

February 8, 2026

Epiphany 5

10:00am service with Holy Communion

The Reverend 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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as able

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of life,

C 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.

P 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.

GATHERING HYMN # 553

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies



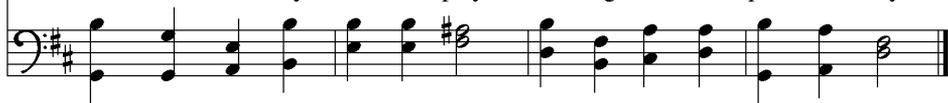
1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
 2 Dark and cheer-less is the morn un - ac - com - pa - nied by thee;
 3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;



Sun of righ-teous-ness, a - rise, tri-umph o'er the shades of night;
 joy-less is the day's re - turn, till thy mer-cy's beams I see,
 fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief;



Day-spring from on high, be near; Day-star, in my heart ap - pear.
 till they in - ward light im - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
 more and more thy - self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.



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 Let us pray. Lord God,

C with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

A A reading from Isaiah:

¹Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

²Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³“Why do we fast, but you do not see?

Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-9

Read Responsively

A ¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!

C ²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

A ³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

C ⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**

A ⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

C ⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

A ⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

C ⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

A ⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness
stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

THE SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-12

A A reading from first Corinthians:

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. 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

Matthew 5:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P Jesus said: ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

THE SERMON

Pastor Ben Groth

Please stand as able

THE HYMN OF THE DAY # 677

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us confess our faith in 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.

PRAYERS

A As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church,
 the whole community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

A Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized
 true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a
 troubled world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of
 violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion and bring
 peace to war zones. Protect those in our military especially Nick.
 Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who
 experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or
 persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving especially Linda,
 Eileen, Tom, Allen, Scott, Lin, John, Izzy and Ruth. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

- A** Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ. Merciful God,
- G** **receive our prayer.**
- A** Your saints rejoice at your heavenly banquet. We give thanks for their lives of faith, trusting that we also will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,
- G** **receive our prayer.**
- A** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.
- G** **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

Let us greet one another in the name of the Lord.
Peace be with you. **R** **Peace be with you.**

Please be seated

THE OFFERING IS COLLECTED.

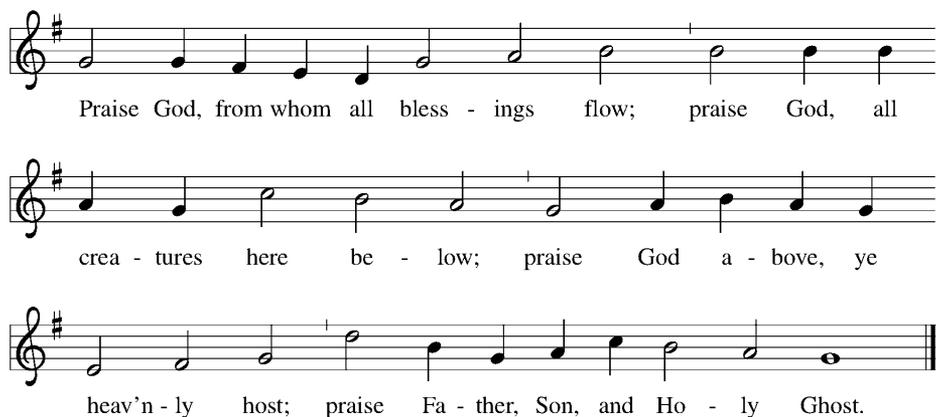
OFFERTORY MUSIC

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

Please stand as able

POST OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God



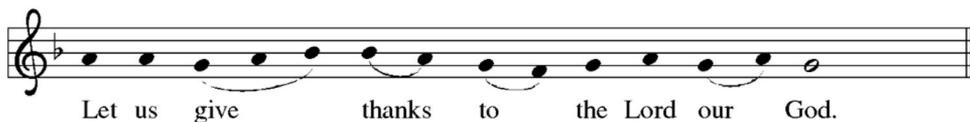
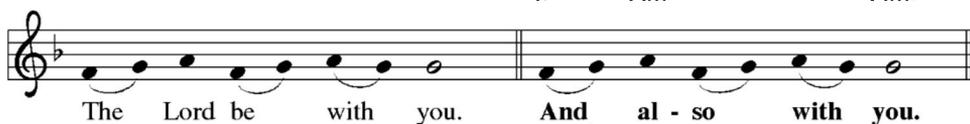
Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** 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.

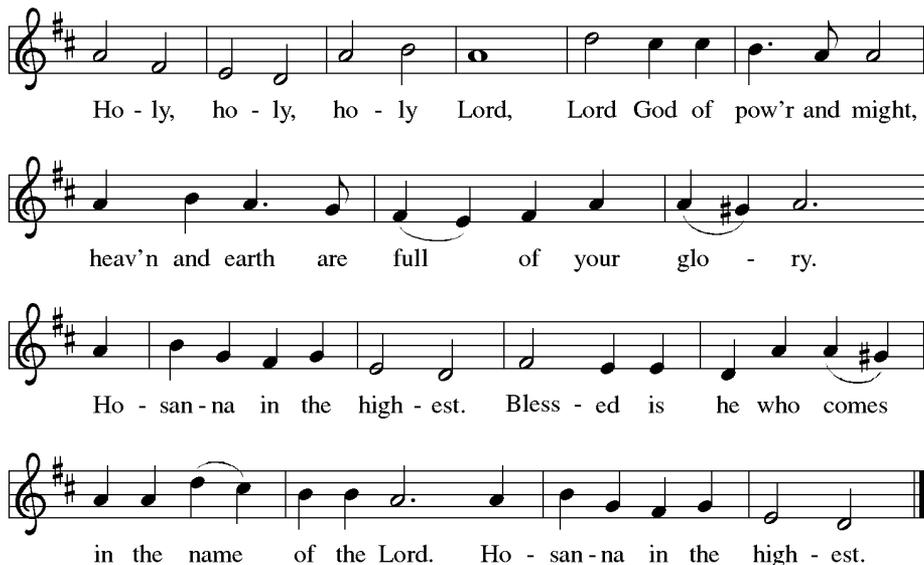
Meal

THE INITIAL DIALOG



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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 THE LORD'S TABLE

☐ Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 Come to the table; taste and see.

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



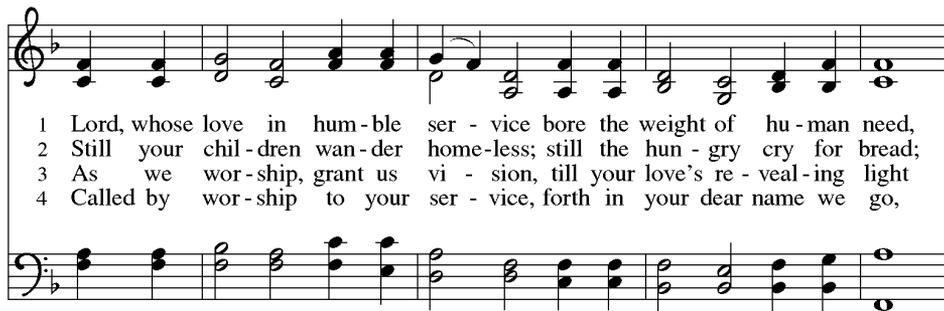
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



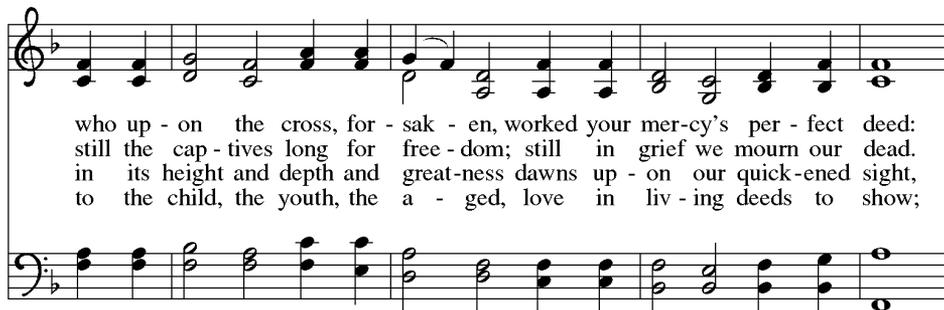
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION HYMN # 712

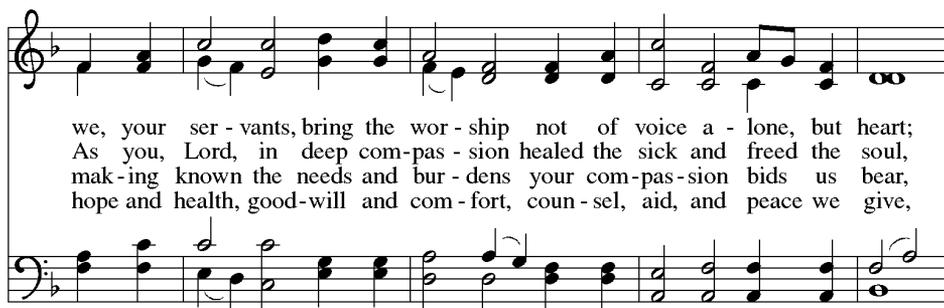
Lord, Whose Love



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

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 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.**

THE BENEDICTION

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

C **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN # 866 We are Marching in the Light of God

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice, and love mercy.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

*Thanks to
Worship Assistant
Gail Bates*

*Communion Assistant
Elaine Borselle*

*Reader
Chloe Groth*

*Ushers
Chloe, John Henry, and Ellis Groth*

*Coffee Hour Goodies
NA*

and

*Videographer
Eric Nilsson*

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

People Power for 2/15/2026

Worship Assistant - Robert Buchholz

Communion Assistant - John Halverson

Reader - Louise Patterson

Ushers - John Halverson, Elaine Borselle

Coffee Hour Goodies

Annual Meeting - Just Coffee

calendar

- February 9** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- February 10** - Tuesday, 4pm - Worship & Arts Meeting
- February 10** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- February 11** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- February 11** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- February 11** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- February 11** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- February 15** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- February 15** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- February 15** - Sunday, 11:30am - Art Class
- February 16** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- February 16** - Monday, 5pm - Soup Dinner
- February 17** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- February 17** - Tuesday, 7pm - Council Meeting
- February 18** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- February 18** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- February 18** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- February 18** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- February 22** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- February 22** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- February 23** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle
- February 23** - Monday, 5pm - Pizza Night
- February 24** - Tuesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- February 25** - Wednesday, 4:30pm - Worship Service
- February 25** - Wednesday, 5-6pm - Pasta Dinner
- February 25** - Wednesday, 6pm - Choir
- February 25** - Wednesday, 6pm - AA Meeting
- March 1** - Sunday, 9:30am - Prayer Group
- March 1** - Sunday, 10am - Worship with Holy Communion
- March 2** - Monday, 8am - Morning Mingle

Monday Morning Mingle 7am - 9am
 Clothing Rack - Wednesday - 4pm
 Worship Service - Wednesday 4:30pm - 5pm
 Pasta Dinner - Wednesday 5pm - 6pm
 Community Choir - Wednesday - 6pm

*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.

Linda Carlson; Eileen Buys; Tom Abucewicz
 Scott Johnson (Carol McQueeney);
 Lin (Eileen Buys)
 John Johnson, Izzy Garcia, Ruth Fongemie (Jane Holmstrom)

In the military:

Nick, deployed to the Middle East (Laurie Kosich)

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.