

# FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado  
(303) 776-2800 | [www.firstluth.org](http://www.firstluth.org)  
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Looschen

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Christmas Eve December 24, 2025  
4:00, 5:30 and 11:00 pm

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## GATHERING

Thank you for joining us for Christmas Eve Worship at First Lutheran Church. On this night we welcome the light of the Christ child. Whether you are a guest or a familiar face, we are happy you chose to worship with us. Please fill out the blue attendance cards and turn them in with the offering plates. May the light of Christ, bursting anew this night, abide with you and yours this season.

## PRELUDE

4:00 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Gary Elmquist, Organ

Jeffrey Hartmann

*"Advent Hope", "Once in Royal David's City" "Joyous Christmas Song"*

Chancel Choir; Gary Elmquist, piano

## INTRODUCTION

In winter's deepest night, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. Paul reminds us that the grace of God through Jesus Christ brings salvation to all people. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone, including lowly shepherds. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

## WELCOME

## CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

Many ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image;

**Long after the great flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant; twenty-one centuries from the time the promise was given to Abraham and Sarah;**

Thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and Miriam danced in freedom; eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the judges;

**One thousand years from the anointing of David as king, in fulfillment of the times and years and months and days discerned by the prophets;**

in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome;

**The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; while the whole world enjoyed a span of peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,**

Desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months of growth in the womb of his mother— now in our own times is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God made flesh.

**Amen.**

## **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"*

ELW 283

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!**

*(Refrain)*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest:**

*(Refrain)*

## **GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one ☩ God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **ANTHEM**

4:00 p.m.	<i>"What Child is This"</i>	Sarah Morrow
5:30 p.m.	<i>"Wexford Carol"</i> arr. by David Downes	Susan Bennett
11:00 p.m.	<i>"Joy to the World"</i> by Gordon Young	Chancel Choir

## **WORD**

## **READINGS**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness —on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at

the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

4:00	<i>"Rejoice" from Handel's Messiah</i>	Sarah Morrow
5:30	<i>"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. by Steven Calderone</i>	Susan Bennett
11:00	<i>"A Star" arr. by Pepper Choplin</i>	Chancel Choir

## CHILDREN'S TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

## 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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter beginning at the 1<sup>st</sup> verse.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Luke 2:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Garrett Struessel

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God  
**Your mercy is great.**

## MEAL

## OFFERTORY HYMN

4:00	<i>"O Holy Night"</i>	Sarah Morrow
5:30	<i>"O Holy Night"</i>	Jeffrey Hartmann
11:00	<i>"O Holy Night"</i>	Sally Campbell

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.**  
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PAGE 107

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff has a repeat sign before the final note. The third and fourth staves continue the melody without repeat signs.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Page 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is more complex than the previous hymn, featuring some eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across measures.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.**

## SHARING OF COMMUNION

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", includes the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:*

**"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."**

*All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God's presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. "The body of Christ, broken for you", and "the blood of Christ shed for you", include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire. The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Page 112

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.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*"The First Noel"*

ELW 300

1. The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in  
fields as they lay; in fields where  
they lay, keeping their sheep, on a  
cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and  
night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star  
three wisemen came from country  
far; to seek for a king was their  
intent, and to follow the star  
wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
4. This star drew near to the  
northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took  
its rest; and there it did both stop  
and stay right over the place where  
Jesus lay  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.
5. Then entered in those wisemen three  
full rev'rently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born is the King of Israel.

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old, from  
angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will  
to all, from heav'n's all-gracious  
king." The world in solemn  
stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies  
they come with peaceful wings  
unfurled, and still their heav'nly  
music floats o'er all the weary  
world. Above its sad and lowly  
plains they bend on hov'ring  
wing, and ever o'er its babel  
sounds the blessed angels sing.
3. And you, beneath life's crushing  
load, whose forms are bending  
low, who toil along the climbing  
way with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden  
hours come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!
4. 4) For lo! The days are hast'ning  
on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the evercircling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the  
earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the  
song which now the angels sing.

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the new the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
to hear the new the angels bring:  
news of great joy, news of great mirth,  
news of our merciful king's birth.
2. Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad?  
Then why should we on earth be sad,  
since our redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty?
3. When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before his face,  
then life and health come in its place.  
Angels rejoice with us and sing,  
all for to see the newborn king.
4. All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night.  
All out of darkness we have light,  
which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God in highest heav'n:  
Peace on earth, goodwill. Amen."



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.**

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**Amen.**

**4:00, 5:30 and 11:00 Services...***Candle Lighting Safety Instructions: Please do not tilt lighted candles. When lighting new candles, only tip the wick of the UNLIT candle into the flame of the lit candle. Parents are encouraged to hold candles for children and remember the wax dripping is hot enough to burn skin. Always be aware of where your candle flame is burning. When extinguishing the candles, please hold a hand behind the candle, and BLOW GENTLY to avoid blowing candle wax off the candle. Please place candles and holders in the boxes in the Narthex, for use in the following service. Thank you and Merry Christmas!*

### HYMN

“O’ Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW 279 vs. 1,3

**1.O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see  
thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless  
sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark  
streets shineth the everlasting Light; The  
hopes and fears of all the years are met in  
thee tonight**

**3.How silently, how silently, the wondrous  
Gift is giv’n; So God imparts to human  
hearts the blessings of His Heav’n. No  
ear may hear His coming, but in this  
world of sin, Where meek souls will re-  
ceive Him still, the dear Christ enters  
in.**

## HYMN

### "SILENT NIGHT"

ELW 281

1. **Silent night, holy night!**  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and  
Child  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.
2. **Silent night, holy night!**  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. **Silent night, holy night!**  
Son of God, love's pure Light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

## SENDING

Glory to God in the highest!

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

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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<b>PREACHER/PRESIDER</b>	Pastor Garrett Struessel
<b>WORSHIP ASSISTANT</b>	Deacon Korra Looschen
<b>GREETER:</b>	4:00 — Tim and Margaret King 5:30 — Eva Teague 11:00 —
<b>READER:</b>	4:00 — Fran von Hagel 5:30 — Char Lemkee 11:00 — Rick Samson
<b>COUNCIL HOSTS:</b>	4:00 — John Gaddis, Sr. 5:30 — Eric Pederson 11:00 — Rick Samson
<b>ORGANIST/PIANIST:</b>	4:00 — Gary Elmquist 5:30 — Jeffrey Hartmann 11:00 — Gary Elmquist
<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR:</b>	Sally Campbell
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:</b>	4:00 — Jeff and Shannon Satur, Stephanie and Lewis Geyer II 5:30 — Andrew Howell and Dale Wingeleth 11:00 — Rick Samson and Dwight Tilford
<b>USHERS:</b>	4:00 — Todd Gould, Holly Keenan, Carson Looschen, Cliff Looschen 5:30 — Tim King and John Osberg 11:00 — Rick Samson

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