

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Today, as since 1892, we welcome members and guests to glorify God and exalt his name.

NEW HERE? HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place, just north of the Sanctuary. First-time visitors receive a special gift.

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every worship service; all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table. To receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms over your chest. Our children celebrate First Communion in Grade 3. Earlier participation in communion is at the discretion of parents or guardians.

NEED HEARING ASSISTANCE?

Assistive Listening Devices are available and may be used with headphones or with a neck loop for T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. Please leave the devices in the Sanctuary after the service.

CHILD CARE

All ages are welcome in worship; our professionally-staffed child care center is, however, an option for young children during services. The center is near the elevator on the main level.

A PLACE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Our **Sunday School** program meets at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Children may be dropped off as early as 9:15 a.m. Adults are invited to join our quarterly Adult Education classes.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Following the worship service, please join us in the Gathering Place for coffee, treats, and fellowship.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Our newest service takes place at 10:15 a.m. in the Worship Center on the second level – a distinctively Lutheran approach to contemporary worship. During the sermon, **First Kids** is offered in the Fireside Room for children aged Preschool through Grade 2.

ONLINE WORSHIP: YOUTUBE

Never miss a service on our YouTube channel! Search for First Lutheran Colorado Springs and click SUBSCRIBE to be notified when we upload or stream new videos.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

With the First Lutheran app, you can watch online services and live streams, manage your giving, update your contact information, sign up for events, and more. Navigate to your app store and download Church by MinistryOne. Search for FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH or use our ZIP code, 80907.

The Third Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 8, 9:30, AND 11 A.M.

□ · Hymn found in the red hymnal□ · Hymn found in the bulletin

PRELUDE

WORD OF WELCOME

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Everyone And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

A moment for silent confession.

Merciful God, always with us, always loving: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, O God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a Child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

As we light the first three candles, please join in singing.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your return, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

READING: ISAIAH 35:1 – 10 In the black pew Bible · Page 574

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY • LUKE 1:46 – 55 Please join in reading responsively.

And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.

His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

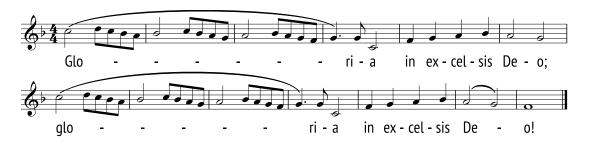
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Please stand for the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Gloria in Excelsis Deo



GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 11:2 - 11

In the black pew Bible · Page 786

Before the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON: PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

Following the sermon, please stand for the hymn.



THE APOSTLES' CREED With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 GOD'S PEOPLE

You may be seated as the ushers come forward to receive our tithes and offerings.

OFFERING MUSIC: O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light and usher in the morning.
O shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be; the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.* Gloria, gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Continued on the next page.

^{*} Glory to God in the highest!

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, to herald our salvation.

He stoops to earth, the God of might, our hope and expectation.

He comes in human flesh to dwell, our God with us, Immanuel; the night of darkness ending, our fallen race befriending.

Gloria! Gloria! Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, O heav'nly light.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: BLESSING BAGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

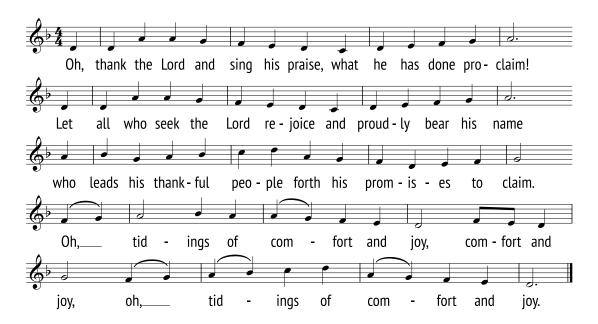
Please remain standing as we sing the Offertory.

OFFERTORY: Oh, Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise The music to the offertory may be found on the next page.

We extend a special welcome to all who are new to First Lutheran today! Please text **GUEST** to **719.988.3524** to let us know about yourself.

If you already support First Lutheran, thank you! Gifts of any size make a difference to the ministries and outreach of our congregation. Scan the QR code, text **GIVE** to **719.988.3524**, or place your offering in the plate as it is passed.





OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, grant that we may desire you; and desiring you, seek you; and seeking you, find you; and finding you, be satisfied in you forever; in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

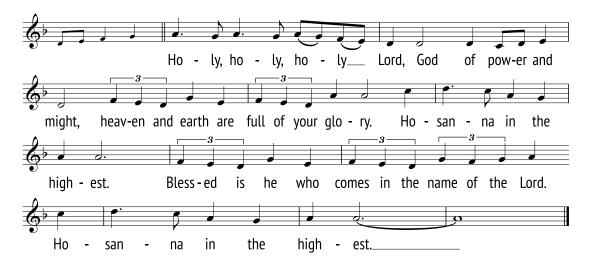
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



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.

BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

Come to the table for all is now ready.

Thanks be to God!

AT COMMUNION

- → All who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table.
- + Please follow the lead of the ushers in going forward via the center aisle.
- * Extend your hands, and allow the bread to be placed in your hand.

 Take either the wine or white grape juice from the center of the tray.
- + Place your empty glass in the tray and return via the side aisle.
- + Gluten-free wafers are available.
- **→** If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher so we may serve you at your seat.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

No. 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

l Received the Living God



Please stand for the blessing.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

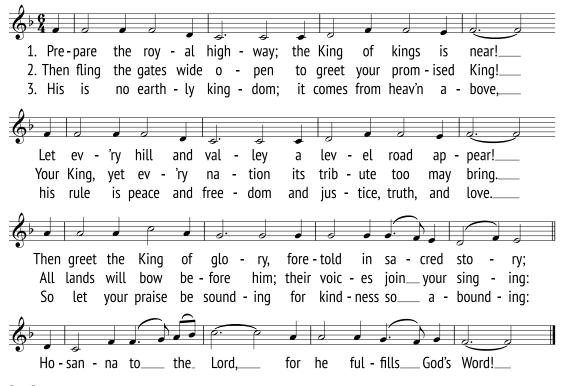
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 🖺 Prepare the Royal Highway



SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

About today's music O Come, O Come, Immanuel – Words from a 9th-century Latin hymn; this version from the Hymnal 1940. Music (VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL) from a 15th-century Plainsong melody; adapted by Thomas Helmore. Public domain. - Love Divine, All Love Excelling – Words by Charles Wesley. Music (HYFRYDOL) by Rowland H. Prichard. Public domain. - Gloria in Excelsis Deo (from Angels We Have Heard on High) – Traditional words. Music (GLORIA) from a traditional French carol; arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes and harmonized by Austin C. Lovelace. © 1964 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. - O Moming Star, How Fair and Bright – Words by Philipp Nicolai; translated in the Lutheran Book of Worship. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, administered by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705864. Music (WE SCHÖN LEUCHTET) by Philipp Nicolai; Public domain. - O Beauteous Heavenly Light – Words by Johann Rist and A.T. Russell. Music (based on a melody by Johann Sebastian Bach) by Jay Rouse. © 2018 Lorenz Publishing Company. All rights reserved. CCLI No. 11859142. - Oh, Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise – Traditional words. Music (GOD REST YOU MERRY) from The Little Book of Christmac Carols, 1850; harmonized by Charles Winfred Douglas. Public domain. - Sanctus and Benedictus – Traditional words. Music by Robert Powell. © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. - I Received the Living God – Words and music (LIVING GOD) from an anonymous source. Public domain. - Prepare the Royal Highway – Words by Frans Mikael Franzén; translated in the Lutheran Book of Worship. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; administered by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. - I Received the Living GOF B HERRANN from a 17th-century Swedish folk tune. Public domain.

Altar Flowers ...

- ... have been given to the glory of God and:
- in loving memory of Jody Wilbur by her family



First Lutheran Staff

CLERGY

The Rev. Travis Norton, Senior Pastor The Rev. Carrie Baylis, Associate Pastor The Rev. Michaela Eskew, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Eric Wicks, Minister of Worship and Music
Becca Winn, Interim Minister of Contemporary Worship
Deacon Joan Kuehn, Interim Handbell Director
Breanna Whiting, Song Leader
Katelynn Granados, Alto Section Leader
Carolyn Kurtz, Music Librarian

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Lori Duncan, Minister of Spiritual Care Linda Loflin, Director of Children's Ministries Colton Laptad, Director of Youth Ministries Annie Sorvald, Cathy Stanley, and Jennifer Weis, Childcare

ADMINISTRATION

Cheryl Mahon, Coordinator of Lay Ministries Teri Swanner, Assistant to the Senior Pastor Candi Mountain Gaddie, Events Coordinator Pamela Haines, Special Events

COMMUNICATION

Theresa McConnell, Digital Media Barbara Diem, Graphic Design Chris Parkhill, Print Design

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY

Yoshiko Anspach, Business Manager Harry Mosco, Property Manager Anna Banks, Lead Sexton Robert Kelley, Maintenance David Lovelace and Cynder Ros, Sextons

IMAGINE: THE WAY WE KNOW

WORSHIP CENTER

TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 16 AT 6 P.M. WEDNESDAYS, DECEMBER 17 AT 11:30 A.M.

"Jesus said ...'I am the way..." – John 14:6 Join us for a weekly 30–45-minute guided Scripture meditation, where we will craft a quiet place to anticipate and encounter the arrival of Jesus, the Way, into our world.

DECEMBER OWLS THE BROADMOOR HOTEL GINGERBREAD DISPLAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 11 A.M.

Please join us for an annual tour of The Broad-moor Gingerbread display. We will then walk to Cafe Julie's for lunch, fellowship and shopping! Please register by using the following link https://bit.ly/3LnC6yL or by calling First Lutheran at 719.632.8836. Register by Monday, December 15.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 4 P.M. WORSHIP CENTER

Join us for a service of grief and healing on the longest night of the year.

DECEMBER OWLS TRADITIONAL GERMAN CHRISTKINDLMARKET IN OLD COLORADO CITY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 | 3:15 – 6:30 P.M. BANCROFT PARK

We would like to start a new annual tradition by attending the inaugural opening of the first authentic German Christkindlmarket to come to Old Colorado City. Register Monday, December 15 https://bit.ly/3JGaiVM or by calling FLC at 719.632.8836



In the Sanctuary · Sunday, December 14 · 3:30 p.m.

An afternoon of beautiful music and readings exploring the wonder of the Incarnation Followed by our traditional Pie Fest!





Today at First Lutheran

Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
Assemble Blessing Bags, Gathering PlaceBetween Worship Services
Sunday Youth Group (Grades 6 – 9), Youth Center9:15 a.m.
Sunday School (Preschool – Grade 5), Fellowship Hall9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship Service, Worship Center
Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary11 a.m.
Lessons and Carols / Pie Fest, Sanctuary, Gathering Place3:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

WEDNESDAYS IN THE WORSHIP CENTER DINNER 5:15 P.M. | SERVICE 6:30 P.M.

GENERATION TO REVELATION

FIRST LUTHERAN'S NEW PODCAST FIND ON YOUTUBE OR OUR WEBSITE

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS LUTHER HALL | 10 - 11 A.M.

Led by the preaching pastor for the week – come explore the Scriptures in an engaging small group setting.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1515 NORTH CASCADE AVE. COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80907 719.632.8836

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