



**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD
BLESSING OF THE CHURCH
BLESSING OF LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF BABY KITS**

**January 9, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

WELCOME

+SOLA GRATIA+

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF OUR CHURCH

•We gather on the Community Crossing of our patio to begin today's liturgy with an annual blessing of our church.

In the name of the + Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here.

By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.

As we prepare to ask God's blessing on this house of the church, let us share words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

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.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

INSCRIPTION

•this inscription is made with chalk about the main entrance:

*The magi of old, known as

C Caspar,

M Melchior, and

B Balthasar

followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us

20 two thousand

22 and twenty-two years ago.

+ Christ, bless this house,

+ and remain with us throughout the new year.

O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this place and all who gather here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ, bless this patio...

this place of hospitality for so many who seek an urban oasis, and even their daily bread.

•please follow the procession into the church, pausing where appropriate:

Christ, bless this lounge...

this place of welcome for all your children, every day of the week.

Christ, bless this sanctuary...

this place of worship and praise.

Christ, bless this font...

this place of washing by your word.

•please find your seats, but remain standing there

Christ, bless this ambo...

this place of sounding forth your word.

Christ, bless this table...

this place of feasting on your life.

Christ, continue to bless this congregation...

that we may continue to be your heart in the heart of the city.

Let us pray together:

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**in some traditions, these three letters also stand for the ancient Latin blessing Christe mansionem benedicat, which means "Christ, bless this house"*

OPENING HYMN

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;
 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
 man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell - ing all the dev - il's might;
 grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
 man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring - ing good from ill:
 that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
 and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

+SOLA SCRIPTURA+

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7, 10-14 *(read responsively)*

Give the king your justice, O God,
 and your righteousness to the king's son;
**that he may rule your people righteously
 and the poor with justice;**
 that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
 and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,
 rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

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

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

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

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

May all kings bow down before him,
 and all the nations do him service.

**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,
 the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

He has compassion on the lowly and poor,
 and preserves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,
 and precious is their blood in his sight.**

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.

Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they

saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
 dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
 church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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SERMON

Pastor Kurt

+SOLA FIDE+

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

response: Kathleen Thomerson

•*please repeat after the cantor*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

•*all sing at the end of the prayers:*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
 day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
 cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

NICENE CREED

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

OFFERING

[Give Here](#)

OFFERTORY

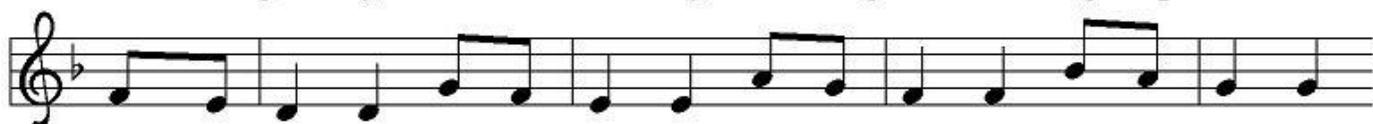
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ZŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

BLESSING OF BABY KITS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

pastor: The eyes of all look to you, O God,
all: **and you give them their food in due season.**

You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

Anywhere your children suffer from heat and cold,
their eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

Where life is war-torn and brims with strife and stress,
their eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

In lands parched with drought and abounding in hunger,
their eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

Where the earth is broken with quakes or wrecked with wind and wave,
their eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

Where poverty is a prison and survival fills the daily hours,
their eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

Here too, where lives are filled with bounty,
our eyes, dear God, are lifted to you.

You open your hand,

satisfying the desire of every living thing.

You open your hand to gather clothing and blankets for wrapping little ones in warmth and love.

God, take our hands in yours.

As this is the season of their need, Lord God,

by grace it is the season due for our serving.

So bless these new baby kits, gracious God, as you have blessed our eyes, our hands, and our hearts in their making,

And bless those who receive them with life—secure, sustainable and beloved. Amen.

*G. Edward Whetstone+
for Lutheran World Relief*

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

COMMUNION LITURGY FOR EPIPHANY

Come and see! The ruler of the earth has come, our Lord born in a stable and raised in the temple, our Lord who will take away from us the heavy burden of our exile, and guide us through this world and the next. Come, let us gather around the table and prepare to meet him.

The Lord be with you. **And also 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. In the wonder and majesty of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**all sing (to the tune of Angels from the Realms of Glory):*

**Holy, holy, Lord most holy, God of pow'r and God of might:
heav'n and earth reveal your glory. Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!
Blessed be the coming Savior. Hail, hosanna, Lord of light!**

*text: metrical Sanctus, Martin A. Seltz (b. 1951)
music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart, 1866
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We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

**all sing:*

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

***Refrain:* Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

**all sing:*

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. *Refrain***

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**all sing:*

**Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. *Refrain***

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

**all sing:*

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain***

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain***

text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

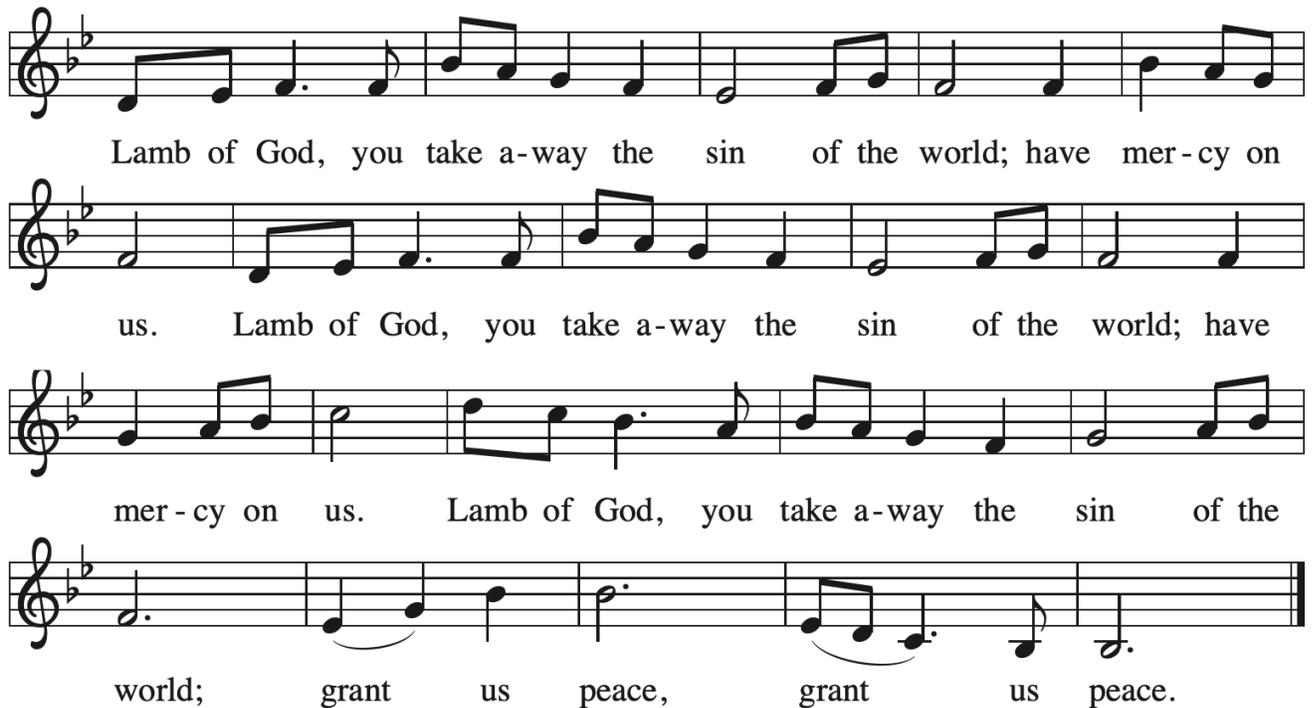
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let every heart receive your Savior.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

**We continue to practice a conservative and cautious approach to communion. The pastor will handle each host with tongs and after intinction place it onto a piece of parchment. The Worship Assistants will then place it on a credence table for you. Please take it and receive the elements of grace; broken and shed for you. There are small black trash receptacles on either side of the chancel for you to deposit the paper.*

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

The First Noel



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north - west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional

Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go now, seek out the Christ wherever he may be found,
and share the good news with all who bear him no ill will.

Bring light to those in thick darkness,
a voice to those no one speaks for,
and hope to those no one cares for.

And may God make you a sharer in the promised light.
May Christ Jesus fill you with his sense of what is right.

And may the Holy Spirit be to you like rain
that gives life to the fertile earth.

SENDING SONG

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting with a '1' and the subsequent lines starting with '2', '3', and '4' respectively. The lyrics are: '1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door; 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born, 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song! show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day. pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor. bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn. Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.'

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Epiphany Blessing of a Church

*adapted from Blessing for a Home at Epiphany
from Sundays and Seasons 2021, Year B*

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offering prayer, and dismissal

from Sundays and Seasons 2020, Year B

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closing blessing

by Nathan Nettleton

*a gift to the wider Church from the South Yarra Community Baptist Church
Melbourne, Australia*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ **Congregational Meeting Part II**

The Congregational Meeting Part II will be held on Sunday, January 30, after the service. We will be reviewing the annual reports.

+ **FLC Book Group**

January's selection is *There There* by Tommy Orange. We will meet Thursday, January 20, 6:00 p.m. (note time change!) in the FLC Church Library. Make good on that New Year's Resolution to "Read More"! Join us for discussion and fellowship—you will be warmly welcomed. Carol Schultz will host.

+ **Email Distribution**

Each week we mail out the weekly Heartbeat newsletter and the Rapid Pulse with information about worship that week. If you would like to be added to the email list, you may either send an email to administrator@firstlutheransd.org or go to our website (firstlutheransd.org). Toward the bottom of the page, you will see a place that says "Join The First Lutheran Church Newsletter," with a space to enter your email address.

Pastor	the Rev. Kurt Christenson
Organ	Bill Engel
Violin	Omari Abdul-Alim
Parish Administrator	Hannah DeMers
Facilities	Wayne Boss
Worship Technician	Brian Jensen
Assisting Minister	Kathryn Kanaan
Lector	Shaun Travers
Cantor	Jan Neuhaus
Singers	Elizabeth Connolly, Paul Engel, Jan Neuhaus, Billie Thompson
Usher	Ruth Clayton

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*First Lutheran Church worships and works on the unceded territory of the
Kumeyaay People*

First Lutheran Church

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