



First Evangelical Lutheran Church

455 West Sunnyside Road
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208)522-9301
www.firstlc.com

February 1, 2026

4th Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome: Welcome, friends whom God has led here to be in His presence and to hear His Word. On this marvelous Sunday, let us open our spirits to the loving presence of God that we may be spiritually fed and renewed by his grace. Following worship, please join us for a time of fellowship and light refreshments in our fellowship hall.

WORSHIP NOTES:

- ◆ **Bold printed words** indicate the congregation's responses.
- ◆ For families with young children, you're invited to take advantage of our worship activity bags for children located in the lobby. A nursery for children 4 and younger is located in Room #7 in our educational wing.
- ◆ If you have a moment, please sign the friendship pad in the pew and pass it to others in your pew.
- ◆ For those with hearing loss, we have hearing devices available at the welcome window; ask an usher for assistance.
- ◆ For those with eyesight issues, we have large print bulletins; ask an usher for one.

WE PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Michelle Hanson

Please observe silence in preparation for worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

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

WE LIFT OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE TO GOD

GATHERING SONG

#669

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.

Let us pray, Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination...

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 757*)

Micah 6:1-8

Our first scripture reading is from the Old Testament, the book of the prophet Micah, chapter six, beginning with verse one.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
 that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”
⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
 and bow myself before God on high?
 Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
 with calves a year old?
⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
 with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
 the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
 and what does the LORD require of you
 but to do justice and to love kindness
 and to walk humbly with your God?

This is God’s word.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON (*Pew Bible p. 926*)

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Our second lesson comes from the New Testament, the Apostle Paul’s first letter to the church in Corinth, chapter one, beginning with verse eighteen.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able, for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Pew Bible p. 785*)

Matthew 5:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, chapter five, beginning with verse one.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Mike Knauff

“A Backpack of Blessings”

SONG OF THE DAY

#728

“Blest Are They”

SERMON

Pastor Mike Knauff

“Blessed Means Being on the Right Track”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Gathered as a Christian community let us together confess our faith in our Triune God using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

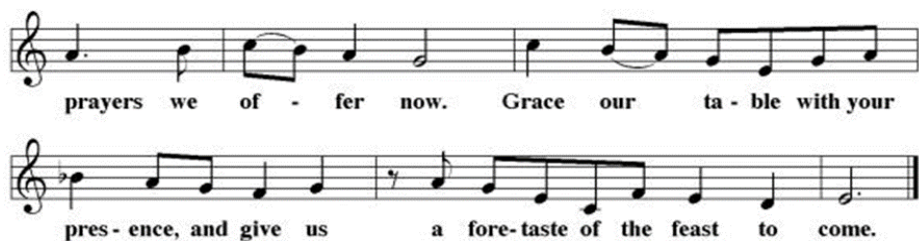
*(Each petition will conclude with "Lord in your mercy;"
the congregation responds with "Hear our prayer.")*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



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WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us 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.

DISTRIBUTION

We invite all who are baptized in Christ, and in receiving the bread and wine they receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness of sins, to join us. Children not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion will be served at the altar rail this morning. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. You may choose white grape juice or red wine. The serving station at the center of the altar rail is our hypoallergenic station with gluten-free wafers. Please return to your seats by a side aisle.

SONGS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

- #710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"
 #830 "How Marvelous God's Greatness"
 #714 "O God of Mercy, God of Light"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

Almighty God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING SONG

"Beauty for Brokenness"

1 Beau - ty for bro - ken - ness, hope for de - spair:
 2 Shel - ter for fra - gile lives, cures for their ills,
 3 Ref - uge from cru - el wars, ha - vens from fear,
 4 Rest for the rav - aged earth, o - ceans and streams,
 5 Light - en our dark - ness, breathe on this flame,

Lord, in the suf - fer - ing, this is our prayer.
 work for the crafts - men, trade for their skills;
 cit - ies for sanc - tu - a - ry, free - doms to share;
 plun - dered and poi - soned, our fu - ture, our dreams.
 un - til your jus - tice burns bright - ly a - gain;

Bread for the chil - dren, jus - tice, joy, peace;
 land for the dis - pos - sessed, rights for the weak;
 peace to the kill - ing fields, scorched earth to green;
 Lord, end our mad - ness, care - less - ness, greed;
 un - til the na - tions learn of your ways,

sun - rise to sun - set your king - dom in - crease.
 voic - es to plead the cause of those who can't speak.
 Christ for the bit - ter - ness, his cross for the pain.
 make us con - tent with the things that we need.
 seek your sal - va - tion, and bring you their praise.

Refrain
 God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us com - pas - sion, we
 pray; melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.
 Come, change our love from a spark to a flame.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

THE WORSHIP IS ENDED LET THE SERVICE BEGIN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW 2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS HERE!!

The new church directory is available now. You can find your copy in the front office. The directories are in alphabetical order by last name. Please stop by and grab your personal copy! Additional copies are \$5.00 each.

PENNY POWER

The Penny Power focus for February is Champ's Heart. They are always in need of volunteers. There are a great variety of activities that a person can do to help in the program. It is an opportunity to be part of creating life-changing experiences for others and even you. If interested go to champsheart.org.

ENDOWMENT GRANTS

The Endowment Fund was established to support activities, programs, campaigns, and missions of FELC. Grant applications for 2026 are now available and can be obtained from the church office. Completed forms will be accepted through Friday, February 27, 2026 and the review process should be completed by Friday, March 13, 2026.

FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

Youth and Family will be "loving on" our community seniors at the Gables (across the street.) We will be making Valentine's Day cards on Sunday, February 1st. We will be meeting in the back of the Fellowship Hall after the church service. This activity is open to children of all ages or anyone wishing to participate. We will be walking over to deliver them in person during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, February 8th.

MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING

There will be a Men's Ministry Meeting on Saturday, February 7th, at 9am. It's good food, good company, a good cause, and God's good Word. Come join us!

YOUTH AND FAMILY BOWLING EVENT!

Join us for a great afternoon of family fun and fellowship at Homestead Pizza and Bowling, 1770 W Broadway, on Sunday, February 15th at 2:00 pm. This is open to families of all ages, and you are welcome to invite friends. All parents are encouraged to participate, and those with children under 10 will need to stay for the entirety of the event. Please RSVP so we can ensure enough lanes are reserved. There is a sign-up at the welcome window or you can contact Heather (208) 521-2565 or Youth@firstlc.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND FAMILY MINISTRY NEED YOUR HELP

It takes a team of volunteers to facilitate our Children's Ministry. We are trying to staff both the Sunday School and the Nursery in a manner that doesn't burn out our wonderful volunteers. The more people we have, the more we share the load. Please consider if God is calling you to serve our youth. We also have opportunities to serve with youth events and activities. Please contact Heather at youth@firstlc.com for more information.

QUILTS FOR OUR UPCOMING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Happy Stitchers would like to design and complete a queen-size quilt for any eligible graduating high school senior. To be eligible, you must be graduating from high school in 2026, and you, your parent, guardian or grandparents must be a voting member of FELC. If you are interested, please submit your name to the office administrator as soon as possible. A letter from the Happy Stitchers will be mailed to you asking for information regarding your favorite colors and Bible verse. Please return this letter by February 1, 2026. The Happy Stitchers cannot accept a request after February 1, 2026 due to the time required to make a quilt. The quilts will be presented during worship service the first Sunday of May 2026.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Bible study makes for a terrific new year's resolution. The Ladies' Book Club is tackling the book of Acts. Join us as we study how the Holy Spirit worked through the Apostles to spread the Gospel through the known world. There are lots of great stories to enjoy as we follow Peter and then Paul in their leadership roles. We will meet Rhoda and Lydia, and be shipwrecked with Paul. You won't want to miss it! We meet Wednesdays from 2 to 3 pm. As always, there is no outside reading or study, and no extra book to buy. Just bring your Bible – and maybe a friend. If you forget your Bible or don't have one, the church owns many for your use. (So – no excuses!)



HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out a purple prayer request card and drop it in the offering plate or you can email office@firstlc.com. All requests remain confidential - only with permission are individual names placed on the written prayer list below.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES TO:

- ♥ Friends and family of Bill Lockman. Bill passed away on Thursday, January 15th, 2026.
- ♥ Friends and family of Liisa Mills. Liisa's mother, Norene Mikkola, passed away on Friday, January 16th, 2026.
- ♥ Friends and family of Cathi Bean. Cathi's mother, Lois Beers, passed away on Friday, January 16th, 2026.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL, RECOVERING, OR GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME:

Donna Amundson; Ray Bauer; Tina Bean; Betty Benjamin (*Lisa Mullinix's mother*); Dean Benson; Peggy Buhr; Kevin Call; Tracy Coburn; Wendy Cudmore; Dayna Dabauras; Barrett [*Dahlberg*] (*Cara Dahlberg's nephew*); Joan Douglas; Bobbie Eddie (*Barbara Carlson's father*); Bernadette Farrington (*Annick Dixon's mother*); Josephine Fife (*Julie Reinwald's mother*); Sharon Gilbert; Scottie Grace; Jo & Al Glissendorf; Diane Hackman; Steve Hammond; Bill Hayes; Jack Heier; Sue Hindman; Beverly Hudman (*Larry Hudman's mother*); Larry Hudman; Ann Hurley; Jeff Hustad; Mackenzie & Zane Igor; Vickie John; Lynn Parshall Kinghorn (*Alecia Coburn's former mother-in-law*); Mary Krippner; Steven Krippner; Andy Kruckeberg; Allan Magnuson; Mike Martin; Pat Matthews; Adara McClure (*Jeannie Campbell's daughter*); Tim Metcalf; Dick Mitchell; Wendy Morgan (*Larry Hudman's sister*); Josh Neis; Don Newman (*Richard Magnuson's cousin*); Heidi Peoples; Carol Miller Pisher (*Cal Miller's daughter*); Priscilla Rainey; Bob Scarr; Laura Schoonmaker; Julie Sundberg; Scot Swenson (*Vernal & Jackie Swenson's son*); Kathy Tauscher; Deborah Vavra; Marie Warwick; Chris Weaver; Daniel & Sarah Young.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Craig Bukowski; Adam Craig; Keith Evans; Eric Gratzke; Alton Helm; Jack Hogan; Syllas Jackson; TJ Litteer; Garrett Marchington; Andrew Mitchell; Mike Monroe; Mike Stultz; Brianna Townsend; Jody Townsend.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING FOR RESTORED HEALTH:

Cathy Abreu; Sharon Bauman; Andrew Bessette; Mark Holland (*Cara Dahlberg's father*); Heidi Ibach; Bud Langerak; Rochelle Mason; Amelia McDaniel

Report of First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Year to date Income thru December \$394,870; Year to date Expenses thru December \$342,513

Year to date net Cash Flow thru December \$52,357

Last Week's in Worship Attendance: 139, Live Stream: 75

THIS WEEK AT FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Today 2/1/2026

9:00 am	Adult Forum - Library
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
9:00 am	Sunday School - Youth Room
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
12:00 pm	ERT and Shofar Meeting - Library
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice - Narthex

Monday 2/2/2026

10:00 am	Staff Meeting - Library
1:00 pm	PEO Meeting—Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 2/3/2026

9:00 am	Preschool
9:00 am	Happy Stitchers - Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Preschool
6:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop #930 - Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Wednesday 2/4/2026

9:00 am	Preschool
1:00 pm	Preschool
2:00 pm	Ladies' Book Club - Library
5:00 pm	Praise Band - Sanctuary

Thursday 2/5/2026

9:00 am	Men's Bible Study - Library
9:00 am	Preschool
10:00 am	Kaffeeklatsch - Library
1:00 pm	Preschool
6:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Training - Youth Room
7:00 pm	Stephen Ministry Team Meeting - Library

Friday 2/6/2026

10:00 am	Friends in Stitches - Fellowship Hall
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Saturday 2/7/2026

9:00 am	Men's Breakfast—Fellowship Hall
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Sunday 2/8/2026

9:00 am	Adult Forum - Library
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
9:00 am	Sunday School - Youth Room
10:15 am	Worship - Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship Hour - Fellowship Hall
11:30 am	King's Men Rehearsal - Sanctuary
4:00 pm	Round About Brass Practice - Narthex

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Geri Magnuson, Beth Nicholas

Liturgist: Deb Nowatzki

Communion Assistants: Linda Lerum, Kim Bermensolo

Carole Mason, Cheryl Swenson, DiAnn Brown

Usher Coordinator: Jim Sahr

Ushers: Lisa Swenson, Cal Miller

Counters: Lisa Swenson, Janice McBride

Altar Guild: Cathi Bean, Debra Holst

Collection Specialist: Andrew Swenson

Streaming Technician: Paul Bayless

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Scan the QR code for giving.

FELC LEADERSHIP

MINISTERS: **All the Members of FELC**

Senior Pastor: Pastor Mike Knauff e-mail: pastormike@firstlc.com

Church Administrator: Julie Sagnimeni e-mail: office@firstlc.com

Youth & Family Minister: Heather Catanese e-mail: youth@firstlc.com

Bookkeeper: Greg Stultz e-mail: bookkeeper@firstlc.com

Music Director: Michelle Hanson e-mail: musicdirector@firstlc.com

Choir Accompanist: Heidi Bessette

Praise Band Director: Steve Galbraith

Pastor Emeritus/Minister of Welcome: Pastor Larry Cudmore

Preschool Director: Barbara Carlson flpreschoolif@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Friday Closed

Web Page: www.firstlc.com • Phone: 208-522-9301