

**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 pastor 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.*

**PRELUDE**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"	- Ludwig Lenel
"Von Himmel hoch"	- Paul Kickstat
"How Silently, How Silently"	- Wilbur Held
Variations on "Il est né"	- Franklin Ashdown
"What Is This Fragrance"	- French Traditional Carol, Linda Mathias, <i>soprano</i>

**WELCOME**

*The congregation may stand.*

**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!**

### **GATHERING 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!**



Holy God,  
On this holy night,  
Your son was born in our world.  
Help us love others as he has loved us.  
We pray, O God:  
**Let your peace come.**

Have mercy on Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan  
And on all people trapped in war:  
That hope would be born even when all seems hopeless, we pray, O God.  
**Let your peace come.**

Watch over to those who work this night while we celebrate:  
Firefighters, medical workers, police officers, those in our military.  
Help them to do their jobs well and to treat everyone they meet with  
fairness.  
Through this night, whatever it brings, we pray, O God:  
**Let your peace come.**

Comfort those who are hurting this night;  
Bring food to the hungry and shelter to those who are cold.  
Heal those who are sick,  
And help those who are lonely to know that you are with them.  
God, we also name before you those most on our minds....  
We pray, O God:  
**Let your peace come.**

With grateful hearts,  
We thank you for those who love us;  
With prayerful hearts,  
We ask your help to mend relationships that are broken,  
With solemn hearts,  
We remember those whom we love who have died  
and now rest in you.  
In sorrow and in joy, we pray, O God:  
**Let your peace come.**

*The presiding minister concludes:*

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

*The congregation may stand.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Christ child be with you always!

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may sit.*

## **MEAL**

### **OFFERING**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

“I Wonder As I Wander”

- Appalachian Carol,  
Linda Mathias, *soprano*

#### **CAROL**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Red Book #290

### **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.  
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

*The congregation may sit.*

## 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. 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

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Red Book #276

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## CANDLE-LIGHTING AT THE MANGER

## HYMN

“Silent Night”

Red Book #281

## SENDING

*The congregation may stand.*

## 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.**

**SENDING HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

sts. 1 and 4

Red Book #267

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Let Our Gladness Have No End”

- Kristina Langlois

**SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

The Rev. Kimberly van Driel	<b>Presiding Minister</b>
Sandy Lefebvre	<b>Assisting Minister</b>
Linda Mathias	<b>Communion Assistant</b>
Josh Kamerer	<b>AV Assisting Minister</b>
Melody Kamerer	<b>PowerPoint Assisting Minister</b>
Alex Kamerer and Shane Kamerer	<b>Acolytes</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: George Schaney, in memory of Zema; Jessie and Josh Kamerer; Brandi and Brandon Stein; Sandy Lefebvre; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Pr. Kimberly and Edwin van Driel; Susan Farrell; Marilyn Shoup; Sandy Radziwon; Judy and Bill Vilcheck; Kirsten Schaney; Signe Mitchell

**CHRISTMAS TREE** contributions made by: Brenda Ihlenfeld; Karen and Bob Domanski; Laura and Brent Warmbrod; Pat and Joe Zupancic; Larry Hamil; Myrna Hamil; Grace Shields; Sandy Lefebvre; Merab Drennan; Amy and Jack Beiler; Jeanette and Jim Cunningham; Yvonne and John Thickey; Kirsten Schaney and Jill Chambers; Tracy Gullickson; Susan Farrell; Marilyn Shoup; Linda and Kevin Mathias; Lea, Jolene, and Jack



Pelgrin; Helen and Larry Christy; Danna Drescher; Susan and Vaughn Badger; Signe Mitchell; Elaine Cavanaugh; Barb Westley; Thelma Cross

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