

Christmas Eve  
4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

*Welcome to First English Lutheran Church as we celebrate Jesus' birth!*

*First English's mission is to be a welcoming, worshiping community rooted in the city of Butler and making Christ known in words and deeds.*

*Through worship and learning, prayer and feeding hungry people, we seek to honor the image of God in every person. If you have questions about our congregation or about who Lutheran Christians are and what we believe, please know that our pastors would love to talk with you!*

*The order for tonight's worship service is found in this worship folder. The congregation is invited to participate by praying the parts in bold print and by joining in the hymns, which are found in the red book in your pew.*

WELCOME

GATHERING

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

At Christmas, God came to be with us!

**At Christmas, God came to be with us!**

In baptism, God is with us!

**In baptism, God is with us!**

We praise you, O God, for baptism!

**We praise you, O God, for baptism!**

We need water to drink.

**We need water to drink.**

Babies need water to grow.

**Babies need water to grow.**

We praise you, O God, for Jesus.

**We praise you, O God, for Jesus.**

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

**We praise you, O God, for baptism.**

We praise you, because Jesus is with us!

**We praise you, because Jesus is with us!**

### **PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“O Come, all ye Faithful”

sts. 1-3

Red Book #283

### **DIALOGUE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O come let us adore him:

**There’s hope for everyone!**

Tonight, heaven meets earth:

**There’s hope for everyone!**

Jesus is born; he is our king;

**There’s peace for everyone!**

Before the shepherds, angels sing:

**There’s peace for everyone!**

Tell it out, what we’ve seen with our eyes:

**There’s love for everyone!**

Tell it out, what we’ve heard with our ears:

**There’s love for everyone!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray: O God the Son, high and holy, you humbled yourself to be born like us so that we might live with you, bring us with the shepherds to hear the song of the angels and to kneel before the manger, that like them we may give you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, worship and praise.

**Amen.**

## WORD

**READING:** Isaiah 9:2-7

### **CAROL**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” sts. 1 and 2 Red Book #279

**READING** The Christmas Gospel According to Luke, Part One

### **CAROL**

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” sts. 1 and 2 Red Book #282

**READING:** The Christmas Gospel according to Luke, Part Two

### **CAROL**

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” sts. 3 and 4 Red Book #282

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON AND HANGING OF JESSE TREE ORNAMENT**

### **CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Red Book #289

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Having heard the message of peace brought by the angels, let us bring before God our prayers for the needs of the world.

*The congregation may kneel or sit.*

God of love and light, the birth of Jesus brings your love into the world. Help us to know your love and to share it with others. Be with Christians in faraway lands as they celebrate Christmas and keep them safe. God of Grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your authority is over the nations. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and food and medicine where they are needed. We remember especially the people of Yemen, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Congo, and all others who are hurting... God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect babies and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women who are expecting babies, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You chose shepherds watching their flocks as the first to hear the angels' song. Bring good news to those who work while we are celebrating and sleeping. Give them strength for their duties and rest when morning comes. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those who are grieving or missing loved ones, and befriend those with broken hearts. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have died into your loving arms. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Christ child be with you always!  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

### **CAROL**

"The First Noel"                      sts. 1 and 2                      Red Book #300

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let's give our thanks to God!

**It's right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you, God,

For sending your Son, Jesus to be born like us,

In a city called Bethlehem,

which means "house of bread."

We thank you that his bed was a manger,

Where animals found their food.

We thank you, O God, for feeding us.

**We praise you, O God, for bread.**

On the night, when he was betrayed,

He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Take, eat, this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, 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.

As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore, O God,

as we take this bread and cup,

we remember him in the manger;

we remember him on the cross;

we remember him rising from the dead;

we look forward to his coming again!

Come again, Lord Jesus!

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

We pray for your Spirit,  
Who leads us in love and service.  
Make our city a house of bread, where no one is hungry.  
Make our homes into mangers, filled with forgiveness and love.  
Make us one with your people around the world and throughout time.  
Make us all into one people, your body.  
Come Holy Spirit!  
**Come, Holy Spirit!**

With Christ, in Christ, through Christ, we praise you, O God, in the power and love of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

United as members of Christ's family, we pray as he taught us with one heart and voice:

**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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION**

*You are invited to receive Holy Communion tonight. Lutherans believe that the body and blood of Christ are present with the bread and wine. Our bread tonight is gluten-free. If you can only receive either bread or wine (but not both) please know that you still receive the full communion.*

#### **SONGS DURING COMMUNION**

"What Child is This?"                      Red Book #296  
"Away in a Manger"                         Red Book #277

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**CANDLE-LIGHTING AT THE MANGER**

**CLOSING HYMN**

“Silent Night”

Red Book #281

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel and The Rev. Ryan Fitch	<b>Presiding Ministers</b>
The Rev. Ryan Fitch	
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Melody Kamerer	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Schaney Kamerer	<b>Acolyte</b>
Alex Kamerer	<b>Crucifer</b>
Kevin Mathias	<b>Organist</b>
Karen and Bob Domanski	<b>Ushers</b>
Roxanne Glagola	<b>Altar Guild</b>

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS and POINSETTIAS** are given to the glory of God by: Dorothy Croupe, in loving memory of her husband, Clyde Croupe; Susan

Farrell; Joan & Ted Giese; Tracy Gullickson; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Mollie & Larry Hibbs; Jessie & Josh Kamerer; Sandy & Norm Lefebvre; Signe Mitchell; Zema & George Schaney; Brandi & Brandon Stein; Pr. Kimberly & Edwin van Driel; Judy & Bill Vilcheck

**CHRISTMAS TREE** contributions made by: Susan Badger; Jack & Amy Beiler; Thelma Cross; Merab Drennen; Bob & Karen Domanski; Danna Drescher; Susan Farrell; Tracy Gullickson; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Ron & Linda Huey; Brenda Ihlenfeld; Norm & Sandy Lefebvre; Jack & Sue Lehew; Frank & Carol Miller; Signe Mitchell; Grace Shields; Marilyn Shoup; John & Yvonne Thickey; Bill & Judy Vilcheck; Brent & Laura Warmbrod; Joseph and Patricia Zupancic

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS** to support First English's ministry may be made at the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary or online at [www.firstenglishbutler.org](http://www.firstenglishbutler.org).