

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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 candles, please join in singing.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

READING: ISAIAH 7:14 – 16 In the black pew Bible · Page 552

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1 - 7, 17 - 19 Please join in reading responsively.

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

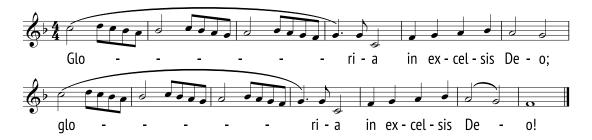
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Please stand for the gospel.



GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1:18 – 25 In the black pew Bible · Page 777

Before the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the first 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 CARRIE BAYLIS

Following the sermon, please stand for the hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY A No. 763 My Life Flows on in Endless Song

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.

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.



OFFERING MUSIC: Child of Peace, Child of Hope

Child of peace, Child of hope, to light our weary way. Perfect love, the Son of God, came to earth today. For the old, the young, the lost, not merely for a few. Joy to ev'ry longing heart, he was born for you.

Child of peace, Child of hope, Incarnate Deity.
A simple throne in Bethlehem, so far from Calvary.
Tiny stranger wrapped in light, cleanse us, make us new.
Majesty, bound up in love, he was born for you.

The Father's heart, so merciful, forgives us, sets us free, through Jesus Christ, his only Son, for all eternity!

Continued on the next page.

Child of peace, Child of hope, clothed in righteousness. Trust in his redeeming love, and he will give you rest. Worship him as King of Kings, in spirit and in truth. Blameless sacrifice for sin, he was born for you.

Make him Lord, your King of Kings, kneel in gratitude. Quietly, invite him in – he was born for you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

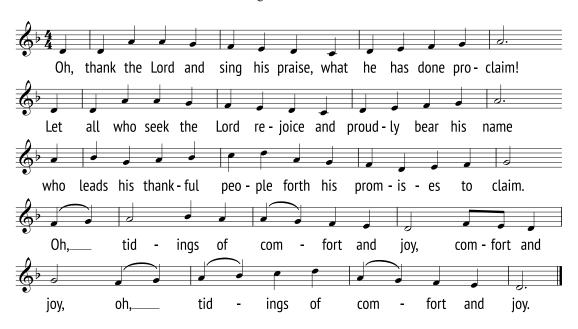
PEACE

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



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.

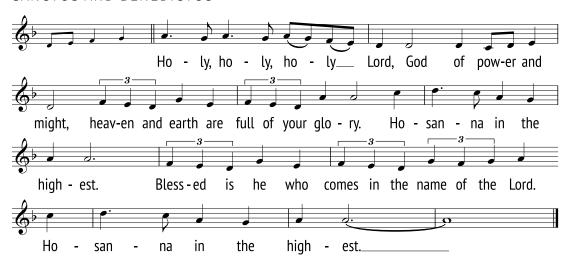
We lift them to the Lord.

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



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. 464 Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

We Walk by Faith

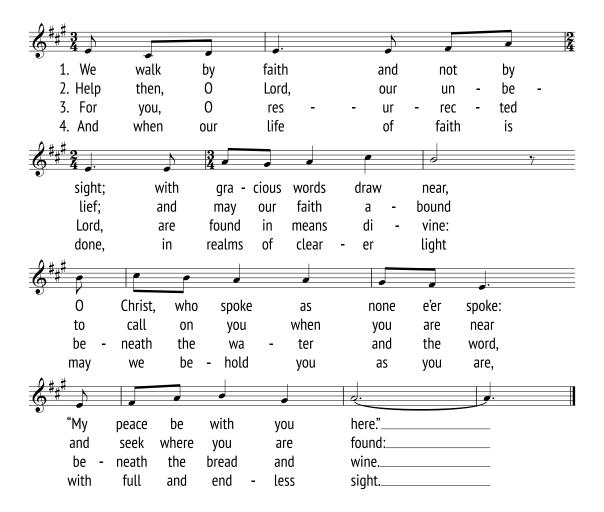
Music may be found on the next page.

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 A No. 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 19th-century Plainsong melody; adapted by Thomas Helmore. Public domain. - Fling Wide the Door – Words by Georg Weissel; translated by Gracia Grindal. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; administered by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Music (MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR) by J.A. Freylinghausen in Geistreiches Gesangbuch, 1704; arranged in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Arrangement © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense. net No. A-705840. - Gloria in Excelsis Deo (from Angels We Haw 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. - Child of Peace, Child of P



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, Minister of Congregational Service 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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 25 AND 26 JANUARY 1 AND 2

"CHA CHA" DANCE LESSONS

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 4 – 25 PEEL HOUSE PARLOR, 2 – 3 P.M.

Join us for "Cha Cha" Dance lessons this January. \$80 for couple or \$40 for a single person. Register through link. https://bit.ly/485fbnt.

AGING TOGETHER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 10 – 11 A.M. THE PEEL HOUSE

We will share our thoughts on the New Year and some of our goals. Beginning in February, our group will meet on the first Friday of each month. This is a casual gathering to share our thoughts and experiences during our journey through the years.

MOMCO

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 9:30 A.M. THE PEEL HOUSE

Join moms and expected moms for fun and fellowship!

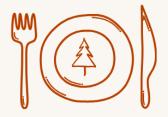
RAINBOW TRAIL SUMMER 2026 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF OUR YOUTH HAVE REGISTERED AND MOST WEEKS ARE ALREADY FULL

Availability numbers are posted on the Rainbow Trail bulletin board. Many weeks are already full, especially for girls. Registration will open to those outside of the ELCA on January 1, 2026.

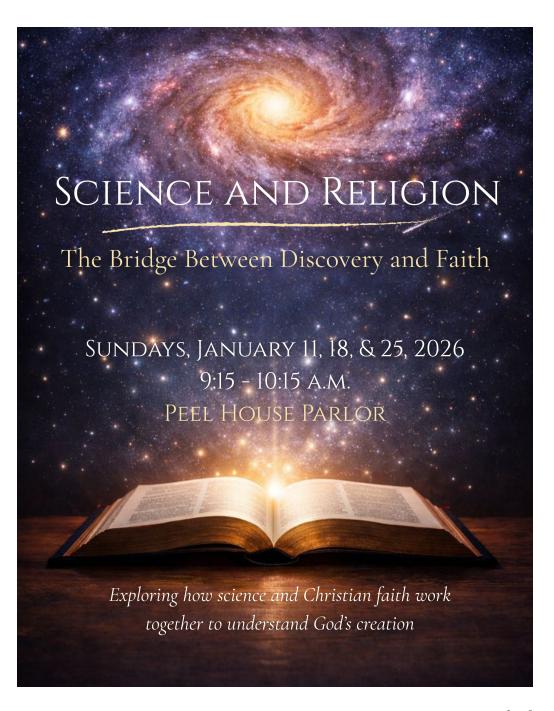


Congregational Potluck Brunch



Join us on **Sunday, December 28** for one worship service at 9:30 a.m. After worship, gather with the community for an 10:30 a.m. potluck brunch in the Gathering Place. Bring a dish to share as we celebrate fellowship and the season together. Use the QR code to sign up.





Today at First Lutheran

Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
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, Sanctuary
Blue Christmas, Worship Center

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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