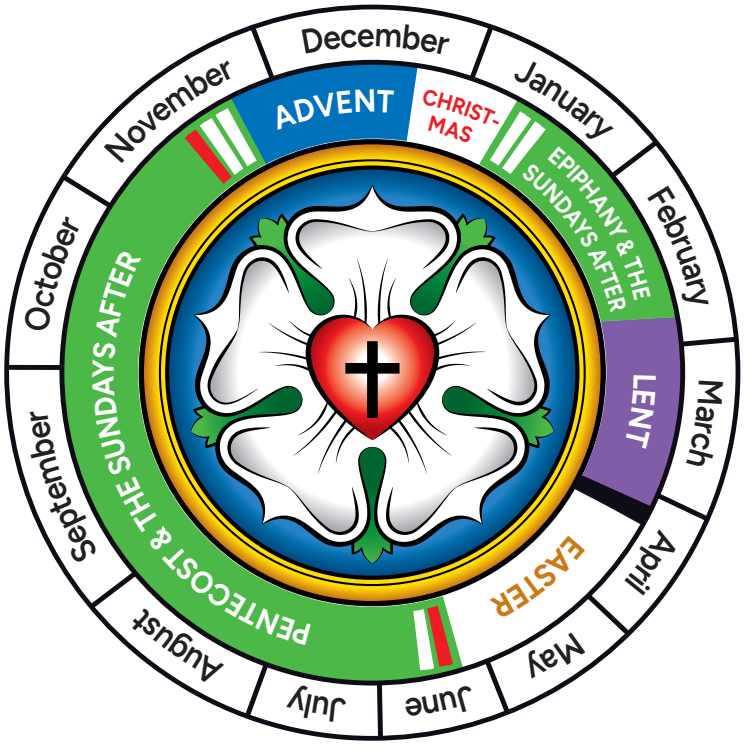
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOTHELL, WASHINGTON

Liturgical Calendar
Seasons & Principal Festivals

The ELCA church year begins on the first of Advent and cycles through six seasons – Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The seasons of Advent through Easter are the story of Jesus. The season of Pentecost is the story of the people of God and the life and mission of the Church. Principal festivals within a season are represented on the calendar by the liturgical color of the festival. At the center of the calendar is the Luther Rose, or Luther Seal, that Martin Luther designed in the 1520's and is the symbol of the Lutheran faith.



SEASON	FESTIVALS/COLOR	DESCRIPTION
ADVENT Color: Blue		Advent is the start of the ELCA liturgical calendar and begins 4 Sundays before Christmas Day. It is a season of hope and anticipation as we await the birth of our Lord and Savior.
CHRISTMAS	**The Nativity of Our Lord** Color: White	The Christmas season begins on Christmas Day (Dec. 25), when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The season lasts for 12 days, ending with The Epiphany.
EPIPHANY & THE SUNDAYS AFTER Color: Green	**The Epiphany of Our Lord** Color: White	This season begins with The Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6th and ends on Shrove Tuesday. The day commemorates the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus and that God extended His salvation beyond His chosen people to all people.
	The Baptism of Our Lord Color: White	We celebrate Jesus's baptism on the first Sunday after The Epiphany. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, it marked the start of Jesus's public ministry and revealed His identity as the Son of God.
	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Color: White	This festival, on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, commemorates when Jesus's divinity was made known to Peter, James, and John. Jesus's appearance changed as He was revealed in the radiance of heavenly glory and God again declared that Jesus is His beloved Son.
LENT Color: Purple	**Ash Wednesday** Color: Black or Purple	On Ash Wednesday we begin our 40-day Lenten journey of repentance, self-reflection, and the strengthening of our faith. Ashes mark the cross on our foreheads and the word "alleluia" is removed from our liturgy. We continue to celebrate Holy Communion on Sundays. Why? Because the 40 days of Lent exclude Sundays. Sundays are festival days when we continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection with the sacrament of Holy Communion.

SEASON	FESTIVALS/COLOR	DESCRIPTION	
LENT (cont.) Color: Purple	**Palm Sunday** Color: Purple	Holy Week begins. We wave palm branches at the start of the service in celebration of Jesus's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9.	
	Maundy Thursday Color: Purple. The altar is stripped and all candles, including the Paschal Candle, are removed at the end of service.	**The Three Days (Triduum)**	"Maundy" stems from the Latin word mandatum, which translates to "commandment" or "command." It refers to the new commandment that Jesus gave His disciples during the Last Supper: "Love one another as I have loved you." This is also the day Christ was betrayed and arrested.
	Good Friday Color: Black or none		Good Friday is the most solemn day of the year. Christ's Passion ends on this day with His crucifixion and death.
	Easter Vigil		Easter Vigil is the culmination of the Triduum. It typically begins after sunset on Holy Saturday and ends before or at sunrise on Easter morning.
EASTER Color: White	**The Resurrection of Our Lord** Color: White	"Alleluia, He is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" Easter is the holiest day of the year in the life of a Christian and the culmination of the Triduum. The Easter season is celebrated for 50 days, ending on Pentecost.	
	The Ascension of Our Lord Color: White	The Ascension occurs on the 40th day of the Easter season (always on a Thursday). Jesus's ascension into heaven marks the end of Jesus's earthly appearances after His resurrection.	
PENTECOST & THE SUNDAYS AFTER Color: Green	**The Day of Pentecost** Color: Red	Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter, including Easter. It memorializes the gift and power of the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and marks the birth of the Church, unifying believers to go out into the world and share the good news.	
	The Holy Trinity Color: White	On the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Trinity: God in 3 persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We profess this belief in the 3 ecumenical creeds included in the Book of Concord, namely the Apostle's Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed. The Holy Trinity is the only principal festival in the ELCA that honors the theological doctrine of the mystery of the Triune God rather than a specific event in Jesus's life.	
	Reformation Day Color: Red	On Oct. 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany and sparked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Tenets of Luther's belief include: sinners are saved by God's grace alone, by faith in Christ; the Bible is the ultimate authority; and all baptized believers have direct access to God and do not need intermediaries. We celebrate this festival on Oct. 31st.	
	All Saints' Day Color: White	All Saints' Sunday is observed on the first Sunday in November. We believe that we are all sinners and saints at the same time. This festival celebrates all saints, both the living and those who have died in the faith, and celebrates Christ's victory over death.	
	Christ the King Sunday Color: White	Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It honors Jesus Christ as the sovereign over all creation, whose authority is rooted in love, justice, and sacrifice.	