

February 2, 2025
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
10:00am Service with Holy Communion
Pastor Ben Groth, Preaching and Presiding
Matthew Harrison, Director of Music

Welcome!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship! If this is your first time here, please fill out the yellow welcome card in the pew and place it in the offering plate if you would like to be contacted by Pastor Ben, would like more information about the church, or would like to sign up for our weekly news email.

Restrooms: Our restrooms are located downstairs at the bottom of the stairways at the back of the sanctuary. There are signs about which side has the men's and women's restrooms. There are any-gender solo restrooms in the education wing, one of which has a changing table. Please knock and ensure no one else is inside!

Care and Prayer: If you would like to request prayer or speak with Pastor Ben about struggles, joys, or anything else, please feel free to email him at bgroth@1stlutherannb.org or call/text at 860-348-3966.

Children: We love having children in worship! At the front of the sanctuary there is a "pray ground" with lots of space to spread out and sit comfortably, some toys, and a great collection of books for different ages. All children and caretakers are welcome to use that space anytime during the service!

Volunteering: We have lots of opportunities at First Lutheran to volunteer and serve our community. Our Monday Morning Mingle free meal takes place from 8-9am each Monday, while our free Pasta Dinners take place from 5-6pm each Wednesday. Both of these programs can always use volunteers. If you'd like to help out, or are interested in helping with worship or other things at First Lutheran, please contact Pastor Ben.

Coffee Hour: After the service, please join us downstairs for refreshments, and a chance to get to know one another better!

Gathering

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A brief silence

P God, our rock and refuge,

C **we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

P The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken:
The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.


C Amen.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN # 705

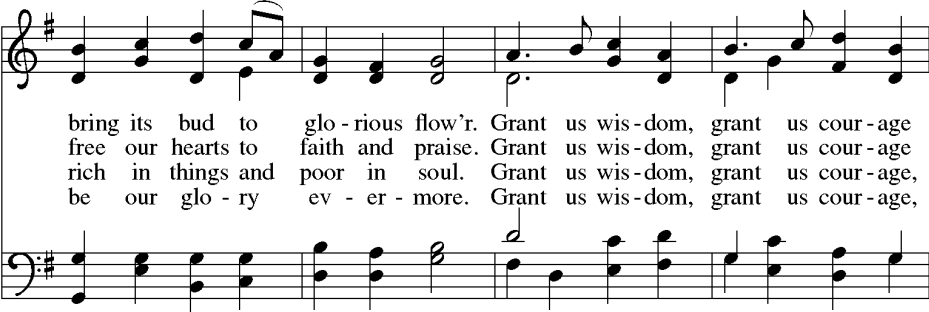
God of Grace and God of Glory



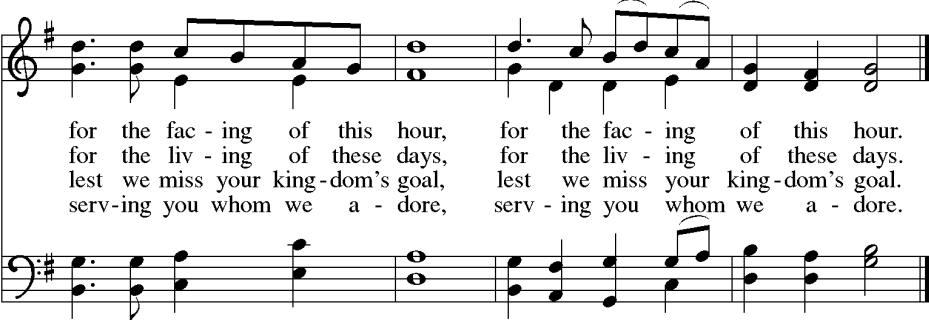
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

THE GREETING

- P** 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Almighty and ever-living God,
- C** **Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated

Word

THE FIRST READING

- A** A reading from Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’;
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.” The word of the Lord.

- C** **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM 71:1-6

- A** ¹In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
- C** ²**In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**
- A** ³Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.
- C** ⁴**Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
- A** ⁵For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.
- C** ⁶**I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's
womb you have been my strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

THE SECOND READING

- A** A reading from first Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:21-30

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ²¹Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'"²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pr. Ben Groth

Please stand as able

THE HYMN OF THE DAY # 514

O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess the Christian faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. Pray for our military especially Kevin, Wesley, Milland, Kienen and Shawn. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness especially Cindy, Holly, Scott, Sandra, Jim, Jane, Andrew, Pat, Barbara, Lin, and Jim. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- A** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
- C** **Amen.**

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**

You may share with one another a sign of God's peace.

Peace be with you. **R** **Peace be with you.**

Please be seated.

The OFFERING is received as the Lord's Table is prepared.

OFFERING MUSIC

Choir

The offering is brought to the altar during the offertory response.

Please stand as able

POST OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup, you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C Amen.

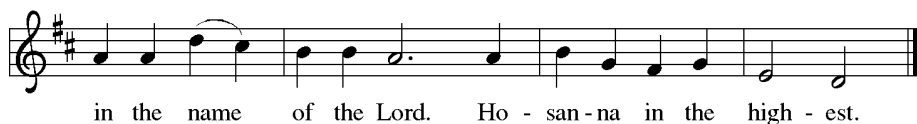
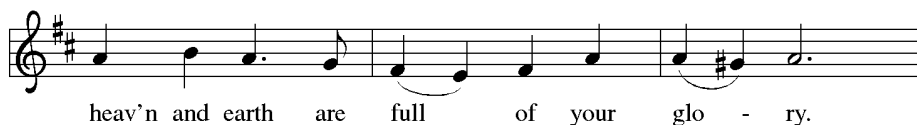
Holy Communion

THE DIALOGUE

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.

THE PREFACE

- ☐ 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, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ *Here the pastor continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- ☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD



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.

THE COMMUNION HYMN # 644

Although I Speak



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my
 2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
 3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
 4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
 vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
 end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
 one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
 dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
 see: then we will see love face to face.
 mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Sending

Please stand as able

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
 Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
 now and forever.

C Amen.

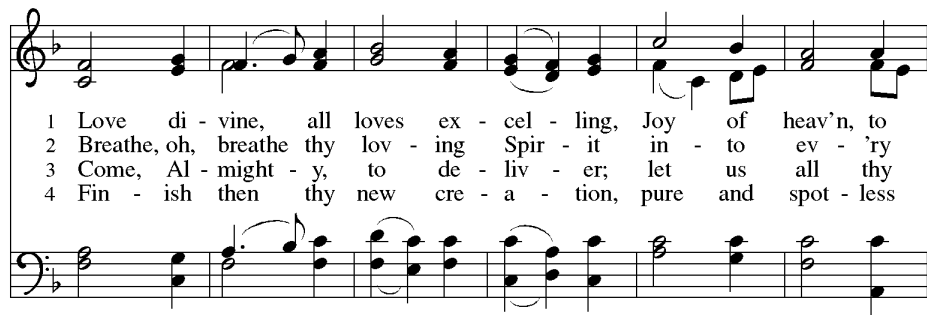
THE BENEDICTION

☐ God, bless you and keep you, † Jesus, grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit, send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

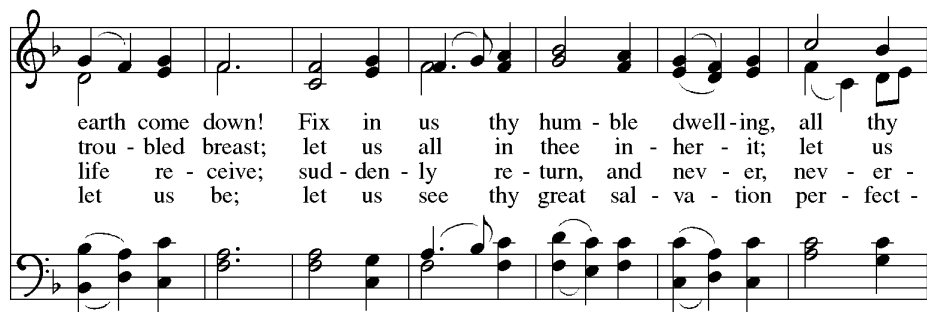
☑ Amen.

THE SENDING HYMN # 315

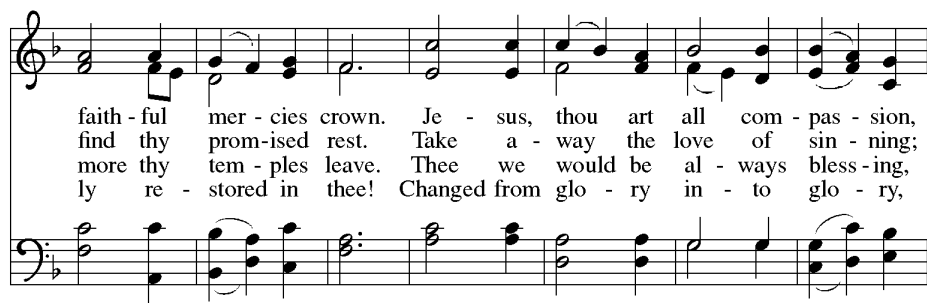
Love Divine All Loves Excelling



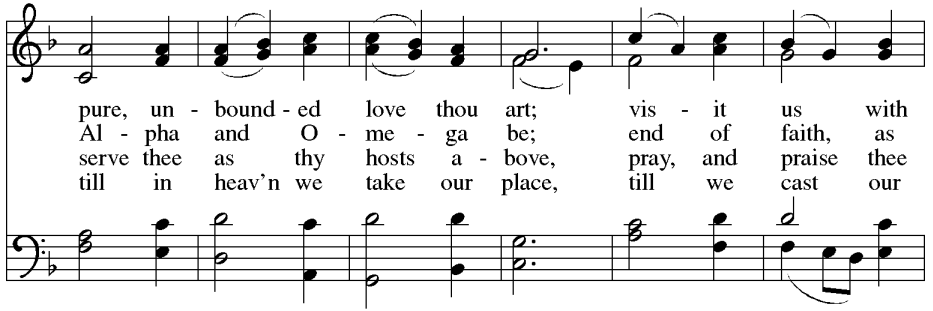
1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

THE DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Live in hope.
- B Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



**Please be seated
for our annual meeting**

*Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Nancy Peterson*

*Communion Assistant
Gail Bates*

*Reader
Gail Bates*

*Ushers
Frank Murphy, Cheryl Brideaux*

and

*Videographer
Eric Nilsson*

*for volunteering
to be a part of the service this morning*

People Power for 2/9/2025

*Worship Assistant - Susan Bisaccia
Communion Assistant - Laurie Kosich*

Reader - Kris Fletcher

Ushers - Chloe, John Henry and Ellis Groth

calendar

- February 3** - Monday, 7am - Morning Mingle
- February 4** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- February 4** - Tuesday, 5pm - AA Meeting
- February 4** - Tuesday, 7pm - Executive Meeting
- February 5** - Wednesday, 1pm - Mission/Outreach
- February 5** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- February 5** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- February 5** - Wednesday, 5pm - AA Meeting
- February 5** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- February 7** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- February 9** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- February 9** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- February 9 - Get-Together in Fellowship Hall after the Service for Pastor Will's Retirement**
- February 10** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- February 11** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- February 11** - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts
- February 11** - Tuesday, 5pm - AA Meeting
- February 12** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- February 12** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- February 12** - Wednesday, 5pm - AA Meeting
- February 12** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- February 14** - Friday, 2pm - Cleaning Company
- February 16** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- February 16** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- February 16** - Sunday, 10am - Choir Sings
- February 17** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- February 18** - Tuesday, 10am - Cleaning Company
- February 18** - Tuesday, 5pm - AA Meeting
- February 18** - Tuesday, 6pm - Bible Study
- February 18** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council

Monday Morning Mingle 8am-9am
Wednesday Come-As- You-Are Worship Service 4:30pm
Wednesday Pasta Dinner 5pm-5:45pm
Clothing by appointment only. Please call Marianne Farr
for more information (860)-637-6460

PRAYER LIST

Please note: Prayer names will remain for two weeks unless renewed in the church office. Named in parentheses are those who submitted the names they follow.

Cindy Pavano; Holly Erickson; Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney); Sandra Quarello, Jim Mullin (Susan Bisaccia); Jane Landry (Jane Holmstrom); Andrew Fletcher (Kris Fletcher); Pat Bates (Gail Bates); Barbara, Lin, Jim (Eileen Buys).

Serving in the armed forces: Kevin Dubois; Wesley Givens (Beverly Walsh); Zack; Millind; Kienen Dyer (Barbara Pond); Shawn Dubois.

OUR VISION

First for what is first: Christ, our Lord
First in nurturing youth and families in faith
First with inspiring worship, fellowship and service
First by reaching out to all

First Lutheran Church of the Reformation

A community of believers in Jesus Christ

77 Franklin Square, New Britain, Connecticut
(860) 224-2475 + www.1stlutherannb.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.