

December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 am



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

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(Organist/Choir Dir.)
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WORSHIP NOTES

- + Please name each person in attendance , and if they will be taking communion, on the card provided in the pew rack. Place card in the offering plate or hand it to the usher.
- + The service is printed in this bulletin. Some hymns are located in the red hymnbook.
- + 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 nursery or the “Pray Space” under the stairs in the inner narthex with soft toys and books. 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	Sandy Glenn
Ushers	David Berg Dan Hendricks
Acolyte	Madeline Berg
Lector	Jan Anderson
Sound Tech	Terry Barker
Camera Tech	Stephanie Conroy
Communion Assistants	Allen Glenn Nancy McGee Neil McGee
Pew Angel	Marcus Hodges
Bus Driver	David Osborne

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



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE: *Savior of the Nations, Come* (J. S. Bach)

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG: *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.

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: *Light the Candle (C. Shalk)*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith
in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257)*

O come, O Key of Da— vid, come, and o— pen wide our
O come, O Day-spring, come and cheer; O Sun of Just—ice,
hea— ven-ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,
now draw near. Disperse the gloo— my clouds of night
and close the path to mi— ser—y Re-joice! Re-joice!
and death's dark sha—dow put to flight.
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶ Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷ But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me,

“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

Word of God,
word of life.

ANTHEM: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (T. Shaw)*

THE WORD: Luke 1:26-39

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

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

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

³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

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

³⁵ The 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. ³⁶ And 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸ Then 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.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

Word of God,
Word of life.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (ELW 265)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

We have seen the longest night,
 and *still* we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake,
 even when our voice trembles,
 even when fear is all around us,
 we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.

We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:

Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night,

and we have seen unimaginable love.

So *still*, we believe.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For whom do the people pray?

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith. May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-reflection.

Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you
can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip
on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of
keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony
with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to
your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have
promised. Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✝
You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
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: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (M. Hayes)

OFFERING: *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* (ACS 901)



2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.



Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.



Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.



Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. 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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

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 HYMNS:
Wait for the Lord (ELW 262)



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

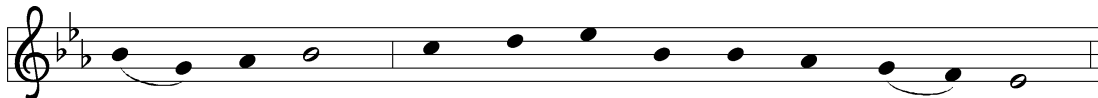


dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

Of the Father's Love Begotten (ELW 295)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with— go in peace and *be not afraid*.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Blessed Be the God of Israel* (ELW 250)



- 1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre-pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (R. Powell)



Insisting on hope this Advent

Advent 1 - 11/30 - In the time of Herod, we long for God to break in.

Advent 2 - 12/7 - When we're running out of hope, God is at work.

Advent 3 - 12/14 - Even in our fear, we are called forward.

Advent 4 - 12/21 - When you're afraid, Give me your hand.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall after worship.!

December 7 - John 4:46-54 - Healing of the Official's son

December 14 - John 5:1-17 - Jesus heal's on the Sabbath

December 21 - John 5:18-47 - Jesus' Sermon to the Jewish Leaders

December 28 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL



Christmas Eve *Service*

Each service will have Holy
Communion and Candle Light.

5:00pm, 7:00pm and 10:30pm

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), **Jen & Dave** (Baker family friend), **Sue & Lee** (Beth Bowers' cousins), **Mark** (Dick Boyce's son), **Lisa** (Steve Coble's sister), **Susan Cook** (member), **Alexis** (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), **Tryvge Enger** (member), **Tracee** (Bonnie Ahlstedt's friend), **Norma** (Kristin Smith's friend), **Mary Hatlen** (member), **Steve** (Mark Hatlen's cousin), **Jessica Hockstedler** (member), **Jeanne** (Justin LaFord's mother), **John** (Susan Berg's brother), **Nancy McGee** (member), **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), **Brandis** (Renee & Mike Markert's friend), **Jo** (Lucy Kay and David Osborne's friend), **Marin** (Beth & Gordy Phelps' friend), **Roy** (Kristin Smith's cousin), **Deborah** (Vicki Shanks' cousin), **Fern** (Surya Skjonsby's friend), **Joe** (Barb Thieme's brother), **August** (Karey Coble's friend), **Melanie Veazey** (member), **Jim** (Haley Neff-LaFord's friend).

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

Lupe (Jose Alcaraz' aunt), **Sylvia** (Alcaraz family member), **Carolyn Becker** (member), **Dick Boyce** (member), **Doug** (Ho Brown's brother-in-law), **Susan** (Bob Berg's cousin), **John** (Linda Chapman's brother-in-law), **Richard** (Susan & Ross Cook's brother), **Leanne** (Krista Daniels' sister), **Nancy Davis** (member), **Karen** (Paula Glandon's sister), **John Godek** (member), **Teresa** (friend of the Bakers), **Zach** (Trevor Coble's friend), **Mitch** (Miriam Nack's friend), **Bill** (Sandy & Dan Hendricks' friend), **Jennifer** (Dan Hendricks' niece), **Jim** (Sandy Hendricks' cousin), **Liz** (Marlis Pehling's friend), **Karen Johnson** (member), **Phillip** (Karen Johnson's brother), **Marlo** (Leona Keltner's friend), **Amy** (Nancy McGee's friend), **Kathy Koneiczka** (member), **Richard Konieczka** (Kathy Konieczka's husband), **Doug** (Justin LaFord's father), **Delsi & Colin** (Kristin Smith's cousins), **Ollie Polonsky** (member), **Andy** (Vickie Shanks' friend), **Dennis** (Dave Shogren's brother), **Mona Shogren** (member), **Donnabel** (Derrick StaRosa's sister), **Ron** (Beth Phelps' brother), **Sandy Sailand** (member), **Alan** (Siebert family friend), **Jennifer** (Irene Cloud's friend), **Kayden** (Karey Coble's nephew), **Harriett** (Roger Steinke's friend), **Kathy Telford-Luiz** (member), **Ron Tuck** (member), **Jackie Williams** (Donna Benfield's brother), **Paul** (Baker family friend).

Those who are homebound or in extended care facilities:

Valerie (Kendahl Adjorlolo's cousin), **Bonnie Ahlstedt** (member), **Diane** (Rene & Rob Baker's friend), **Sherrill & Larry Baker** (members), **Audrey Fisher** (member), **Lawrence** (Leon Romaniuk's father), **Roger Wolter** (member).

Those Serving Our Country:

AIR FORCE: **Jake Peoples** (Andrea & Eric Peoples' son) and **Erin Siebert** (Linda & Joe Siebert's daughter)

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

COAST GUARD: **Gage McIntyre** (Tamara McIntyre'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 14 Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am Christian Education for all ages!

Monday, December 15

9:00 am 4/5 Year Old Preschool

12:00 pm Staff Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

9 00 am 3 Year Old & 4/5 Year old Preschool

9:15 am Preschool Chapel

9:30 am Lectionary w/ Pastor Berg

7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, December 17

9:00 am 4/5 Year Old Preschool

11:00 am Preschool Christmas Program

Thursday, December 18

9:00 am 3 Year Old & 5 Year Old Preschool

9:30 am FLC Quilters

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Creation Care Meeting

Friday, December 19

Church Office Closed!

Saturday, December 20

9:00 am Hannah Circle

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study

Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Worship w/Holy Communion and Holy Baptism of Bennett Eckles & George Fouhy

9:30 am Children's Christmas Program—*Come to Bethlehem and See!*

10:30 am Christian Education for all ages!

11:45 am Caroling at Woodland Terrace—All are welcome!

December 21, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 41:5-10

Luke 1:26-39

We are called forward

Weekly Financial Report

December 7, 2025

Attendance in Person: 164

Online: 20

December 7, 2025

General Offerings: \$17,836

Capital Improvement: \$1100

General Offerings Needed Each Week: \$10,770

SERMON NOTES

What do I fear?

What did I hear that helps me in this time?

How can I not let fear overcome me?



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America