

*Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Cantata*

*December 22, 2024*



## WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.  
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,  
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger  
located on the second floor in the education wing. First door on the right.*

*Large print bulletins for today's worship are available,  
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

### **THIS WEEK AT FIRST December 22 – December 29**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Wreath Lighting & Cantata Poinsettia Delivery
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service w/Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>
	9:30 a.m.	Worship w/Holy Communion
<b>Sunday</b>	10:45 a.m.	Lessons and Carols Worship



# Gathering

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING – WEEK of LOVE**

Jesus is the demonstration of God's love,  
and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves  
of the light of hope, promise of peace, joy of salvation,  
and overwhelming love he brought to us.

Love is when you care more about others than yourself.  
It is sacrifice.  
The Bible tells us that God is love.

*LIGHT the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the wreath.*

These candles represent hope, peace, joy, and love.  
When Jesus came, he showed us how much God loves us.

A reading from Romans 5:8.  
But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners  
Christ died for us.

Let us pray: O Lord, our God,  
thank you for your unfailing, steadfast love.  
Thank you for loving us enough to die for us.  
Help us to love you with our whole hearts.  
Enable us to love our neighbors with your great love.  
Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again.  
We love you. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

# Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

## 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

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



*Our Cantata music is given in loving memory  
of Richard and Helen Cover*



**“Come and Behold Him The King of Kings”**

By Joe E. Parks

Narrator: Rose Wilson

“Come and Behold Him”

“He is the One”

Mary: Sally Herritt

Joseph: Tim Gotwald

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night”

“A Silent Night”

Soloist: Gerry Wilson and Cassie Craven

“We Three Kings”

1<sup>st</sup> King: Kenley Craven

2<sup>nd</sup> King: Lenora Craven

3<sup>rd</sup> King: Emery Coy

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

“Come and Behold Him”

# OUR RESPONSE

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at [felcc.org](http://felcc.org) or by scanning this QR code*



## SPECIAL MUSIC

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love,  
And we give with love.  
Love for you, our God;  
Love for your beautiful people.  
Receive these generous offerings,  
And use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.**

## **APOSTLE'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 OF INTERCESSION**

**Lord, in your mercy,  
receive our prayer.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

# All Earth Is Hopeful

## *Toda la tierra*



*To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra, al Sal - va - dor*  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



*y el sur - co, a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el*  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



*mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -*  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



*cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.*  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

TEXT: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946  
 MUSIC: TODA LA TIERRA. Alberto Taulé

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God  
in appreciation of our musicians by the Ross Family

***Please remember in your prayers ...***

Healing: Bonnie (1/3), Joanne Fisher (12/22), Destinee Gray (12/29), Denise Heinbaugh (1/7), Toni Uglow (1/9), Jane Stockhousen (12/25), Paul Stockhousen (12/25)

Long Term Care: **Pat Dent, Julie Diehl, June Diehl, Charles Kampmeyer, Mary Alice Ross, Garry Shatzer, and Joe Pine**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Parker Brown.



**ATTENDANCE**    December 15            64 in person



**HOLIDAY CLOSING** Church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. We will also be closed Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency during the Christmas Season, please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** On December 29 we will not have donuts or Sunday School.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are due to the church office by Monday, January 6 from the staff as well as the committees.

**END OF YEAR GIVING** Contributions that you wish to be credited to 2024 must be received in the church office NO LATER THAN December 29, 2024. Any mailed contributions need to be received in the church office by December 27, 2024. Any contributions that are received after December 29th will be credited to 2025. Any questions, please contact Carol McCoy at 717-263-0739.

## Congregational Meeting



**CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, January 19 following worship. This meeting will provide us with the opportunity to review the highlights of the past year and approve a ministry spending plan for 2025. We hope you will be able to join us. Soup & Salad will be served in the Fellowship hall following the meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available at a later date. Free Will offering will be accepted.

**GUATEMALA WISH LIST** This January we have a team of folks traveling to Tree-4-Hope school for girls in Guatemala. They have received an extensive wish list of donations to bring with them. Here is an update on that list: Children's Tylenol and Motrin (chewable or liquids); Children's chewable vitamins; Adult Tylenol and Motrin (generic brands are acceptable on all medications); kitchen tea towels and hot pads; large containers of spices: Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Italian Seasoning, Oregano, Cinnamon, Black Pepper, Cash donations are also welcome for purchasing supplies. Contact: Cheryl at the church office.



**SPIRITTRUST LUTHERAN CHAMBERSBURG AUXILIARY** favorite recipes have been donated from Lutheran Church Members. Cookbooks make great gifts at \$15 each. Contact Mary Beth McGraw-Warne at 717-372-8282.



**HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS HANGING TIME IS HERE AGAIN** the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items on the church fence for our neighbors to stay warm. What can you do to help with this project? Purchase new or donate gently used hats, scarves and mittens for men, women and children to donate to this project. Share this with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Come and help us sort the

donated items-January 6 at 10 am. Volunteer to hang items on the fence. Dates are January 18, 19, 20. Contact Mary Beth Warne.

**GIVE AND TAKE BOX** Please continue to donate canned and other unperishable foods for the Give and Take Box. Our neighbors appreciate these items so much!

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** First Lutheran is reviewing its Eucharistic Ministry Partners. If you or someone you know who is homebound would like to receive Holy Communion, please be in touch with Pastor Nicholson. If you would be willing to visit one or two people each month or every other month and take them communion, please speak with Pastor Nicholson as well. This is a life giving ministry for our homebound members. Thank you for the consideration.

**SPECIAL FINANCIAL GIFTS** on November 17 our congregation approved the repair of the stained glass windows and the replacement of the air conditioning unit in the sanctuary. If you would like to make a special financial gift toward these items, please talk with Carol McCoy (financial secretary) 717-816-0712 [1cjmccoy@comcast.com](mailto:1cjmccoy@comcast.com) , Sally Herritt (treasurer) 717-262-5063 [felcctreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:felcctreasurer@gmail.com) or Pastor Nicholson. Your donations would make wonderful memorial gifts or a gift to honor someone.

**WELCA BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP** will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 1:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. Jane Love will be the study leader. All women of the church are welcome!

**LADIES BREAKFAST** will be held at 8:30 a.m. on January 15<sup>th</sup> at Johnnie's Restaurant. All Ladies are Welcome!



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|-------------|---|
| December 24 | 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion, Festive Music, and Candlelight.                              |
| December 25 | 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion   |
| January 1   | 10:45 a.m. New Year's Day Worship – The Naming of our Lord with Holy Communion (no Sunday School or Confirmation) |
| January 5   | 10:45 a.m. Epiphany Worship with Holy Communion   |



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b><u>December 22</u></b>	<b><u>December 24</u></b>	<b><u>December 25</u></b>
Lector:	Jane Love		
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh
Communion Assistants:	Karen Sloan Gerry Wilson Rose Wilson		Karen Sloan
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop
Closer	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand
Light Sanctuary Candles		Tyler Johnson	
Crucifer		Sam Nienstedt	
Bible Bearer		Brynn Sekel	
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Rick Gates Nikki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson	Rick Gates Nikki Johnson Denny Love Denny Love Bob Wildeson	Rick Gates Nikki Johnson Denny Love Denny Love Bob Wildeson



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Pastor

The Rev. Jane Nicholson

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer

Director of Church Music

Freda J. Dorand, Deacon

Parish Administrator

Cheryl Christman

Treasurer

Sally Herritt

Financial Secretary

Carol McCoy

Custodian

Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**We welcome visitors this morning.**

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.  
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

**Our Mission**

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,  
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

**Sunday Schedule**

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:45 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
and on our webpage at [www.FELCC.org](http://www.FELCC.org)

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,  
and to worship with us.