



"Here is the Lamb of God" John 1:29

Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

January 18, 2026 at 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church
Decorah, IA

WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whatever your country of origin or ancestry, your race or ethnic heritage, and whether you are religious or not, Christian or not, or Lutheran or not, you are welcome here.

Whether you are male, female or transgender, young or old, straight, gay, lesbian or bisexual, you are welcome here.

Whether you are single or partnered, married, widowed or divorced, you are welcome here.

Whether you are wealthy or poor, own a home or rent, live at home or are homeless, you are welcome here.

Whatever your political views - whether to the right, to the left or to the center, you are welcome here.

Whatever your strengths or weaknesses, gifts or challenges, they will be honored, for you are welcome here.

First Lutheran Church is committed to being a loving and welcoming community centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ. In faithfulness to the Christian Gospel, in reflection of our Lutheran emphasis on grace, and in celebration of our shared baptismal journey, we promise to enter into ministry with all who seek God here.

We invite you to join us for worship and take up your place with us in ministry for you are welcome at First Lutheran Church.

NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:

This **bulletin** contains the prayers, readings, some music, and responses that you will need to participate in worship.

Hymnals can be found in the pews for most congregational songs. We use both the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and purple All Creation Sings (ACS) hymnals.

The **communion meal** is open to all who desire to participate, of any age. Gluten-free wafers and juice are available. Individual communion kits are also available as you enter the worship space for those who wish to remain in the pews.

Children are welcome at all of our worship services. A play area, where you'll also find quiet bags, is available for families in sanctuary. Feel free to nurse or feed your child in the sanctuary. We also have a staffed nursery during Sunday worship. Ask an usher for directions or follow the signs out the door at the northeast corner of the sanctuary.

Are you visiting? We invite you to fill out a yellow connection card found in your pew. Please also introduce yourself to Pr. Mike and Pr. David on your way out! Consider yourself welcome and invited to participate in the activities and worship life of this congregation!

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE 5:00 p.m. - Gather Us In - Marty Haugen/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - Partita on "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star" - J. Bender

GATHERING SONGS Trading My Sorrows (see *lyric insert*)
10:30 a.m. only Radical God (see *lyric insert*)

WELCOME *Everyone is invited to share their prayer requests on the yellow cards found in the pews. If you are new to worship, please also include your contact information.*

***GATHERING HYMN** 8:15 a.m. only - ELW 314 Arise, Your Light Has Come!

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS** Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
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, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in \pm Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

*CANTICLE

This canticle comes from Tanzania and was taught to Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis by Deogratia Mahumba, a musician and choir director from Bukoba, Tanzania, during a companion synod visit.

ELW 797 Blessed Be the Name



He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
1. Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
2. Let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus on the way.

He - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na, he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus, let us fol-low Je-sus on the way.

Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. He - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us fol-low Je-sus on the way.

Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya. he - ri ni ji - na la Ye - su.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Bless-ed be the name, Je-sus' name.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Let us fol-low Je-sus 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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

After we pause to breathe and for personal prayer, the presiding minister will pray.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sunday only

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The LORD called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the LORD
and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—
⁶ he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷ Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,

because of the LORD who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 40:1-11

1 I waited patiently upon the LORD,
who stooped to me and heard my cry.

**2 The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry
clay,**

and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

3 The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our
God;

many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD!

They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your
plans for us, none can be compared with you!

Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are
more than I can count.

**6 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you
have not required.**

7 And so I said, "Here I am; I come.

In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

**8 'I love to do your will, O my God;
your law is deep within me.'**

9 I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;

I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

**10 I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have
spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the
great assembly.**

11 You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

I love to do your will, O my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 290 Go Tell in on the Mountain (refrain only)

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

GOSPEL The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:29-42

John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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

SERMON

Pr. David Severtson

***HYMN OF THE DAY** 5:00 p.m. & 8:15 a.m. - ACS 979 Making Their Way
10:30 a.m. - ACS 976 Come and See (sing 3x)

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence. Each petition concludes:
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

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



MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prayers, announcements, and updates can be found in the weekly AfterWord. Contact the church office if you are not receiving this publication and would like to subscribe. To view the AfterWord online, visit firstlutherandecorah.org/afterword or scan the QR code to the left.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Christ.

OFFERING 5:00 p.m. - My Faith Looks Up to Thee - Lowell Mason/Molly James

8:15 a.m. - First Lutheran Adult Choir: Walk in the Light by André Thomas

10:30 a.m. - Holy Time (see lyric insert)

As we journey through our Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh stewardship season, thank you for your faithful weekly offerings that sustain our worship, education, and service ministries. Whether you've pledged for 2026 or are still discerning, your gift today makes God's love visible in Decorah and beyond. If giving cash, please use an offering envelope with your name.



Give online at firstlutherandecorah.org/give, text "GIVE" to (563) 412-2243, or scan the QR code.

***OFFERING PRAYER** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Pablo Sosa, an Argentinian Methodist composer, says this music arises from the charismatic Christian movement in Argentina.

ACS 1089 Holy, Holy, Holy

San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,
... lle-nos es-tán el cie - lo y la tie - rra de tu glo - ria.
your glo - ry fills all heav-en and earth. . . . You are ho - ly, God.
Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en nom - bre del Se - ñor . . .
. . . . Bless - ed be the Sav - ior, the one who comes in your name.
Ho - san - na en el cie - - lo. San - to_e-res, oh Dios.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you create all things. Through the prophets you call your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our lives and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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** We believe Jesus Christ is present when we share this meal. Here God nourishes our faith, forgives our sin, and calls us to share God's love. Adults and children of any age are welcome to receive communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC 5:00 p.m. - Lamb of God - Twyla Paris/Mark Hayes
8:15 a.m. - ACS 962 In This Feast of Love &
ELW 312 Jesus, Come! For We Invite You
10:30 a.m. - Light the Fire & Lord I Lift Your Name on High
(see lyric insert)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** 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 love to serve.

***BLESSING** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN** 5:00 p.m. - ELW 658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hears (v. 1 & 4)

8:15 a.m. - ELW 841 Lift Every Voice and Sing

10:30 a.m. - This Little Light of Mine (see *lyric insert*)

***DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

***POSTLUDE** 5:00 p.m. - O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee - Henry Smith/Larry

Shackley

8:15 a.m. - Promised Land - arr. M. Burkhardt

5:00 P.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Pr. David Severtson, preaching & presiding minister
Sue Ellingsen, reader
Darrel Jensen, communion assistant
Darrel & Mary Pat Jensen, worship welcome team
Mike Ellingsen, piano

**8:15 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

Pr. David Severtson, preaching minister
Pr. Mike Wilker, presiding minister
Karen Martin-Schramm, assisting minister
Vicky Jaeger, reader & communion assistant
Serina Norvold Hallquist, organ
First Lutheran Adult Choir
Mark Potvin
Jacob Nimrod, stream team
Clarence Nimrod, stream team
Kara Franke, nursery
Roger & Vicky Jaeger, worship welcome team
Bill & Kelli Courtney, worship welcome team
Brenda Carlson, worship welcome team

**10:30 A.M. WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:**

Pr. David Severtson, preaching minister
Pr. Mike Wilker, presiding minister
Eric Albjerg, assisting minister
Jon Thompson, reader & communion assistant
Mandy Severtson, lead musician
Mark Potvin, lead musician
Kara Franke, nursery
Scott, Emily & Isis Timm, worship welcome team
Kirk & Trish Neubauer, worship welcome team