



December 7, 2025

First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Second Sunday of Advent

ELW SETTING TWO



9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude, Bells

Welcome & KDIO Announcement

Peace

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

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **C: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Long-expected God,

C: 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.

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

'Hark the Glad Sound'

#239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751. Music: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820.

Speaker 1: Fire burns. It hurts. It can destroy. Fire also gives warmth and light. The coming of Christ is both a day of judgment and a day of promise. Two candles, flickering brightly, help us remember that the coming of Christ has many meanings.

The first two candles are lit.

Speaker 4: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

Advent Lighting Hymn 'Light One Candle...' vs. 2 #240

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy upon us.
God the Lord, savior gave us. Jesus Christ is born to save us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Hymn of Praise 'This is the Feast' pg. 122

P: Let us pray... C: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

OT pg. 496

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

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

ELW Psalm 72

L: ¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C: ² that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

L: ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

C: ⁴ Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

L: ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

C: ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

L: ⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

C: ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!

L: ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

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

Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

NT pg. 125

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

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation 'Glory Be to God on High' St. James Christmas
To the tune of 'Angels We Have Heard on High'

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

NT pg. 2

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Sermon Song 'On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry' vs. 1, 2, & 5 #249

**1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

5. All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite. Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621.

NICENE CREED

pg. 126

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

MEAL

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn 'O God of Mercy, God of Light' vs. 1, 3-5 #714

Offertory Prayer

P: Nourishing God, C: 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.

SHARING THE MEAL The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

pg. 129

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface P: It is indeed right... and join their unending hymn.

‘Holy, Holy, Holy Lord’ St. James Christmas
To the tune of ‘The Friendly Beasts’

Words of Institution pg. 130

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.

Invitation to Communion

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

Distribution Hymn ‘Lamb of God’ St. James Christmas
To the tune of ‘What Child is This?’

Distribution Hymn ‘All Earth is Hopeful’ #266

Distribution Hymn ‘He Came Down’ #253

Eucharistic Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

P: God our host, **C: 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

Commission & Benediction: *(inspired by Matthew 3: 1-3 & Romans 15: 13)*

P: As we leave this place, and scatter back out into the world, be a voice crying in the wilderness. Proclaim that God is active in the world for the time is near. As people who are being changed, go into a world ready to share the Good News that the long expected Jesus is coming, that we are being freed from whatever binds us.

May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in your faith, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life may overflow with hope and confidence. **C: Amen.**

Pastor Leaves
Announcements

Dismissal

L: Go in peace... Keep awake... **C: We will! Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

'Prepare the Royal Highway'

#264

Bells, Postlude

Advent Liturgy: The St. James Christmas Service © St. James Music Press. Box 1009 Hopkinsville, KY 42241 - sjmp.com - 877-822-0304.

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

Pastor Cheryl's 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 honor of Dr. Natalie (Strei) Haken as she graduated from NWSU Chiropractic last week. [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



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

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Sharron Johnson whose birthday is tomorrow.

Our TechDesk was updated this past week, check it out. We have a couple of new computers, a new monitor, and new soundboard. We are working on connecting another camera for a total of two. That should be done soon. Thank you so very much to those who have donated to our Technology Improvement Fund! We still have a ways to go. Continued donations to this fund are greatly appreciated.

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are in! If you'd like one, they can be bought in the office or in the Narthex following church! They're \$8.00. 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. The first Sunday of 2026 we dedicate the pledges, and the opportunity sheets will be compiled into a list for the council in January.

Annual report information is due in the office by Friday, Dec. 19th. (Electronic files preferred but a hard copy for back up just in case 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.

Are you interested in being a part of our special prelude music for Christmas Eve services at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, December 24, 2025? Prelude music starts ½ hour before the church service. We welcome vocal and instrumental musicians. If you are, then please contact the church office at (320) 839-2527 or Marilyn Hanson by December 17th.

We're looking for volunteers to help during FELC's 2 Christmas Eve services. We need 2 acolytes each for the 2:30 & 6:30 services, 3 lay assistants for the 6:30 pm service. 1 tech desk volunteer for the 2:30 and 2 tech volunteers for the 6:30. And we need ushers for both services. Please contact the office if you're willing & able to help serve in this way.

The Board of Evangelism set up the Giving Tree in the Narthex.

Next to the tree is a basket of named envelopes of choices you may donate your gift to. Place the envelope of your choice in the box labeled "GIFTS" (preferably a check written to First English Lutheran Church). Thank you!



Join us on Sunday, December 14th for a Youth Bake Sale held before and after worship, the same day as the Christmas Program. All goodies will be available for free-will donation, with every dollar supporting the FELC Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, Georgia next June. Thank you for your continued generosity to the FELC Youth! If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Archer at 320-305-1839.

The Board of Christian Education is looking for 15 dozen Christmas cookies to have at their Coffee Fellowship the Sunday morning of the Christmas Program. If you would be willing to provide some cookies for this event, please let someone in the office know, or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex.

You're invited to a special Blue Christmas service on Sat, December 20th, at 4:00 PM. This service, sometimes called the Longest Night Service, is a dedicated time for those who find the atmosphere of holiday celebration difficult due to grief, loss, or struggle. The Blue Christmas service provides a safe, quiet place to come as you are to find hope in the darkness where we will join with others who share similar experiences of loss and struggle; hear God's comforting Word of hope and healing; honor your loss in a gentle and non-judgmental atmosphere; and embrace God's promise of light that shines even in the deepest darkness, calling us forward to the new life of spring. This special, non-denominational service offers comfort and support to all. Whether your loss is recent or happened in years past, all are welcome to come and receive a moment of peace and remembrance.

If you would like to give a poinsettia or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office the week leading up to Christmas. Don't forget to contact the office so we know who it is from and the memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. You can call, e-mail secretary@firstenglish.net, or stop in during office hours. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

Stonecroft Ministries Women's Connection will be meeting on Tues., December 16th at 5:30 pm at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church. The speaker will be E.J. Moret, of Ortonville, whose talk is titled, "Daughter of the King." The special feature will be Jerrolyn, Doreen, Rhonda, Laura & Denise leading us in singing Christmas carols with Amy Adelman, pianist. The music will be provided by The Weeding Sisters of Ortonville, singing some of our favorites. The cost is \$6.00, and you can register with Paula Reisdorph at 320-760-9583 or just be a walk-in. Free nursery by reservation. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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, Nola Lockwood, 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.



This Week's Ministry Assistants—December 7th

Organist: Kathy Haukos **Greeters:** Emily Sigler & Riley Stattelmann
Acolytes: Meadow & Dylan **FWV:** James & Ranet Schmeichel
Lay Assistants: Darin Ehrenberg & Marla Strei **Lector:** Kristi Ehrenberg
Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth & Cody Backstrand
Ushers: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson

This Week's Ministry Assistants — 1 PM FWV December 10th

Organist: Marilyn Hanson **Assistants:** Evangelism Member(s)

Next Week's Ministry Assistants—December 14th

Organist: Amy Adelman **Acolytes:** Mya & Justice
Greeters: Cody Backstrand & Jordan Stattelmann **Lector:** Jon Ydstie
Tech Desk: Kim Anderson & Liz Ketz **FWV:** Paula Reisdorph
Ushers: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie & Harley Helgeson

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun – 12/7 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship in the Narthex
9:00 am Worship – Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live
9:30ish – 11:00 am Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
10:00 am Endowment Meeting
10:30 am Fairway View Worship (Pre-Recorded)
2:30 pm Christmas Cantata at the Abbey of the Hills

Mon – 12/8 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 12/9 11:30 am Day of Love's Christmas Party (*by invite only*)
3:30 pm Evangelism Meeting (*Pastor Cheryl attending*)

Wed – 12/10 9:30 am Channel 3 Broadcast
1:00 pm Worship & Communion at FWV Live with Pr. Cheryl
3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th graders)
4:30 pm Confirmation (9th graders)
4:45 pm Finance Work Group Meeting
5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) & Channel 3 Broadcast
5:30 pm Church Council Meeting
7:00 pm Senior Choir



Fri – 12/12 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 12/14 8:15 am Coffee Fellowship & Youth Bake Sale in Narthex
9:00 am Worship – Sunday School Presents "The Christmas Story"
– Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live
10:00 am Youth Bake Sale in Narthex &
Coffee Fellowship (with cookies) in Fellowship Hall
10:30 am Worship at Fairway View – pre-recorded

