

***Prayer after Communion**

Pastor: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord C: Amen.

***Blessing**

Pastor: God bless you and keep you, + Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. C: Amen

***Closing Hymn:** Go Tell It on the Mountain LBW 70

***Dismissal**

Pastor: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news. C: Thanks be to God.
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Please keep the following in your prayers:
Ida Kerch Dave Lamar Elzy Pauley Carolyn Pinos Ava Stancovich Gini Gray
Carson Berkheimer
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning we welcome, Jack Seymore, an authorized lay worship leader in the Allegheny Synod, ELCA, who will distribute the gifts of bread and wine.

There are new sign up sheets for candles and altar flowers on the bulletin in the back.
***REMINDER:** Starting in 2024 we will be using artificial flowers in lieu of flowers during weekly ser-
vices. If you wish to purchase real flowers for a specific Sunday, the sign-up sheet is still on the bulletin
board. Approved suppliers are Portage Flower Shop and The Flower Pot both located in Portage.
They will have keys to the church to deliver the flowers. It will be up to you to order, pay, and confirm
delivery arrangements. If you choose a different supplier, you will need to arrange for access to the
church to accept delivery. PLEASE NOTE: The cost may vary depending on the arrangement you
choose.

January 8—Council meeting at 6:30 pm.
January 21—Annual Congregational Meeting will be held

**Please have all annual reports to Karen Pohopin, Church Secretary, no later than January 18th. They
may be put in her mailbox in the back of the church. Thank you.**

**If anyone is in need of Pastoral care, please call the Allegheny Synod office to make arrangements at
(814) 942-1042.**
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sion.

First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023
First Lutheran Church (814) 736-3662
Worship Sundays at 9:00 am



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Communion Hospitality
*Lutheran Christians believe Christ is truly present in his supper. By faith we receive his
Body and Blood “in, with, and under” the forms: of bread and wine for our forgiveness,
life, and salvation. All baptized Christians who desire to receive Jesus in his sacrament,
are welcome to commune.*

*Altar flowers are in memory of Frank Pohopin and Wayne and Roseann Chappell by Rock
and Kim. Tall and small candles are given to the Glory of God.*

Setting II

***= Stand** *(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

*Announcements

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **C:** Amen.

Pastor: Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel as you are able.

Pastor: God of life, you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In + Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **C: Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LBW 60**

***Greeting: Pastor:** 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.**

***Hymn of Praise** **Joy to the World** **LBW 39**

*** Prayer of the Day: Pastor:** The Lord be with you. **C:** And also with you.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.
Hymn: **The First Noel** **LBW 56**
Psalm 148

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7 L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.
Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory LBW 50
***The Verse** “Alleluia” p. 83

***Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40** **C: Glory to you O Lord.**
C: Praise to you O Christ

***Sermon**

*Hymn of the Day

*Nicene Creed

*Prayers of the Church

Pastor: Hear us O God, **C:** Your mercy is great.

Angels We Have Heard on High

LBW 71

p. 84

***Passing of Peace** **Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then be seated.

Offering *The offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

***Offertory** **"Let the Vineyards"** p. 86

***Offertory Prayer**

Pastor: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **C: Amen.**

Liturgy of Holy Communion

***Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus** p. 88

***When our congregation gathered for worship last Sunday evening, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and the love shown to us in Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, and we shared in the holy meal of the Lord's Supper. Now, I bring to you this same word of life, and this same bread and cup of blessing, so that we may share in these gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.**

Gathered at the Lord's Table, we celebrated with thanksgiving that "in the night in which Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me." This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, and this meal is shared with the assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This bread and cup, shared in the gathering of our faith, are now given here for you.

***The Lord's Prayer** p. 91

***Invitation to Communion: Pastor:** Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

***Agnus Dei** **“Lamb of God”** **p. 92**

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

“The body of Christ, given for you.” & “The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

After each, the communicant may say: 'Amen.'

Distribution

Communion Hymn:

Away in a Manger

LBW 67