



# FIRST GLANCE

A look at what's happening at  
First Lutheran Church

December 1-8, 2024

## WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran! We're so happy you're here! If you've worshipped with us before, welcome back! If this is your first time, a big welcome to you! We hope you feel God's love, grace and mercy as you worship with us today!

## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER

Jesus taught to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Stephen Ministry is one important, tangible way to carry out this commandment and show God's love to others. To find out more about this distinctive way to be a caring Christian, join us today at 9:30 AM in the Lower Level Blue Room 3 for an informational meeting.

## ADVENT: EAT. PRAY. SING

Advent invites us into a season of deep prayer. Its stories and songs inspire us to seek and long for what is to come: God with us, transforming the world into a place of abundant life. "Don't hold back," Advent urges, "for God is not finished with this world." During Advent, we gather on weekends and midweek to share food, conversation, song and prayer. This year, we're introducing a \*pray\*ground at our 6:30 PM Holden Evening Prayer services. Located near the choir area, it allows children to engage in prayerful play and participate in worship, offering families a new way to worship. Join us every Wednesday in Advent as we eat, pray and sing together. Holden Evening Prayer services are at noon and 6:30 PM, with a livestream available. After the noon service, stay for soup and conversation, or come at 5:30 PM for the evening service to enjoy a meal and fellowship.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DECEMBER 15

Join us on Sunday, December 15, at 9:30 AM for a Christmas pageant featuring "Clarence the Angel." Experience the joy of discovering the newborn King, then enjoy cookies and hot chocolate in the Activity Center. Bring your family and friends!

## ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Join us today at 9:30 AM in the Chapel, located in the northwest corner of the building, for the Adult Forum. Delve into the significance of Advent through scripture, hymns and cherished church traditions.

## SPREADING HOPE ONE GIFT AT A TIME

As the jingle of bells fills December, are you struggling to find gifts for those who have it all? Turn your holiday shopping into an act of kindness at our Gifts of Hope Market. Your purchases will support 11 amazing groups making a difference on critical issues locally and globally, from empowering immigrant women to fighting sex trafficking and supporting LGBTQ+ rights. Preview our online catalog on Wednesday, December 4, and shop online from Saturday, December 7, 8 AM through Sunday, December 8, 10 PM. Prefer in-person shopping? Visit First Lutheran Church on December 8, from 8:15 AM to 12:45 PM. This season, let your gifts spread joy and hope. Mark your calendars for the Gifts of Hope Market - where every gift tells a story and every cent makes a difference. Join us in spreading hope, one gift at a time!

## TODAY IS NOISY OFFERING: CENTER FOR PEOPLE TOY DRIVE

This holiday season, the Center for People in Lincoln is collecting toy donations for children who might not receive gifts. Your contribution to the Noisy Offering today can greatly impact these children's lives, providing gifts, hope and happiness. Please consider donating change, bills or a check during today's offertory to spread joy and love to children in need. Let's make a joyful noise for the Center for People!

[www.flclincoln.org](http://www.flclincoln.org) / 402-488-0919

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## FIRST FRIDAY JAZZ TO FEATURE LARGEST ENSEMBLE IN 13 YEAR HISTORY

On Friday, December 6, seven soloists from the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra will perform at the First Friday Jazz concert at First. This special Jazz Septet, led by Ed Love, includes Ed Love on woodwinds, Bob Krueger on trumpet, Pete Madsen on trombone, Peter Bouffard on guitar, Tom Harvill on piano, Andy Hall on bass and Greg Ahl on drums. As eastern Nebraska's premier "big band," this ensemble is the largest to appear in the 13-year history of First Friday Jazz. The concert runs from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM with free admission, though donations are appreciated, and lunch will be available for purchase. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry.

## WHAT'S YOUR TOUCHSTONE VERSE FOR THE WEEK?

It could be from a hymn, reading or something in the sermon! Write it below. Read, pray and discuss it this week to help you connect with it!

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

M. Joyce Hansen, Sylvia Kempf, Donna Nelson, Pastor Bill Peterson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Mary Brass, Harold Borchert, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Mariann Schafer, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Ralph Hayden, Gloria Van Ackeren, Bob Wessels, Tracy Troutman, Elaine Dlouhy, Rod Price, Margrett Wehland, Elaine Kruse, Mike Snyder, Hannah Torrey, Michael Dalton and Verla Youngquist. We also extend our prayers to the family of Harold Borchert who passed away on November 21.

## CONNECT WITH THE MINISTRY STAFF & LEADERSHIP

*Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Lead Pastor ([pastorerin@flclincoln.org](mailto:pastorerin@flclincoln.org))*

*Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Associate Pastor ([pastorandrew@flclincoln.org](mailto:pastorandrew@flclincoln.org))*

*Pastor Marsha Anderson, Visitation Pastor ([pstrmarsha@aol.com](mailto:pstrmarsha@aol.com))*

*Masako and Boyd Bacon, Directors of Music & Worship ([musicflclincoln@gmail.com](mailto:musicflclincoln@gmail.com))*

*Sharon Hardel, Director of Youth & Family Ministry ([sharon@flclincoln.org](mailto:sharon@flclincoln.org))*

*Laura Graulty, FaithTrek Coordinator ([laura@flclincoln.org](mailto:laura@flclincoln.org))*

*Kathleen Simley, Director of Communications ([kathleen@flclincoln.org](mailto:kathleen@flclincoln.org))*

*Mandy West, Parish Coordinator ([mandy@flclincoln.org](mailto:mandy@flclincoln.org))*

*Janis Strautkalns, Facilities Maintenance Manager ([janis@flclincoln.org](mailto:janis@flclincoln.org))*

*Wyatt Swanson, Church Accountant ([wyatt@flclincoln.org](mailto:wyatt@flclincoln.org))*

*Bryan Hanson, Church Accountant ([bryan@flclincoln.org](mailto:bryan@flclincoln.org))*

*Lee Rockwell, Council President ([leerockwell65@gmail.com](mailto:leerockwell65@gmail.com))*

*Stephen Ministry Leader ([stephen.ministry@flclincoln.org](mailto:stephen.ministry@flclincoln.org))*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 - Advent Begins

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream

9:30 AM - Adult Forum

9:30 AM - Stephen Ministry Informational Meeting

10:45 AM - Worship

Noon - Nuer Worship

Noon - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

7:00 PM - Stephen Ministry Supervision

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:30 AM - Fitness Class

11:00 AM - Harold Borchert Memorial Service  
(Roper & Sons; 4300 O Street)

1:30 PM - Coffee Talk

5:30 PM - Holden Bells Rehearsal

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:30 PM - Staff Meeting

5:45 PM - Bible Study

6:00 PM - Budget Committee

6:30 PM - Exodus Group

7:00 PM - Executive Committee

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Noon - Holden Evening Prayer Service

12:30 PM - Soup Lunch

5:45 PM - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

5:30 PM - Soup Dinner

6:30 PM - Holden Evening Prayer Service

7:10 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30 AM - Fitness Class

2:00 PM - Gifts of Hope Team

6:30 PM - Spirit Ringers

7:00 PM - Gather & Gab

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

11:30 AM - First Friday Jazz

3:00 PM - BackPack Distribution

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:00 AM - Gifts of Hope Online Store Opens (closes

10:00 PM December 8)

5:30 PM - Worship

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream

8:30 AM - Gifts of Hope Market Opens (Closes at  
12:45 PM)

9:30 AM - Learning Hour for ages 3-High School

10:45 AM - Worship

11:45 AM - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Noon - Nuer Worship

6:00 PM - Youth Christmas Party