

*Second Sunday of Advent*  
*December 8, 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 8 – 15**

<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship Wreath Lighting
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
<b>Thursday</b>	1:00 p.m.	WELCA Christmas Tea
	6:15 p.m.	Rose Ringers
	7:15 p.m.	Choir
<b>Sunday</b>	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship w/ Holy Communion Wreath Lighting
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Fest at St. John FNF Deadline

# 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 PEACE

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and at Advent,  
we light candles to remind ourselves  
of the light of hope and promise of peace  
he brought to a world ravaged by sin.

Peace is the end of hostility and fighting.  
It is when all is as it should be.  
It is harmony.  
It is rightness and wholeness.

*LIGHT the first and second candles of the wreath.*

These candles represent hope and peace.  
When Jesus came, he brought peace between God and humanity.

A reading from Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onwards and for evermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Let us pray: O Lord, our God, thank you for sending Jesus to make everything  
right between us. We're grateful for the peace that comes through knowing Him.  
Help us to be champions of your peace. May we be peacemakers in a world torn  
by sin and strife. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We love  
you. Amen.

*Please stand as you are able.*

# Prepare the Royal Highway

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

## 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



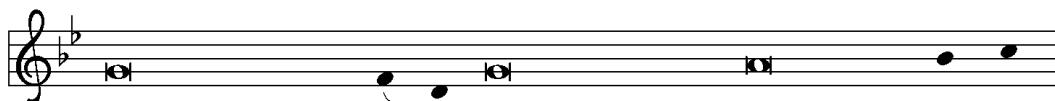
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



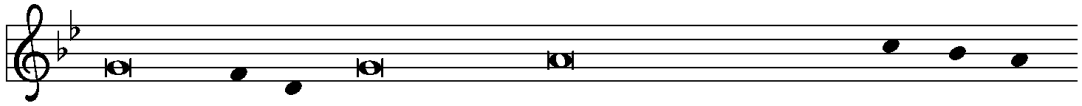
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



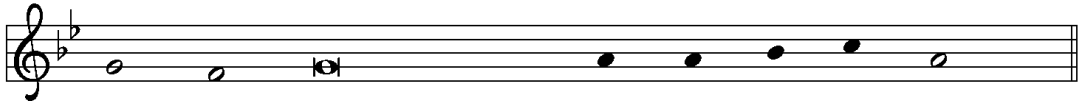
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



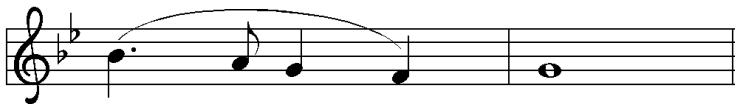
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

WORD

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Luke 1:68-79

<sup>68</sup> Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

<sup>69</sup> **You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

<sup>70</sup> Through your holy prophets,  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

<sup>71</sup> from the hands of all who hate us,

<sup>72</sup> **to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

<sup>73</sup> This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup> to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**free to worship you without fear,**

<sup>75</sup> **holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

<sup>77</sup> **to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**



<sup>78</sup> In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
<sup>79</sup> **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**SECOND READING**

Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6

The Gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **SERMON**

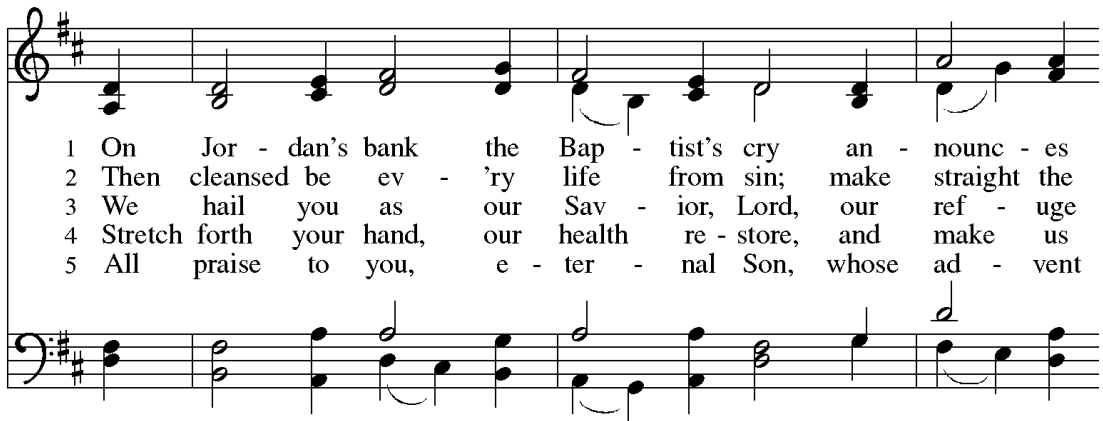
*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

*Please stand as you are able.*

# On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry

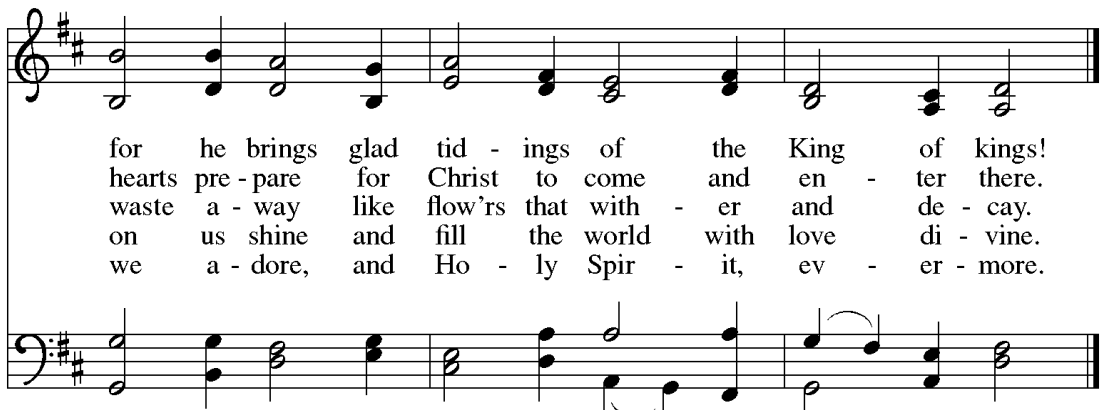
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite Music: PUER NOBIS, adapt. Michael Pretorius, 1571-1621



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*You may be seated.*

## 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*



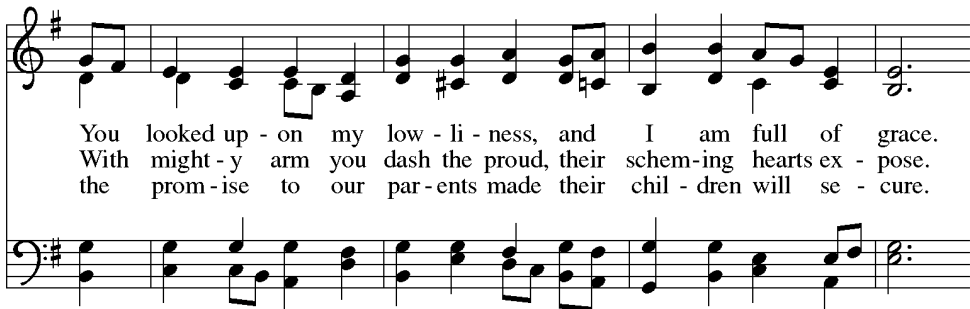
### **ANTHEM**

*Please stand as you are able.*

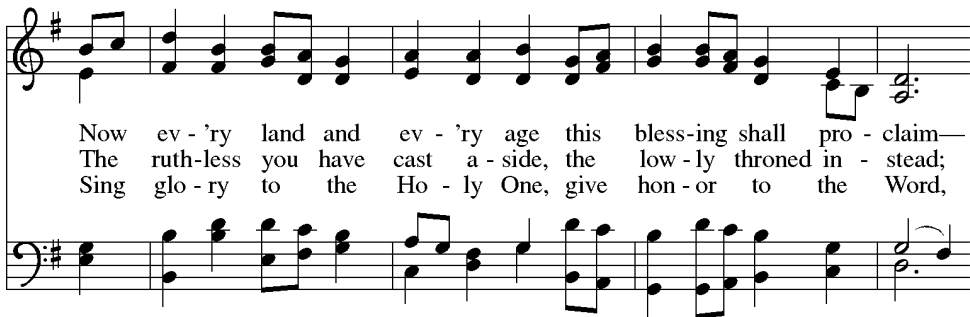
# OFFERTORY



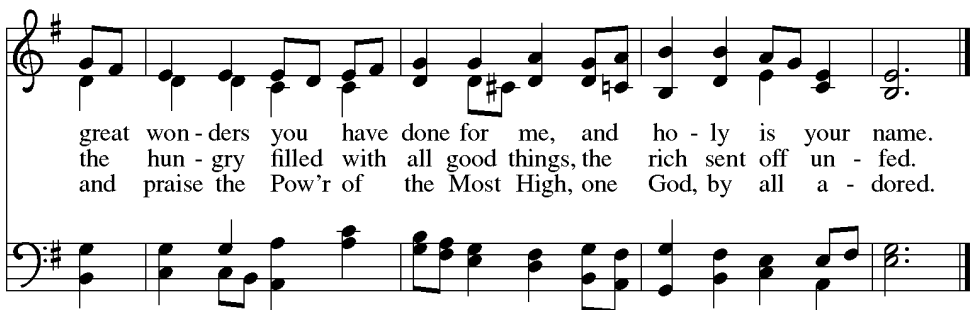
1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in peace,  
And we give in peace.  
A peace deeper than our anxiety and fear.  
A peace growing from our trust in your loving power.  
Receive these generous offerings,  
And use them to bring your peace to 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.**

# People Look East

Text: Eleanor Farjcon, 1881-1965 Music: BESANCON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.



## 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 loving memory of Miss Sara Gelwix

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

Healing: Bonnie (1/3), **Martha Carbaugh** (1/6), LaVonne Dorseth (12/15), Joanne Fisher (12/22), Janice Friend (12/4), Destinee Gray (12/13), Denise Heinbaugh (12/7), Don Hershey (12/6), Ferree LeFevre (12/13) Joyce Morschhauser (12/20), Angie Morris (12/7), Galen Myers (12/3), **Dalton Paul** (12/13), Jane Stockhousen (12/25), Paul Stockhousen (12/25), Tom Woods (12/16)

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 1 55 in person

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

**WELCA CHRISTMAS TEA** Thursday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m. All women are invited to join us. Please bring a small gift for exchange with one another.

**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.

**MEMBER PHOTO DIRECTORIES** Please send any address or contact information updates to our parish administrator ([felccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:felccoffice@gmail.com)). An updated information sheet will be printed to insert in your photo directory.

**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.

**HATS SCARVES AND MITTENS HANGING TIME IS HERE AGAIN** the Neighborhood Task Team is planning to hang items that will help our neighbors stay warm in the winter months. These items will be hung on the church fence. 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.



**GREAT CLASSICAL RELIGIOUS MUSIC** Join our Adult Class on Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 in the Parlor as we begin a new series of study on Great Classical Religious Music. We will be looking at the texts and listening to or watching performances from pieces like: The Messiah, Creation, Settings of the Mass, and Requiem. Invite your friends who may have a specific interest in this type of music as well. Tim Gotwald will be teaching the class.

**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.



**49th ANNUAL LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE** Bring in the Christmas season with beautiful lights, singing, and entertainment. Presented by Newburg area community voices. Newburg First Church of God, 260 Newburg Road, Newburg, PA at 3:30PM on December 8

**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.

**MERCERSBURG AREA COMMUNITY CHORUS & ORCHESTRA**  
Presents the Christmas portion of Handel’s Messiah and other Christmas Music on Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 pm. at the Irvine Memorial Chapel at Mercersburg Academy. Free-will offering.

**THE CHAMBERSBURG CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS** will present a recital of Advent and Christmas music on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary of St. Paul United Methodist Church, 750 Norland Avenue. Free will donations will be gladly accepted.

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

	<b><u>December 8</u></b>	<b><u>December 15</u></b>	<b><u>December 22</u></b>
Lector:	Gerry Wilson	Becky Hoover	Jane Love
Soundboard:	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh	Scott Carbaugh
Communion Assistants:		Mary Gotwald Karen Sloan Gerry Wilson	
Greeters:	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop	Nancy Hamilton Kathy Shoop
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 Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson	Rick Gates Nikki Johnson Denny Love Mark Nicholson Bob Wildeson



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FELCCoffice@gmail.com  
717-264-2015

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.