

### *"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.

## **Fourth Sunday of Advent** **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025** **GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

### **Ministers:**

Members of First Lutheran Church

**Pastor:** Pastor Ann Zastrow

**Organist:** Paul Henriksen

**Sound:** Neil Johnson

**Reader:** Wielenberg 's

**Acolyte:** .

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### **Email:**

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**Facebook:** Google First Lutheran Church  
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 #254 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#### **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 185

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Hearing God's Word

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (please read responsively)**

R: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

R: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

R: You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

R: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

R: And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**C: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved**

### **Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Here ends the Second Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Time / Advent Candle (Peace)**

### **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 1:18-25**

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife 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. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: ELW #257 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

***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: Gracious God, we remember that we are called to belong to you. As we offer our gifts, we dedicate them to your service and the spread of your good news. May our lives reflect the grace and peace that we are about to receive again through the birth of Baby Jesus. Strengthen us to live lives of faithfulness and to use these offerings where they are needed most. In your blessed name we pray, Amen.**



**Lord's Prayer**

***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 #266 – All Earth is Hopeful**

***Dismissal***

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

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

**The Worship Radio Broadcast** is sponsored in memory of Marvin Alma and Betty Ann Stueven by Dwight & Sheila Horton and their family.

***# Continuing Prayer Concerns:***

We send prayers of comfort to Gavin & Lauren Smidt and Cody & Brittany Heidebrink and their families on the passing of Gavin and Brittany's grandmother, Gloria Smidt. We keep in our prayers: Meg Petra (Pastor Ann's sister), Jackson Borman (Bob Hubner's grandson), Ed Hansen, Becky Kaffar, 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](mailto:office@firstlutheranpipestone.org).

**This Week's Schedule (December 21st – December 28th, 2025)**

Pastor Ann will be on vacation from Dec. 25 to Dec. 29. She will be back in the office on December 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Wednesday:** NO LIFT/Confirmation; 5pm - Christmas Eve service

**Thursday (Christmas Day):** Offices closed – Pastor on vacation

**Friday:** Offices closed

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

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

**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  
12/15/2025:

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 **10 open slots (listed below)** so if you would like to get signed up for one, please add your name to one of the open slots on the sheet. If you would like to check your recurring sponsorship, OR signup online, 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!!

January 11<sup>th</sup>  
April 26<sup>th</sup>  
May 10<sup>th</sup>

June 28<sup>th</sup>  
August 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

October 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
December 13<sup>th</sup>



Please join us for First Lutheran's  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @5pm



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](http://www.firstlutheranpipestone.org)
2. Facebook: First Lutheran Church ELCA
3. Instagram: flcoff.pipe

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