

### *"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.

## **Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday, January 4th, 2026**  
**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

### **Ministers:**

Members of First Lutheran Church

**Pastor:** Pastor Ann Zastrow

**Organist:** Paul Henriksen

**Sound:** Neil Johnson

**Reader:** Scott Barduson

**Acolyte:** .

**Communion Assistant:** .

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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 #301 – Bright and Glorious is the Sky  
(vs 1,3 & 4)**

#### **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: Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, 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

### **First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. Here ends the First Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 72:1-14 (please read responsively)**

R: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**C: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**  
R: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.  
**C: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
R: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.  
**C: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**  
R: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
**C: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
R: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.  
**C: For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
R: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.  
**C: From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### **Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

### **Children's Time**

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

**The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew 2:1-13**

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east 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 magi 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 in the east, 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. The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: WOV #646 – We Three Kings of Orient Are**

### *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 #879 – For the Beauty of the Earth (vs 1 & 5)**

**Offering Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Holy One, your light has come. Your light shines brightly in our humble lives. We place this offering upon your altar as an outpouring of your light within us. Glory hallelujah! 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 #302 – As with Gladness Men of Old (vs 1-4)**

**ELW #296 – What Child is This**

#### **Prayer After Communion**

P: Let us pray.

C: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal, we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, 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 #677 – This Little Light of Mine**

*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 Betty Ann Stueven's birthday by Dwight & Sheila Horton and family.

**# Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

We keep in our prayers: 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 (January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

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

**Pastor Ann will be out of the office Monday thru Wednesday to attend the Moses Project.**

**Tuesday:** Epiphany begins

**Wednesday:** 6:15pm – LIFT/Confirmation; 7:00pm – church committee meetings; 7:30pm – council budget meeting

**Thursday:** 9:30am – Quilting; 5:30pm – Executive meeting

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

<b>December 2025 Offering</b>	
<b>Monthly Offering needed:</b>	<b>\$21,150.00</b>
<b>Weekly Offering – December 7<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Weekly Offering – December 14<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Weekly Offering – December 21st</b>	
<b>Weekly Offering – Christmas Eve - December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Weekly Offering – December 28<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Year-end deposit on 12/31/25</b>	
<b>MONTH TOTAL:</b>	

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!!

**Year-end giving statements are available for pick up in the Narthex for 2 Sundays. Any remaining statements will be mailed out. PLEASE NOTE: the office will be including a member information sheet of what we currently have on file.**

**PLEASE MAKE A POINT TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION!!**

We are trying to improve our communications with our members but if our information is incorrect, it doesn't work so well. 😊 We use this contact information in our online church directory also. Please indicate if you prefer to OPT OUT of including certain information in the directory. (NOTE: This directory is ONLY accessible by members of First Lutheran). The forms can either be returned to the church by putting in the offering plate on a Sunday, sending via email to the church office OR via 'snail mail'.

THANK YOU for all of your help with this task – it is appreciated so very much!!!! Lori

**Noisy Offering for November & December 2025 was collected for:**

**Youth Project (Christmas Toy drive)**

The total amount collected was: **\$174.64**



**THANK YOU for your support of these important Outreach needs.**

**January Noisy Offering will go to the SW Crisis Center**

**A little more about the SW Crisis Center:** Located: 119 2<sup>nd</sup> Av SW #5 in Pipestone

**What they do:** provide support, advocacy, and hope to individuals and families impacted by sexual and domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and child abuse. Including a 24-hour safe line, community education, domestic & sexual violence advocacy programs, safe at home & safe harbor programs, services for kids & families, services for men & women who use violence, support and empowerment groups.

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

## 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 12/31/2025:

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 <<<.

You can also look to see the schedule for ushers as well – just by scanning the QR code with your phone!



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>



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