

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Activity	Location
Sunday 12/14/2025	
9:15 a.m. Children's Choir	Lower Music Room
9:15 a.m. Faith Formation	Family Life Center
10:30 a.m. Worship	Sanctuary & Online
12:00 p.m. Bells Rehearsal	Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. Lion's Club-Kids' Shopping	Family Life Center
5:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner	Meet Here
6:00 p.m. Listening for the Word	Gallery
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Monday 12/15/2025	
11:30 p.m. Quilters Group	Quilt Room
6:00 p.m. Kids' Music Class	Lower Music Room
6:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous	Gallery
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Tuesday 12/16/2025	
9:00 a.m. SHOP Group	Gallery
9:00 a.m. Pickleball	Family Life Center
6:00 p.m. Lion's Club	Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m. Choir	Music Room
7:30 p.m. Band	Music Room
Wednesday 12/17/2025	
9:00 a.m. Pickleball	Family Life Center
12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting	Gallery
5:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling	Meet Here
Thursday 12/18/2025	
12:00 p.m. Bible Study	Gallery & Online
4:00 p.m. Burnished Brass Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:00 p.m. Worship	Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drum Class	Family Life Center
Friday 12/19/2024	
12:00 p.m. Citi Boi Xmas Toy Giveaway	Gym and Fellowship Hall
6:00 p.m. Crafty Group	Gallery
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	First Floor Education Room
Saturday 12/20/2025	
8:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
8:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast	Upper Room

The eternal candle is given by Anna Alderman in memory of Ernie Alderman.



Blue Christmas
Thursday, December 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH – Muskegon, Michigan

WELCOME

Welcome to this time of worship. We are especially grateful for those of you who are visitors. You make us more whole. First Lutheran is a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church body committed to the welcome of the stranger and to the questions and doubts of all seekers.

CONTACT US

To contact Lorey Montgomery in the church office, call: 231-744-1522 or email at: office@firstlutheranmuskegon.org

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Pastoral Assistant Paula Dusseljee:

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Directors of H.S. Youth: Jeff & Laura Lucht:

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Coordinator of Education and Youth Ministry: Emma Johnston

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Try our Giving App! Visit the [Apple Store](#) or [Google Play](#) to download “GivePlus Church.”

Use the “Simply Giving” program to make regular donations from your checking or savings account. [Download the Simply Give form](#) from our website, complete the form, attach a copy of a voided check and mail it to the church office for processing.

The flowers on the altar are given by Barb Bonifield and Laura Eller in memory of Gordon.

Participants in Today's Service

Ellen Schoepf, pastor of Edgewood Lutheran
Lisa VanLonkhuyzen, pastor of Covenant Church
Mackenzie Jager, pastor of First Presbyterian
Paula Dusseljee, pastoral assistant of First Lutheran
Bill Uetricht, pastor of First Lutheran
Paula Dusseljee, pastoral assistant at First Lutheran
Elise McDonald, Musician
Barb Elliott, Sande Borushko, song leaders
Eva Backus, Joel Westerholm, soloist and musician

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS COMING SUNDAY

Assisting Minister

Lector Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Servers Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Acolytes Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Head Usher

Ushers Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Junior Church

Song Leaders

Sound System

Information Stations

Counters

Communion Bread

Communion Set-Up

Clean-Up Sun. 10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Bus Driver Pick Up

Bus Driver Drop Off

Paula Dusseljee

Mary Schoonover

Evie DiPiazza, Annette Jack

Ben and Noah Rop

Kent Johnson

Tara Plekes, Sandy Young

Ben Werling

Susan Besteman

Sande Borushko, Barb Elliott

Karl Ziemelis

Lisa Le, Jean Boxer

Diane Kroll, Jenny Lindell

Amy Werling

Mary Will

Bert Goodman

Dick Miller and Stella Dial

Jim Elliott

Jim Elliott

Song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" #257 (red)
(vv. 5,6,8)

Prayers

Offering /Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving (screen)

Holy, Holy (screen)

The Eucharistic Prayer

Communion

"Come to the Table" #481 (red)
"What Feast of Love" #487 (red)
"How Long, O God" #698 (red)

Post-Communion Prayer

Words of Comfort

Leader: Time after time, the angels break in with a greeting:
Cong: "Do not fear"

Leader: So when our days are heavy and our sleep grows restless,
Cong: we believe that God is near.

Leader: When fear feels greater than hope,
**Cong: we'll look for signs of new life;
we'll take a step toward God with shaking knees;
we'll stand together, and we won't let fear stop us.**

Leader: When we're desperate for Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, we'll remember:
Cong: we are the hands and feet of Christ, made in God's own image, called to be light-bearers in a fearful world.

Leader: For we know that, no matter how it may seem,
Cong: God is here, among us, even now. Amen.

Hymn "Christ, Be Our Light" #715 (red)

Benediction

Announcements

We will **not be having Wednesday night dinners** until February 18, 2026.

Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

During the **December 21 worship service**, we will experience the service of **Lessons and Carols**, involving the children of our congregation. Don't miss this special occasion!

The **sign-up sheet** for hosting **coffee hour in 2026** is on the information station by the office. Please pick a date to host coffee hour.

The church **office will be closed** on December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday.

Our **chili cook-off** and **annual meeting** will take place on Sunday, January 26 following worship.

No faith formation classes on December 28. We will reconvene on January 4.

All **middle school and high school** young people are invited to the **annual progressive dinner** that is being held on Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m. Meet at the church.

Bring your Pre-K through 5th grader to an **Elementary Christmas Party** on Sunday, December 21st after worship. There will be crafts, games, and cookie decorating! RSVP to Emma Johnston via text at 712-395-0502.

Experience with us an evening of **Christmas caroling** on Wednesday, December 17. Meet here at the church at 5:30 p.m. to take part in the fun! The event will end at the Samaritas building in downtown Muskegon for hot chocolate and snacks.

Order of Service

"Blue Christmas"

Gathering Music	"Stillness"	Solo
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Welcome and Introduction

Advent Candle Lighting (screen)

Leader: Even through the longest nights,

Cong: we keep vigil.

Leader: When days are long and we grow weary,

Cong: we keep vigil.

Leader: When we're running out of hope,

Cong: we keep vigil.

Leader: When peace feels like a pipe dream,

Cong: we keep vigil.

Leader: When joy seems like a luxury we can't afford,
we keep vigil.

Leader: When the world is more full of hate than love,
we keep vigil.

Leader: When we're desperate for Christ, Emmanuel, God-With-Us,

Cong: we keep vigil.

Leader: Let us keep vigil, for God is surely with us.

Passing the Peace and Light

Opening Song “Drive out the Darkness” (insert)

Opening Greeting and Prayer

First Reading Isaiah 64

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From

ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people. Your holy cities have become a wilderness, Zion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation. Our holy and beautiful house where our ancestors praised you, has been burned by fire, and all our pleasant places have become ruins. After all this, will you restrain yourself, O Lord? Will you keep silent, and punish us so severely?

Homily

**Sung Response “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” #257 (red)
(vv. 1-4)**

Second Reading **Isaiah 54:10-14**

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

7 O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about
 to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with
 sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of
 jewels, and all your wall of precious stones. All your children shall
 be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your
 children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be
 far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it
 shall not come near you.

Homily

