

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Activity

### Location

#### Sunday 12/28/2025

10:30 a.m. Worship Service      Sanctuary & Online  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting      First Floor Education Room

#### Monday 12/29/2025

6:00 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous      Gallery  
7:00 p.m. Cardio Drumming      Family Life Center  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting      First Floor Education Room

#### Tuesday 12/30/2025      Bulletin Deadline

9:00 a.m. Pickleball      Family Life Center  
9:00 a.m. SHOP Group      Gallery  
2:00 p.m. Open Gym for Kids      Family Life Center  
9:00 p.m. Compline      Facebook

#### Wednesday 12/31/2025

9:00 a.m. Pickleball      Family Life Center

#### Thursday 01/01/2026      Office Closed All Day

#### Friday 01/02/2026

7:00 p.m. A.A. Meeting      First Floor Education Room

#### Saturday 01/03/2026



**Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his splendor is above the earth  
and the heavens.**

**Psalm 148:13, NIV**



**1 Christmas  
Sunday, December 28, 2025  
10:30 a.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](mailto:office@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)

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**Lisa Ziemelis—Director of digital communications:**  
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**Shar Bourdon—music director:**  
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**Directors of H.S. Youth: Jeff & Laura Lucht:**  
[JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:JLLucht@firstlutheranmuskegon.org)

**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.



You can scan the QR code for easy giving to First!

The flowers on the altar were given last week by Jeff Cooke in memory of Sharon Cooke.

They are given this week by Eva Backus in honor of her 19th wedding anniversary.

## THOSE WHO SERVE 12/28

### Assisting Minister

**Lector** Thurs. 6:00 p.m.

**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.

Bert Goodman  
Mark Thogerson  
Mark Thogerson  
Mary Schoonover, Bev Uetracht  
Peyton Mock  
Jeff Lucht  
Bill and Jan Naymick  
Liam Simons  
Lisa Ziemelis

### 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

Mark Thogerson, Mike Sweet  
Mark Besteman/Nate Johnston  
Robin Policka, Joanne Johnson  
Diana Duell, Sandra Fluharty  
Connie Larson  
Connie Larson  
Jean Boxer  
The Polickas  
No bus available  
No bus available

## THOSE WHO SERVE 01/04

### Assisting Minister

**Lector** Thurs. 6:00 p.m.

**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.

Joel Westerholm  
N/A  
Andy Luther  
Mark Thogerson, Annette Jack  
Open  
Open  
Bill and Jan Naymick  
Stan Daszko

### 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

Emma Johnston  
Joel Westerholm, Eva Backus  
Jeff Thomas  
Robin Policka, Ruth Basch  
Diana Duell, Sandra Fluharty  
Evie DiPiazza  
Evie DiPiazza  
Evie DiPiazza  
Barb Bonifield  
Amber Thomas  
Amber Thomas

## Some Fun Facts About New Years That You Never Knew You Needed to Know

- ♦ The celebration of New Year's Day dates back over 4,000 years to ancient Babylon.
- ♦ Eating 365 black-eyed peas is believed to bring good luck to each day in the new year.
- ♦ The first New Year's Day parade in the United States was held in Philadelphia in 1901.
- ♦ The tradition of kissing someone at midnight is believed to ward off loneliness in the upcoming year.
- ♦ Over 50 tons of trash are left in Times Square after New Year's Eve celebrations.
  - ♦ (About 3,000 pounds of that is confetti!)
- ♦ In many cultures, it is traditional to make noise at midnight on New Year's Eve to scare away evil spirits and bring good luck for the new year.
- ♦ The tradition of setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve dates back to ancient China.
- ♦ The image of a baby representing the New Year dates back to ancient Greece and Rome, symbolizing rebirth and the start of a new cycle.
- ♦ In countries like India and Israel, it is common to plant trees on New Year's Day as a symbol of renewal and hope for the future.

## Announcements

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

Sign up to **host coffee hour** in 2026. The sign-up sheet is on the information station by the office.

The **2026 sign-up sheets for sponsoring altar flowers** and the **eternal candle** are posted on the bulletin board near the office. Sign up for the weekend you would like. If you sign up for altar flowers, the cost is on the sheet. You will not get billed for these. You can pay for your flowers in our office.

Our **leadership retreat** will take place on January 24th beginning at 9:00 a.m. All council members and all members of our ministries are urged to be present. Our time together will end with lunch.

Our **chili cook-off** and **annual meeting** will take place on Sunday, February 1 following worship. Sign-up sheets for bringing soup or chili are on either information station.

**There will be no Thursday night worship** on Thursday January 1st.

There will be **no Thursday Bible** study until Thursday, January 8.

**The First Lutheran staff would like to thank you the congregation for your generous financial gift at Christmas time. It is truly a joy to serve you all.**

A **sledding event** for middle school and high youth has been planned for Saturday, January 17 beginning at 1:00 Plan to join us!

Please **join us for a trivia night** on January 22 at 7:15 p.m. following Thursday worship. This is part of a synod-wide wellness event.

# Order of Service

“One of Us”

Prelude

Order of Confession (screen)

Hymn “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” #275 (red)

Greeting (screen)

Hymn of Praise “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #270 (red)

Salutation/Prayer of the Day

Special Music “Were You There on that Christmas Night?”  
Emily Traub and Mary Schoonover

First Reading Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148 “Praise the Lord”



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Second Reading Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel Verse (screen)

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:13-23

Children’s Sermon/Noisy Offering/Junior Church

*This month’s noisy offering will benefit True North’s EmPower program.*

Hymn “We Three Kings” (screen)

Sermon

Hymn “’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” #284 (red)

Announcements/Prayers/Peace

Offering/Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving (screen)

Holy, Holy (screen)

The Lord’s Prayer (screen)

## Communion

“All Are Welcome” (screen)

“What Child is This?” #296 (red)

“In the Bleak Midwinter” #294 (red)

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” #290 (red)

Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” #288 (red)

Benediction/Dismissal

Postlude

## Readings for Next Weekend

(January 04)

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm

Psalm 147:12-20

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel Reading

John 1:10-18