

Christmas Lessons and Carols
December 29, 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 upstairs in the education wing, first door on the right.*

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

THIS WEEK AT FIRST December 29 – January 5

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Service of Lessons and Carols

Tuesday	Christmas Eve Office Closed
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Wednesday	New Year's Day Office Closed
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Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Epiphany Worship w/Worship



Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

We gather in this Christmas Season,
in the name of the Father, and of ✝ the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome
God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.
Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.
Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.
Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of
great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In ✝ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord,
our sins are forgiven.
May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens.
Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy! **Amen.**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Text: James Montgomery Music: Henry T. Smart



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



OPENING DIALOG

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them light has shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

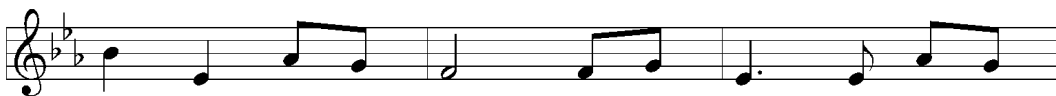
To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
**In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

Holy Child Within The Manger

Music and Text: Marty Haugen



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



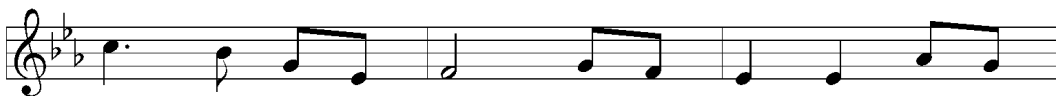
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lessons and Carols

Introduction and Story of “O Holy Night”

Luke 2:1-7 *The birth of Jesus*

O HOLY NIGHT

O holy night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appeared, and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine

Story of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Luke 2:8-16 *The shepherds go to see the Savior*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

LBW 41

Story of “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Luke 2:17-20 *The shepherds response*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

LBW 70

Story of “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Isaiah 43:1-3a *God is with us*

I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along, The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound, The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn, The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Continued on next page.

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Story of "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

John 1:1-5

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LBW 54

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.
You rule the earth with truth and justice.
Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.
You share our humanity.
**Have mercy on the sick, the dying,
and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God.
You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament
that we may bear your light to all the world.**

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 or through this QR code*



SPECIAL MUSIC

Please stand as you are able.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered.
Join our hearts with the song of the angels. Strengthen us to share
with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace,
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace, receive our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Sending

BLESSING

Our God is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you at the dawn of this new year and forever more. **Amen.**

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

LBW 51 (verses 1-4, 14)

- 1 From heav'n above to earth I come
to bring good news to ev'ryone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:
- 2 To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth.

- 3 This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry;
he will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free.
- 4 The blessing which the Father planned
the Son holds in his infant hand,
that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
you may with us his glory share.
- 14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us his Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth:
a glad new year to all the earth!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve our newborn King. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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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, Garry Shatzer,** and Joe Pine

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Parker Brown.

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>	December 22	75 in person	13 online
	December 24	93	19
	December 25	22	15



HOLIDAY CLOSING Church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency please call Pastor Nicholson at home. 717-753-3940.

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** today. Any contributions that are received after today 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!

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 lcjmccoy@comcast.com , Sally Herritt (treasurer) 717-262-5063 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 15th at Johnnie’s Restaurant. All Ladies are Welcome!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>December 29</u>	<u>January 5</u>	<u>January 12</u>
Lector:	Doris Burdick	Joyce Ray	Nancy Fricke
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh
Communion Assistants:		Deb Fleegal Kristy Nienstedt Jane Love	
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Karen Naus	Karen Naus
Closer	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand	Jeff Dorand
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	Barb Evans Rick Gates Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Denny Love	Barb Evans Rick Gates Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Denny Love



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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

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