

Preparation for Worship:

“The LORD has done great things for us, and we [rejoice]” (Psalm 126:3, NRSV).
Tune our hearts, God, to sing your praises now and always.

This Week in the Parish - December 14 - 21

TUESDAY	7:30pm	Hope WMF
WEDNESDAY	7:00pm	First Am. WMF Christmas Potluck with \$10 wrapped gift exchange
THURSDAY		Newsletter Deadline!
SATURDAY	8:30am	Men's Fellowship Breakfast at First Am.
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship <i>No Sunday School at First American</i>
	10:00 am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship with Noisy Offering for Dan Buchmann

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – December 7, 2025

First American: General—\$2745. Christmas offering for Safe Place of SE SD—\$25. Kenneth & Dorothy Friman memorial—\$150. AFLC World Missions—\$50. Benevolence—\$100. Sunday School—\$19. Budget per Sunday—\$2023

Welcome! The time draws near to celebrate our Savior's birth! Welcome to worship, which is part of our preparation. It's good to be here together. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.

Health Needs of our Members: Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston. Drew Kurtz. Sue Neumeister. Kaylene Prusia.

Health Needs: Craig Hauser. Donna Hauser (mother of Craig Hauser). Mike Kumm (brother of Tammy Ziegler). Gary Preszler (uncle of Craig Hauser). Gary Roth (Delmont). Kathy Tiede (Parkston).

Sympathy: Prayers of comfort for the family & friends of *Chris* (brother of friend of Shawn Bietz), Larry Furney (brother-in-law of Maurice Bueber), Scott Schelske (member of First American), *Dean Simmons* (Milltown community), Diane Stoebner (Tripp community) and *Kathy Werning* (aunt of Jill Hoff).

Birthdays: 14 Todd Bietz, 4 Kinley Werning. 15 Jenna Herman. 19 Glen Dewald, Wilma Herr.

Anniversary: 14 Logan & Jordan Albers.

AFLC Churches: St. Olaf Lutheran, Montgomery, IL; Calvary Free Lutheran, Fergus Falls, MN; Hope Lutheran, Enderlin, ND.

Mission: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Mitchell, SD

Our Military Personnel:

Andrew Hanson: Hope member. Stationed in Kentucky; Army.
Austin Lien: nephew of Glenn & Tammy Ziegler. Stationed in Washington; Navy
Dalton Fischer: brother of Malorie Walz. Stationed in Germany; National Guard.



Welcome/Announcements

Invocation

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy (Responsive Reading):

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you;

He is Christ the Lord.”

You turned my wailing to dancing;

You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

That my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

Offering/*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

LIVE FROM THE FIRST CENTURY

Cast: Director: Eva Werning; Narrator – Kinley Werning; Mary – Kacynn Bietz; Joseph – Jace Ziegler; Angel Gabriel – Conner Bietz; Angels – Khloe Hoff, Eleanor Schempp, Elsa Ziegler, Oliver Schmidt, Kelsey Bietz, Corra Jensen, Cort Jensen; Elizabeth – Ryne Friman; Zechariah – Declyn Schmidt; Shepherd – Meyer Peskey; Animals – Kash Bietz, Garret Bietz, Chancy Jensen, Austyn Ziegler; Priest: Ty Neumeister; Reuben Burgundy: Aaron Nelson; Asher: Brileigh Ziegler; Newsboys: Cora Friman, Charlotte Schempp, Nash Johnston, Wyatt Bietz; Grace: Adriana Bueber; Micah: Camden Ziegler; Simeon: Rhett Ziegler; Anna: Amelia Peskey

First American Lutheran Church 2025 Sunday School Christmas Program

Please stand as you are able; **Bold
Items: Congregation*

Scene 1: Live from the First Century

Song – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(Sunday School only v.1 with refrain)

- 1) *O come, O come. Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here; Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel; Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
- 2) **O come, O come, Thou Lord of Might, Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law, In cloud, and majesty, and awe.**
- 3) **O come, Thou Rod of Jesse free, Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory over the grave.**
- 4) **O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.**
- 5) **O come, Thou Key of David come, And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.**

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel; Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Scene 2: Angels All Around

Song – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

(Sunday School only v.1)

- 1) *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*
- 2) **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th' Incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**
- 3) **Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**



Scene 7: Hey, Baby!

Congregational Hymn – Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

- 1) **Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room; For Thy holy nativity.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee.**
- 2) **Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth, And in great humility.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee.**
- 3) **When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing; At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest to call for me.**

Scene 8: Temple Talk

Song – Joy to the World

(Sunday School only v.1)

- 1) *Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*
- 2) **Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3) **No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow; Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4) **He rules the world with truth and grace; And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness; And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.**



Scene 3: Mary Says Yes!

Congregational Hymn – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an-gel Ga-bri-el from heav-en came,
his wings as drift-ed snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he to meek and low-ly Mar-y,
"most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo-ri-a!

2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de-cree:
a bless-ed vir-gin mo-ther you shall be.
Your Son shall be Im-man-uel, by seers fore-told,
most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo-ri-a!

3 Then gen-tle Mar-y meek-ly bowed her head;
"To me be as it plea-ses God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and mag-ni-fy his hol-y name."
Most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo-ri-a!

4 Of her, Im-man-u-el, the Christ, was born
In Beth-le-hem, all on a Christ-mas morn,
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev-er say,
" Most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo-ri-a!

Scene 4: Incredible News Times Two

Congregational Hymn – On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jordan's banks 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.

3 We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Your grace we waste away; Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore, And make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let Your face upon us shine; And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.



Scene 5: News from the Neighborhood

Song – O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Sunday School only v.1)

1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep; The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth; The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years; Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep; Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together; Proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God our King, And peace to men on earth.

3 How silently, how silently; The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts; The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels; The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel.

Scene 6: Shepherds Keeping Watch

Sunday School Chorus Song - "All Alone on a Starry Night"

Song - Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Sunday School only v.1)

(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 chorus, 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)

