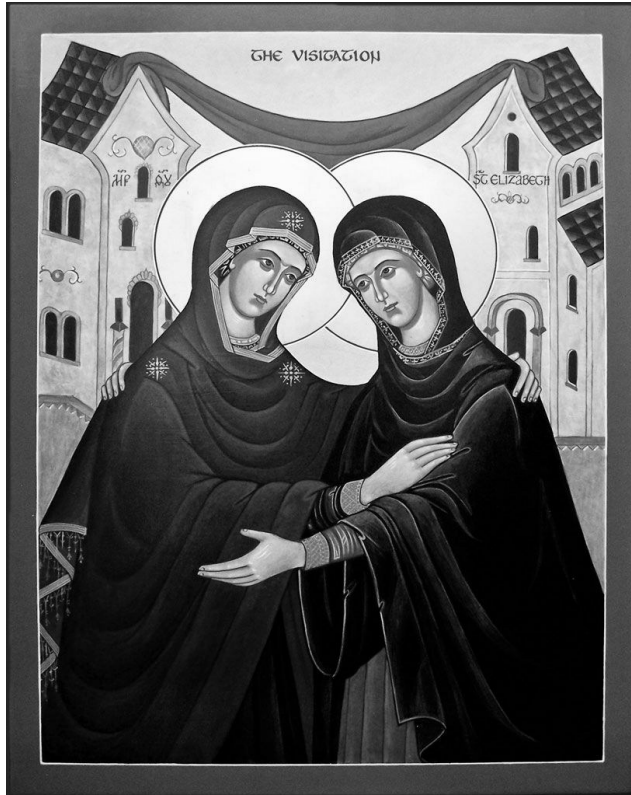


December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 am



First Lutheran Church
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF:

Pastor

Rev. Tor Berg
tberg@flcbothell.org

Director of Music

(Organist/Choir Dir.)
Lucy Kay Osborne
lkosborne@flcbothell.org

Preschool Directors

Amy Case
Stephanie Corrigan

Director of REACH

Ministries
Roger Steinke
rsteinke@flcbothell.org

Office Manager

Kristin Smith
ksmith@flcbothell.org

Church Office

425-486-2314

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WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please register each person on a communion card in the pew rack and hand it to an usher before Holy Communion.
- + The service is printed in this bulletin. Some hymns are located in the red hymn book.
- + Hearing enhancement receivers, large print bulletins are available. Feel free to ask an usher for assistance.
- + Our expectation is that children will be in worship. We understand, though, that there are times when your wiggly ones need a distraction. There is a “Pray Space” under the stairs in the inner narthex with soft toys and books. We have trained nursery staff on duty, as well. Please ask an usher for directions.
- + If you would like to have a digital copy of the bulletin, go to our website and download the PDF. www.flcbothell.org
- + Public Wi-Fi: FLC Wireless—Password: MartyLuther

Serving Us In Worship Today

Greeter	Susan Berg
Ushers	Dan Bormann Ryan Stute
Acolyte	Jett Krema
Lector	Christy Freriks
Sound Tech	Ann Bormann
Camera Tech	Jeff Kosman
Communion Assistants	Paul Desilet Jacky Schnarre
Pew Angel	Marcus Hodges

If you would like to give electronically, please use this QR code:



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE: My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (D. Cherwien)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP: Illuminate

GATHERING SONG: Prepare the Royal Highway (ELW 264)



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of our parents, there is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, infant king. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *We Wait (Schram)*

We light four candles.

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM: Psalm 113

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.
From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.

Hallelujah! For enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

ANTHEM: *Prepare Ye! (J. A. Shafferman)*

THE WORD: Luke 1:26-45

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Word of God,
word of life.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (ELW 251)



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.
3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;



You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.
With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.



Now ev-'ry land and ev-'ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;
Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.
the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,**

to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities in the North Cascades. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

For whom do the people pray?

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, especially Greta Nelson, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.


OFFERTORY: Once in Royal David's City (H. Gauntlett)

OFFERING: That Boy-Child of Mary (ELW 293)

Refrain



That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

5 One with the Father,
he is our Savior,
heaven-sent helper
in Bethlehem.

6 Gladly we praise him,
love and adore him,
give ourselves to him
in Bethlehem.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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, 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (Michael Austin Miller)

Our Fa ther in Heav en, hal lowed be your name, your king dom come your
6 will be done, on earth as in Heav'n. Give us to day our dai ly bread, and for give us of our
12 sins as we for give those who have sinned a gainst us. Save us from the time of
18 tri al and de liv er us from e vil. For the king dom and the pow er and the glo ry are
24 yours, now and for ev er. A men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION: *We will receive the body of Christ as bread with these or similar words: The body of Christ, given for you. If you desire a gluten-free option that is available. The blood of Christ will be received as either red wine or white grape juice with these or similar words: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

WHO MAY COMMUNE? *All are welcome at the Lord's Table. It is a free gift given to all for the forgiveness of sins. The words "for you" really mean FOR YOU! Children may commune at the discretion of their parents. If you wish to receive a blessing: cross your arms over your chest as a sign for the communion assistants.*

DIRECTIONS FOR COMMUNION: *Please come forward by the center aisle at the direction of the ushers to receive the sacrament and return to your seat down the side aisle. Please register each person taking communion on a pew card.*

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
- 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

People, Look East (ELW 248)



- 1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
- 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
- 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

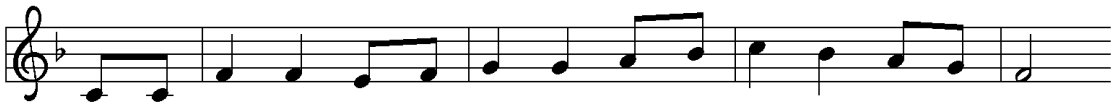


east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (ELW 276)



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

He Came Down (ELW 253)



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Prepare the Royal Highway* (R. Hobby)



Christmas Caroling!
December 22
10:45 am - 11:30 am

All Are welcome - Kids and Adults!
Please Join Us!

Christmas Eve Worship
5 pm, 7 pm & 10:30 pm

In Our Prayers

We pray for Bishop Doctor Sani Ibrahim Azar and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Those living with cancer:

Juanita (Bonnie Ahlstedt's sister-in-law), **Mark** (Dick Boyce's son), **Lisa** (Steve Coble's sister), **Alexis** (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), **Karen** (Scott Eiler's sister), **Tracee** (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), **Richard** (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), **Jessica Hockstedler** (member), **Joshua** (Ken & Kristin Smith's friend), **Wayne** (Dave Shogren's friend), **Beth** (Anne Larsen's sister), **Tim** (Dave Shogren's friend), **Richard** (Ruth Neitzel's brother), **Ted** (Sue Toyoda's friend), **Kip** (Paul Desilet's uncle), **Jim** (Hendricks' family friend), **Joanne** (Carolyn Becker's sister-in-law), **Diane Mackey** (frequent visitor), **Chris & family** (Dan & Sandy Hendricks' friends), **Jean Rahr** (former member), **Marin** (Beth & Gordy Phelps' friend), **Jacky Schnarre** (member), **Deborah** (Vicki Shank's cousin), **Debbie** (Karen Thomas' friend), **August** (Karey Coble's friend).

Those who are ill, have an injury or who are recovering from surgery:

Carolyn Becker (member), **Donna** (Roger Steinke's friend), **Dick Boyce** (member), **Doug** (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), **Susan** (Bob Berg's cousin), **John** (Linda Chapman's brother-in-law), **Vincent** (Julie Mass' friend), **Susan Cook** (member), **Richard** (Susan & Ross Cook's brother), **Don Cornell** (Kristin Smith's friend), **Randy** (Chris Martin's friend), **Leanne** (Krista Daniels' sister), **Elizabeth** (Jane King's friend), **Nancy Davis** (member), **Audrey Fisher** (member), **John Godek** (member), **Mary Hatlen** (member), **Teresa** (friend of the Bakers) **Jim** (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), **Mary** (Melanie Veazey's mother), **Karen Johnson** (member), **Marlo** (Leona Keltner's friend), **Amy** (Nancy McGee's friend), **Kathy Koneiczka** (member), **Richard Koneiczka** (Kathy Koneiczka's husband), **Albert** (Chris Martin's friend), **Doug** (Justin LaFord's father), **Jeanne** (Justin LaFord's mother), **Chris Martin** (member), **Gordon** (Tom & Chris Martin-Agnew's friend), **Andy** (Vickie Shanks' friend), **Donnabel** (Derrick StaRosa's sister), **Ron** (Beth Phelps' brother), **Sandy Sailand** (member), **Kayden** (Karey Coble's nephew), **Mona Shogren** (member), **Harriett** (Roger Steinke's friend), **Walt Stoll** (member), **Kathy Telford-Luiz** (member),

Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), **Bonnie Ahlstedt** (member), **Jeanette Backstrom** (member), **Sherrill & Larry Baker** (members), **Trudy Eichelsdoerfer** (member), **Marlys Helgeland** (member), **Jane King** (member), **Hildur O'Connor** (member), **Lawrence** (Leon Romaniuk's father), **Jacquie Stoll** (member), **Sigrid** (Carsten Thode's mother), **Carol** (Patty Weston's mother), **Roger Wolter** (member).

Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: **Mason Land** (Debbie & Darryl Lageson's nephew), **Jake Peoples** (Andrea & Eric Peoples' son) and **Erin Siebert** (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

NAVY: **Christopher Whipple** (Carolyn Whipple's son)

We are honored to be able to pray for your family members in need. Our policy is to publish immediate concerns for 2 weeks, unless we hear from you that an illness or situation is ongoing.

INFORMATION FOR THE WEEK!

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am **Worship w/Holy Communion**

10:30 am No Sunday School!

10:45 am Christmas Caroling at Woodland Terrace! (If you're a walker, bring your walking shoes. Transportation available in inclement weather and for those who prefer to ride.)

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Friday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 28

9:00 am Storage Clean-up

Sunday, December 29 First Sunday of Christmas

9:30 am **Worship w/Holy Communion**

10:30 am No Sunday School!

The church office will be closed intermittently between December 23 and January 1. Please call 425-486-2314 to before going into the office. If you have a pastoral emergency please call Pastor Berg directly at 509-595-5493.

December 24, 2024—Christmas Eve

Psalm 96 Luke 2:1-20 The Messiah is Born

December 29, 2024—First Sunday of Christmas

Psalm 131 Luke 2:21-38 Simeon and Anna

Weekly Financial Report

December 15, 2024 Attendance in Person: 157 Zoom: 22

December 15, 2024 General Offerings: \$14,236 Capital Improvement: \$2,894

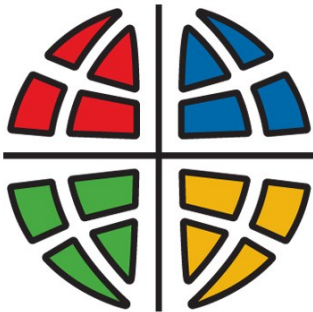
General Offerings Needed Each Week: \$10,510

SERMON NOTES

What caught my attention:

What did I hear that I am eager to share with another person?

I think the title of the sermon should be:



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America