

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 Nativity of Our Lord

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 1, 3, AND 5 P.M.

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful Please stand as you are able and join in singing!

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.

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

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

O come, let us adore him ...

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n! Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

O come, let us adore him ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HANDBELL ANTHEM

1 and 3 p.m. Carillon Ringers: The First Noel

5 p.m. Joy Ringers: He Is Born

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:2, 6, 7

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. 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. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Angels We Have Heard on High The Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria ...

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria ...

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 1:1 - 4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: Once in Royal David's City
Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him through his own redeeming love; for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above. And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Continued on the next page.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; there his children gather round bright like stars, with glory crowned.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:1-7 Please stand for the reading of the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

HYMN: What Child Is This?
What Child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high; the Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary!

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2:8 – 20 The reading of the gospel continues ...

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: Joy to the World Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing ...

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy ...

No more let sin and sorrow grow, or thorns infest the ground.

He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found ...

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love ...

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior taught us, so we 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.

PEACE

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

OFFERING MUSIC: Before the Marvel of This Night Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow, then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease: Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss: Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss.

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night. Into one song compress the love, that rules our universe above:

Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, Sing love, sing God is love!

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.



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son. Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we may ever walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where he dwelt, who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

The candles are lit by tipping the unlit candle toward a lit candle.

To guard against hot wax on skin or clothing, please avoid tipping a lit candle.

ANTHEM: All Is Well

All is well, all is well; angels and men rejoice! For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light. Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well; let there be peace on earth. Christ is come; go and tell that he is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia!

All is well, all is well; lift up your voice and sing. Born is now Immanuel; born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! All is well.

Born is now Immanuel; born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia! Sing alleluia! All is well.

GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION: JOHN 1:1 - 5, 9 - 14, 16

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who

received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 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. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

HYMN: Silent Night, Holy Night!
Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round you virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

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!

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.

Please raise your candle high as we sing the fourth verse:

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend your light;
with the angels let us sing,
"Alleluia to our King!"
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

PRAYFR

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Tonight, as we celebrate God with us in the birth of Jesus, let us continue to live lives of hope, peace, joy, and love. Share God's love with shepherds you meet on the hill-side. Let the communion of the Holy Spirit fill you with glad tidings like the angels. And may the Prince of Peace live in your heart to comfort and challenge you as you seek to live as one of his disciples. **Amen.**

Please extinguish your candle and join in singing!

CLOSING HYMN: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

As you exit, please place your candle and candleholder in one of the large boxes in the narthex or the thruway. Merry Christmas!

POSTLUDE

About today's music: O Come, All Ye Faithful – Words by John Francis Wade; translated by Frederick Oakeley. Music (ADESTE FIDELIS) by John Francis Wade; arranged by David Willcocks. Setting © 1961, 1987 Oxford University Press. All I rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Angels We Have Heard on High – Traditional French words; translated in Crown of Jesus, 1862. Music (GLORIA) from a French carol; arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes and harmonized by Austin C. Lovelace. Setting © 1964 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Once in Royal David's City – Words by Cecil Frances Alexander. Music (IRBY) by Henry John Gauntlett; harmonized by Arthur Henry Mann. Public domain. What Child Is This – Words by William Chatterton Dix. Music (GREENSLEEVES) from a 16th-century English ballad. Public domain. Joy to the World Words by Isaac Watts. Music (ANTIOCH) by George Frideric Handel; arranged by Lowell Mason. Public domain. Before the Marvel of This Right – Words by Jaroslav J. Vajda. Music by Carl Schalk. © 1981 Jaroslav J. Vajda and Carl Schalk. This arrangement © 1982 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. All is well – Words and music by Wayne Kirkpatrick and Michael W. Smith; arranged by Ronn Huff. © 1989, 1990 O'Ryan Music/Emily Boothe. All rights reserved. Cil No. 11389142. Silent Night, Holy Night! – Words by Joseph Mohr; translated by John F. Young. Music (STILLE NACHT) by Franz Gruber; harmonized by Simon Morley. Setting © 1994 Simon Morley. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Harkl the Herald Angels Sing – Words by Charles Wesley. Music (MENDELSSOHN) by Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings and David Willcocks. Setting © 1961 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net No. A-705840. Tharklet Merald Angels Sing – Words by Charles Wesley. Music (MENDELSSOHN) by Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings and David Willcocks. Setting

First Lutheran Staff

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GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF ...

Tom and Cathy Mellott by Ann, Emma, and Noah

My family: Cindy Koger, Kim, Devin, Angela Wattts, and Raquel Vasques by Eve Koger

Special friends: Debbie Chlebus, Jan Hanlin, Anna Wiese, and Nick McKibben by the Lydia Circle

Aunt Jennifer Weis by Emberly Ackerman

Aunt Julie Wick by Emberly Ackerman

Papa and Grandma Bauer by Addison, Lillie, Avery, Emberly, and Quinn

Our children Alayne, Charles, Todd, and Ellen; and granddaughters Grace, Gabrielle, and Calliope by Steve and Jill Brown

Marianne Gjertson, Jill's mom by Steve and Jill Brown

Jeff and James Haring and their families by Erna Haring

Grandchildren and Godchildren by Elbert and Eileen Carter

Children and Grandchildren by Joe and Barbara Dixon

My Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren by Joyce Arneson

Our family, Leah, Graham, Calla, and Sadie by Larry and Sandy Wiebe

Leilani Eilert by Aunt Katie Ackerman and Aunt Julie Wick

Conner Holiday by Aunt Katie Ackerman and Aunt Julie Wick

Emmy and Callie Baylis by Aunt Katie Ackerman and Aunt Julie Wick

Addison and Lillie Weis by Aunt Katie Ackerman and Aunt Julie Wick

Steven, Micheal, Wendy, Kelly, and Douglas by Trudy Hill

To our loving children: Brian, Carrie, Cameron, Amanda, Brian,

Andrew, and Marie by Bill and Karen Busovsky





George and Edith Dugan by Gini Dugan

Our families by Paula Nickodemus and Paul Lindsey

Grace, William, Henry, and Madeleine Morgan by Bill and Terry Ankeny and Judy Morgan

Emberly Ackerman by Aunt Julie Wick

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF ...

Eugene Cartwright, Kris father by Kris and Sharon Cartwright

Nils and Sylvia Sandner, Sharon's parents by Sharon and Kris Cartwright

Theo Chambers by the Todd and Maryellen Mitchell family

Albert and Diana Kobilan by the Todd and Maryellen Mitchell family

James Callahan by John and Jeanne Smith

Roland and Janice Baldwin by Elizabeth Heiny

George and Delsie Schulte by Stacy and John Gatto, and Stephanie Rouse

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Colleen White by Pam and Chris White

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Connie Swift by Chris and Kiersten Lehmkuhl

Susan Truchses by Chris and Kiersten Lehmkuhl

Rose Eggum by Kids and Grandkids

Jo Lynn Cook by Mark and Cindy Stanley and family







Andy Peel by the Rev. Paul R. Peel and Lois Peel Doug Auten by Mary, Jill and family, and Bart and family Our parents: John and Phyllis Bockstahler; Joseph and Pauline Busovsky; our nephew, Trevor Busovsky by Bill and Karen Busovsky Our parents: Russ and Jane Vogel, and Harry and Helen Mosco by Cathy and Harry Mosco Millie Kamperschroer by Gini Simonson Valerie Ann Romano by Fran and Brian Freese Marilyn Miller by Marcus and Liz Kochis Charlie Miller by Marcus and Liz Kochis Jim Kochis by Marcus and Liz Kochis My dear husband, Jack by Annette Kester Tim Bowie by Steve and Loretta Rea Dorothy Fleming, Loretta's mom by Loretta and Steve Rea The Linnenburger family by Jane Linnenburger Norm Peterson and Kobus Kraai by Lynn Peterson Beloved husband David DuBois, MD by Suzanne DuBois Dennis David Robbins by Rondi Robbins, and Jenny and Scott Estes Donna Flores by Rick and Donna Flores Edward Leasburg by Donna and Rick Flores Olive Harding by Anita Eckley Bernice Eckley by Anita Eckley Amy Rivers by Rick and Anne Rivers Doug Zobec by Anne and Rick Rivers



WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Our mission is to equip members to be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ, who seek to glorify Almighty God in their lives and share with others the joy and salvation of the Christian faith.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

One Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Potluck brunch in Gathering Place following service

REGULARLY SCHEDULED SUNDAY SERVICES

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP (Sanctuary) at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP (Worship Center) at 10:15 a.m. First Kids at 10:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIGHT

ROLLING DINNER (Gathering Place) at 5:15 p.m. WORSHIP (Worship Center) at 6:30 p.m. Small groups for Grades 6 – 12 and adults following worship



Merry Christmas, church family! We have a God who loves us, loves this world, and refuses to give up on either. This week we celebrate salvation by grace, foundational to our Lutheran faith. God doesn't wait for us to come up to him – he came down to us! The baby in the manger is the rescue we all need. So, we bend the knee and worship our Savior. Come, let us adore him!

I pray for you every morning, asking God to strengthen your faith, give you wisdom and guidance, and fill you with joy. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with whomever you are celebrating. I am glad you are here to worship, and I pray the Holy Spirit will speak clearly to you with words of love, challenge, and comfort. Jesus is for you, and God has an invitation for each of you to serve in a way unique to you and your gifts. God comes to us just as we are – but he doesn't leave us that way. We are all invited to change and follow Jesus' way of service, love, and sacrifice. Come, let us adore him! Come and follow the Savior!

As we turn the corner to a new year, I remind you that on Sunday, December 28, we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck. Please bring something to share and plan to stick around after worship as we enjoy fellowship as a church family.

May God bless you and may God bless First Lutheran as we aim to follow Jesus into the world and share the good news of the God who comes to us.

With love,



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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