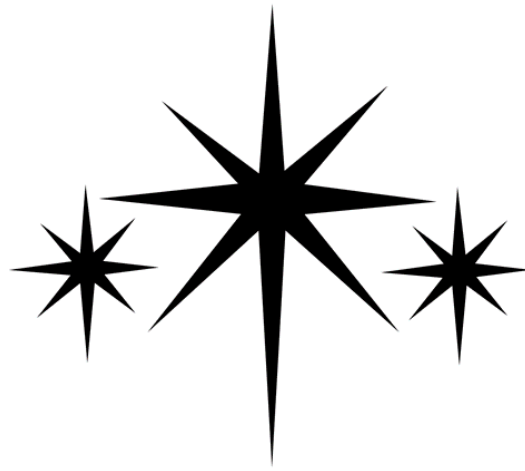




# FIRST LUTHERAN C H U R C H

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## The Epiphany of Our Lord January 1, 2023 Finding Our Way — Questioning



If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God,  
who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly,  
and it will be given you.

*James 1:5*

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Parish Staff: Pr. John Dietz, pastor | Rian Johnson, secretary  
Melissa Peterson, custodial services | Elaine Sweeney, musician



First Lutheran Church is a congregation  
of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# The Gathering

## GATHERING MUSIC

### +GATHERING SONG: We Three Kings of Orient Are



1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing  
2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I  
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense  
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a  
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
bring to crown him a - gain; king for - ev - er,  
owns a de - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,  
life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,  
God and Sac - ri - fice; heav'n sings al - le -



moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.  
ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.  
glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.  
bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.  
lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.



*Refrain*  
Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright;



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

## +BLESSING OF THE CHURCH

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

*Luke 10:5*

**Amen.**

As we prepare to ask God's Epiphany blessing on this church,  
let us listen to the words of scripture.

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,  
and the life was the light of all people.  
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.  
From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.

*John 1:1-4, 14, 16*

## INSCRIPTION

*This inscription is made above the entrance to the sanctuary:*

**20 ✠ C M B ✠ 23**

The magi of old, known as **C** Caspar, **M** Melchior, and **B** Balthasar,  
followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

**20** two thousand **23** and twenty-three years ago.

✠ Christ, bless this church, ✠ and remain with us throughout the new year.

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

God, you gather us in this place  
to praise your name with all the company of heaven,  
to share with others the promise of baptism,  
to hear your life-saving word,  
and to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son.  
Form us to be the body of Christ in the world,  
sent out to proclaim your love in word and deed,  
and to serve all people, to the glory of your holy name.  
Pour out your blessing on us and on this church,  
in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**+CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Glory to God – ELW pages 148-149**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.

*Luke 2:14*

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**+GATHERING PRAYER**

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.**

*2 Corinthians 13:13*

Let us pray.  
Creator of the heavens,  
who led the Magi by a star  
to worship the Christ-child:  
guide and sustain us,  
that we may find our journey's end  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



# The Liturgy of the Word

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – ELW page 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*John 6:68*

### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### SERMON: Finding Our Way — *Questioning*

### HYMN OF THE DAY: What Child is This – ELW # 296

### +PROFESSION OF FAITH: Ephesians 3

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### +PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each portion of the prayers ends:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

### +SIGN OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*John 20:19*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

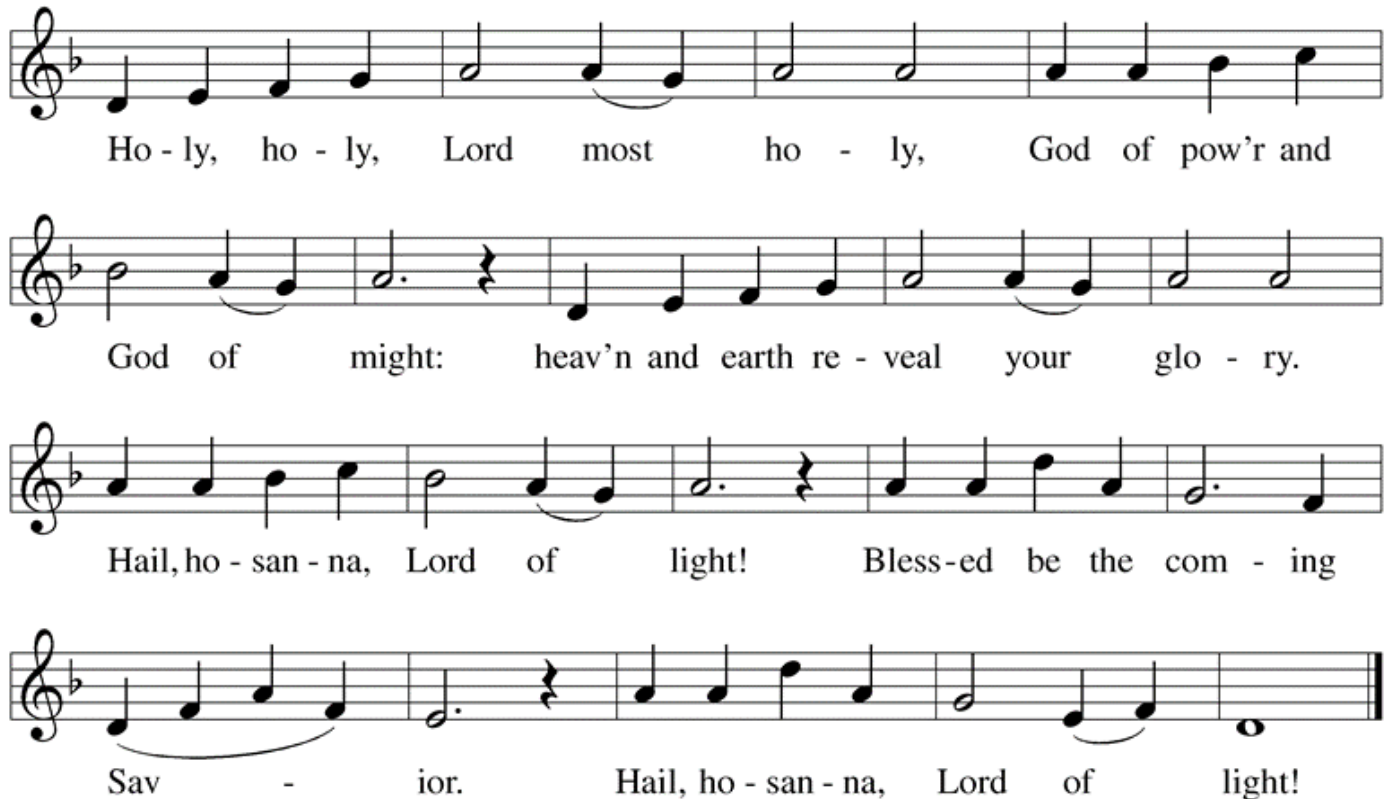
## +GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and  
God of might: heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry.  
Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light! Bless-ed be the com - ing  
Sav - ior. Hail, ho - san - na, Lord of light!

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

## +EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## +LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

## +INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Thanks be to God.

**COMMUNION SONG: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice – ELW # 288**

**BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

# The Sending

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### +BLESSING

The peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
keep our hearts and our minds in  $\mp$  Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

*Ephesians 4:6*

### +DISMISSAL

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Luke 7:50; Romans 12:11*

### +SENDING SONG: In the Bleak Midwinter – ELW # 294

### SENDING MUSIC

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### FELLOWSHIP

Join us for a time of refreshments and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following worship. All are welcome!

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

All kids age 3 through Grade 5 are encouraged to attend Sunday School. We will meet right after worship in classroom # 1 downstairs from 10:30-11:30 am. Classes meet on the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays. On the First Sunday of each month, kids are welcome to enjoy the Open Craft Table in the Fellowship Hall.

### MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY & SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to everyone who helps to make Sunday morning happen here at First Lutheran Church! If you'd like to volunteer to usher/greet, read, or help serve Communion, sign-ups are on the Welcome Table in the entry area. Thank you!

**Presiding Minister:** Pr. John Dietz

**Assisting Minister:** Rian Johnson

**Altar Server:** Ruby Johnson

**Ushers/ Greeters:** Connie & Ken Bryant

**Musician:** Elaine Sweeney

**Altar Guild:** Connie Bryant

**Audio-Visual:** Dawson Peterson

**Fellowship Hosts:** Dietz family (John, Ashley, Livia, and Jack)

# Parish & Community Announcements

## for the week of January 1 – 8, 2023

### Finding Our Way

As we begin the New Year, consider inviting others to join us for this sermon series: *Finding Our Way*. Each week we're exploring one of eight life practices that are grounded in Biblical wisdom meant to help us find our way back to loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves. Themes include: Questioning, Sabbath-keeping, Generosity, Prayer, Fasting, Service, Compassion, and Hospitality. More than spiritual exercises, these are life practices that have helped people throughout the ages to be more mindful of God's presence in their lives, make deeper connections with their neighbors, and to practice healthy compassion for themselves. We hope you'll join us and that these messages will help you become the person God has created and is calling you to be.

January 1: Questioning

January 8: Sabbath-keeping

January 15: Generosity

January 22: Prayer

January 29: Fasting

February 5: Service

February 12: Compassion

February 19: Hospitality

### Finding Our Way — Youth Edition

Kids who are with us on Sundays during our *Finding Our Way* series (January - February) should be on the look out for little blue pom poms. There are twenty poms hidden around the sanctuary. Each Sunday, you can find a pom for yourself, but if you find a second one, you must give it to a friend. If you see more than two, leave them for someone else to find. What do you do with the little blue pom poms that you find? Bring them to Pastor John after worship and choose something from the "Surprise Basket."

### This Week's Events

Please note that the **office is closed tomorrow** (January 2) and that there will be **no Midweek Bible Study or Confirmation** classes this Wednesday, January 4.

### New Year = New Sunday School Schedule

We have revised our Sunday School schedule to make it more fun for our students. On the Second, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of each month, we will hold classes from 10:30-11:30 am. We'll gather right after worship in classroom # 1 downstairs. On the First Sunday of each month we will have an Open Craft Table in the fellowship hall where kids and families can do a craft that relates to the theme of the day or season. We will not hold classes or events on most Third Sundays. Today, January 1, is an Open Craft Table Sunday.

### Parish Bowling — Next Sunday, January 8

We're excited to host Parish Bowling starting next Sunday, January 8. Our plans are to gather at the Hibbing Bowling Center on the second Sunday of each month at 12:00 pm. We'll bowl a few games, have some pizza and beverages, and enjoy each other's company. Bowlers will pay for their own game and shoes, but the pizzas will be provided. This is a **3F (First Family and Friends)** event open to everybody – all ages and levels of bowling expertise are welcome.

### Care Cupboard Collection — Next Sunday, January 8

Next Sunday is our monthly Care Cupboard Collection Sunday. We are receiving **non-perishable food** items that can be used to make easy meals, **personal care items** (tooth brushes, deodorant, shampoo, etc), and **gift cards** to Walmart and SuperOne for groceries. We are grateful for the donations that have been brought in so far, and for your generosity!

### Looking Ahead . . . Annual Meeting — January 15

Please plan on being here on January 15 and staying in the sanctuary after worship for a few minutes so that we can hold our annual meeting. We need 50 voting members for a quorum to be able to do business. Following our brief meeting, the council is hosting a brunch in the fellowship hall.