

Second Sunday of Christmas  
January 4, 2026



First Lutheran Church  
116 Inner Drive  
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Rev. Samuel Mailleue

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UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another  
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

*Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.*

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## **GATHERING**

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

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### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **OPENING REFLECTION**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty Savior,  
Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we yearn for your presence to transform  
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared  
room in our hearts for your love;**

**we have not always recognized**

**your presence among us;**

**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,  
oppression, and fear.  
We confess our failure to make room  
for those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems  
that harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good news.  
Be born in us today  
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.  
Amen.**

God's grace upon grace flows over you.  
✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.  
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
**Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

*In the Bleak Midwinter* ELW #294  
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## **GREETING**

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

## **KYRIE**

ELW page 138

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE—*Glory be to God in heaven***

ELW page 204  
(Vs. 1)

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray  
**Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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#### **FIRST READING—Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy;  
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.  
<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **PSALM—Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,  
<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**  
<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**  
<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.  
<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.  
<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**  
<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

## **SECOND READING—Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia**

**ELW page #151**

The Holy Gospel according to the first chapter of John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL—John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

[<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him,

and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being<sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

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

<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Sam Mailleue**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Bright and Glorious Is the Sky* ELW #301**

**(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)**

One License #08638

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**



You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

*As with Gladness Men of Old* ELW #302

**(Vs. 3)**

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## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of glory,

**great are your wonders among us  
and many are the blessings you bestow.**

**Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,  
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,  
through Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**ELW page 144**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***Holy, holy, holy* ELW page 144**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

*Lamb of God* ELW page 146

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.  
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts  
the mystery of your presence.  
Move us to discover the wonders of your love  
in the everyday moments of our lives,  
through Christ born in us.

**Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

*The God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## **BLESSING**

The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,  
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*The First Noel* ELW #300

**(Vs. 3, 4 & 5)**

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## **DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### **Welcome to First Lutheran Church**

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship  
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you  
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*



**Acknowledgements:**

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Expires 12/25/2025

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2026

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## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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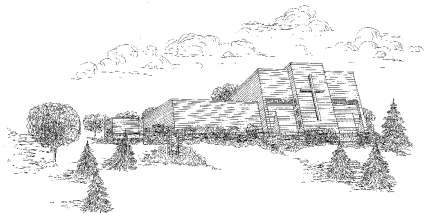
### **January Ministry Focus: Camperships**

Each summer, Bible camps across the country open their doors to children and youth, offering much more than just time outdoors. When we send our kids to summer camp, we are giving them a chance to grow in faith, confidence, and community in ways that last long after the campfire goes out.

When we encourage and support families in sending children to summer Bible camp, we are investing in the faith of the next generation. Camp plants seeds—of faith, leadership, and service—that continue to grow for years to come. Let's help make sure every child who wants to attend has the opportunity to experience this life-giving ministry.

Your financial gifts help remove barriers so every child who wants to attend camp can do so, regardless of a family's ability to pay. By giving toward Bible camp scholarships (camperships,) you are investing in the faith formation of our young people and helping nurture the next generation of disciples. Giving Envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space and in the Media Center in the Entry Way. Thank you for your generosity and continued support.





## Weekly Schedule

Sunday, January 4	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>
Tuesday, January 6	9:00a	Deadline for Team Annual Reports
Wednesday, January 7	9:00a 6:00p 6:30-7:30p 6:30-8p 6:30-8p	Staff Meeting Meal @ UMC RISE RISE UP FLY
Sunday, January 11	<b>9:00a</b> 10:15a	<b>Worship</b> First Choir Rehearsal

### Worship Assistants

#### January 4, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Vance Vanden Einde
Reader:	Ian Mailleue
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	
Communion Asst:	LeRoy & Joan May
Council Member:	Nick Pollack
Fellowship:	Mark Sullivan Family
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller Bob Bartle
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack

#### January 11, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Emmalee Flores
Reader:	Gene Dwyer
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	
Council Member:	Miles Heille
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Patrias Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack