

# The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 28, 2025 | 10:00 am

Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

Online & Onsite



God Loves. We Love.  
Everyone!  
Dios Ama. Amamos.  
Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue  
Austin, Texas 78705  
info@felcaustin.org  
512.478.1933 church

## Everyone is welcome. This means you.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our adoration, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. For more on our welcome and life, visit [www.felcaustin.org](http://www.felcaustin.org).

As we gather, we acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

**All Gender Restrooms**, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews, are available from an usher.

# ✠GATHERING✠

## Sunday after Christmas Day

*The Holy Spirit gathers us into community.*

**Lessons and Carols** is a service of scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to scripture stories which recount God's presence with God's people, the promise of a Messiah, and the Incarnation. Each lesson is followed by a carol that reflects on the lesson's message.

### Gathering Music

*We offer acclamations and songs printed in bold. Songs and hymns are sung from the red worship book (ELW).*

*The singing bowls sound.*

*The assembly may stand, as able. We face the cross in procession.*

### Carol at the Procession

**O Come, All Ye Faithful | ELW 283**

Text/Music: J. F. Wade (1711-1786)

*Adeste Fideles*

### Confession & Forgiveness of Sin

Blessed be the One, Holy, ✠ and Living God.

**Blessed be God forever! Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us call to mind our sin and prepare to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A time of silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,**  
**that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.**  
**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.**  
**In your great mercy, forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**so that we may delight in your will and live in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

As tender as a loving parent to a child, so deep is God's compassion for you.  
As boundless as heaven is from earth, so vast is God's love for you.  
As far as east is from west, ☩ so far God removes your sin from you,  
renewing your life in Christ.  
Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.  
**Blessed be God forever! Amen.**

## **Carol of Praise**

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* | ELW 270**

Charles Wesley/Felix Mendelssohn

## **Greeting**

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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, you come to us as Word, as light, as flesh.  
Teach us to know you so well that our lives may befriend this world you have made,  
in the presence of the Holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Welcome to Worship & Community

If this is one of your first times with First English, please use this QR code.  
We are grateful for the opportunity to connect more.



## ✝WORD✝

*God speaks in scripture, song, silence, prayer, and each person.*

### Invitation to Lessons & Carols

#### Anthem

#### *Sing This Blessed Morn*

Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (1862)

Sing, O sing, this blessed morn,  
Unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given,  
God Himself comes down from heaven.  
Sing, O sing, this blessed morn,  
Jesus Christ today is born.

#### First Lesson

#### Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly remains seated to sing the first carol.*

## **First Carol**

### **'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime | ELW 284**

Text: Jean de Brebeuf (1593-1649); tr. Jesse E. Middleton (1872-1960) alt.

Music: UNE JEUNE PUCELLE, French folk tune, c. 16th cent.

## **Second Lesson**

### **Isaiah 9:2-7**

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **Second Carol**

### **Let All Together Praise our God | ELW 287** (stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4)

Text: Nikolaus Herman (1480-1561); tr. Hymnal version

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Third Lesson**

### **Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly remains seated.*

### **Third Carol**

### ***O Little Town of Bethlehem* | ELW 279**

Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

### **Fourth Lesson**

### **Luke 1:26-35, 38**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### **Fourth Carol**

### ***The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* | ELW 265**

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

*The assembly is seated.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

### Fifth Carol

***Angels, from the Realms of Glory* | ELW 275**

Text: James Montgomery (1771-18534) alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

*The assembly is seated.*

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

### Sixth Lesson

**Luke 2:21-28**

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”



<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, [singing this song:]

*The assembly remains seated.*

## Sixth Carol

### ***O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* | ELW 313**

Text: Ernest E. Ryden (1886-1981) alt.

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. Hymnal version

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Seventh Lesson

### **John 1:1-14**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly remains standing.*

## Seventh Carol

### ***Let Our Gladness Have No End* | ELW 291**

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown

Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PAN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

## Prayers of Intercession

*Intercession response: God of grace, hear our prayer.*

## Prayer for Courage

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*The assembly returns to their places.*

## ✠MEAL✠

*God feeds and blesses us with the presence of the risen Christ.*

## Birthday Blessing

Gracious God, our times are in your care.

**Bless your people as they live another year of grace. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and joy, and strengthen their trust in your abiding goodness. Amen.**

## Welcome to Communion & Offering

*We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at [www.felcaustin.org/information/giving](http://www.felcaustin.org/information/giving).*

*The assembly may stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and the meal is prepared.*

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to Christ's table for Eucharist.

## Offering Carol

### *What Child is This?*

Text: William Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English tune, 16th c

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 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!

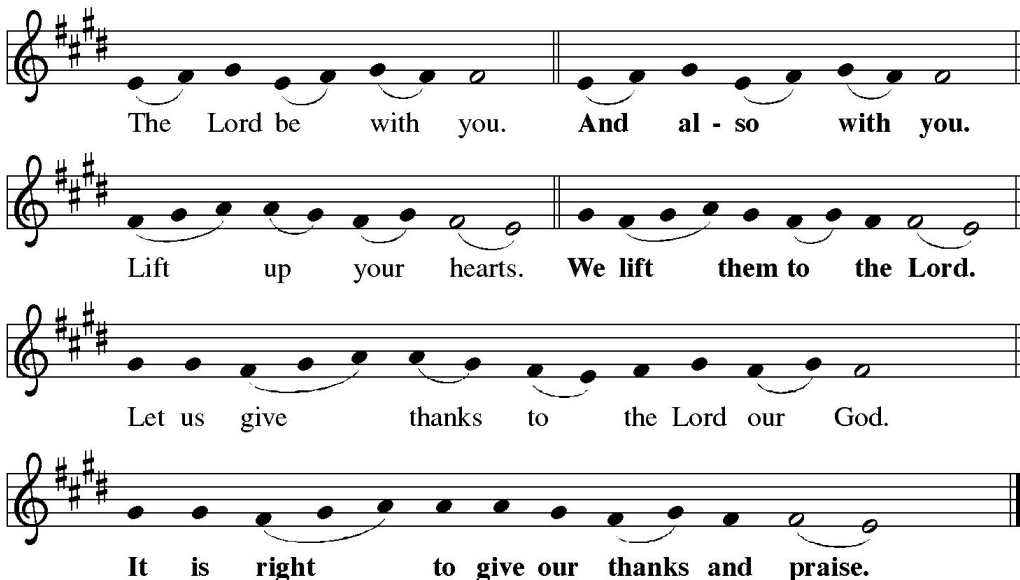
## Offering Prayer

God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we offer,  
and join our hearts with the song of the angels.

**Strengthen us to share the abundance of your grace upon grace,  
poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)*



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and half notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The fifth system of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The sixth system of musical notation. The melody continues with a slight rise in pitch. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy and Wondrous God, you created space and time, . . .  
a world of love and justice may flourish.

In patient time you revealed . . . so caring community would grow.

In good time you sent Jesus . . . and new life to all.

That night in which Jesus was at table . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

Living with Christ in the gift of the past, the present, and the future,  
we proclaim together the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Christ of all time, be our companion on the way as we live in faith, hope, and love.  
Come, Lord Jesus, into our time. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Spirit of every moment, bless this and every table, and empower us to be your love in the  
world, as we humbly share ourselves through words and acts of courage and hope.  
Come, Holy Spirit, into this moment. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Holy and Wondrous God, with people of every generation we give you all the praise that  
we can utter, through Christ, ✠ in the Spirit, with all creation, in this eternal now. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to follow your Son as we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Breaking the Bread

The word is made flesh and dwells among us. **O come, let us adore him.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

## Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God** Schubert; Text: based on Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system ends with a repeat sign. The second system ends with a repeat sign. The third system ends with a repeat sign. The fourth system ends with a double bar line.

## Invitation to Communion & Blessing

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

Ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. Then, return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music. If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

### Communion Carol

### Go Tell It On the Mountain | ELW 290

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

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

*The assembly remains seated as we offer our thanks.*

### Prayer after Communion

God of love, thank you for feeding and blessing us with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in wonder, send us forth as messengers of your peace and justice. Strengthen us to live the good news of your great joy, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ✠SENDING✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission and service with the world.*

### Community Announcements & Invitations

*The assembly may stand as we receive God's protection and blessing.*

### God's Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the persistence of Mary, the humility of Joseph, the peace of Christ, the indwelling of the Spirit, ✠ and the blessing of God, remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Sending Carol**

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice | ELW 288**

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; Robert L. Pearsall (1795-1856)

**Dismissal to Mission**

Go in peace. Share the good news!

**Thanks be to God!**

**✠Our Worship Has Ended. Our Service Begins✠**

As you leave today, you're invited to take a poinsettia plant  
– a gift from First English. Merry Christmas!

## **CELEBRATE EPIPHANY**

**Epiphany Sunday | January 4, 2026 | 10 am**

*Onsite & YouTube livestream*

*Join together following worship for an Epiphany celebration!*

**Baptism of Our Lord | January 11, 2026 | 10 am**

*Onsite & YouTube livestream*

**Children's Faith Formation | 9 am**

**Adult Faith Formation | 11:30 am**

**Lunch & Learn: Presentation of Proposed 2026 Budget**



# WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to declare the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ through proclamation, teaching, worship, and a caring ministry to all people.

Visit [felcaustin.org](http://felcaustin.org) to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, music, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries.

To subscribe to a Weekly Newsletter by email or connect with one of our staff, contact [office@felcaustin.org](mailto:office@felcaustin.org).

## MINISTERS SERVING IN LITURGY & HOSPITALITY | DECEMBER 28

Ministers	All the People of God
Altar Care	Barbara Wiederaenders
Assisting Minister	Shannon Aguirre
Building Open/Close	Charlie Boas, Ben Rode
Crucifer	Jerry Don Aguirre
Floral Care	Teresa Ringness, Heidi Goebel
Lector	Lois Holck, Jerry Don Aguirre, Trish Karli, Marilynn Olson Anne Wiebe, Monica Lund, Charlie Boas
Livestream Minister	JP Northcutt-Benson
Music Ministers	FELC Choir; Oliver Rajamani, percussion; Cantor Bryan Rust
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Robert Karli
Ushers	Randy Baden, Terry Porter

*The Poinsettias at Christmas are given to the glory of God by Teresa Ringness in memory of Teresa's son, Jeffrey David Tice.*

*The Christmas Tree is given to the glory of God by Merrily & Terry Porter.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS & JOYS

**As a community of faith, we pray for:**

people of various faith traditions, & people of goodwill;  
those who will worship onsite & online at FELC this Christmas;  
FELC congregation, council, & our mission & ministry;  
benevolence ministry partners and their leaders: Micah 6 Food Ministries,  
    LuMin, Global Refuge, & Casa Marianella;  
the whole church & church leaders throughout the world;  
citizens & leaders of, immigrants, & refugees to the United States;  
places of violence, war, oppression, disaster, conflict & recovery;  
those who advocate for healing, safety, justice, inclusion, & equity;  
all in need of safe shelter, nourishing food, & quality care, & for those who offer it;  
all living with addiction, cancer, grief, & with spiritual, health, & employment needs;  
all who are homebound;  
safety & joy for all traveling, especially during holiday times;  
Susan Johnson & family, on the death her mother, Evelyn Harris, age 103;  
Leon Noren, for continuing recovery & health;  
Stan Cravatt & Ann Graham, as Stan continues chemotherapy;  
Emily Schottmann, undergoing cancer treatment;  
strength & a spirit of justice for all who have worked & continue to support  
    peacemaking efforts in Gaza and Ukraine;  
Israeli prisoners & detained Palestinians released;  
all in any need & thanksgiving.

# CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

**Christmas is the 12-day season** of celebrating the mystery of the incarnation, the embodiment of God's Word in human life – in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. More than that, through God's grace in Christ, we celebrate that God's love, justice, and mercy dwells in us and through us in the world.

## **Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr—December 26**

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to die by stoning.

## **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist—December 27**

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three Christian letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

# COPYRIGHTS

Portions of the liturgical text, liturgical music, and hymns are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SASo12815 through March 31, 2026. Biblical texts are from the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition Bible (NRSVUE) © 1989, 2022 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America; and from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) © 1991, 1992, 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved; and from The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, and 2002 by Eugene H. Peterson. Annual License w/Podcasting Renewal, Category B #A-736003 for July 20, 2025 - July 19, 2026. All rights reserved. First English Lutheran Church broadcasts its services and events and records them for broadcast via the internet. Your attendance at a service or event constitutes your consent to be included in any filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including publicity and promotion. If you wish to attend but prefer to avoid being filmed, please participate from the back pews on the side aisles. Artwork by Brian Kershisnik.

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Feliz Navidad! С Рождеством! Fröhe Weihnachten!  
Joyeux Noël! Noheli Nziza! Eedookh Breekha!**

*The people, congregation council, & the staff of  
First English Lutheran Church wish each person a blessed & joyful Christmas!*

