



First English Lutheran Church
9 NW 3rd ST; Ortonville, MN 56278
Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor
Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director



December 28, 2025

ELW SETTING TWO

9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude, Bells

Leader: Archer Dorry

Welcome & Announcements

Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

GATHERING

Call to Worship:

L: God is telling a story in our lives. It's quite a story - full of the promises God makes and our struggles to trust; full of mystery and angels with surprising news; full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings.

C: Come, hear the story pay attention to the angels' message in your heart in this place and time.

L: Then join all creation in worshipping the God who tells it full of grace and truth;

C: who comes in Jesus, the Word made flesh, and makes our story holy.

Gathering Hymn

"The Bells of Christmas"

#298

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door. He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

2. This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed. Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

3. Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find, to gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.

4. Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king, until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

5. O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song, O Dayspring bright, awaited long, O Son of Man, incarnate Word, great David's Son, great David's Lord:

6. Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt. Music: Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855.

Christmas Confession

L: God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world;

C: **forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives. Amen.**

Hymn: "Love Has Come" #292

1. Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

2. Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

3. Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950. Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856.
Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN.

Prayer of the Day:

L: Let us pray...**C:** **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9 OT pg. 537

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music "Hey Moon" Winnie Stattelman
Song written by the Sidewalk Prophets

Reading of the History of First English Lutheran Church Judy Beckman

Gospel Lead In "From Heaven Above" vs 1 & 3 # 268

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev'ry home! Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing:"

3. "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your sad and bitter cry, who will himself your Savior be and from all sin will set you free."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Music: attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539.
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

NT pg. 1

L: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Sermon

Archer Dorry

Sermon Song

'What Child Is This?'

#296

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, Music: English ballad, 16th cent.

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION: - I Do Believe

I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never smother it.

I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem there was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.

I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God, that is for the happiness of all people.

I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace, Of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,

there will be no end. The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.

This I surely believe!

Prayer of Intercession for Christmas

L: Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Silence for Reflection

L: Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Lord our God...the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **C: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

pg. 134

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

#288

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866. Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856.

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray... **C: Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.**

SENDING

Christmas Blessing:

L: Believe: for light is now in the world.

C: Believe: for God has become one of us

L: Believe: for Love is born in each of us

C: Believe: for the manger is full

L: Go and believe it is as the prophets said and the blessing of Christmas, of family, of friends, and of God, be with you today and forever. **C: Amen.**

Dismissal:

Go in peace... Loved by God. **C: We will. Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn

'Go Tell It On The Mountain'

#290

(Refrain): **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel Refrain that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Text: African American spiritual, (Refrain); John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual.

Bells, Postlude

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John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

Pastor Cheryl will be on vacation until 12/31/25. Her Christmas Lights open house is Monday, 12/29, from 4-6 pm.

Pastor Cheryl's Normal Hours: Mondays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 4 pm), Tuesdays (Zion Lutheran 10 am to 4 pm), Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 3:30 (and then teaching confirmation classes), & Thursdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am – 4 pm (unless up at FWV/or visiting members) or by appointment. Contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored in memory of Erv Mikkelsen, given by wife Darlene and family, Gary, Joan, & Dean. January 1st is the anniversary of his death. [2026 Radio broadcast cards are available in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: You're encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net or scan the QR Code from the offering cards or bulletins.



	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-Date 2025</u>
Offerings/Gifts:	\$21,933.07	\$199,132.27
Zion Receivable:	\$3,446.52	\$32,827.48
Total Revenue:	\$25,379.59	\$231,959.75
Expenses:	\$17,091.82	\$222,195.48
Balance:	\$8,287.77	\$9,764.27



DONATE ELECTRONICALLY

December's pink envelope emphasis is for ELCA Missionaries. You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in the Narthex.

May the God of all consolation be with Vern and Carol Bell on the death of her sister, Marian Hibma. Funeral services were held 12/23.

Happy Birthday Wishes go out to Kate Heinecke whose birthday is Wednesday, 12/31.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are running out! If you'd like one, they can be bought in the office. They're \$8.00. First come, first served. You can bring cash or pay by check (please write checks for calendars out to **FELC Youth**).

Please return your completed opportunity sheets and pledges from your envelope. There is a box in the Narthex that says "Leave commitment cards and opportunity sheets here" on it. If the office is open, you can leave them with Barbara instead. It's important that they be turned in before the end of the year. Next Sunday we dedicate the pledges and the opportunity sheets will be compiled for the council in January.

Annual report information is due in the office ASAP (*the deadline has passed*). (Electronic files preferred but a hard copy is also appreciated!)

Organizations with financial reports should turn those reports into the office by January 5th (*or as soon after as possible*) for our internal audit of FELC books.

Let's go roller-skating, Zion and FELC! FELC Board of Education is planning a roller-skating outing for BOTH congregations on Sunday, January 11th from 10:30am-1:30pm ("come & go") at Sioux Historic. Skating will be FREE for ALL members from both congregations, and ALL ages are welcome to join!



PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Bishop Craig Anderson, Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict especially Jacob Hamann, Colin Hartman, Tyler Ruby, and Thomas Halverson; and our Haitian student, Ycherson Soh and South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name to be added/removed, please contact the church office.



Come One, Come All! (Ages 18-100)! Join our Adults-Only Game Night!

The evening begins with soup & meat tray at 5:30 pm and then board, card, and dice games to follow. Please call FELC to register (320-839-2527), as a head count is necessary for meal preparation. Transportation can be arranged if people need rides from Fairway View or other local locations. Come for laughs and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

When: Friday, January 9th

Time: 5:30 pm

Where: FELC Basement

Cost: FREE



This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 28th

Organist: Amy Adelman

Acolytes: Chase & Cameron

Tech Desk: Liz Ketz & Cody Backstrand

Lector: Marge Dragseth

Greeters: Connie & Carol Newman & Martino

Ushers: Eugene Stotesbery, Gale May, Art Vollmer, & TBD

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—January 4th

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Tech Desk: Kim Anderson & Terry Kalberg

Lay Assistants: Kris Redfield & Marilyn Chindvall

Lector: Marge Dragseth

Greeters: Amy Adelman & Brielle R.

Acolytes: Brandon & Lexi

Ushers: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson

FWV: Archer Dorry & Liz Ketz

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Pastor Cheryl will take vacation until Dec. 31st.

Sun – 12/28 9:00 am Worship (with Archer Dorry leading)
– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live

Wed – 12/31 NEW YEARS EVE
9:30 am Channel 3 Broadcast
5:30 pm Channel 3 Broadcast

Thurs – 1/1/2026 NEW YEAR'S DAY – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Fri – 1/2
9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 1/4
9:00 am Worship -Communion –Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live

A holiday invite from Pastor Cheryl



I'll be having a Christmas Lights Open House from 4 to 6 pm on December 29th at my house in Wilmot for those who'd like to stop by and see the lights, checkout the Christmas Village and stop in for a snack at 706 5th Ave. If you take the 3rd road into Wilmot—which is SD Hwy 123 - you'll see them as soon as you turn in. Turn your radio to 90.5 FM to listen. *Come around the corner to the door between the garage and the house.*

Pastor Cheryl

Merry Christmas