



Love

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES-GOD WITH US

The memories of Christmas remind us that “God with us” is more than a phrase—it is the heart of hope and love made real. Each Christmas rekindles the warmth of family gatherings, joyful songs, and quiet moments of gratitude that reflect the divine presence among us. In the gentle light of a candle or the laughter shared around a table, we sense Emmanuel—God dwelling with His people, sharing in their joys and sorrows. These memories remind us that the first Christmas was not just a story of a manger long ago, but a promise that continues to live within every act of kindness, every gift of love, and every heart that welcomes peace.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* ELW #242**

(Vs. 1, 2 & 4)

One License #09936

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: We light the fourth candle, a sign of love. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to redeem us.

C: In love, God has called us to be His children.

P: Lord Jesus, gift of love, dwell within us and teach us to love one another.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, and perfect your love in us. Amen.

ADVENT HYMN

***He Came Down* ELW #253
(Vs. 1)**

One License #00114 & CCLI #4679219

The Memories of Christmas

God With Us

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES: VANDEN EINDE FAMILY

HYMN

***Go Tell It on the Mountain* ELW #290
(Vs. 1 & 2)**

FIRST CHOIR

Born On That Day

Come, Light Of Christmas

Call To Christmas

HYMN

***Love Has Come* ELW #292
(Vs. 1 & 2)**

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES: LIZ OSBORNE

DUET: Jennifer Weick & Gordon Gregersen

Calypso Lullaby

APOSTLES'S 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

PRAYERS

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill especially those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

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

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter ELW #294
(Vs 3)

One License #94263 & Public Domain

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.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory ELW #275
(Vs. 1 & 4)
Public Domain

FIRST CHOIR

O Holy Child Of Bethlehem

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

CLOSING REMARKS

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World ELW #267
(Vs. 1 & 2)
Public Domain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*“Beautiful music ... is one of the most magnificent and
delightful presents God has given us.”*

—Martin Luther

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.*

FIRST CHOIR

Sopranos: Jodi Bruns, Marci Greisen, Sandy Johnson, Bonnie Keech, Joan May, Shellie Segler, Tiffany Vanden Einde, Cooper Vanden Einde, Marie Walker

Altos: Kim Alinder, Terri Gartner, Lynnea Libra, Liz Osborne, Lisa Radloff, Rachel Wagner, Whitney Weick

Tenors: Edrie Barton, Gordon Gregersen, LeRoy May

Basses: Floyd Engelhardt, Dave Johnson, Aaron Libra

Accompanist: Virginia Miller

Cellist: Adam St. Pierre

Director: Jennifer Weick



Acknowledgements:

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Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2026

Church ArtPro—Account #74057560

Expires 12/15/2025

Born On That Day

words and music by C Tomlin B Elmquist, M Maher, C Mitchell Parks and J Reeves
CCLI #7119267

Come, Light of Christmas

words and music by Cindy Ovokaitys arr. David Gaines
One License #260254

Call To Christmas

words and music by Adam Miller

Calypso Lullaby

words and music by Jester Hairston

O Holy Child Of Bethlehem

Arr Lloyd Larson
License in office

O Come All Ye Faithful (His Name Shall Be)

traditional with new words and music by K Stanfill and JD Meyers,
Arr Jay Rouse
CCLI #7163644

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Ministry Focus: Love Baskets

As we enter this holy season of hope and anticipation, we are reminded that Christ calls us into community—both within our congregation and out in the world. One meaningful way we live out this calling is through our ministry of visitation. By spending time with those who are homebound, living alone, or experiencing seasons of loneliness, we interrupt the weight of social isolation with compassion and presence. A simple visit, a shared prayer, or even a warm conversation can be a profound expression of God's love. Thank you to Sue Michaelis for organizing this year's love basket visits.

The New Banner

In this Advent Season, we will see a new banner in our sanctuary. Inspired by First Lutheran’s stained-glass windows, it features a beautiful center panel depicting the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus. Vibrant colors of blue, yellow, green and red surround the nativity scene.

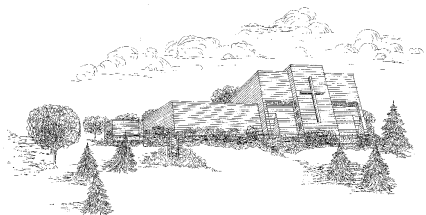
Four words are also featured on this banner. Each Sunday in Advent, as we anticipate Christ’s birth, we light the Advent candles. To serve as a visual reminder of this spiritual preparation for Christmas, the banner displays the words associated with each of the candles: hope, peace, joy, and love.

The banner was designed and sewn by the creative team of Brenda Tews, Rita Patrias, Edrie Barton and Sue Nelson. Their hope is that the meaningful imagery in the banner will help all of us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

Year-End 2025 Contributions

The end of year, for 2025, is not far away. The Finance Team would like to communicate, to our faithful contributors, that any/all final contributions for the year 2025 will need to be **at the church office no later than 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday, December 30th**, in order to be recorded and deposited for the year 2025. Any contributions received after that time will be reported in the year 2026. We are very grateful and thankful for your thoughtful giving. It keeps our many ministries alive.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
12-14-2025	\$5,437	\$4,542
YTD	\$207,783	\$231,621



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 21	9:00a	Worship
Wednesday, December 24	4:00p	Christmas Eve Worship w/Holy Communion
Sunday, December 28	9:00a	Worship

Worship Assistants

December 21, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen
Reader:	
Usher:	Steve Olson
Greeters:	Melissa Schwartz
Council Member:	Callie Greisen
Fellowship:	Diane Genelin
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle Dave Johnson
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack

December 24, 2025

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	LeRoy Halland
Reader:	Tiffany Vanden Einde
Usher:	Chuck Frauendienst Wayne Swenson
Greeters:	Vanden Einde Family
Communion Asst:	LeRoy & Joan May Jennifer Weick Charlie Weick C Schwarz Family
Council Member:	Joan May
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Altar Guild:	Nick & Becky Pollack