First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026



God Comes To Us

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
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UNITED by Christ, God calls us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING **Stephanie Eischens**

We light this candle for hope.

In the darkness, God's promise shines.
In our waiting, God is at work.
When the way ahead is uncertain, God comes to us with light enough for the next step.

God of hope, awaken our hearts to your presence. Help us trust your promises and become sings of hope for those who are weary.

Come, Lord Jesus. Fill our hearts with hope.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who calls out to the weary,
whose word endures forever.
Amen.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord!"
We are called to confess our sin
and turn back toward God's love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness.
Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God,
who has clothed you with the garments of salvation
and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness.
God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven:
Rejoice in the Lord!
Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen. [Thanks be to God!]

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN ***Christ, Be Our Light*** **ELW #715 (Vs. 1, 2 & 5)**

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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- ***spoken*** **ELW page 138**

CANTICLE - ***Alleluia*** **ELW page 205**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

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

FIRST READING— Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

PSALM— Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING—1 Corinthians 1:3-9
As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has
been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in
him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ
has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as
you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen
you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—*Alleluia* **ELW page 142**

The Holy Gospel according to the thirteenth chapter of Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL— Mark 13:24-37
Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and
glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four
winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender
and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you

see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have
taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass
away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven
nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know
when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves
home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the
doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know
when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at
cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes
suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE **Rev. Sam Mailleue**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** **ELW #254 (Vs. 1 & 2)**

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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

In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive especially Ukraine and the Middle East.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home.
God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

OFFERING
Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN ***Canticle of the Turning*** **ELW #723 (Vs. 1)**

One License #00762

OFFERTORY PRAYER
Holy Creator,
we are the clay and you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

SENDING
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING
God our provider,
God our feast,
God our companion,
☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN ***Soon and Very Soon*** **ELW #439**
(Vs. 1, 2 & 3)
CCLI #11249

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

<u>Welcome to First Lutheran Church</u>
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 12/25/2026

Sharefaith—Membership
Expires 6/2027

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Ministry Focus: Adopt-A-Family

As we enter the holiday season, our congregation again has an opportunity to put our faith into action through Le Sueur County's Adopt-a-Family program. Through this program we will provide gifts of clothing for local families, helping parents meet their children's needs while bringing warmth, dignity, and joy during the Christmas season. Through this ministry, we live out Jesus' call to love our neighbors and care for those who may be experiencing difficult times.

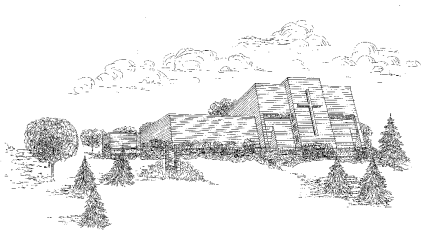
Adopt-A-Family gift tags are on the tree in the gathering space with more available online through Sign-Up Genius. Each tag has a clothing item with the size, gender, and child's age. **The final day to drop off gifts under the tree in the gathering space will be Wednesday, December 2nd. Gift should be unwrapped and labeled with the tag code!** The online link is shared in the Sunday morning email and on our website landing page. If assistance is needed signing up online, reach out to Becky.

Christmas In The Valley will be held on Friday, December 4. People are needed to help fill the float. If you are interested in participating, check in with Becky or Megan.

The Christmas Story told by the RISE and RISE UP students will be held during our worship time next Sunday, December 6.

Cookie, Creches and Christmas Memories will be held next Sunday, December 6. Please bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share along with you beloved creche.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
11-22-2026	$930	$4,523
YTD	$196,742	$217,100



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, November 29	**9:00a**	**Worship**
Wednesday, December 2	9:00a	Staff Meeting
	6:00p	Meal @ First
	6:30p	RISE / RISE UP / FLY
Friday, December 4		Christmas In The Valley
Sunday, December 6	**9:00a**	**Worship** **RISE/RISE UP Christmas Program**

Worship Assistants

November 29, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Malcolm Mailleue
Reader:	Jack Schwartz
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	Jack & Marta Schwartz
Council Member:	Lynnea Libra
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	John Miller
	Joanne Graff
Altar Guild:	Sue Michaelis
	Donnis Wicks

December 6, 2026

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Garret Handy
Reader:	Alison Montag
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst
Greeters:	Montag Family
Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Joan May
	Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack