

"Welcome to Worship"

God is here for you,
In the word and sacraments,
in the love of this community.

Welcome - it's great to have you here!
Thank you for choosing to worship with us at
First Lutheran today.

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 14th, 2025

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Ministers:

Members of First Lutheran Church

Pastor: Pastor Ann Zastrow

Organist: Paul Henriksen

Sound: Jason Weber

Reader: Dave Dulas

Acolyte: Rowan Heidebrink

Communion Assistant: Dave Dulas

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Pipestone FB & click the FB link on the
webpage.



**Scattering seeds of love,
worship & service**

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship:

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn:

ELW #242 – Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive our sins,**

known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. C: Amen.

Gathering

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie: pg 184

Hymn of Praise: pg 187

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

Hearing God's Word

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 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. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. 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." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.

Here ends the First Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10 (please read responsively)

R: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

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

R: who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

C: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

R: The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

C: The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

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

Here ends the Second Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time / Advent Candle (Joy)

Advent Hymn: ACS #905: We Are Waiting for Jesus (vs 1) - music is on the screen

P: Please stand in honor of the reading of the gospel.

The **Holy Gospel** is taken from **Matthew 11:2-11**

C: Glory to you O Lord.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' 'Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #239 – Hark the Glad Sound

Responding to God's Word

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Offering Hymn: ELW #253 – He Came Down

Offering Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord Jesus, we offer our gifts to you today, trusting in your promise that you are indeed the One who heals, who proclaims good news to the poor, and who brings hope to those in despair. As we give, we are reminded of your humble presence in the world and your invitation to follow you with hearts full of trust and faith. May our offerings reflect the joy we find in the assurance that, all things are made new through your love for us. We pray in your holy name. Amen.



Service of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving/Words of Institution

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Songs: ELW #487 – What Feast of Love

ELW #477 – I Received the Living God

Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray.

C: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #246 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Welcome! It is GREAT to have you here! Thank you for choosing to worship with us here today.

We practice open Communion at First Lutheran. If you believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, his body and blood shed for you, you are welcome to our table. Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

The Worship Radio Broadcast is sponsored in honor of our family by Bill & Marlys Winter.

#Continuing Prayer Concerns:

We keep in our prayers Sarah Meyer and her nephew, Jacob Meyer, Mildred Carstensen, Kristy Henriksen, Curt Ilse, Joyce Kunz, JoAnn Straw and Kay Dubbelde.

*** ***If you or someone you know has a Prayer Concern, please call the church office 825-5837 to have it listed in the bulletin and church webpage. You can also email the church office@firstlutheranpipestone.org.***

This Week's Schedule (December 14th – December 21st, 2025)

Today: 9:30am – Worship, w/Holy Communion, live-streamed; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

Wednesday: 8:15am – Pastor's Prayer; 6:30pm – LIFT Christmas Program

Thursday: AM – Pastor out of office for Conference meeting

Sunday: 9:30am – Worship, live-streamed; Radio: 10:30am aired on KLOH (1050 AM)

<i>December 2025 Offering</i>	
Monthly Offering needed:	\$21,150.00
Weekly Offering – December 7th	
Weekly Offering – December 14th	\$.
Weekly Offering – December 21st	\$.
Weekly Offering – Christmas Eve - December 24th	\$.
Weekly Offering – December 28th	\$.
MONTH TOTAL:	

Needed per week:

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

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

Extra offering books are available on the table in the narthex. Please feel free to take another book if you are running low!!

Simply Giving is also available online by scanning the QR code in the bulletin.

VISITORS – please feel free to scan the QR code (by Offering above) if you wish to give to First Lutheran today.

THANK YOU for giving!!



The end of 2025 is fast approaching. Please make sure to have any donations in to the church office NO LATER THAN Tuesday, December 30th 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!!

Noisy Offering for November & December 2025 is being collected for:

Youth Project (Christmas Toy drive)

The total amount collected was: **\$144.34**

THANK YOU for your support of these important Outreach needs.



BELL TOWER REPAIR ASSISTANCE

The Property and Management Committee is looking for donations to help with fixing the bell tower water leakage problem. Donations can be made to First Lutheran Church by designating BELL TOWER on memo line. Cost is estimated to cost \$23,000+. Repairs expected to begin mid-November.

Bell Tower Fund balance as of 12/8/2025:

THANK YOU to all who have donated!!!



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 left <<<.



Radio Sponsorships for 2026 are posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you have a recurring yearly sponsorship, please let the office know if you would like to change the date as listed on the schedule. There are 11 open slots so if you would like to get signed up for one, please add your name to one of the open slots or scan the QR code>>.

THANK YOU all who give to the radio sponsorship – it is a GREAT way to share the ministry here at First Lutheran!!



First Lutheran is now on Instagram! We will do our best to keep things posted and updated as much as possible. We now have 3 areas of social media for you to get info from:



1. Website: www.firstlutheranpipestone.org
2. Facebook: First Lutheran Church ELCA
3. Instagram: flicoff.pipe

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Do you wish to contribute to the Poinsettia Fund this Christmas? Donations can be given in memory or in honor of your loved ones. These donations will be used to purchase an appropriate number of poinsettias to decorate the church, with the remainder of the funds to go towards other church projects. You may still bring in your own from home – just please make sure to put your name on it so you can take it home after Christmas.

If you would like to order or make a donation, please complete the following information & return this portion to the church office or the offering plate or go online to www.firstlutheranpipestone.org to print one online or email to the church.

NO LATER than Sunday, December 14th, 2025

- I will bring my own from home (**please bring to the church by Friday, December 19th, 2025**)
- Here is a contribution to the Poinsettia Fund. Amount: \$ _____
(Please include payment with this form.)

Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____

Contribution is: **in memory of** **in honor of**
(Please print clearly)