

Activity	Location
Sunday 12/22/2024	
9:15 a.m. Confirmation	Gallery
9:30 a.m. Faith Formation	Family Life Center
9:30 a.m. Kids' Music—3-4 year olds	Nursery
10:30 a.m. Worship/Children's Program	Sanctuary & Online
6:00 p.m. Listening for the Word	Gallery
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Monday 12/23/2024	
11:30 p.m. Quilters Group	Quilt Room
6:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous	Gallery
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Tuesday 12/24/2024	Office Closed
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship	Sanctuary
Wednesday 12/25/2024	Office Closed
Merry Christmas!	
Thursday 12/26/2024	
10:00 a.m. Rental—Sutton	Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
Friday 12/27/2024	Building Closed Until 11:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Saturday 12/28/2024	



Blue Christmas
Thursday, December 19, 2024
6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – Muskegon, Michigan

WELCOME

Welcome to this time of worship. We are especially grateful for those of you who are visitors. You make us more whole. First Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church body committed to the welcome of the stranger and to the questions and doubts of all seekers.

CONTACT US

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Try our Giving App! Visit the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download “GivePlus Church.” Use the “Simply Giving” program to make regular donations from your checking or savings account. [Download the Simply Give form](#) from our website, complete the form, attach a copy of a voided check and mail it to the church office for processing.

O Lord, Hear Our Prayer #751 (red)
Wait for the Lord #262 (red)
Stay With Me #348 (red)
Jesus, Remember Me #616 (red)

Exchange of Peace

Offering *(the loose offering will bless the work of Supper House)*

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving/Holy, Holy (screen)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (screen)

Communion

Blessing/Post-Communion Prayer

Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #257 (red)
(vv. 5-8)

Benediction/Dismissal

Postlude

Participants in Today’s Service

Ellen Cutting, pastor of Edgewood Lutheran

Lisa VanLonkhuyzen, pastor of Covenant Church

Mackenzie Jager, pastor of First Presbyterian

Paula Dusseljee, pastoral assistant of First Lutheran

Bill Uetricht, pastor of First Lutheran

Elise McDonald, Musician

Eva Backus, Joel Westerholm, Thomas Westerholm, song leaders

My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Reflection

Pastor Mackenzie Jager

Gospel Verse



The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in God I trust, in God I trust. The

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Gospel Reading

John 1:1-9, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection

Pastor Lisa VanLonkhuyzen

Hymn “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” #282 (red)

Prayers

Candles can be lit during the singing of Taize songs to represent our prayers

Announcements

We will **not be having Wednesday night dinners** for the next few weeks. We will resume on January 8th, 2025.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. *Note the time change for the first service.*

During the **December 22 worship service**, we will experience the service of **Lessons and Carols**, involving the children of our congregation. Don’t miss this special occasion!

The **sign-up sheet** for hosting **coffee hour in 2025** is on the information station by the office. Please pick a date to host coffee hour.

The church **office will be closed** on December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday.

Our **chili cook-off** and **annual meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 26 following worship.

No Thursday night service next Thursday, December 26th.

Our **library has many puzzles** that are free to take. If you are a puzzler, stop in and grab one or two!

No faith formation classes on December 29. We will reconvene on January 5.

There will be **no Thursday Bible** study this coming Thursday (December 26). Wednesday (6:10 p.m.) and Thursday (noon) studies will start up again on January 2 (Thursday) and January 8 (Wednesday.)

Order of Service

“Blue Christmas”

Prelude

Opening Sentences

Hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #257 (red)
(vv. 1-4)

Greeting and Opening Prayer (screen)

Lighting of Advent Candles/Litany of Remembrance

Leader: In the light of the first candle we remember those we have loved and lost; their names, their faces, their voices and the memories that bind them to us.

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.

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Leader: In the light of the second candle we offer up to God the pain of our loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health, the loss of life, the loss of joy and peace. (repeat refrain)

Leader: In the light of the third candle we remember our journey through this season; the feelings of disconnect; the anger, the heartbreak, the longing, the loneliness (repeat refrain)

Leader: In the light of the fourth candle we remember our faith and the gift of hope that is the Christmas story, for God has come to earth to dwell with us as Immanuel. (repeat refrain)

Song “Lost in the Night” Choir

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reflection Pastor Ellen Schoepf

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

