



First Lutheran Church - ELCA

December 2025

# The Voice

of the First Lutheran Congregation

First Lutheran Church  
401 7th Av SW Pipestone MN 56164  
Phone: 507-825-5837  
Website: [www.firstlutheranpipestone.org](http://www.firstlutheranpipestone.org)

## WAIT!!

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We hate to wait. It means we have to slow down, or maybe even stop. It means that we can't get to or do whatever it is that is our goal as soon as we would like. Waiting can be uncomfortable – just ask any woman who has given birth when she is about a week out from

her due date! Waiting can be joyful – just ask any grandparents-to-be as they anticipate the birth of their first (or successive) grandchild, and as they watch their child become a parent. Waiting can be boring – just ask any child or teen who has to cool their heels – without phone, table, or other device to keep them occupied!

Advent is a time of waiting. We are counting down the 4 Sundays before Christmas Day, anticipating the birth of Jesus. We are also anticipating the time when Jesus will come again. Some of the waiting is boring, some is joyful, some is uncomfortable.

I would invite us to wait together, as a community, checking in with each other each Sunday at worship, and see how the waiting is going as the time gets closer.

Blessings in the waiting.

*Pastor Ann*



# A New Year Bible Challenge

I have a challenge for you. Do you think you can read the entire Bible in the next year? I know that often New Years' Resolutions (New Years' Challenges?) begin on January 1, and generally peter out by the time Lent begins in February. So, an idea is to start reading scripture daily beginning November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year,

It can be hard to figure out how to manage this. Do you start from Genesis and read all the way through Revelation? (I would not necessarily recommend this. Genesis and Exodus are fine, but many people quit when they hit Leviticus or Numbers.) How many chapters a day should you read? (This depends on how you want to approach this.) What happens if you miss a day? (You could either read double the next day, or spread out the catching-up over a week, adjusting the reading schedule.)

There are many calendars out there that say they will guide you through reading the Bible in a year. Some Bibles even have such a chart/calendar included! There is no one-size-fits-all! It all depends on your schedule, how you want to read (chronologically, in book order, the order in which they were written) etc.

I have looked online and found several sources to check out. This is not an exhaustive list!

◇ <https://www.christianity.com/bible/year/>

This resource has multiple options for version/translation to use, and you can choose how you want to read (Old Testament then New Testament, order written, order in history, combination, etc).

◇ <https://www.biblica.com/resources/reading-plans/>

This resource has Old Testament, New Testament, and Psalm/Proverbs reading for each day. You can choose the date you want to begin.

◇ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/melissa-kruger/my-favorite-bible-in-a-year-reading-plan-2/>

This is a blog post, and the nice thing about this listing is it has you reading 5 days a week, so if you have to miss a day, or want to take a day off, you aren't behind. It has a pdf that you can print off, to keep track of your reading.



◇ <https://www.fivedaybiblereading.com/> is the website that she got the plan off of.

◇ <https://bibleinayearonline.com/>

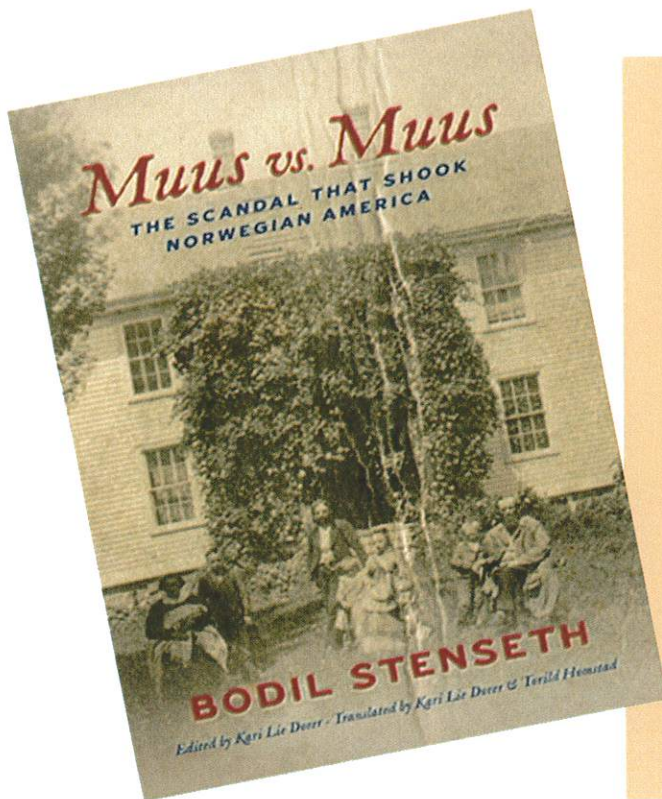
This is an online resource, so you don't need to print anything out. It has several plans/options to check out.

◇ <https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans/>

This resource has online components, as well as a pdf you can print out. It also has lots of other video resources, and options for topical or smaller units (than the whole Bible). I have used some of the video resources with confirmation class, and they are well done.

I have read the Bible through at least 3 times, but not for a while. I am going to challenge myself to choose one of these options, and see if I can read it again in 2026! Please join me!

Pastor Ann



## Adult Ed Update

If you are interested in the history of 1880 Norwegian immigration to Minnesota, the Norwegian Lutheran church establishment and the women's rights movement in Minnesota, check out the book, "Muus vs Muus". It is a biography which was recently donated to the First Lutheran Library. It's a great book!



## Council Highlights from November 12th, 2025

- ◆ MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Cristy Appel, Robert Baerenwald, Danielle Ossefoort, Sarah Meyer, Pastor Ann Zastrow, Nicole Weber, Marit Sterud, Al Hollingsworth, Karen Boehm Absent: Kristy Henriksen, Thad Reinert
- ◆ TREASURER'S REPORT: Payment to the Synod was tabled for this month.
- ◆ PASTOR'S REPORT: LIFT Christmas program is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 17th @6:30pm.
- ◆ Unfinished Business notes: Meatball Supper: 463 take-outs and 220 dine-in meals served; 100 Harvest bags were decorated and filled, school kits were also delivered. Holy Buzz (aka Coffee Fellowship) will be held every 3rd Sunday.
- ◆ New Business: draft of the 2026 budget reviewed and discussed, Shetek Pledge will be paid by endowment; propose to reduce the Synod Pledge from \$4000 to \$2000 per year. Paid Family & Medical Leave benefit paid quarterly will be paid 1/2 by church and 1/2 by staff (payroll deduction), Audit committee members have been confirmed for this year: Steve Werner, Rob Woodbury, Ryan Wielenberg & Wade Smith.
- ◆ Congregational Life: will work with youth to attend a Stampede event in January/February.
- ◆ Property Management: Will talk with Peak Pros and Walker Brothers regarding the bell tower. Walker Brothers now looking at a late November availability.
- ◆ LIFT & Youth: LIFT Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 17th @6:30pm, Youth is looking into Stampede hockey games.
- ◆ Adult Education: Robert spoke with the confirmation students and encouraged them to check out the Bible characters and what might happen if they had cell phones.
- ◆ Future Business: Cost-saving suggestions
- ◆ Reminders for Committees: Annual reports are due to Lori by December 15th.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 @7:30pm





**Noisy Offering for November & December is being collected**  
**for:**

**Youth Project - Toy Drive**

The total amount collected was: **\$136.09**

Noisy Offering for November & December will go to purchase toys for kids in need. Youth will go shopping with funds raised.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THESE IMPORTANT OUTREACH NEEDS.**

**November 2025 Offerings**

Monthly Offering needed:	\$21,150.00
Weekly Offering – week 1	
Weekly Offering – week 2	
Weekly Offering – week 3	
Weekly Offering – week 4	
Weekly Offering – week 5	
MONTH-END TOTAL:	

**Needed / week:**

4-week month = \$5,288/week

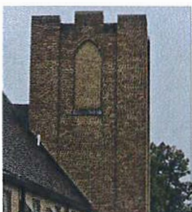
5-week month = \$4,230/week



The end of 2025 is fast approaching. Please make sure to have any donations in to the church office **NO LATER THAN Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>** if you want them to be included in your year-end statements!!!!!!  
**THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOU GIVE TO FIRST LUTHERAN!!**

There are now THREE METHODS to use Simply Giving:

- 1) Your church offerings can be made weekly, every other week (bi-weekly) or monthly automatically through electronic funds transferred from your checking or savings accounts or by using your credit card.
- 2) To the right (>) is a Quick Response (QR) code. When you scan the QR code image with a smartphone's QR decoder, it will instantly connect you to the mobile version of the church's Vanco/Simply Giving offering site. Just follow the directions on your screen.
- 3) Be watching for other options as they become available.
- 4) Good ol' offering envelopes - they are tried and true still today!!



**Current Bell Tower fund balance (12/01/2025):**

**THANK YOU to all who have donated!!!**

# Church News, Events & Happenin's

## VISITATIONS

If someone is ill or in need of a Pastoral visit, please call Pastor Ann or contact the Church office @ 825-5837. Please remember the following First Lutheran Church members in your prayers, send them a card, or stop to visit them.



Joyce Kunz	Good Samaritan Communities, Pipestone
Darrell Foss	Good Samaritan, Sioux Falls
Kay Dubbelde	The Lodge Assisted Living - Mankato, MN <i>Send any letters or cards to: Kay Dubbelde</i> <i>Mankato Lodge Senior Living</i> <i>1360 Adams St Rm 410 - Mankato, MN 56001</i>
Mildred Carstensen	Good Samaritan Communities, Pipestone (until mid December)

Our thoughts and prayers to the family of Scott & Gail Barduson on the passing of Scott's mom, Barbara.

May you find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.



Thank you for all those who gave money to help Curt and Lori Ilse with expenses during Curt's cancer treatments. We are truly blessed by so many wonderful people here at First Lutheran!

*Cristy Appel*





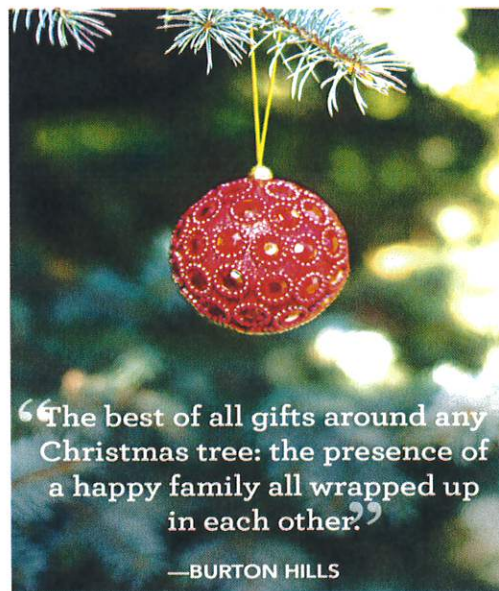
On Sunday, November 9th, 2025

We welcomed in Holy Baptism

*Roland James Watts*

Roland was born on November 8th, 2024 to  
Josh & Megan Watts. Roland joins his older brother, Lincoln

Welcome to the family of First Lutheran Church!!!



### Three-Year-Olds Receive Story Bibles

On Sunday, November 9th, Lincoln and Silas received their brand new story Bibles. We hope Lincoln and Silas enjoy their new Bible and all the stories of Jesus!





# THE BANQUET

We had another great crew of youth and adults from First Lutheran as well as Grace Lutheran from Lake Benton who helped to serve at the Banquet on Wednesday, November 5th! They served 242 meals (34 children & 208 adults). A HUGE THANK YOU to all of the food preppers as well as the workers! It is appreciated more than you know!!



## 2025 Meatball Supper



Another FLC Meatball Supper is in the books! Attendance was down a little bit this year than compared to last year but we still had a great turn out! We served 463 take-out meals and 220 dine-in meals. Not to mention we also sold the leftovers:

- ⇒ 95 quarts of meatballs
- ⇒ 16 quarts of potatoes
- ⇒ 4 quarts of cole slaw
- ⇒ 5 quarts of applesauce

We couldn't do all of this without everyone coming together to help. THANK YOU to all of the organizers, workers, ticket sellers and especially the eaters for making this so successful year after year!

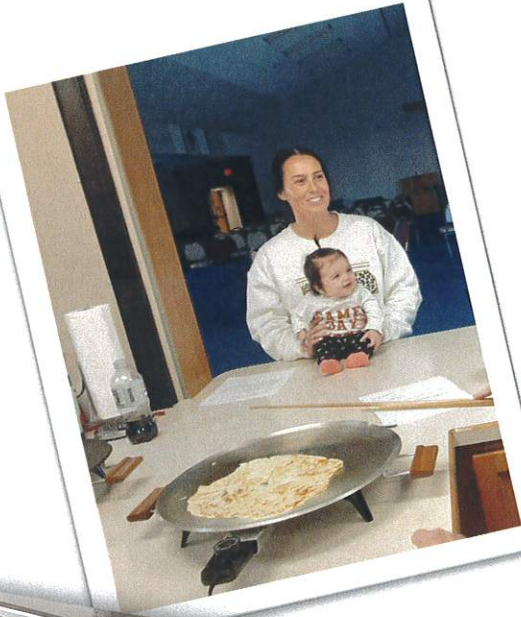
**Blessings to you all on a wonderfully Happy Holiday Season!**



# Let's Make Some Lefse.

...and so we did!!! Around 25 adults and kids joined us on Sunday, November 23rd to learn how to make lefse. So much fun to see everyone gather, learn and carry on the tradition of making lefse here at First Lutheran!

THANK YOU to all of our 'teachers' and 'students' for making this such a wonderful day!!



# KAFFI-TI

**Saturday, December 13th, 2025  
1:00 - 3:00p.m.**



**Join us in the  
afternoon!**

**at First Lutheran Church  
401 7th Avenue SW  
in Pipestone**

***SCANDINAVIAN SPECIALTIES:***

**Rosettes, Krumkaka, Fruit Suppe,  
Sandbakkels and Lefse  
OTHER BAKED ITEMS...  
American Christmas goodies!**



**Check out our other items:  
Quilts, Denim Rugs & Cookbooks**

***FEATURING Christmas cranberry cake with  
butter sauce!***

***Come to shop, sit & enjoy Scandinavian treats,  
coffee & conversation!***



# **F.L.C.W News**

## **& Activities**



### **KAFFI TI HELPER LIST 2025**

Here is the Kaffi Ti sign-up sheet. Please write your name under what you plan to bring.

**Return to the church office by Dec 1 by mail, email, or drop it off.**

#### **Make lefse at home**

Any recipe you like Package 3 rounds together, folded 1 ½ and then 1/3

**Candy**

**Snack Mix**

**Breads**

**Fruit Soup/Rommegrot**

**Rosettes**

**Krumkake**

**Make Cranberry Cake**

**Sandbakkelse**

**Canned Goods**

**Christmas Cookies 4-5 Dozen Bring to church by noon on Friday, Dec 12**

#### **Miscellaneous Items**

**Workers** 1-4 pm (setup & pricing) – Need 6 people

**Workers** Saturday 12:30-3:30 pm (or until end), One shift only – Need 12 people

**All will receive a reminder text. There will not be another letter.**

*Kristy*

# Shetek Happenings

**December 2025**

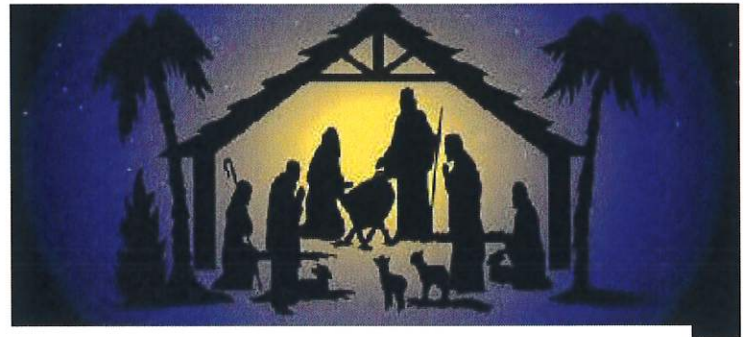


14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172  
507-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers**



**New Chapel Roof!**



**Merry Christmas!**

## Wish List

- Adding Machine
- Office Supplies - Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Extension cords and Power Strips
- Arts and Crafts Supplies
- Volunteers

## Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting December 7

Scandinavian Dinner December 7

Hiking Club December 14

Campfire Christmas December 21

Hiking Club January 11

Register online at [Shetek.org](http://Shetek.org) or

Call 507-763-3567



**Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!**





**S H E T E K**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

# SCANDINAVIAN DINNER

*Sunday, December 7, 2025*  
*at 5:00pm*

Join us in celebrating our **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of our Scandinavian Dinner! Come enjoy and evening of fellowship, laughter, and delicious food. All you can eat buffet of Lutefisk, Meatballs, Lefse, and more!



**\$25.00 all you can eat!**

**We need advanced  
paid registrations.**

**Reserve your plate by  
December 1st!**

Head over to [www.shetek.org](http://www.shetek.org), email  
[camp@shetek.org](mailto:camp@shetek.org), or call (507)763-3567 for more  
information!

join us for nature-based holiday fun!

## CAMPFIRE CHRISTMAS

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21**

**3:00PM-5:00PM**

Shetek Lutheran Ministries  
14 Keeley Island Drive Slayton, MN 56172  
meet in our camp dining hall!



### FREE WILL DONATION EVENT!

- MAKE AND TAKE NATURE CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES-
- COZY CAMPFIRE-
- COCOA & COOKIES-

**ALL ARE WELCOME - PLEASE REGISTER AT**

**[WWW.SHETEK.ORG](http://WWW.SHETEK.ORG)**

 **S H E T E K**  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES







# Remind

The REMIND app is used here at  
First Lutheran for our Youth activities!

To join, send a text to 81010 with the message:  
@8728964

OR

Visit: <https://www.remind.com/join/8728964>

It's a GREAT way to see opportunities for First Lutheran Youth in grades 6-12! Both students & parents are welcome to join!



## Merry Christmas!!

- \* Wednesday, Dec. 3rd: 6:15-7:15pm LIFT/Confirmation
- \* Wednesday, December 10th: 6:15pm Contemporary Service, 6:45-7:15pm LIFT/Confirmation
- \* Wednesday, December 17th: 7pm LIFT Christmas program (confirmation kids will usher)
- \* Wednesday, December 24th: CHRISTMAS EVE, worship at 5:00pm; NO LIFT/Confirmation
  - \* Thursday, December 25th: Christmas Day
- \* Wednesday, December 31st: NO LIFT/Confirmation



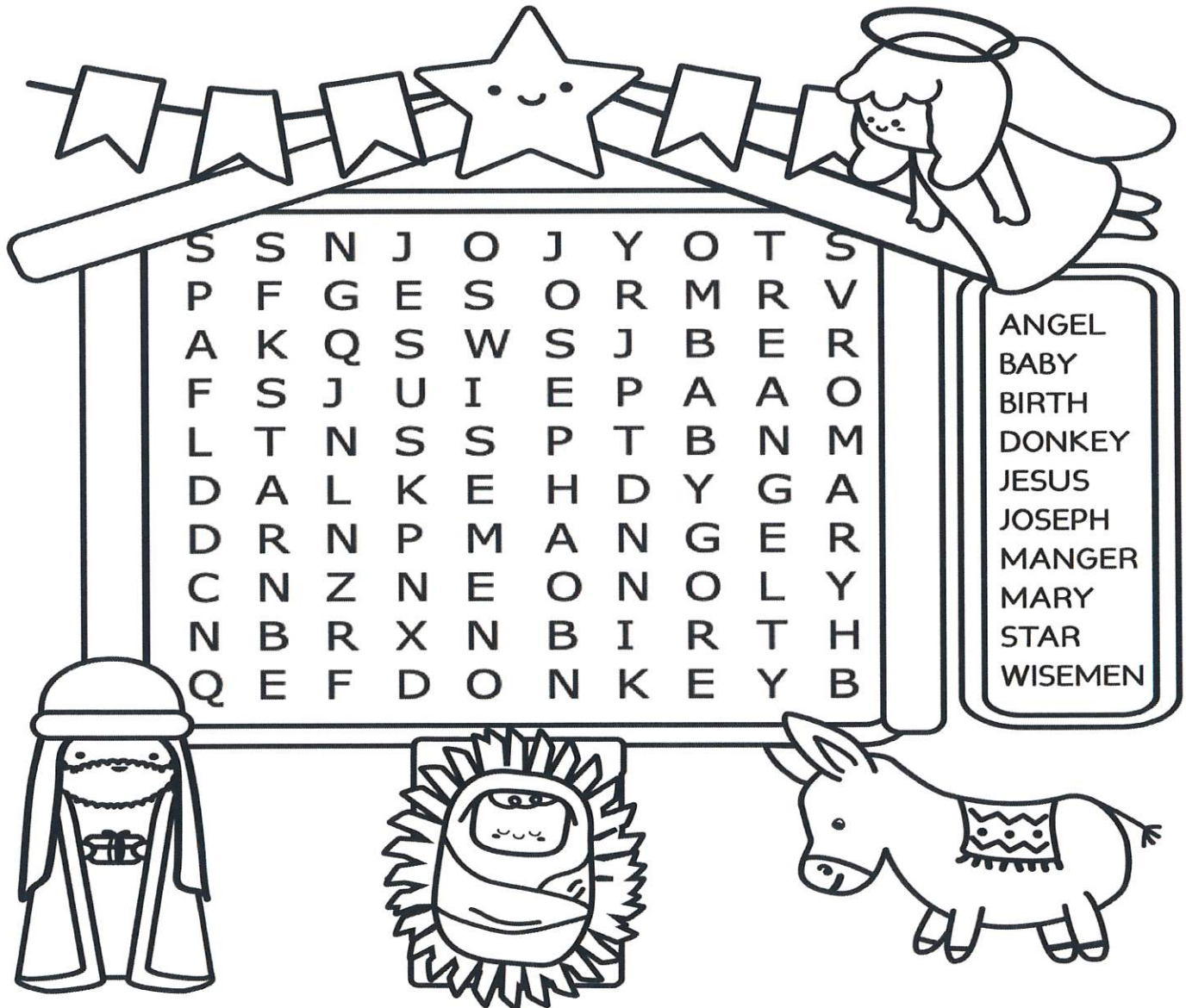
# Kidz Korner



Every Child is designed  
by God to be a  
leader!!

## HOLY NIGHT

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



# *First Lutheran's*

LIFT kids

Present.....



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 17th

@6:30pm

We hope you can join us! All of the  
teachers and kids in LIFT here at  
First Lutheran wish you all a very blessed  
and safe Christmas!!





Date	Worship Time	Reader	Acolytes	Communion Assistant(s)	Ushers *(captain)	Sound
<b>12-7-2025</b> *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Debbie Reinert		Dave Dulas	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Ryan Wielenberg
<b>12-14-2025</b> *Holy Communion	9:30 a.m.	Dave Dulas		Dave Dulas	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Jason Weber
<b>12-21-2025</b>	9:30 a.m.	Wielenberg's	Rowan Heidebrink	_____	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Neil Johnson
<b>12-24-2025</b> Christmas Eve	9:30 a.m.	Lori Ilse		1: 2:	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Mark Zinnel
<b>12-28-2025</b>	9:30 a.m.			_____	*Joel Carpenter (cpt) ~Austin Carpenter ~Mick Myers ~Craig Thies ~Thad Reinert	Mark Zinnel

## Communion Assistants, Lesson Readers and Acolytes are needed!!!

If you are able to help us out, please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex OR you can sign up online by using the QR code to the right >>>.



May God's love continue to shine upon  
your marriage, filling your hearts with  
joy and peace!



**December 5th**  
Matt & Breanna McCorquodale

**December 10th**  
Eric & Kristen Brockberg

**December 29th**  
Nathan & Jacklyn Christensen



# December

## BIRTHDAYS

Dec 1	Lauren Smidt	Dec 16	Trevor Chaulsett    Kyleen Ilse Carol Johnson
Dec 5	Dan Lee	Dec 18	Gracelynn Dwire    Doug Kaffar
Dec 7	Ingrid Wielenberg	Dec 22	Steve Werner
Dec 8	Dennis Peterson	Dec 26	JoAnn Straw
Dec 12	Scott Barduson    Connor Ilse Ray Staatz	Dec 28	Randy Claussen
Dec 15	Rhylin Ilse	Dec 30	Scott Heidebrink

On your special day, you are wished all the very best, all the  
joy you can ever have and may you also be blessed abundantly  
today, tomorrow and the days to come!





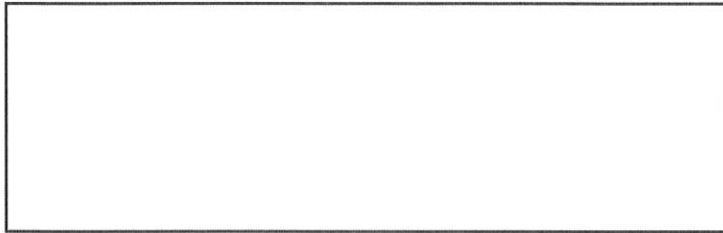
# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 ~9am Prayer ~10am - Caroling @Good Sam ~6:15pm LIFT / Confirmation ~7:00pm - church committee mtgs	4 ~5:30pm - Executive mtg	5	6
7 *2nd Sunday of Advent ~9:30am - Worship w/ Communion	8	9 ~8:30am - Ministerial mtg	10 ~8:15am Pastor's Prayer (HOST) ~6:15pm - Contemporary Service 6:45pm - LIFT/ Confirmation ~7:30pm - Council mtg	11	12	13 ~Kaffi Ti 1-3pm
14 *3rd Sunday of Advent ~9:30am - Worship w/ Communion ~4pm - Christmas sing @Episcopal Church	15	16	17 ~8:15am - Pastor's Prayer ~6:30pm LIFT Christmas program	18 ~AM - Pastor out of office - Conf. mtg	19	20
21 *4th Sunday of Advent ~9:30am - Worship	22	23	24 ~NO - Pastor's Prayer ~NO LIFT / Confirmation ~5pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26	27
NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break >>>>>						
28 ~9:30am - Worship	29	30	31 ~NO - Pastor's Prayer ~NO LIFT / Confirmation New Year's Eve			
NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break >>>>>						



## First Lutheran Church - ELCA

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Phone: 507-825-5837

Email: [office@firstlutheranpipestone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranpipestone.org)

The VOICE is produced monthly by First Lutheran Church - ELCA

*We are all one body, one spirit,  
compelled by Christ to share His  
Word and the promise of salvation.  
~Matthew 28*

### Worship schedule:

- ♦ 9:30am Sundays at Church & live-streamed on Facebook
- ♦ Radio Worship Broadcast: 10:30am Sundays on KLOH 1050AM
- ♦ TV Public Access: Wednesdays @12pm & 5pm on Channel 3

### Our Church Staff

#### Ministers

Members of First Lutheran

**Pastor** Rev. Ann Zastrow

Email: [pastor@firstlutheranpipestone.org](mailto:pastor@firstlutheranpipestone.org)

#### Admin. Asst/Office Mgr

Lori Ilse Office: 825-5837

Email: [office@firstlutheranpipestone.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranpipestone.org)

**Custodians:** Mark Zinnel Cell :820-2676  
Home 825-2953  
Melissa Burnett Cell : 215-0166

**Church Office** Phone: (507) 825-5837

**Website:** [www.firstlutheranpipestone.org](http://www.firstlutheranpipestone.org)

#### **Facebook:**

Google First Lutheran Church - Pipestone  
FB & hit the FB link on the webpage

### Congregational Contacts:

#### **\*\*President**

Kristy Henriksen Ph: 507-825-3122

#### **\*Vice President**

Sarah Meyer Ph: 507-215-7401

#### **Secretary**

Karen Boehm

#### **Treasurer Liaison**

Thad Reinert

#### **Financial Secretary**

Kaitlyn Ilse

### First Lutheran Church Women:

**Coordinator** Nancy Johnson 507-227-5335

**Treasurer** Patti Peterson

**Secretary** Darlene Muller

**First Lutheran Church Council meets on the  
second Wednesday of each month  
@ 7:30 p.m.**