



# First Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 21, 2025 | Christmas Cantata

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**PRELUDE** | *Joy to the World* - arr. Joel Raney

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INVOCATION

**GATHERING HYMN** | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* | ELW #257, v. 7-8

7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

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

8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. **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.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.

**CHRISTMAS CANTATA** | *A Light Has Come: A Christmas Celebration* | Jubilate Choir, Directed by Kathryn Larson

*Instrumentalists:*  
Dotz Johnson - flute  
Julie Vanderstappen - violin  
Paul Heisler - piano  
Karen Bimberg - organ, piano, drum

**Heaven and Nature Sing!** - arr. Edwin M. Willmington

**Come, Emmanuel** - arr. Mary McDonald

**Away In a Manger (Forever Amen)** - arr. Phil Wickham & Molly Ijames

**Angels We Have Heard on High** - arr. Dan Forrest

**Noel** - arr. Karen Marroli

**Silent Night** - arr. Molly Ijames

**Joy to the World** - arr. Joseph Martin

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

## OFFERING

**SPECIAL MUSIC** | *Away In a Manger & Silent Night* - arr. P Lanier Alleluia Ringers



**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANGEL TREE**

Deadline to turn in your wrapped gift is TODAY.

**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!

**CHRISTMAS DECORATION  
TAKEDOWN**

Sunday, January 11 at 10:30am

**BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS**

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

**RADIO BROADCAST**

Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by the Rebekah Circle in honor of the FLC homebound and honorary members.

**JOY TO THE WORLD**  
*The Lord has come!*  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service**  
Wednesday, December 24  
3:30 & 5:00pm | **\*\*7:00pm\*\***  
\*\*candlelight service at 7pm only\*\* | all services will be livestreamed

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**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

December 24 & 31  
No Oasis

December 21 & 28  
No Kids Fellowship

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

**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, Cami Eckhoff, and  
Dave & Pam Nustad

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

**Thanks for worshipping with us!**



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.



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