

"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.

First Sunday of Christmas Sunday, December 28th, 2025 GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Ministers:

Members of First Lutheran Church

Worship Leader: Ingrid Wielenberg

Organist: Paul Henriksen

Sound: Mark Zinnel

Reader: Wielenberg's & Lori Ilse

Acolyte: .

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Scattering seeds of love, worship & service

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship:

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Opening Hymn: ELW #275 – Angels from the Realms of Glory

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

C: Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior, you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared, and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age – worldly passions and impious

pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked and ungodly ways. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

L: Hear this good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, forgiven in Christ and freed to respond in joy.

C: Amen.

Greeting

L: 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.

Hymn of Praise: ELW #270 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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

Isaiah 9:2-7 – God Promises a King

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn – ELW #243 – Lost In the Night

Micah 5:2-5a – The King will come from Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hymn – ELW #269 – Once in Royal David's City

Luke 1:26-35, 38 – The annunciation to Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called a Son of God." ... Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn – ELW #672 – Signs and Wonders (vs 1 & 3)

Matthew 1:18-25, Joseph's Dream

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss 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 conceive and bear 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 borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Hymn – ELW #295 – Of the Father's Love Begotten

Luke 2:1-7, The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn ELW #276 - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Luke 2:8-20, The Shepherds Go to See the Savior

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn ELW #272 - Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming

Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi Follow the Star

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn - WOV #646 - We Three Kings

John 1:1-14, The Mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the

flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Hymn ELW #290, Go Tell It On the Mountain

Responding to God's Word

Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the Church

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

L: 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/Offering Hymn: ELW #277 – Away in a Manger



Offering Prayer:

L: Let us pray.

C: Praise be to You, O God, for you are worthy of all honor and glory. As the heavens and the earth declare your greatness, we too bring our gifts to you today in praise. From the highest mountains to the deepest seas, all creation sings your praises. May our offerings be part of that song, given freely in thanksgiving for your goodness. Help us to live in such a way that our lives, like the stars and the sun, reflect your light and honor your name. In your glorious name we pray, Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

L: 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 #267– Joy to the World

Dismissal

L: 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.

The Worship Radio Broadcast is sponsored in honor of my last brother, Scott Baerenwald's birthday by Robert Baerenwald.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

We keep in our prayers: 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.*

This Week's Schedule (December 28th, 2025 – January 4th, 2026)

Pastor Ann will be back in the office on Tuesday, December 30th.

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

Wednesday: NO LIFT/Confirmation

Thursday: Office closed

Friday (Happy New Year): Offices closed

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

December 2025 Offering	
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

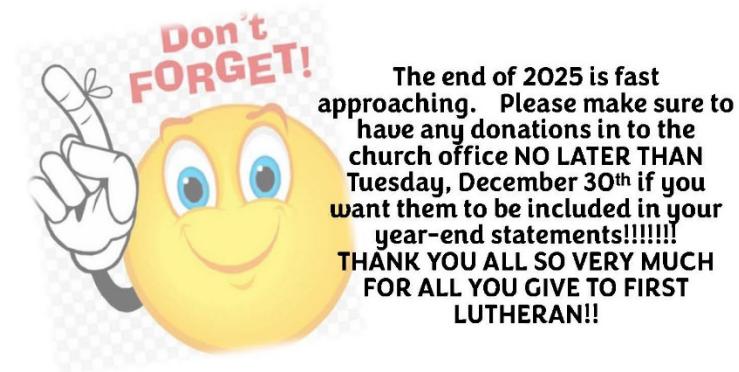
5-week month = \$4,230/week

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!!



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
12/26/2025: \$

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 11th
April 26th
May 10th

June 28th
August 30th
September 13th & 20th

October 11th & 18th
December 13th



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: flcoff.pipe