

# **Second Sunday of Christmas**

**Bless** 

**January 4<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00 am**

**Second Sunday of Christmas  
Holy Communion**

# Gathering Music

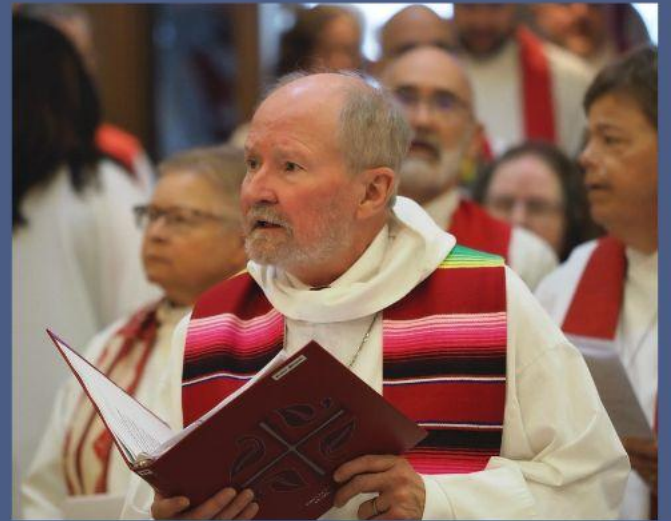
Bless 

**Reed Wagner, Organist**

JANUARY 3/4  
SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson,  
Preaching

Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson,  
Presiding



# S.A.F.E. Center Donations for January:

Ziplock bags and Plastic storage containers



Please set items on the  
sharing shelf in  
the narthex.





# ELCA GOOD GIFTS

**\$20** Serves 10 people ministry

**\$100** Serve feeding ministry

Goal **\$3000** to access matching funds.

**Update: We're up to \$2815!**



**Make checks payable to: ELCA Good Gifts**



# **Jubilee Meals for January**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**First Lutheran Volunteers  
will supply food**

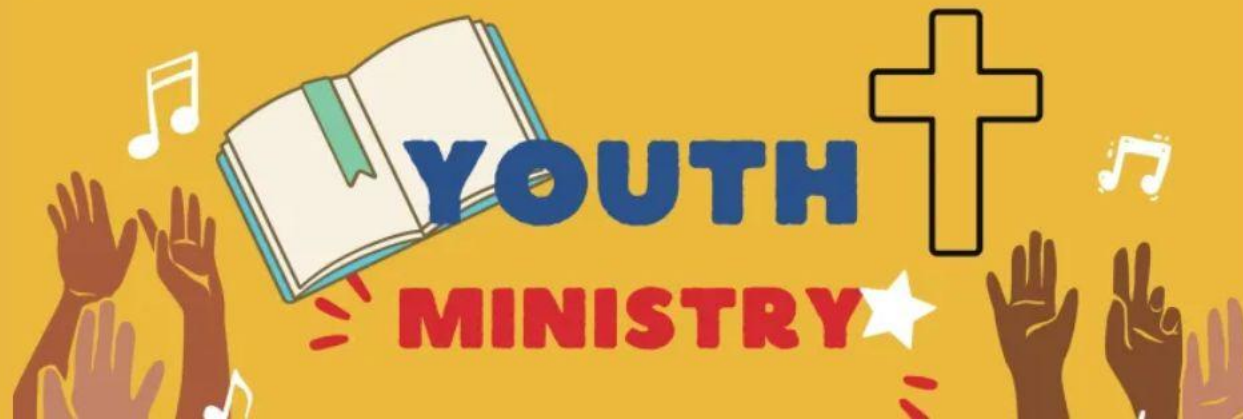
**Please sign up in the Narthex  
to bring food or help.**





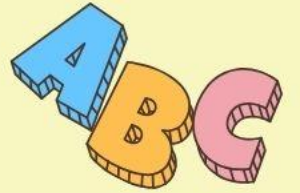
# Youth Programs Resume

- **F.R.O.G., Confirmation, FLY, and Feeding the Flock will resume Wednesday, January 7th**
- **Sunday School Resumes January 11th**





# GREAT NEWS!



**FLC Preschool schedule will run closer to the KPS schedule for the 2026/2027 year!**

- ***NEW 8:00 am daily start time for all classes***
- **11:45 am end time for 3 & 4 year old class.(M-TH)**
- **3:00 pm end time for PreK Class (M-F)**

## **Registration Dates Open:**

- **1/16/26 - First Lutheran Church Members**
- **1/23/26 - Open to the Public**

**Check out our website for details!**



[firstlutherankearney.org/first-lutheran-preschool](http://firstlutherankearney.org/first-lutheran-preschool)



# PRESCHOOL BRUNCH

Sunday, January 18

9:30am - 11:00am

*Everyone is welcome!*

Stop in to see the student's  
projects.



All free will donations  
will support our goal of  
\$4,500 for scholarships.



# Worship Song

*“Let All Together Praise Our God”*

**ELW 287**

Bless





# Worship Song

**Let all together praise our God  
before the highest throne;  
today God opens heav'n again  
and sends the only Son,  
and sends the only Son.**

Bless 

# Worship Song

**From God's right hand  
the Son descends,  
is born an infant small,  
and lies in poverty, his bed  
a manger in a stall,  
a manger in a stall.**

Bless 



# Worship Song

**O tender Child, you veil in flesh  
the splendor of your might;  
a servant's garb now wraps the one  
who clothed the sky with light,  
who clothed the sky with light.**

# Worship Song

**Your mother feeds you tenderly,  
sings you a lullaby,  
while angels, hailing David's heir,  
your glory magnify,  
your glory magnify.**



# Worship Song

**A wonderful exchange you make:  
you take our flesh and blood,  
and in return give us to share  
the shining realm of God,  
the shining realm of God.**

Bless 

# Worship Song

**Unlock the door again today  
that leads to paradise;  
the angel bars the way no more.  
To God let praises rise,  
to God let praises rise!**

Text and music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. Hymnal version  
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## Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

Bless 

## Prayer of the Day

**L:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

Bless 

# **Word**

**L:** A reading from Ephesians the first chapter.



## Word: Ephesians 1:3-14

**L:** <sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,

Bless 

## Word: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will,



## Word: Ephesians 1:3-14

according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,





## Word: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;

## Word: Ephesians 1:3-14

<sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. (*Ephesians 1:3-14*)

## **Word: Ephesians 1:3-14**

**L:** Word of God. Word of Life.

**C:** Thanks be to God



## Gospel: John 1:1-18

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. John,  
the first chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: John 1:1-18

**P:** [<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.



## Gospel: John 1:1-18

<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.





## Gospel: John 1:1-18

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

Bless 

## Gospel: John 1:1-18

<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Gospel: John 1:1-18

<sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

## Gospel: John 1:1-18

<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*(John 1:1-18)*



## **Gospel: John 1:1-18**

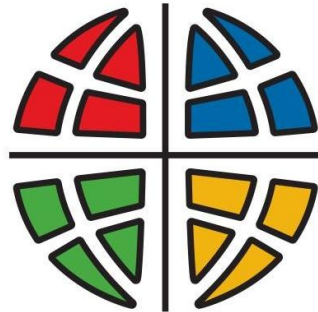
**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Children's Message

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND "NOISY" OFFERING

*Children's Offering goes towards  
ELCA North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund*



Lutheran  
Disaster Response

Bless 

# Sermon

Bless



**SERMON**

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

# Hymn of the Day

*“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”*

**ELW 510**

Bless





**“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”, ELW 510**

**Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.**

**Word almighty, we revere you;**

**Word made flesh,  
we long to hear you.**

Bless 

**“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”, ELW 510**

**Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us,  
your love outpouring.**

Bless 

**“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”, ELW 510**

**Word that speaks God's tender love,  
one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life,  
with one bread feed us.**

Text: James Quinn, sj, b. 1919. Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673  
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## Creed

**L: Let us profess our faith.**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
our Lord and Savior. I believe in the Holy  
Spirit, the Holy Christian church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of  
sins, the resurrection of the body and  
the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

Bless 



# Prayers of Intercession

## Prayers of Intercession

**L:** Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence for reflection.*



## Prayers of Intercession

**L:** O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly.

Bless 

## Prayers of Intercession

**L:** You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace.

Bless 

# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues.

Bless 

## Prayers of Intercession

**L:** You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us.

Bless 



# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. We pray especially for:

Bless 

# Prayers of Intercession

Mel & Del Abels  
Jim Anderson  
Doug Bierman  
Bertha Boyer  
Vicki Buschelman  
Gregory Carrico  
Ann Day  
Wayne Deterding  
Corinne Fischer  
Bob Forbess  
Leonard Fowler

Randy Fritson  
Larry Giddings  
Keith Halliwell  
Jerry Ibsen  
Tami Jobman  
**Bernie Johnson**  
Derek Johnson  
Rhonda King  
Roger Loschen  
Laura Morton  
Michelle Mosley

Bless 

# Prayers of Intercession

Mary Renshaw  
Daniel Rheome  
Eileen Richter  
Michele Rivera  
Daryl & Gena Rodgers  
Amy Rongisch  
Garth Scism  
Debbie Steinbrecher  
Carrie Stithem

Joanne Suing  
Tony Tauer  
Alicia Tracy  
Misty White  
Dean Wiese  
Miranda Wright  
Paula Yoachim  
James Ziebarth  
Dave Zimmer

Bless 

# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory.

# Prayers of Intercession

**P:** With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**



# Meal

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERTORY

### Reed Wagner, Organist

*Communion Servers*

*Please come forward at this time.*

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

**VANCO**  
FAITH

ON-LINE visit FLC's website	MOBILE APP iPhone & Android
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VANCO MOBILE IS SIMPLE AND SECURE.  
TRY IT TODAY!

# Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one  
God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
Savior, Prince of Peace.

**C: Amen.**

Bless 

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Reconciling God,

**C:** We yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.

Bless 

## Confession and Forgiveness

**C: We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love;**

**we have not always recognized your presence among us;**

**we have not always embraced your message of peace.**

**We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.**

Bless 

## Confession and Forgiveness

**We confess our failure to make room for  
those seeking refuge;  
our participation in violent systems that  
harm your innocent ones;  
our reluctance to embody your good  
news.**

**Be born in us today and teach us to  
sing the joyful song of your salvation.**

**Amen.**

Bless 



## Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** God's grace upon grace flows over you.

✝ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

**C: Amen.**

# Offertory Prayer

**L:** Let us pray.

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen**

Bless 

# The Great Thanksgiving

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is right to give our thanks  
and praise.**

Bless 

## Words of Institution

**P:** In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

Bless 

## Words of Institution

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.

Bless 



# Words of Institution

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

# The Lord's Prayer

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Bless 

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Bless 

# Invitation to Communion

**P:** God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

*Please be seated.*

# Communion

*We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.*

## **Prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands**

*If you would like prayers of healing, join the pastor in the Narthex after you have received communion.*

**Communion Music**  
**Reed Wagner, organist**

## Table Grace

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**



## Sending of Communion

**L:** Let us pray.

O God, whose grace and truth are revealed in the Word-made-flesh, bless those who share your word and sacrament with our siblings who are sick and homebound.

Bless 

## Sending of Communion

Nourish and strengthen those who receive this holy communion, that through the body and blood of your Son all may rejoice at his birth and in his presence among us now and forever.

**C: Amen**



# Blessing

**P:** The triune God,  
glorious Mystery,  
holy Incarnate One,  
abiding Comforter,

✠ bless you with endless grace, peace,  
and joy.

**C: Amen.**

Bless 

# Sending Hymn

*“Glory to God”*

**ACS 911**

Bless



# **“Glory to God”, ACS 911**

**Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest.**

**Peace be to you, peace be to me,  
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.**

Bless 

# **“Glory to God”, ACS 911**

**Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest.  
Peace be to you, peace be to me,  
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.**

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# Dismissal

**L:** Glory to God in the highest!

**C:** And peace to God's people on earth!

**L:** Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



# **Sending Music**

**Bless**



**Reed Wagner, organist**