



# FIRST GLANCE

A look at what's happening at  
First Lutheran Church

December 22-January 5, 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!

## CHRISTMAS AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrate Christmas at First Lutheran with services for everyone! Join the family-friendly Christmas Eve worship at 1:30 PM, designed especially for kids, featuring carols, a children's message and a re-telling of Jesus' birth. Traditional Candlelight services with Communion will be held at 3:30 PM (livestream available), 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM, and Christmas Day worship at 10:00 AM includes carols and communion. Don't miss the festive photo drop to capture a fun holiday photo with family and friends, along with delicious treats! All are welcome - come celebrate with us!

## WRAPPED IN LOVE: A MINI VBS FOR ALL AGES

Join us for "Wrapped in Love," a Mini VBS from December 29-31! Come every day or drop in when you can - everyone's welcome. Here's the schedule:

- Sunday, Dec. 29: Potluck lunch at noon, followed by activities until 3:00 PM.
- Monday, Dec. 30: 9:00 AM-Noon. Older youth and adults can also serve at the Center for People from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM.
- Tuesday, Dec. 31: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM, ending with a New Year's Eve pizza party.

Activities include knitting hats, designing quilt squares for auction, weaving sleeping mats from plastic bags, assembling cold weather kits and making New Year's crafts. Register in the Gathering Area or sign up on Realm at [https://bit.ly/flc\\_mini\\_vbs](https://bit.ly/flc_mini_vbs). For details, contact Sharon Hardel. See you there!

## ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Join us in the Chapel today from 9:30 to 10:30 AM for Adult Forum, where Sharon Hardel, our Youth & Family Ministry Director, will share insights and reflections from her sabbatical this past summer.

## KIDS & YOUTH OFFER A MUSICAL CHRISTMAS EVE

FaithTrek kids (ages 3-5th grade) and middle/high school youth will sing and play the Orff instruments during the Christmas Eve service at 3:30 PM. Rehearsals are today at 10:00-10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. Come, all ye faithful, young musicians and singers!

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE & CHANGES IN WORSHIP TIME

The church office will be closed on December 25 and 26 and January 1 to allow staff to celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays. There will also be no *First Things First* e-newsletter on Wednesday, December 25. We will hold a worship service of reflective readings and carols on Sunday, December 29, at 10:45 AM with livestream. There will be no 8:15 AM worship service.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED IN JANUARY

Many worship assistants are needed for worship, starting in a few weeks in January. Sign up on Realm at [https://bit.ly/worship\\_flc](https://bit.ly/worship_flc). Want to volunteer but you haven't activated your Realm account yet? No worries! We can get you signed up! Contact Mandy at [mandy@flclincoln.org](mailto:mandy@flclincoln.org) for help!

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

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## NOVEMBER FINANCIAL UPDATE

November saw a deficit of (\$18,784), with year-to-date (YTD) deficit now at (\$35,480). Lower receipts and steady expenses contributed to the shortfall. To address part of this deficit, the church plans to use a \$20,000 member gift for 2024 maintenance costs. While pledge receipts are on track, non-pledge receipts fell short, creating challenges. A strong December, with projected receipts of \$91,000, is crucial to improving the financial outlook for 2025.

## END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS DUE DECEMBER 31

The deadline for 2024 contributions is Tuesday, December 31, at 4:00 PM - be sure to submit yours in time to have it received and reported. Haven't made your 2025 pledge yet? There's still time! Simply visit <https://flclincoln.org/stewardship> to complete it online today.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

M. Joyce Hansen, Sylvia Kempf, Donna Nelson, Pastor Bill Peterson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Mary Brass, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Ralph Hayden, Gloria Van Ackeren, Bob Wessels, Tracy Troutman, Elaine Dlouhy, Rod Price, Margrett Wehland, Elaine Kruse, Mike Snyder, Michael Dalton and Verla Youngquist. Our sympathies go to the family of Mariann Schafer who passed away on December 11. Her funeral was held at First Lutheran on December 19.

## 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!



## THE NEXT TWO WEEKS AT FIRST

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream  
9:30 AM - Adult Forum  
10:45 AM - Worship  
Noon - Nuer Worship

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

9:30 AM - Fitness Class  
1:30 PM - Coffee Talk

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

1:30 PM - Kids & Family Christmas Eve Worship  
3:30, 5:30, 7:30 PM - Christmas Eve Worship

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 - Office Closed

10:00 AM - Christmas Day Worship  
11:30 AM - Christmas Day Dinner

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 - Office Closed

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:00 AM - Saturday Morning with the Guys  
5:30 PM - Worship

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

10:45 AM - Worship and Livestream  
Noon - Mini VBS Kicks Off with a Potluck Lunch  
Noon - Nuer Worship

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

9:00 AM - Mini VBS (until Noon)  
1:30 PM - Coffee Talk

### Tuesday, DECEMBER 31

9:00 AM - Mini VBS (Until 1:00 PM)  
2:45 pm - Office Closing

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 - Office Closed

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00 PM - Gather & Gab

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

11:30 AM - First Friday Jazz

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

5:30 PM - Worship

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 5 - NOISY OFFERING

8:15 AM - Worship & Livestream  
9:30 AM - Adult Forum & Learning Hour for 3 year olds-high school  
10:45 AM - Worship  
Noon - Nuer Worship  
6:45 PM - Stephen Ministry Supervision