

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2025

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 and hearing devices for today's worship are available,
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST February 16 – February 23

| | | |
|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Worship with Communion |
| Monday | 7:00 p.m. | Scouts |
| Tuesday | 6:30 p.m. | Bible Study in the Parlor |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Scouts |
| Wednesday | 8:30 a.m. | Ladies Breakfast at Sunrise Diner |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Quilting |
| Thursday | 6:15 p.m. | Bell Choir |
| | 7:15 p.m. | Vocal Choir |
| Sunday | 9:30 a.m. | Sunday School |
| | 10:45 a.m. | Worship |
| | 11:45 a.m. | Taco Lunch and Guatemala Presentation |

GATHERING

WELCOME & PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In † Christ, you are forgiven.
In the Spirit, you are made free.
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and

might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain

has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁷ Jesus came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,

for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did
to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Silence follows the sermon for reflection.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621-1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

MEAL

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 by scanning this QR code



ANTHEM

Prayer of St. Francis by Allen Pote

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

DIALOG

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

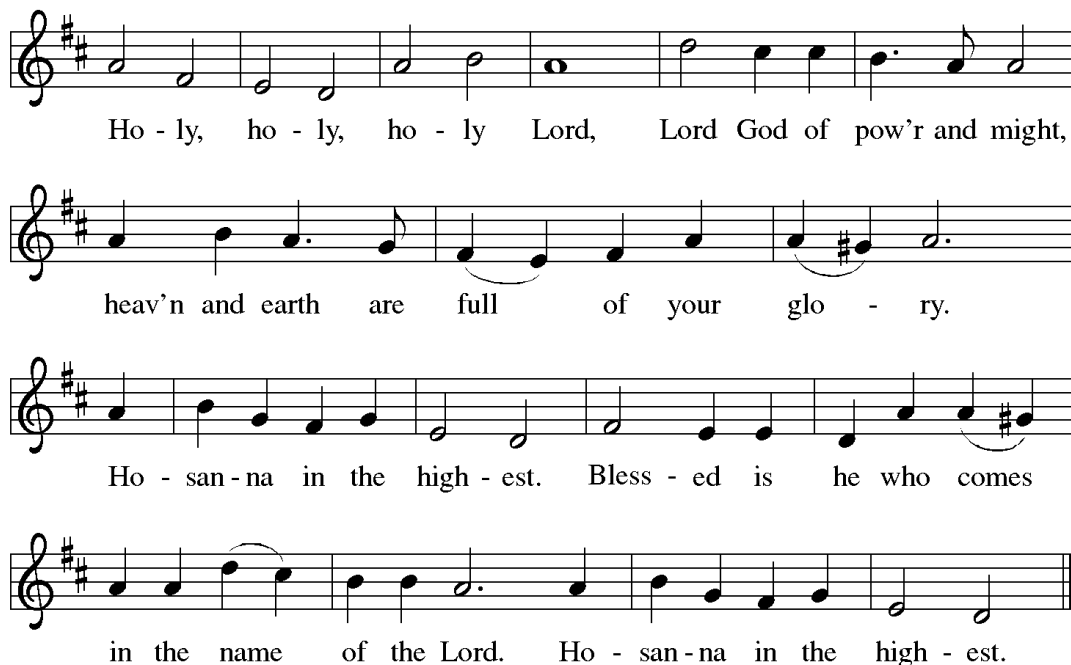
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, as you taught us, we are bold 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

***Communion:** All Christians who believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread (body of Christ) and in the wine (blood of Christ) are welcome at the Lord's table. To receive Holy Communion, please come down the center aisle, take a glass (the prefilled glasses contain grape juice), and gather at the altar. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing.*

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Jesus, the Very Thought of You



- 1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
- 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
- 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
- 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep us in his grace! **Amen.**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

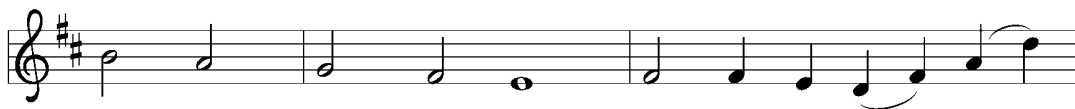
The Spirit of the triune God, † bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Jesus Shall Reign

Text: Isaac Watts Music: Duke Street



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Don Hershey (3/9), Jane and Paul Stockhousen (3/9)



Continuing Prayers: **Joanne Caskey, Pat Dent, Julie Diehl, June Diehl, Tudy Gates, Charles Kampmeyer, Garry Shatzer, and Joe Pine**

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Parker Brown.

ATTENDANCE February 9 43 in person 11 online

HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION will be held on Saturday, March 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This class is for elementary age children and their parents. If your child is currently receiving communion and you would like them to have a better understanding of the sacrament, or if your child would like to receive Holy Communion in the near future, this class is for you. Please contact the church office to register.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE Please consider giving donations to help the victims of the Los Angeles fires. Checks may be made payable to First Lutheran and please indicate on the memo line or offering envelope: LA Fires. 100% of your donation goes to recovery efforts.

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY CHOIR March 2 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Sanctuary. Mark your calendar! Located at 1811 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg.

BIRTHDAY BAGS Everyone likes to have their birthday celebrated, but when family funds are limited, it does not always happen. Little Daisy's Closet hands out birthday bags to people so their families can have a memorable celebration. We are collecting cake mixes, packaged icing, birthday napkins, balloons, and a disposable baking pan for each bag. If you would like to contribute, please place items in the container outside the main office door. Questions? Contact Joyce Ray.

Downsizing? The Lutheran Churches work together to collect furniture and give it to families in need. If you have any furniture, they would like to have the opportunity to come and look at it to see if it can be used. There is a storage unit for the items until needed. In December and January 4 refugee families from Syria needed much of what was available. If you have furniture to contribute, please contact Shelly Davies at St. Luke Lutheran Church 717-261-1213 or Don Greer at Trinity Lutheran Church 717-263-8156.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 p.m. at United Lutheran Seminary Valentine Hall Theatre. Free and open to the public. Donations accepted at the door, panel discussion to follow.

SPECIAL FINANCIAL GIFTS First Lutheran is currently receiving financial gifts to be used toward for 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 Your donations would make wonderful memorial gifts or a gift to honor someone.



“SOCK IT TO ME” Sundays have begun in preparation for the August 16, 2025 Back to School Event. NTT is collecting low cut socks for elementary boys and girls from **Kindergarten through 5th grade**. Our goal is to have **5 pair of socks** for each child who attends the event on that day. You may shop for donations and place those items in the collection sites in the back of the sanctuary, at the elevator entrance to the sanctuary, or in the **NTT** box in Memorial Hall. Cash and check donations are also accepted. You may use the envelopes that are available in Memorial Hall or use your own. Please make checks out to First Lutheran with socks in the memo line.

ST. SERAPHIM is a soup kitchen that offers meals to those in need on Saturdays when the Salvation Army does not provide meals. First Lutheran has joined with St Luke Lutheran to help provide servers for this ministry. St Seraphin is located near the Salvation Army. Upcoming volunteer opportunities are Saturday March 8 and Saturday April 19. If you are willing to help serve please call Mary Gotwald at 717-264-4759.

LAUNDRY DAYS continue at Spot Laundry beginning this year on Saturday, March 15, 2025. It is a two hour commitment beginning at 11:30am. Everyone is welcomed to come, greet our neighbors and pay their laundry expenses for that day with a laundry card. We also offer religious materials, water bottles, children's books and Meals on Wheels left overs. NTT has also started a children's library there. We provide used books with a note to take a book or two home. Please contact Joyce Ray at 717-658-6077 if you are interested in helping!

TACOS and GUATEMALA REPORT

Join us on Sunday, February 23 following worship for a taco lunch and slide show presented by our missionary group who went to Guatemala in January. Come and share in their exciting experience and hear about how God used our friends to enrich the lives of these children and adults. Please sign up on the board by the Main Office Door.



EVENING BIBLE STUDY **In the Footsteps of the Savior: Following Jesus Through the Holy Land.** Tuesdays through March 11 at 6:30 p.m. This Max Lucado video study will be facilitated by Pastor Nicholson.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

| | <u>February 16</u> | <u>February 23</u> | <u>March 2</u> |
|---------------------|---|---|--|
| Lector: | Doris Burdick | Becky Hoover | Sally Herritt |
| Soundboard: | Scott Carbaugh | Scott Carbaugh | Scott Carbaugh |
| Communion | Jim Brown | | Deb Fleegal |
| Assistants: | Doris Burdick Ralph Burdick | | Becky Hoover Tom Kriner |
| Greeters: | Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson | Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson | Bob Hammer Scott Hammer |
| Closer | Jeff Dorand | Jeff Dorand | Jeff Dorand |
| Altar Guild: | Barb Evans Karin Woods | Barb Evans Karin Woods | Barb Evans Karin Woods |
| Ushers: | Jim Brown Rick Gates Denny Love Mary Beth Warne-McGraw Rose Wilson | Jim Brown Rick Gates Denny Love Mary Beth Warne-McGraw Rose Wilson | Gary Fleegal Gary Kennedy Marianne Kennedy Mark Nicholson |



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717-264-2015

Pastor

The Rev. Jane Nicholson

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer

Director of Church Music

Freda J. Dorand, Deacon

Parish Administrator

Ashley Hessong

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.