

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

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 December 14 – December 21

Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent Worship
	7:00 p.m.	BellFest at St. John's UCC Church
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	LWR Quilters
	12:00 p.m.	Women's Christmas Lunch at Italian Village Restaurant
Thursday	6:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship with Cantata
		Christmas Caroling to Homebound after Worship

Gathering

WELCOME & PRELUDE

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

The Coy Family

Joy

Today we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy.
With hearts full of anticipation, we rejoice in God's faithfulness.
Even in times of waiting, we find joy in knowing that God is near.
May this light remind us of the joy that shines through Christ our Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, our Joy and our Salvation.

LIGHT the first, second, and third candles of the wreath.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 1, 2 & 3)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security
only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.
† You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Text: Marty Haugen, b. Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

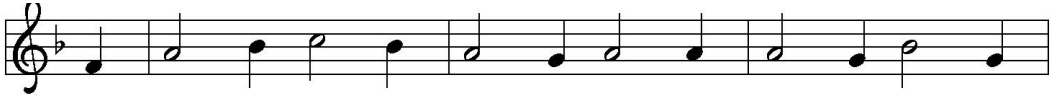


lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

GREETING

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we



giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one



will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord



heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in



praise you for your glo - ry.
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, 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.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Week 3 – Wisemen

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you are the greatest gift we could ever receive.

This Christmas, teach us not to get lost in the wrapping paper of life —
the frantic giving, the endless lists, the perfect presentations,
the activities, the expectations,
the perfect moments we are trying to create.

Help us to freely give to you the one gift you truly desire: our hearts.

May our worship be more than what we bring in our hands;
may it be the offering of our lives.

Take all that we are —

our time, our resources, our dreams,
our fears, our love — and use them for your glory. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ 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.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
⁶ 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;
⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are
bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹ The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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.

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. Music: REPTON, C. HUBERT H. PARRY



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark-ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

You may be seated.

OUR RESPONSE

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



ANTHEM

Ave, Ave, the Angels Sang

by Robert Lau

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes

in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes

in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

God of grace, hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

People, Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjeon Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b.

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers...

Healing: Nancy Fricke (1/01), Mary Gotwald (1/01), Judy Etter (1/03)

Continuing Prayers: Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, June Diehl, Mark Hammer, Charles Kampmeyer, Dalton Paul, Julie Paul, Joe Pine

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold

ATTENDANCE December 7 54 in person 5 online

ANNUAL CHAMBERSBELLFEST will be held today at 7pm. Location is St. John's United Church of Christ on Rt. 30 east of Wal-Mart. We have 4 bell choirs to celebrate the season: St. John's UCC, Park Avenue Methodist Church, Messiah United Methodist Church in Shippensburg, and our own Rose Ringers from First. We will have some string players join in the festive evening.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCH The Women's Breakfast Fellowship will be having a CHRISTMAS LUNCH on December 17 at 12:00 p.m. at the Italian Village Restaurant located at 5267 Philadelphia Avenue in Chambersburg. Please RSVP to Janet Friend (717-360-1977) if you are able to attend. All ladies of the church are invited for lunch and fellowship with one another

CANTATA **The Gift of Christmas** created by Stephen DeCesare will be on December 21 during our 10:45 a.m. worship. This will highlight the gift of Jesus in story and song. Featured will be several choir anthems, a song by our youth, and a few solo's and duets.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Join us on Sunday, December 21 following worship to deliver poinsettias and Christmas Carol to our homebound members. Please be in touch with Mary or Tim Gotwald if you would be willing to brighten people's spirits. Willingness to have fun and bring joy is much more important than musical ability.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be at 3:00 and 7:00 on Wednesday, December 24. We will have Holy Communion and Special Music as we come together to hear the story of the Birth of our Lord in a stable and light our candles while singing glorious Christmas Carols of worship and praise. We hope you will be able to join us.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER Will be served at the Salvation Army from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. It is provided with love by the Sons of Israel Congregation. If you would like to volunteer or donate for this event, contact Lynne Newman at the Salvation Army.

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed December 24 & 25 as well as January 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

HOLIDAY BREAKS There will not be Sunday School on December 28 (Christmas break). There will be coffee and donuts.

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

END OF YEAR GIVING Please present any offerings you would like to have credited to the 2025 giving year by Sunday, December 28.

HATS, SCARVES, AND MITTENS 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.

DISCRETIONARY FUNDS Thank you to everyone who donates money to the discretionary fund throughout the year. If you would be willing to give money to help people with their heat bill, rent, get gas for their vehicle, or to help them acquire a government ID please place your gift in the offering and label it "discretionary fund." Thank you.

DISCOUNT CARDS SpiriTrust Lutheran Auxiliary is selling discount cards. \$5. Money raised will help The Inn. The card is active now through 9/1/26 and may be used for discounts at various area businesses. See Mary Beth Warne to purchase.

LITTLE DAISY’S CLOSET 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. If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Tim or Mary: 717-264-4759, 717-491-0611, tim@gotwald.org, mary@gotwald.org Thank you for considering.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>December 14</u>	<u>December 21</u>	<u>December 24</u>
Lector:	Jane Love	Gary Fleegal	3 p.m. Becky Hoover 7 p.m. Sally Herritt
Communion Assistants:			3 p.m. Karen Sloan Gerry and Rose Wilson 7 p.m. Kristy Nienstedt Mike and Donna Ross
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans	Barb Evans	Barb Evans
Ushers:	Nicki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson	Nicki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson	Nicki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson



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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.