

The Light

Christmas Eve Worship with First Lutheran

On Wednesday, December 24, we will host four worship services to fit people's schedules and allow for ample seating.

| Time | Type | Preaching | Special Music |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 p.m. | Children/Family Worship | Pr. Steve Knudson | Junior Choir |
| 5 p.m. | Contemporary Worship | Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster | Band-led; Youth Choir & Bells |
| 7 p.m. | Traditional Worship | Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster | Adult Bell Ensembles; Brass |
| 9 p.m. | Traditional Worship | Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster | Adult Choir; Brass Ensemble |

At 3 p.m. our worship experience focused towards families and children with the Junior Choir adding special music and Pr. Steve Knudson leading us on a journey to experience "The Sights & Sounds of Christmas."

At 5 p.m. we will crank up the joy with our Band-led Celebration Service featuring contemporary takes on classic Christmas music. The band will be joined with special music from our Youth Vocal and Bell Choirs.

We will round out the evening with traditional worship services at 7 p.m. (featuring the Adult Handbell ensembles) and 9 p.m. (with the Adult Choir). The services at 3, 7, & 9 p.m. will feature extended preludes of approximately 30 minutes, so come or tune-in early to relax and listen!

Worship Following Christmas

The weekend after Christmas, we will hold our normal 5 p.m. Saturday worship, and just one worship service on Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m. The weekend of January 3-4 worship will be held at normal times.

Our Wednesday Echo worship services will not be held on Christmas Eve or New Years' Eve, and will return on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

However, before we get to Christmas Eve, let's enjoy the rest of this season of Advent with more groups, events, and performances outlined on the following pages! Several concert events are listed on page 2, and the details on a modified Children's Christmas Program for this weekend on page 4.

Inside this Edition:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 2 Remaining Advent Events Year-end Office Hours | 6 Volunteer for Christmas Eve! Connections Corner: H.U.G.S. Updated Scheduling | 10 Trust Funding FLC Needs Renewing for God's Mission |
| 3 Helping Hands Helping Hearts | 7 Generosity Updates | 11 Prayer & Worship Guide Giving Summary |
| 4 Discovery Zone for kidz Christmas Program Pivot! Mark Your Calendar | 8 January Monthly Luncheon Annual Outreach Potluck 2026 Altar Flower Dedications | 12 Poinsettia Dedication Form |
| 5 Christmas Break Bowling! Wednesday Echo Ministries High School Xmas Party | 9 TED x SEIA Synod Sharing Christ with Four Oaks | |



First Lutheran
discover more : **together**

Year-End Office Hours

If you have a year-end contribution that you want to drop off, or if you want to come in after Christmas to pick up a Poinsettia, please note when the office and building will be closed, listed below:

Dec. 25- Closed
Dec. 26 - Closed

Dec. 31 - Open 8a-5p
Jan. 1 - Closed
Jan. 2 - Open 8a-4p

Remaining Advent Events

In the hustle and bustle of this season, we hope you can find time for some respite to reflect on Christ, the Light of the World.

"Shipwrecked at the Stable" Discussion 11 a.m. Wed. Dec. 17.

Prior to our final Lunch in the Loft, Sheila Anderson will lead an advent discussion focus on an Advent-themed essay by modern-day theologian Brennan Manning entitled *Shipwrecked at the Stable*, which explores the idea that when we are in right relationship with Jesus, we are in the peace of Christ. This study will help us focus on the true blessings of the season.

Lunch in the Loft Wednes. Dec. 17, 12:05-1 p.m.

We have one final midweek concert next Wednesday, December 17 featuring our own Brett & Marita Wolgast. Bring your favorite sack lunch or takeout to enjoy along with this relaxing respite of music. If you can't join us in person, you can listen live online at firstlutherancr.org/live.



Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. **Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio & John Leavitt's Hodie! Cantata**

Two exuberant works for the Christmas Season: French composer and organist Saint-Saëns' stirring Christmas Oratorio featuring harp, strings, organ and Chorale soloists. The Chorale will also perform the contemporary cantata *Hodie!* by John Leavitt with percussion, strings and piano.

Tickets: \$18 in advance at CRChorale.org

Vocal Artists of Iowa Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 21 – 4 p.m.

Love's Pure Light

Celebrate the beauty and wonder of the holiday season with this luminous evening of choral music sure to warm the heart and lift the spirit. The concert will feature inspiring selections including "Night of Silence", and Eric Whitacre's shimmering "Lux Aurumque," in addition to several sing-along classics. No Ticket cost; \$25 recommended donation



Celebration Weekend Helps Neighbors in Need



Thanks to everyone for participating in our Celebration Weekend with our combined worship service, a delicious catered meal from Dostal Catering, and contributing to a special gift from our congregation to those who need it most. We filled the Luther Fellowship Center and opened up our newly renovated Youth Room for people to eat and get to know each other as a church family. In addition to the newfound friendships around the tables, the results of the weekend were fantastic!

In our first ingathering of commitments to our Helping Hands, Helping Hearts campaign saw 145 families and individuals bring forward Estimate of Giving cards on Celebration Weekend, pledging \$798,070 for 2026 Annual Stewardship. Included in this amount are 7 new pledging households who pledged \$17,890 for 2026.

Over and above our regular offering, 56 families gave \$12,200 for our Helping Hands special offering. When you add in our \$10,000 matching challenge gift and \$5,000 from our Trust, together we raised \$27,100 to help those in greatest need in our community! Incredible.

Pr. Craig said, "I think this year may have been the most fun I've had ever working with a Generosity Team. Our team was of good cheer as we put in hours of dedicated service and came up with creative solutions to help our church rise up to meet the needs of those around us with a smile in our hearts. My



We filled the Fellowship Hall and opened the renewed Youth Room celebrating the generosity of the congregation on Nov. 16.

deepest thanks to our friends at Thrivent and our church volunteers including Dan & Dee Baty, Kari & Kevin Bruns, Brent & Dawn Foss, Alicia & Ryan Murphy, Patty Read-Stevenson, Carla & Roger Schulz, Marcy & Terry Shie, and Kirk, Hayden and Brock Brown."

Join the Momentum

There's still time to be part of the positive momentum going into 2026! Visit our website at firstlutherancr.org/pledge to complete an Estimate of Giving online or stop by the office and we'll help you fill out a card in person. Your commitment helps us continue to serve our community with our Helping Hands, Helping Hearts!



Commit to supporting Mission & Ministry in 2026 by making a pledge at firstlutherancr.org/pledge



Blue Christmas
*A Worship Experience
for Sorrowful Hearts*

The joyous season of Advent and Christmas can be overshadowed by feelings of those we miss, or of painful past experiences. Our Blue Christmas Worship helps people work through the conflicting emotions to remember that God's promises of restoration, community, and peace come to us in the birth of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our in-person worship experience has passed, but you can revisit the video, or share it with someone you know at youtube.com/firstlutherancr or from the link at the bottom of our home page at firstlutherancr.org

Welcome to the

Discovery Zone *4 KIDZ!*

One weekly message and theme;

two different opportunities to Jump In!

Sunday at 10:15 a.m. & Wednesday at 7:15 p.m.

Whether you come to the Discovery Zone on Sunday Mornings or Wednesday Evenings you can get the same great content and faith-building experience whenever it best fits your schedule! Room assignments are shifting, so just come up to the third level and follow the signs and volunteers.

Children's Ministry Year End Schedule

With upcoming holidays and other special events, there are several times coming up through the end of the year where we will not gather on Wednesdays or Sundays.

Sunday, Dec. 21 through Sunday, Jan. 4 -

Christmas & New Year's Break

No Discovery Zone Wednesday or Sunday

Discovery Zone Returns Wednesday, Jan. 7,
and Sunday, Jan. 11.

Mark Your Calendars!

Getting next year's calendar assembled?
Mark these important dates for 2026!

Meals From the Heartland

One of First Lutheran's biggest service projects is returning Wednesday, April 29, 2026. Meals from the Heartland is coming for our 2nd Annual Meal Packing Event, bringing together teams from the church, community, and local businesses to make meals for famine areas around the world.

Christmas Program PIVOT!



Join Pastor Katie for an interactive Christmas Story this Sunday, Dec. 14 during 11 a.m. worship.

After two weeks of snowstorms hampering the preparations of our usual Children's Ministry Christmas Program - we are going to PIVOT to an on-the-spot story & sing-along!

This Sunday at 11 a.m. worship we will still have a Children's Christmas presentation with stories & songs; and any child in worship is welcome to come up and participate!

Pastor Katie will recounting the Christmas Story from our Spark Storybook Bible, and we will sing some of the easy and traditional carols that go along with it. We will see and hear how Jesus is the Light of our World. Through Christ we can Be the Light to our world - and all the kids who come will get a "Be the Light" T-shirt too!

No need to sign up, no need to rehearse, all kids are welcome to join us for a special Christmas Story this Sunday, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m.

Vacation Bible School and Daycamp

will take place on July 13 – 16, 2026! Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys in "Rainforest Falls", kids will plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Christmas Break Bowling at SpareTime!

Celebrate the season with bowling, pizza, and fun! Join us at SpareTime Bowling for 2 hours of bowling (shoes included!) plus 2 slices of pizza and a soda. A great chance for K-12 students, families, and friends to enjoy some fellowship together!

- When: Tuesday, December 30 | 3:00–5:00 PM
- Cost: \$15 per person
- Who: K-12, family & friends
(children under 5th grade must be accompanied by a parent/guardian)
- Space is limited, so sign up today! Registration closes Wednesday, December 18.

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and friends!

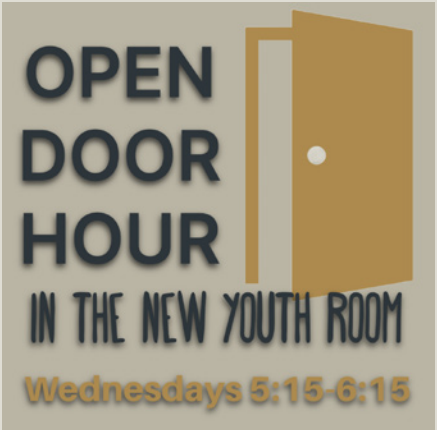
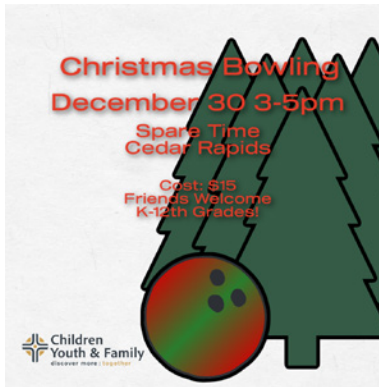
Wednesday ECHO Ministries

The season of Advent is a time of watching, waiting, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ—the true Light who shines in our darkness. Each week at ECHO Worship, we'll gather as a community to listen for God's promise, lift our prayers, and make room for Jesus to be born in us again. We'd love to invite your whole family to worship together with us during this meaningful season. Advent offers a beautiful chance to slow down, reconnect, and reflect on what truly matters as Christmas approaches.

Wednesday Echo Worship & Ministries will take a couple weeks off over Christmas & New Years, and return with a Youth & Family Night Jan. 7 where we will talk about our Faith Mentor ministry coming in February.

Upcoming Schedule for ECHO:

December 17 - Christ Be Our Light
December 24 - Christmas Eve
December 31 & January 4 -
NO ECHO Worship/Ministries
January 7 - ECHO Youth & Family Night



Our new youth room is open to enjoy! Before ECHO Worship, join us for Open Door Hour—a time to hang out, play games, relax, and enjoy some pizza with friends.

Adult Hosts Needed

This open door hour does require adult or parent volunteers to help host and make everyone feel welcome. If you'd like to help, please reach out to Michel Beckmann by calling the church office, or via email at michaelb@firstlutheran-cr.org



High School Sunday Night Christmas Party

We'd love to have high school youth join us for our Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14 from 6–7:30 PM! It's going to be a fun and festive evening with a **\$5 gift exchange**, plenty of laughter, and a cozy showing of **A Charlie Brown Christmas**.

We'll have pizza, drinks, and great company—the perfect way to pause, celebrate, and enjoy the season together. Encourage your student to bring a friend and join the holiday fun!

Volunteer for Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas is quickly approaching! With four worship services and over 1,000 anticipated worshippers, it takes a strong team to make everything happen smoothly.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or more services on Christmas Eve, please complete the form using the QR code, or email Maddy Newhouse at maddyn@firstlutherancr.org. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together at one service and attend another!



Scan the code or find the Christmas Eve Volunteers link on our Home page, firstlutherancr.org

Outstanding Hospitality makes a huge impression on members and guests alike on important days like Christmas!



The Connections Corner

Hospitality and Events Ministry Happenings

What is H.U.G.S.?

H.U.G.S (Hospitality, Ushers, Greeters, Servers) is the new name for the Volunteer ministry at First Lutheran! Over the coming months, you will see some shifts in where and how volunteers serve in worship, the church, and the community. Our ministry will be working to focus on how we can put *Hospitality* first in all we do, so we can Welcome Like Christ!

This may look like ushers serving from inside and outside of the sanctuary, a New “Engagement Center” in the Narthex where you can learn about upcoming events, and new “flexible” furnishings (like coffee and greeting stations!) in the Narthex that have multiple uses and endless potential.

Training sessions for HUGS Volunteers will be announced soon for current and interested volunteers. To better shepherd the Hospitality Ministry, Maddy Newhouse will now be in the Narthex three Sundays a month to help oversee volunteers and assist worshippers.



Updated Scheduling Platform

The HUGS team is transitioning to a newer, updated scheduling platform! Starting this month, we will be using *Planning Center Services* to schedule volunteers. Currently active worship volunteers should have received an email with detailed login and use instructions. This platform is much more modern and intuitive with easier web-based tools and apps for users.

This is the *perfect* opportunity to update your preferences or join the HUGS team as a new volunteer! There are positions available for all ages and abilities.

If you would like to join a HUGS volunteer team, please contact Maddy Newhouse via email at maddyn@firstlutherancr.org.



Thank You FLC! — Operation Christmas Child

“This church has a great heart!” exclaimed Doug Elam. More than 100 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were filled for children around the world to experience Christ’s love! We collected 107 boxes here at church and several others were purchased online. For many of these children, it will be the first gift they will ever have received. Every box will contain Luke’s Gospel in their own language—just think of the people that will hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!

With a myriad of activities and collections going on, we had a ‘soft’ launch to bring OCC to the church. Being the first undertaking here, Doug and Mary Jo had hoped for around 50 boxes; needless to say they were blown away by the generosity of fellow members! Many folks mentioned what fun it was to pack the boxes or help their children learn to share.

Planning has already started for next year, including a ‘packing party’ with Christmas carols, cookies and cocoa, and possibly a field trip to an OCC processing center. Join the fun of Operation Christmas Child by looking up Doug or Mary Jo at coffee after the 9:00 service or call Doug at 319-654-4007.



The Elam's car was packed to the gills with the fruits of your generosity when it came time to send off the gifts.

Committed to Neighbors in Need

This fall we re-committed to our partner Helping Hands Ministry, and re-introduced them to our worshipping community. In addition to raising over \$27,000 to support their direct assistance for our community we collected over 6,000 personal care items that will help people make ends meet when times are tough! Thank you for your generous and caring hearts, acting as God's Hands to our neighbors in need. Learn more about our partners at Helping Hands, and the entire Ecumenical Community Center at ECC-CR.net.



| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1,136 cleansing wipes | 114 bottles of lotion | 13 emery boards |
| 900 baby wipes | 114 deodorant sticks | 11 shaving cream |
| 593 hygiene pads | 97 laundry detergents | 10 barrettes |
| 524 bars of soap | 77 hair conditioner | 8 hand soap |
| 421 toothbrushes | 77 dental floss | 6 facial masks |
| 361 incontinence pads | 75 body wash | 4 toothbrush cases |
| 329 shampoo bottles | 50 Band-Aids | 3 baby powders |
| 289 dental floss pics | 33 tissues boxes | 3 bottles of sunscreen |
| 255 diapers | 30 hand sanitizer | 2 paper towels |
| 193 travel bags | 29 wipes | 1 after shave |
| 188 laundry pods | 23 body spray | 1 bath sponge |
| 182 rolls of TP | 23 lip balm | 1 medication case |
| 166 toothpaste tubes | 22 Q-tips packages | |
| 156 razors | 21 mouthwash | ...and a partridge in a pear tree! (not really) |
| 120 dryer sheets | 20 toothbrush kits | |

First Lutheran Monthly Luncheon

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 12 noon

Come Together to greet old friends and make new ones over a delicious meal and an interesting presentation at the First Lutheran Monthly Luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 8 at 12 noon.

For our presentation, we will hear about the ways the City of Cedar Rapids is caring for our community with the new West-side Busse Branch of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. We will hear directly from Charity Tyler, Executive Director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation about how the new branch will offer more flexible space, more lending materials, and other unique needs of the community by giving the library a permanent west side home instead of the leased Ladd Library space now in use.

The Luncheon presentation along with Ms. Ruth's meal prepared fresh on-site is just \$5. You can pay at the door, or along with your RSVP at firstlutherancr.org/lunch



Annual Outreach Potluck

Sunday, January 11, 2026

5-7 p.m.

Learn more about our global and local partnerships and ways we share Christ with the world at our annual Outreach Potluck at 5-7 p.m. Sunday, January 11, 2026.

We'll hear an update from one of the local ministries partners of our church, and learn more about our hunger, housing & Hope team.

Bring a covered dish and everyone in your family to learn about all the many ways our church reaches out to help others. Enjoy some food, fellowship, and see how you can make a difference in people's lives!



Kathryn Franzenburg talks about refugee services at Catherine McAuley Center at a previous outreach potluck.

2026 Altar Flower Dedications

The 2026 Altar Flower dedication listing is now available and are located at the sign up desk in the Narthex! If there are certain days you like to sponsor be sure to stop by soon as they will likely fill up fast! Thanks to all who sponsor these beautiful bouquets each weekend in honor or memory of your loved ones and special events.



TEDxSEIA: Children, Youth & Family Ministries

You're invited to a special TEDxSEIA on Sunday, January 11, from 12:30–4:30 PM here at First Lutheran. This Synod-sponsored event is a gathering designed for leaders and volunteers connected to Children, Youth, and Family ministries across Southeastern Iowa. This event will offer a series of talks led by pastors and leaders from across our synod, highlighting creative ministry, practical tools, and inspiring partnerships.

This lineup includes a presentation on VBS Partnership by Gail Marske and Megan Clausen from Faith, Clive along with Ann Strom from St. John's, Des Moines, a session on Youth in Worship with Michael Beckmann of First, Cedar Rapids, a conversation on Equipping Volunteers with Dan Kuckuck from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and a talk on Community Partnerships with Kaileen Weaver of St. Paul, Anamosa. These sessions are designed to support and strengthen children, youth, and family ministry in every setting of our synod.

Come for connection and conversation with other church staff and volunteers from around the area, along with inspiration, learning, reflection and next steps — plus, of course, snacks!

Register today at seiasynod.org



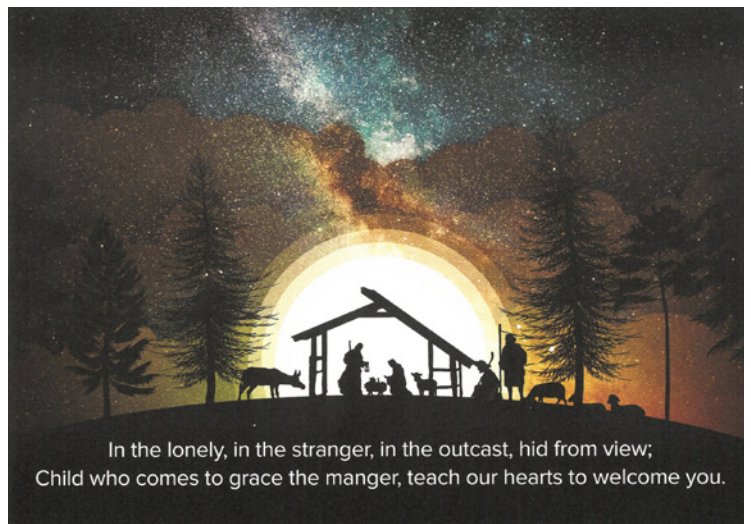
Sharing Christ with Four Oaks



Doug & Angie Whitmore with Stephanie Phelps laid out the gifts before delivering them to Four Oaks.

Thank you, First Lutheran, for sharing the love of Christ by supporting the Christmas gift drive for youth living in Four Oaks Residential Facilities. Together we gifted 75 kids with two gifts each, and provided over \$1,000 in gift cards, so kids can shop for their own items or kids that come to them after the "gift tags" are made can receive presents too. Together we can show kids who are going through difficult situations that there are people who care about them, and people who want to share the love of God with them at Christmas.

Greetings from the ELCA Staff



As you celebrate the birth of Jesus, may you delight in the gifts of God's endless *grace* and unconditional *love* and the *hope* they bring for all people.

Merry Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Yehiel Curry".

ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry
and the churchwide organization staff

Trust Fund has another Busy Year Funding FLC Needs

Another year has nearly passed with the Trust Committee approving and distributing over \$35,000 in requests from the FLC Trust Fund. These 2025 distributions helped to: cover start-up costs for the 'Growing Young Initiative'; support our ministry partners at Helping Hands; support Daniel Luepke's internship program; and fund the costs of seven non-routine building repairs not anticipated in the church's annual operating budget. More distribution requests are expected to be received and paid in December, and a detailed accounting of all 2025 distributions will be included in the FLC Annual Report.

These extra funds to support FLC needs are possible only through the accumulation of past generous contributions, whether from estate bequests, memorial gifts, or direct donations. It is important to remember that only investment income/gains in the Trust Fund are available for request distributions. The principal amount is always preserved.

Please consider making either a donation to the Trust Fund or including the Trust Fund in your estate plans. Thank you.



Renewing for God's Mission: Down to the Checklist!

Just like Santa we are making a list and checking it twice to bring this renewing process to a finish! The temporary walls that had blocked off most of the narthex area have been removed to allow for final finishes to go up on the columns, walls and ceilings. Nelson Electric has been busy wiring in new efficient LED lighting in the ceilings and walls, and Hearth and Home Solutions contractors are just wrapping up installing the cozy artificial fire place. By this weekend, Dec. 13-14 we expect to have the narthex area completed and furnished!

In other areas of the building this month mechanical contractors have wrapped up installing new air conditioning condensers and turned the furnaces back on just in time! We had a few chilly days in the office; but everything was completed before it got *really* cold!

Work is going on this week updating the rest rooms, starting with counters on level 2. The new accessible single-stall rest room on Level 2 and the kitchenette are now completely walled in and ready for their finish work.



The rest room is now a work room with new sinks and counter tops being installed.

Renewing for God's Mission Fund

As of November 30, 2025

| | 3-Year Budget | Project-to-date |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Income | \$ 3,192,000 | \$ 1,908,068 |
| Expenditures | \$ 3,192,000 | \$ 1,812,086 |
| Current Surplus/Deficit | | \$ 95,982 |

Giving towards the RGM pledges continues strong. A substantial portion of the Rinderknecht contract has been completed. Our forecast for achieving the 3-year balanced budget remains positive.

Please include in your Prayers...

90+ Birthdays in December!

Bob Snelson, celebrating 96 years on Dec. 4.
Joyce Munson, celebrating 95 years on Dec. 26.
Dorothy Lutz, celebrating 92 years on Dec. 27.
Eldon Wohlleben, celebrating 92 years on Dec. 31.
Marie Sundet, celebrating 90 years on Dec. 26.

... and in early January:

Geri Hauschild, celebrating 92 years on Jan. 1.
Barbara Skogman, celebrating 91 years on Jan. 2.

Wedding Anniversaries in December!

Dennis & Karen Kral celebrate 64 years in Dec. 28.
Mark & Lois Hoper celebrate 59 years on Dec. 17.
Jeff & Marla Thompson celebrate 58 years on Dec. 30.
Gary & Barb Peterson celebrate 53 years on Dec. 30.
Steve & Julie Munson celebrate 50 years in Dec. 20.

... and in early January:

Steve & Pamela Strauss celebrate 56 years on Jan. 7
Sam & Carol Winkles celebrate 50 years on Jan. 3.

Hospital/Surgical, etc. Prayers for Healing:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mike Sinnott | Walt Gobatjuk | Eleanor Pfeifle |
| Beth Anderson | David Stortz | Maxine Kleiman |

Our Sympathy to:

Dave and Jeanine DeWolf, family & friends on the death of Jeanie's sister, Mary Benson.
Katherine Franzenburg, family & friends on the death of her husband, Dr. Bill Davis.

Submit Your Prayer Requests to our First Lutheran Prayer Chain by calling the church office at (319) 365-1494, on our website at firstlutherancr.org/prayer, or on the Church App under the Contact button. Consider joining our Prayer chain to receive and pray over the concerns of fellow members each week.

FLC Financial Giving Summary

As of November 30, 2025

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 2025 Annual Operating Fund: | |
| Y-T-D Actual Income | \$ 1,426,421 |
| Y-T-D Budgeted Income | \$ 1,386,272 |
| - Giving over (under) budget | \$ 40,149 |

Thank you for your strong giving continuation throughout this year. We are ahead of budgeted income for the first eleven months of 2025. All ministries have been fully funded by your generosity!

WORSHIP GUIDE

Piano-led Traditional Worship: 5 p.m. Saturdays
Organ-led Traditional Worship: 9 a.m. Sundays
Band-Led Contemporary Worship: 11 a.m. Sundays
Sundays & Wednesdays - worship LIVE online at firstlutherancr.org/live
Radio worship radio on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on KMRY 1450 AM or 93.1 FM, or anytime at firstlutherancr.org/podcast

December 13 & 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Preaching: Pr. Steve Knudson
Children's Christmas Story at 11a Worship
Scripture: Luke 1:46-55; Matthew 11:2-11 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Resonaré Ringers & Handbell Ensemble

December 20 & 21 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols Worship at 9 a.m.
Preaching: Pr. Katie Lowe Lancaster
Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16, Matt 1:18-25 NRSVue
Special Music: (9a) Adult Choir

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Worship

3pm Children & Family-Oriented Worship
5pm Celebration Band-led Worship
7 & 9pm Traditional Worship
details on page 1

Dec. 27 & 28 - The First Sunday of Christmas

Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23 NRSVue
Special Music: (10a) Soloists

Note: No Wednes. Worship or Activities on 12/31.

Jan. 3 & 4 - Epiphany Sunday

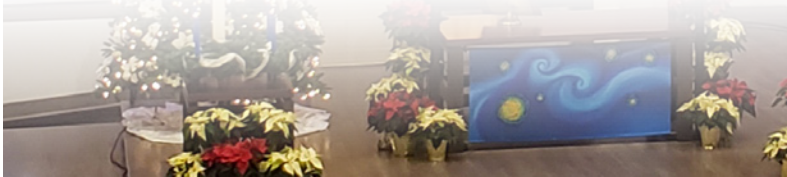
Preaching: Pr. Craig Brown
Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12 NRSVue

Echo Wednesday Worship & Wednesday night activities return on Jan. 7 with Youth & Family Night.

The next edition of *The Light* is scheduled to publish on January 8, 2026

Change Service Requested

Christmas Poinsettia Dedications



We invite you to help decorate the Chancel with poinsettias for our Christmas worship services! You may dedicate poinsettia plants as a memorial, celebration, or in honor of a person or occasion. Plants are available for \$15 or \$28, according to size. If you would like to take home your plant(s) after Christmas Eve worship, please indicate that below. Virtual Plant dedications can be made for any amount and will pay for the overall cost of plants, and those which will remain after Christmas Eve for the Sundays of Christmas.

Dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Plants may be taken home after 9 p.m. worship on Dec. 24, or any time the church is open thereafter.

Dedications can also be made online at firstlutherancr.org/poinsettia, or this form may be returned to the church with cash or a check.



Donor(s): _____

Dedication (indicate if the dedication is in memory, honor, or celebration): _____

Number of small plants we would like to purchase: _____ x \$15

Number of large plants we would like to purchase: _____ x \$28

☐ I will pick up my plant(s) after Christmas Eve.

Virtual dedication toward the overall cost:

Amount attached: \$ _____

Grand total: \$ _____



First Lutheran

discover more : **together**

1000 Third Ave. SE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Ph: (319)365-1494 | Txt: (319) 423-9383

text-to-give: text "give" to (319) 895-1494

firstlutherancr.org @firstlutherancr

General Voicemail / After-hours: Extension 100

Rev. Dr. Steve Knudson

extension 106

Senior Pastor

stevek@firstlutherancr.org

Rev. Craig Brown

extension 105

Lead Pastor for Outreach

craigb@firstlutherancr.org

Rev. Katie Lowe Lancaster

extension 113

Lead Pastor for Discipleship

katiell@firstlutherancr.org

Sheila Anderson

extension 135

Visitation Chaplain

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Michael Beckmann

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Dir. of Youth & Family Ministries

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Brett Wolgast

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Cantor

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Marita Wolgast

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Dir. of Traditional Worship

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Tanya Rosenkranz Malloy

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Junior & Youth Choir Director

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Joel Reeves

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Dir. of Contemp. Worship Music

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Bob Koenig

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Maddy Newhouse

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Megan Roling

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William Mittelsteadt

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