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.**

## COMMUNION

### Words of Institution

#### 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.**

#### Distribution

#### Post Communion Blessing

#### Post Communion Prayer

**C: Gracious God, at this table you have nourished our body and soul with food and drink. As you have been food and drink for us, transform us to be food and drink for one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

#### SENDING HYMN | *Auld Lang Syne*

I'd like to think that peace will come and darkness will subside.  
We'll make it through another year I'm clinging to the light.

Let all the chaos be forgot to my loved ones I'll hold tight.  
I hope that generosity is my favorite state of mind.  
I'm clinging to the light my dear, I'm clinging to the light.  
Pass me a cup of kindness yeah. I'll drink it down tonight.

If looking at another year you're filled with dread and fright.  
Remember that you're not alone, I'm clinging to the light.  
I'm clinging to the light my dear, I'm clinging to the light.  
Pass me a cup of kindness yeah. I'll drink it down tonight.

I watch the clock it ticks away to my dreams it pays no mind.  
I mourn the days I waste away. It's a gift to be alive. It's a gift to be alive. It's a gift to be alive.

#### SENDING

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

## POSTLUDE



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FLC FOUNDATION UPDATE

The FLC Foundation would like to thank all those who voted on where to send local charity funds. Based on voting, the following will receive:

-Becker County Food Pantry (\$8,357) -Becker County DAC (\$3,214) -Flytime at Laker Flyers Gymnastics (\$2,142) -Let's Go Fishing (\$1,287)

### A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

We want to thank ALL of the FLC members who helped to create such a warm, inviting, welcoming, atmosphere at First Lutheran for the "Wednesdays in Advent" mini-concerts. The kitchen help and lunch servers prepared wonderful meals and served several hundred people, the group of decorators made the interior of our church so festive, and appealing, the Musicians performed beautiful Music for the season, the office staff helped with bulletins, and PR to area churches, and we are happy to have offered these concerts to the many people who attended in person, and online. They are a beautiful gift from First Lutheran to the DL community, and area.

Thanks, again, for your gift of time, and willingness to help to make our "Wednesdays in Advent" concerts a success!

Sincerely: Karen Bimberg & Holly Heisserer co-coordinators of the concerts

### THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

*Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library  
January 13 - March 3rd*

Led by Wade Dutton, see and discuss this acclaimed video series about Jesus and his "chosen" disciples.

Each of the 8 sessions includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, each video stands on its own. Or you can watch online anytime at:

**Home Page | The Chosen**

### CHRISTMAS DECORATION TAKEDOWN

Sunday, January 11 at 10:30am.  
Meet in the chapel after the worship service.

### THEOLOGY ON TAP

*January 15 & 29*

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.

### HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

High School Students, join us on January 22 @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch for lunch with the Pastors.

### BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

**Currently we are need of: hats & gloves/mittens.** At this time we do not need clothing donations.

### Prayers for God's People

*Ongoing prayers for:  
Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer,  
Doreen Tollefson, Vern, Gretta  
Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kiono, Ty-  
ler Wilson, Iain, Cliff Adkins, Greg  
Buckley, Dave & Pam Nustad,  
Cami Eckhoff, Bob Jernberg, and  
Mark Solem.*

*Prayers of comfort for those who  
mourn the loss of a loved one,  
including the families of Connie  
Goff and Jean Beilke*

Today's **altar flowers** are given  
in honor of

**Audrey and Curtis Listul's 69th  
Wedding Anniversary**

and in memory of  
their son **Gary**



**Thanks for worshiping 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.

