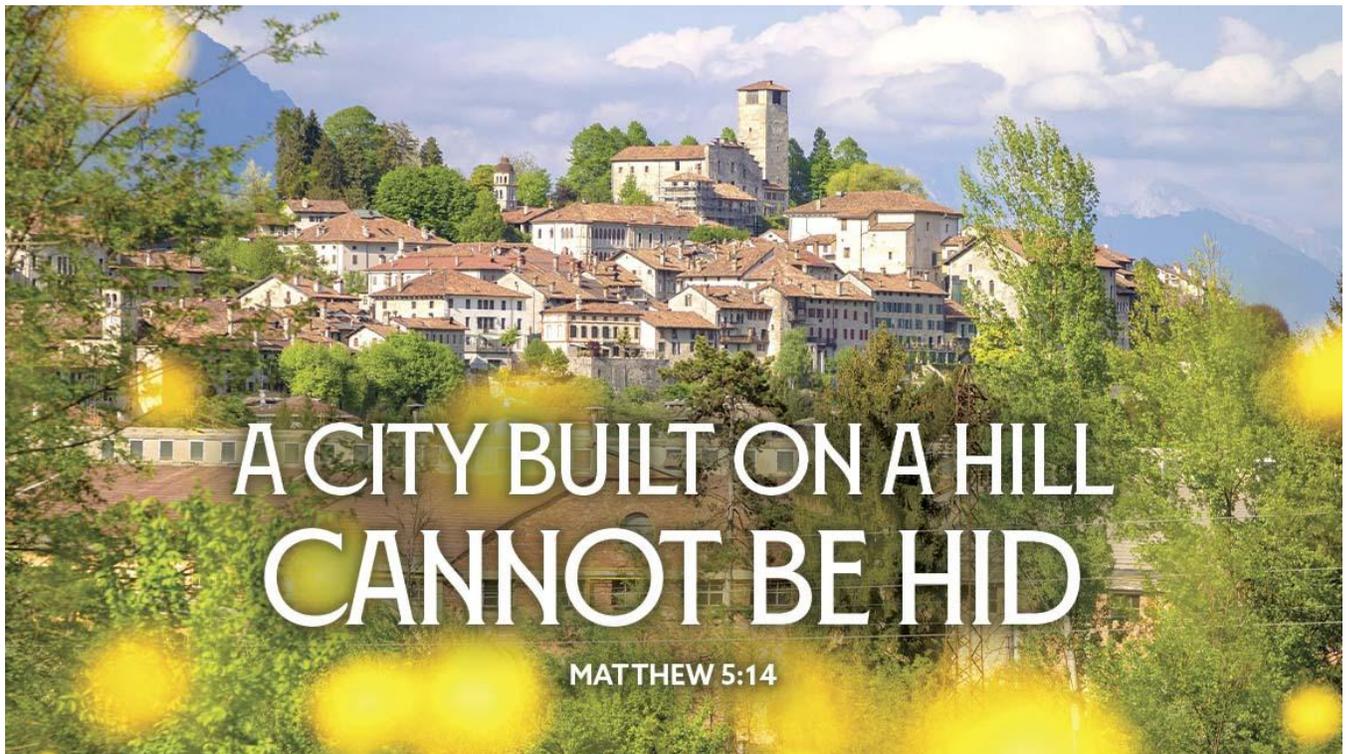


First Lutheran
relationships that transform



Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 8, 2026 8:15 am & 10:45 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to service just before Holy Communion.

PRELUDE

Surely the Presence/He is Here

The Chancel Choir

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us make personal confession of our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin together.

Mighty God,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you.**

Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

*The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another
through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.*

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

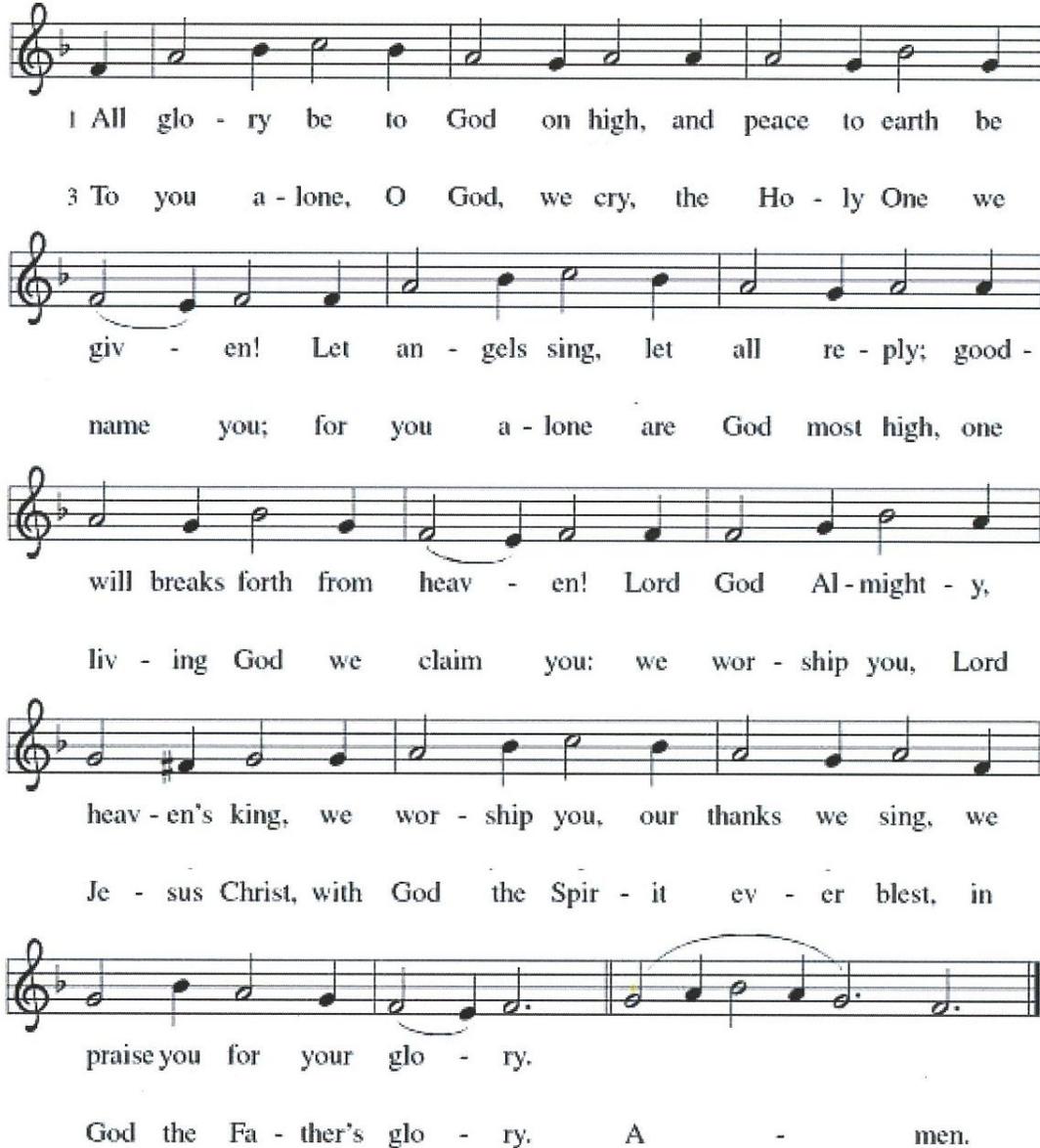


gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE (Vs 1 & 3)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we
giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one
will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord
heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in
praise you for your glo - ry.
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

May God bless our lector as they read for us the scriptures. May the word of God dwell in us richly so that everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1 – 9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day

and oppress all your workers.
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
 and to strike with a wicked fist.
 Such fasting as you do today
 will not make your voice heard on high.
⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1 – 16

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood,

for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. ¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else’s scrutiny.

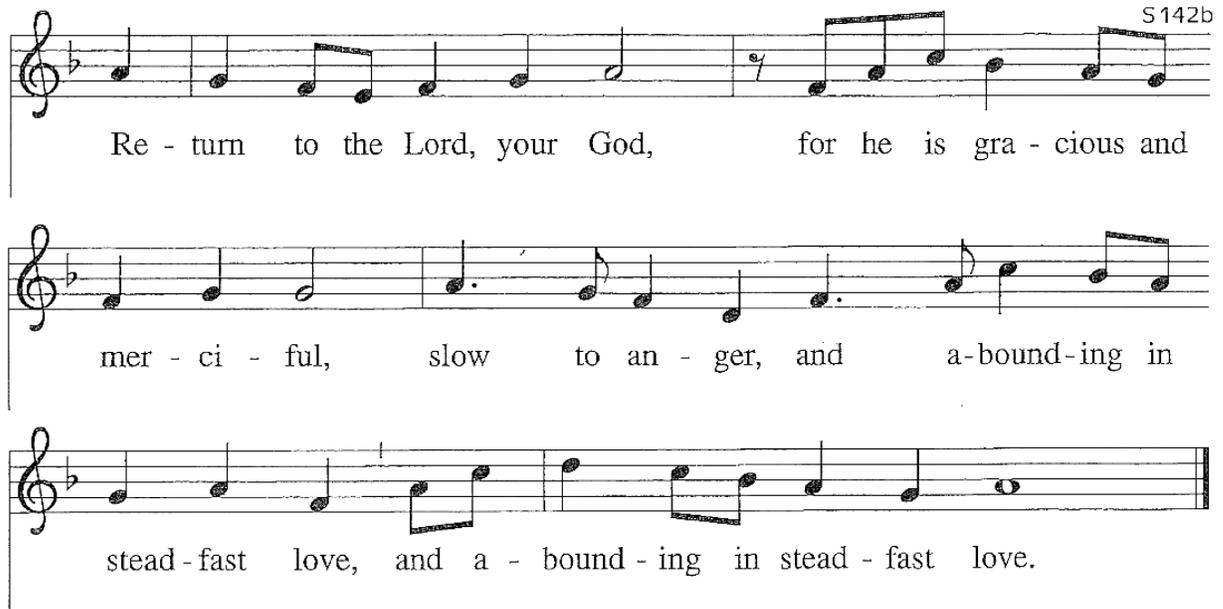
¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
so as to instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

S 142b

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13 – 20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Baptized to Show the Light

Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



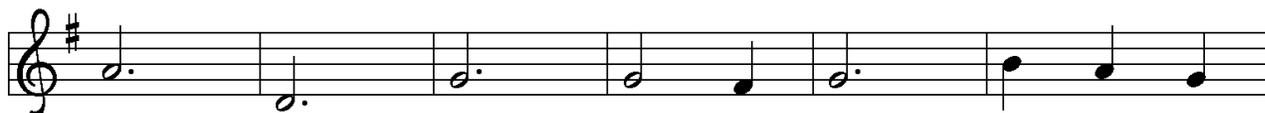
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



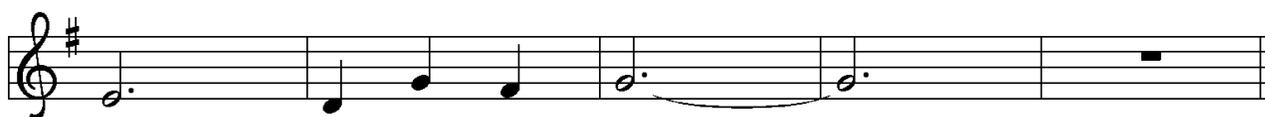
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer *The Lord Is My Song*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system's lyrics are "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me." The second system's lyrics are "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me." Both systems end with a double bar line.

Each petition ends with: O Lord, hear our prayer

Congregation sings:

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

The musical score for the congregation consists of two staves: a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me." The score ends with a double bar line.

Receive our prayers...in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer *The Lord Is My Song*

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of music, and the second system contains the last two lines. Each system has a vocal line (Soprano or Alto) and a piano accompaniment line (Tenor or Bass). The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me." and "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me."

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

Please stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

We Are an Offering

692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an



of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our



lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,



all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



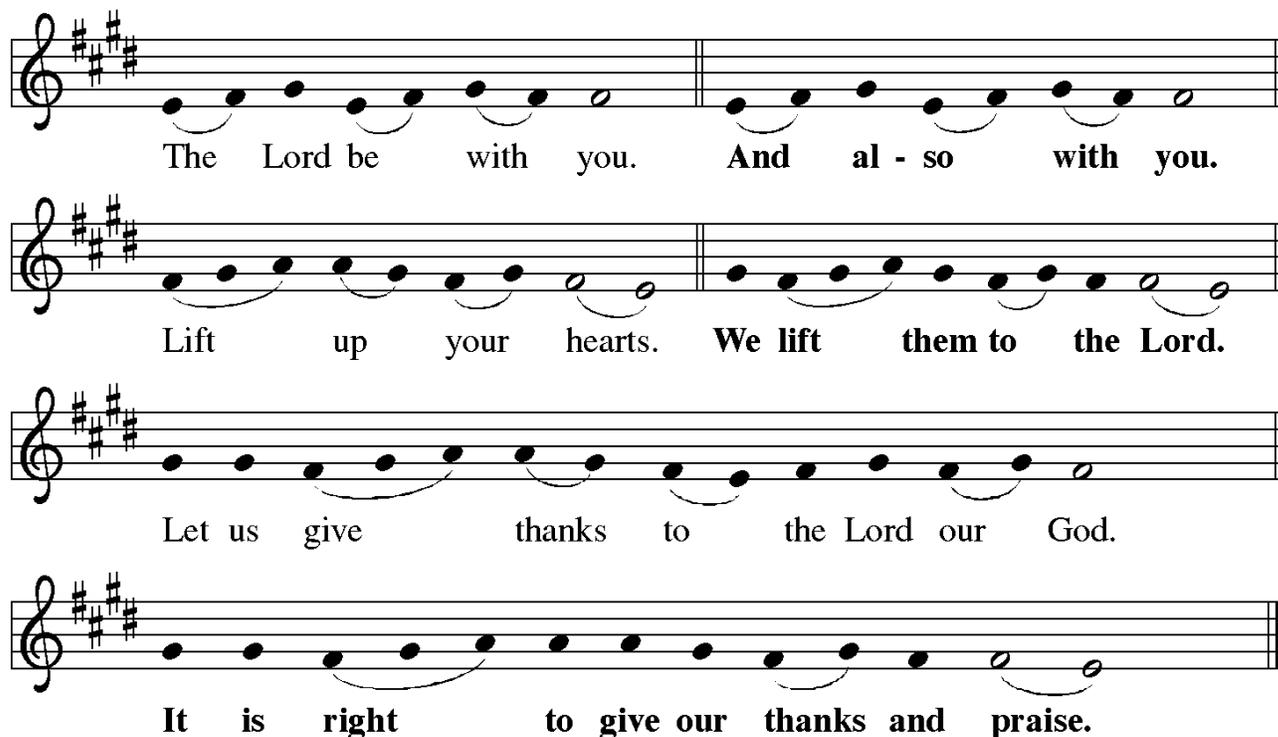
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



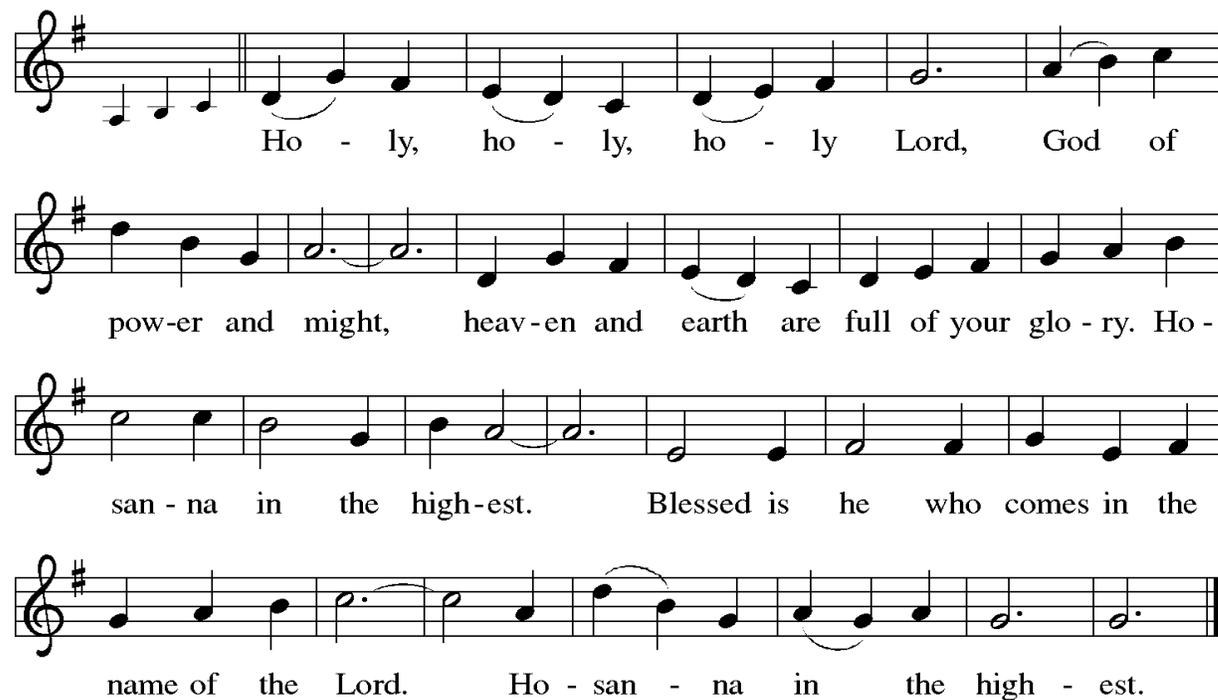
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

Please be seated.

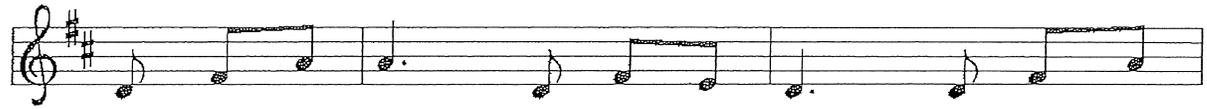
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God
Your Only Son

336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.

O Lamb of



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Lord of Light



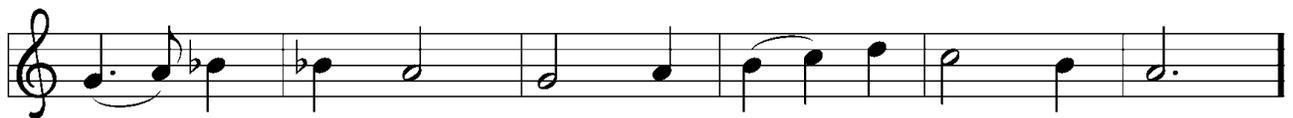
1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m⁷

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Em⁷ A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

D F#m⁷

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

	<i>Optional repeat</i>	<i>Last time</i>
Em ⁷	D G/A A	D

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
Amen.

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with spiritual food, the body and blood of Christ. All who come to you will not hunger, all who believe in you will not thirst. Empowered by this sacrament, send us back into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to share the gospel and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

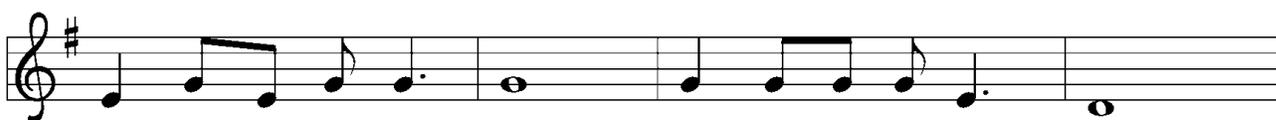
SENDING HYMN

ELW 677

This Little Light of Mine



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

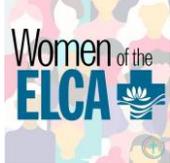
Monday, February 9	Tuesday, February 10	Wednesday, February 11
9:30 am Staff Meeting 4:30 pm House of Hope 6:00 pm Dorcas	11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Brain Injury group 6:30 pm Family Improvement Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey	10:00 am Quilters 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Class Hour for Children & Youth 6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Class Hour for Children & Youth 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 12	Friday, February 13	Saturday, February 14
3:30-5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class		7:00 am Newgate Breakfast 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Classic Quilters group
Sunday, February 15	Volunteer Schedule February 8	Volunteer Schedule February 15
8:15 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir warm-up 10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	Lector: 8:15 am: Rick Poland 10:45 am: Mike Gentsch Communion: Set up: Carol & Ray Bird Clean Up: Teresa DeShazer & Randi McRae Offering Counters: Ranette Carter & Arlene Hicks	Lector: 8:15 am: Danny Chandler 10:45 am: Roger Lineberry Communion: Set up: Gloria Bero Clean Up: Eva Touchstone Offering Counters: Mary Stuart & Deb Butts

Readings for in preparation for Sunday, February 15

Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scouting America
Sunday February 8th is
Scout Sunday
9:30 am Pancake Breakfast
will be served by the scouts.
Donations will be accepted.


SAVE THE DATE
Sunday February 22nd following the 2nd
service there will be a business meeting
and luncheon for the ladies of WELCA.
All ladies are invited to attend. Please
RSVP on the sheet in the narthex.

**DORCAS
CIRCLE
BIBLE STUDY**
.....
Monday, February 9th
6:00 am
Meeting in the Chapel.



**TRAUMATIC
BRAIN
INJURY
GROUP**
• Education
• Awareness
• Support
• Friendship
Tuesday, February 10
6:00 pm
For more information contact
Mary Stuart
903-738-3613

CONGREGATIONAL
- MEETING -

**Sunday, February 22nd
9:30 am
In the sanctuary
All members are encouraged
to attend this brief meeting.**



**The Classic Quilters Group meets
on Saturday, February 14, 2026, in
the activity room. See Susan Kay
Smith for information.**

x x x x ATTENTION MEN x x x x

**SATURDAY
MORNING
BREAKFAST**

**February 14 @ 8:00 am
FLC Fellowship Hall**

**The 2025 giving statements are on
the table in the narthex and ready
to be picked up.**



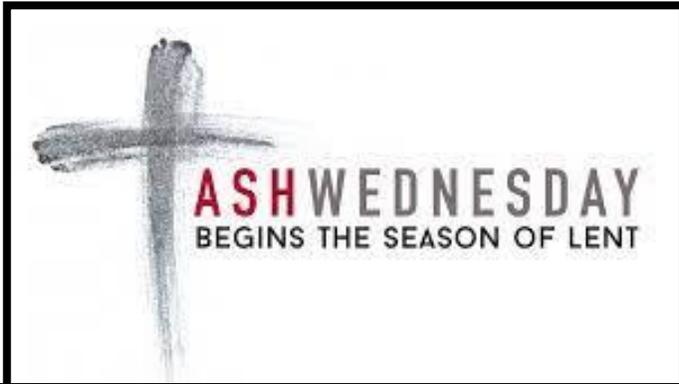
***Classes offered on
Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**

- **Introduction to Bible Study Methods**
Led by Vivian McElligott
- **Study of the book of Genesis**
Led by Kevin Bond
- **40 Days with Martin Luther**
(Beginning February 22nd)
Through the season of Lent
Led by Pastor Jeff
- **Class for Students**
Led by Tina Sewell

A graphic for "The Success Center Family Improvement" class. It features a dark background with white and yellow icons representing various aspects of family and business: a desk, a house, a document, a pie chart, a person sitting at a desk, a shopping cart, a dollar sign, and a document labeled "TAXES". The text "The Success Center" is in a circular logo at the top. The main title "Family Improvement" is in large, bold, white letters. Below the title, it says "Food & Childcare Provided" and "Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30pm".

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. Those who are willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or Donna Louvier who is coordinating the meals (903-399-8553) or donnalouvier@gmail.com



February 18, 2026

Worship at

12:00 pm & 6:15 pm



Lent Book Study Class
with Pastor Jeff
40-Day Journey with
Martin Luther

9:30 am Sundays during Lent

Sign-up sheet in the narthex

Books \$15 each

Class begins February 22, 2026



**February 18 - March 25
2025**

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Volunteers are needed to provide
Wednesday Family Suppers during
Lent

Meal is served from 5:00–6:00 pm

Worship is at 6:15 pm

5 volunteers are needed for each
dinner. Each volunteer should bring
enough soup or sandwiches to feed
10 people.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: prayerchain@firstlutheran.us

FLC Members

Jack Keener has pneumonia & a neck injury

Larry Craddock is recovering from a broken shoulder.

Karen Smith is recovering from back surgery.

Patty Lowe is in rehab.

Tori Bullock needs prayer.

Lois Boldt is in hospice care.

Doris Bero is recovering from a viral infection.

David Smith is having a reoccurrence of B Cell Lymphoma.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey

Robert Kohnfelder

Durwin Sewell

Mary Ann Gamel

Chuck & Paula Kaplan

Bruno Schueler

Patty Lowe

Johnnie Owens

Joseph Carlson

Albert Holmen

Family and Friends of FLC Members

Sophie (age 14), friend of Cathleen Potichko, has a brain tumor on her optic nerve.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Ft. Meade, MD

Timothy Martin – Navy

Terrina Anderson – White House Military Office

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 8, 2026

The Lamp Is Already Lit

“This little light of mine, I’m goin’-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine” (ELW 677).

There’s nothing quite like the joyous call and response of a whole congregation singing together the words of this beloved African American spiritual. The text and tune make it very hard to keep any lamps under a bushel basket!

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Many congregations use these words during the rite of Holy Baptism. But “Let *your* light shine” doesn’t imply that the light belongs only to us or to the church. The first chapter of Genesis clarifies this. At the beginning of creation, God speaks light into existence, making light God’s first gift to the whole world. In that light, God creates everything, including humankind, which is made in the divine image, according to God’s likeness.

Living in harmony with God’s word, letting our light shine with “good works” that glorify God, is not about striving for perfection. Because God’s light has existed from the beginning, it is not something we earn or achieve for ourselves. We don’t provide the spark that lights the lamp—it is already lit by God. Our job is to let the light shine. To be light for the world, then, is to be none other than who we have been from the beginning. Therein lies not only the fulfillment of God’s word, but also our own fulfillment as God’s children and light-bearers in the world.

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller
and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: 8:15 am Deb Butts, Eric
Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

10:45 am: Diane Borgwardt

Lector:

8:15 am: Rick Poland

10:45 am: Mike Gentsch

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Alex Enich, Maintenance

2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Beverly Bell (*President*)

Randy Cathey (*Vice-President*)

Arlene Hicks (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Mary Stuart (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

***We receive gifts for the mission of the
congregation and the Church in the world.***

*An offering plate is available in the back of the
sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card
you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate
or by scanning the QR code below*



*FLC regularly supports the work of the
following ministries of our denomination and
community with financial, volunteer, and food
offerings:*

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

*For more information on how to get involved
contact the church office (903)295-7423.*