

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



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## Welcome to Worship

December 31, 2023— 1st Sunday of Christmas

### Today's Worship Ministers

*Usher:*  
*Reader:*  
*Communion Assistant:*  
*Narthex Host:* Linda McGuire  
*Flowers:*

#### Staff

*Pastor:* Jamie Gallagher  
Cell: 630-200-3550; Email: prjamie@flcmonmouth.org  
*Musician:* Janice Algren  
*Custodian:* Chris Algren

### Check out Our Welcome Center



Under the window to the Narthex .. We have offering plates and a bin for vision and purpose giving.

Weekly newsletters are available as well.

Coffee and other refreshments are available at the Narthex Coffee Stand.

### So That's My Bible Bible Study

Join us for a new Sunday Bible Study

Starting January 14  
Immediately after worship

Learn about the history and making of the Bible

Read and learn about interesting stories that you might not expect to find in the Bible

Stories that might even be considered taboo!  
Ooooo

This new Bible Study will meet Sundays (with a few exceptions) starting January 14th!

# Order of Service

## Gathering

Announcements, Prelude  
Confession and Forgiveness  
Peace

Opening Hymn: ELW 288 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

## The Word

Pastoral Greeting  
Blessing for the New Year

Hymn of Praise: ELW 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

## Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Celebration Video  
Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn: ELW 282 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

John 1:1-14

Sermon

Hymn: ELW 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

Apostles' Creed

## Prayers of Intercession

Linda Ellison, Ila Roseberry, Kathi Cruce, Dean Sandstrom, Emily Agema, Chris Buban, Gary Eyler, Cecil Lovdahl, Janet Lowe, Brian Elliott, Reva Stachinew

## Sending

Offering Prayer  
Communion Prayer  
"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Lord's Prayer

"Lamb of God"

Distribution

Post-Communion Prayer

Hymn: ELW 302 As With Gladness, Men of Old

Benediction

Benediction Refrain: ELW 290 Go Tell It On The Mountain,

Refrain, sung 1

sung once

Dismissal

### **Micah 5:2-5**

2 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. 3 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. 4 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, 5 and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

2 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. 3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4 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. 5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 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. 7 Great will be his authority, 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.

### **John 1:1-14**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 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.