Epiphany Sunday January 4, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS

A warm welcome to visitors who join us today to worship our Risen Lord! We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave worship today. Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.

Children are always welcome at worship.

If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery available for parents and their children on the second floor in the education wing. Take the first left down the hallway, and the nursery is the first door on your right.

Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices for today's worship are available.

Please feel free to ask an usher if interested.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST January 4 – January 11				
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School Worship with Holy Communion		
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts		
Tuesday	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Property Meeting Scouts		
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters		
Thursday	1:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:15 p.m.	WELCA Bible Study and Meeting Rose Ringers Choir		
Sunday	9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Sunday School Worship Youth and Parent Meeting and Pizza		

Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,
we yearn for your presence
to transform our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you.

→ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven.

Let the earth rejoice and be glad! Amen.

We Three Kings of Orient Are



GREETNG

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.**

There's a Star in the East

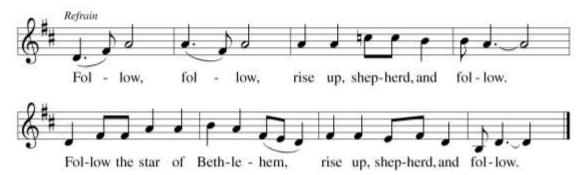
Text and Music: African American Spiritual



2 If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low. You'll for-get your flocks, you'll for-get your herds, rise up, shep-herd, and fol-low.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

 ³ Notions shall some to your light
- ³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- $^{10}\,\mathrm{May}$ the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
- ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ 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: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ 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. ⁸ 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 ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

The First Noel





NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Please be seated.

MEAL

GATHERING OF GIFTS

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at felcc.org or by scanning this QR code.



SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able for the offertory.

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

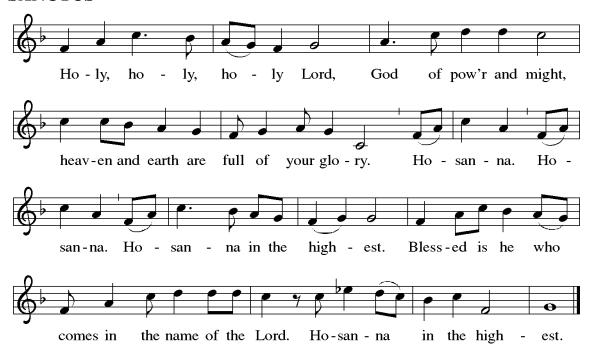
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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, 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold to 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let our hearts receive our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

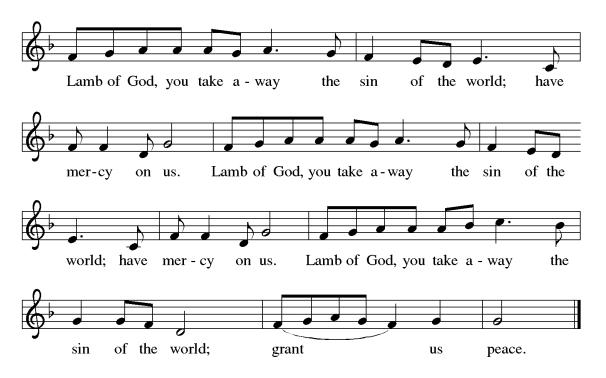
All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's Table.

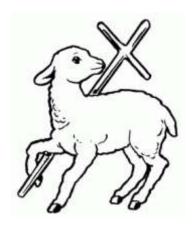
To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. You may place the used cup in the receptacle at the end of the pew.

Those not communing are invited to fold their hands as a sign to receive a spoken blessing.

If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please indicate this to the ushers.

LAMB OF GOD





Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent. Of Fa - ther's love worlds be the be got ten ere the bless 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er ed, when the vir - gin, This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed with of hosts, his Let the heights of heav'n a dore him: an - gel Christ, to thee, with God the Fa ther, and, 0 Ho - ly Al - pha to be. he is and O - me gan ga, full grace, of bv the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv ing. one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore prais sing; him es hymn and chant and high thanks - giv Ghost, thee. to ing he the source, the end ing he, of the things that are, that our race, bore the Sav - ior of and the babe, the world's re prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth and un - wea - ried prais es glo - ry, and be: hon - or, and do -0 have been. and that fu - ture vears shall see. deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face. ed: pect let cre - a - tion praise its Lord si lent, ev -'ry voice in con - cert ring vic - to - ry min ion, and e - ter - nal ev - er - more and ev more. and ev - er - more er more. ev - er - more and er more. ev - er - more and er more. ev

more!

Α

men.

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Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. Amen.

Sending

EUCHASITIC MINISTERS

Gracious God, in this season of Christmas, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The triune God,

glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter,

+ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy. Amen.

Let All Together Praise Our God



DISMISSAL

Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers...

<u>Healing:</u> Brooklynne (1/27), **Nancy Fricke** (2/01), **Rick Gates** (1/14), **Mary Gotwald** (1/01), Paul Stockhausen (1/10), **Barbie Vinson** (1/27), **Connie Wilkins** (1/29)

<u>Continuing Prayers:</u> **Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, June Diehl**, Mark Hammer, **Charles Kampmeyer**, **Dalton Paul**, **Julie Paul**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold, Hunter Boock

ATTENDANCE	December 24	96 in person	23 online
	December 28	42 in person	10 online

ANNUAL REPORTS Annual Reports from the committees and staff are due to the church office by Sunday, January 4, 2026.

<u>The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)</u> will gather for Bible Study and meeting on Thursday, January 8 at 1:30 p.m. in meeting room 1. All women of the church are welcome!

YOUTH PLANNING Following Worship on January 11 there will be a pizza lunch and meeting to discuss what we would have an interest in doing with the young people in the future. Needed: A couple of parents willing to take care of ordering and serving pizza and drinks. Contact Pastor Nicholson to help with food. Church will reimburse. Topics of conversation will include: the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis and Youth Fundraising.

<u>CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING</u> will be held on Sunday, January 25 following worship. This meeting will provide us with the opportunity to review the highlights of the past year and approve a ministry spending plan for 2026. We hope you will be able to join us.

ST. SERAPHIM Soup Kitchen needs your help. Since they provide soup, hotdogs, sandwiches, crackers, drinks and a sweet bite for folks who need a meal on Thursdays and Saturdays, the Orthodox Church is asking for donations of canned soups. No tomato please. There is a bin in Memorial Hall for donations.

<u>HATS, SCARVES, AND MITTENS</u> We hang items on our fence that will help our neighbors stay warm. Volunteer to hang items on the fence on January 17-19. Contact: Mary Beth Warne at 717-372-8282.

<u>LITTLE DAISY'S CLOSET</u> collection box is located in Memorial Hall. All clean items are accepted!

SCAN (Student Clothing Assistance Network) Working with the social workers of the school district, SCAN volunteers fill emergency requests for clothing and school supplies. When a request is received, it is assigned to volunteers to acquire the necessary items, either through purchase or donation. When requests are received the need is urgent. The children involved are in crisis situations—domestic upheaval, homelessness, unexpected relocations. Please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org
Thank you for considering.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	January 4	January 11	January 18
Lector:	Dia Schumacher	Rose Wilson	Ralph Burdick
Communion Assistants:	Tim Gotwald Becky Hoover Kristy Nienstedt		Tim Gotwald Becky Hoover Kristy Nienstedt
Greeters:	Bev Rebok Peggy Stout	Bev Rebok Peggy Stout	Bev Rebok Peggy Stout
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Barb Evans Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Denny Love	Barb Evans Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Denny Love	Barb Evans Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Denny Love



43 West Washington Street Chambersburg Pa 17201 www.felcc.org FELCCoffice@gmail.com 717–264-2015

Pastor
Pastoral Assistant
Director of Church Music
Parish Administrator
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Technical Lead
Custodian

The Rev. Jane Nicholson
The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer
Freda J. Dorand, Deacon
Ashley Hessong
Sally Herritt
Carol McCoy
Daniel Worcester
Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps. at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus, burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:45 a.m.
also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org
ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,
and to worship with us.