

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24, 2025

First Lutheran Church

Akeley, MN



GATHERING MUSIC

BELLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN/LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

LBW #45 (vs. 1, 2)

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Joy to the World”

Raylan Stanley

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Pastor: God of hope and steadfast love,

On this night of wonder, we remember the promise we have waited for all Advent: do not be afraid.

Congregation: For the shining star that guides us, for angels’ songs announcing peace, for the little Child in the manger, we give you thanks.

P: We rejoice in the Word made flesh, God-with-us, who comes to dispel our fears and fill our hearts with hope.

C: We behold your love breaking into the world, a light shining in our darkness.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, dwell among us now. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may receive your joy, embrace your courage, and share your hope with all the world.

C: Fill us with your holy light on this holy night, that we may go forth unafraid, carrying your love and your promise wherever we go. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
First Lutheran Church Choir

A SAVIOR'S BIRTH: A Children's Christmas Program

HYMN

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"
LBW #45 (vs. 3, 4)

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem
LBW #41 (vs. 1, 2)

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem
LBW #41 (vs. 3, 4)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Away in the Manger"
Children with Danny Lecy

HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
LBW #60 (vs. 1, 3)

HYMN

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"
WOV #646 (vs. 1, 5)

HYMN

"Joy to the World"
LBW #39 (vs. 1, 2)

HYMN

"Joy to the World"
LBW #39 (vs. 3, 4)

MESSAGE

Pastor Maribeth McGoven

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Breath of Heaven"
First Lutheran Church Women's Choir

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Almighty God,

We praise your name with our offerings and gifts.

C: Thank you, God, for your pure love, born in a manger.

Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen

COMMUNION

P: May the God of silent nights and joy to the world be with you.

C: May the God of angels of be with us.

P: Open your hearts to Christ the Lord, the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

C: May Emmanuel come and dwell in our hearts.

P: Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

C: May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

P: On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger, as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars, we celebrate the gift of Christ our Light, we celebrate the comfort of God's Love, present with us, in the gift of this most holy meal. Come now. Come receive this gift, given for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN

"Silent Night"

BLESSING

P: May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this night and always.

C: Amen.

P: May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

C: Amen.

P: May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your moments and in all your celebrations,

C: Amen.

P: And may Almighty God bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

BELLS

DISMISSAL

P: Now go forth with the light of Jesus and the love of God in your heart, and share it with the world!

C: Amen! Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for spending your Christmas Eve with First Lutheran Church!

You are **always** welcome here!

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am.

Fellowship Time and Children's Activities follow the service at 11:15 am.

Tonight we celebrate the gift of Holy Communion. At First Lutheran Church, **ALL** are welcome to receive this gift from our Lord Jesus Christ. The bread is gluten-free and you may choose wine or grape juice.

The Hymns this evening come from the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW – Green Hymnal) and With One Voice (WOV – Blue Hymnal). Hymnals are located in the pews.

Thank you to all the children and families who helped make our Children's Christmas Pageant so special. A special thank you to Melinda Goehring, Jessica Lecy, and Danny Lecy.

Thank you to the FLC Choir for providing such beautiful music tonight.

Thank you, Christie Semmler for leading the worship music this evening.

Following the service, all are invited to stay for a festive Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall – food, games, prizes, goodies, and plenty of Christmas cheer!

To learn more about First Lutheran, please take a look at our Facebook Page:

First Lutheran Church/Akeley, MN: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064448061888>