



First United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday in Advent • Children's Christmas Pageant



Please be aware that our services are livestreamed, and any adults and/or children participating in musical groups, children's messages and liturgist roles will appear on camera.

A nursery for children age 5 and under is on the lower level, and will include a Bible lesson. Sunday School for children K-4th grade will be held in the upper-level Children's Lounge following the Children's Message. Please pick up your kids in Lakeview Social Hall after worship.

Prelude	<i>Shepherds I Saw Three Ships</i>	Wilbur Held Gordon Young
	Velda Graham Bell, organ	
Music by FUMC Children and Youth	<i>Carol of the Bells Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella</i>	Mykola Leontovych traditional
	Delaney Nielsen, piano	
	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	Lewis Redner
	Greta Nielsen, piano	
	<i>Coventry Carol</i>	Thomas Mawdyke
	Liam Hedlund, piano	

Lighting the Second Advent Candle – the Candle of Love

Linda and Tom Wiig

Leader: Last week we began our worship series celebrating the beloved hymn *Joy to the World*. We focused on “hopeful joy” and began to prepare room in our lives for more joy, even when not all is right with the world. This week we remember that “repeating the sounding joy,” as the hymn suggests, is the way in which the reverberations of LOVE are spread throughout the world. And so we raise our praise today in order to repeat what all creation is saying: “God loves you.”

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of LOVE. Let us join our voices with heaven and earth, proclaiming along with the Psalmist:

All: Sing a new song to the Lord. Lift your hearts with gratitude and joy, Loving Joy. Your steadfast love and faithfulness are ever present in our lives.

Leader: We light this second candle today to remind us that Jesus Christ is our love and our joy. Because of Jesus, we have LOVING joy!

Let us sing together our Advent song – the second verse of *Joy to the World*.

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

*** Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

UM Hymnal #238; v. 1-3

Morning Prayer

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Unison Prayer: Lord, a candle burns, the sign of love that fills our hearts and guides our way. God of love, come to us again this Advent. May your love live within us, burning as a light in our lives.

Prayers of Joy and Concern

Jesus' Prayer - contemporary paraphrase from *Human Rites* by Ward and Wild

Beloved, our Father and Mother, in whom is heaven, hallowed be your name, followed be your royal way, done be your will and rule, throughout the whole creation. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Anthem

Carol of the Bells and Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

arr. B.C. Dockery

Atley Collins and Nathaniel Bateman, flutes; Will Carolan, piano

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Pastor Jeanine Alexander and Rev. MaryAnne Korsch

Leader: The Lord be with you,

All: And with all God's servants.

Leader: O come, let us lift our hearts unto the Lord.

All: From different places, gather many faces; with wondering eyes we gaze, our songs to you we raise, almighty God, we praise you evermore!

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving: Gracious Lord, in this season when we celebrate the coming of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks and praise. You created all things and called them good. You made us in your own image. Even though we rebelled against your love, you did not desert us. You spoke to us through prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Therefore, with the prophets and all who have looked for a better age to come, with all your people and the whole company of heaven, we join the song of unending praise!

Response: (sung to the tune of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing")

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might adored;

Heaven and earth cannot contain all the glory of your name!

Hail Hosanna, God Most High; Blessed is Christ, who now draws nigh;

Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again in vision!

Honor, glory, praise is due, God almighty now to you!

Consecration and Invitation

Scripture Reading

Tom and Linda Wiig, Faith Community Nurse

Luke 2:1-14

In those days, a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in

Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped in him bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region, there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for, see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

* Hymn *Star-Child*

The Faith We Sing #2095; v. 1, 3, 5



"A Classic Christmas Pageant"

Sunday School children, JAM and the Peanut Butter Band, Joyful Noise, all children and youth
 Beth Brophy and Christine Winkler Johnson, directors;
 with assistance from Larry Ehresman, Abbi Adamec, and Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Introduction

Angels Come to Mary and Joseph

Carol: *What Child is This*

Joyful Noise handbells

Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem

The Birth of Jesus

Carol: *Silent Night*

UM Hymnal #239; children v. 1; congregation v. 3

Angels Visit the Shepherds

Carol: *The First Noël*

UM Hymnal #245; children v. 1; congregation v. 2

Shepherds Visit Jesus

Wise Ones Visit Jesus

Carol: *The Little Drummer Boy*

Conclusion

Carol: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

UM Hymnal #240; v. 1

Offering Our Gifts

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

* Hymn *He Came Down*

The Faith We Sing #2085

Benediction

Pastor Jeanine Alexander



Announcements

*Please remember to fill out the **Connect Cards** each week. Keeping attendance and making sure the church has your current contact information is an important part of church records. **On the back of the card**, is a list of ministry opportunities, where your help can make a difference! These will change often, so check them each week and please sign up where you can.*

Join us for coffee and doughnuts in the lower-level Lakeview Social Hall following the worship service.

***Faith Forum** is taking a break in December. We'll meet again on **January 11**, at 9am in Fireside Lounge.*

***Thank you** to everyone who has turned in their Estimate of Giving card for 2026. Extra copies are in envelopes on the Signup Table in the Narthex. Please help us in our planning by returning your card to the church office (open Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-noon) or mailing it to church (230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811).*

***Advent/Christmas Mission Project** handouts are available in the Narthex.*

Enjoy Holiday Music with FUMC Musicians



Sunday, Dec. 7 (7:00pm) – “Festival of Lights” Twin Ports Wind Orchestra’s Brass Concert

Celebrate the season with the radiant sounds of the TPWO Brass. Held in our Sanctuary and conducted by our own Dr. Mark Whitlock, the concert will feature arrangements of popular and memorable Christmas pieces. Tickets available at the door.

Friday, Dec. 12 (7:00pm) and Saturday, Dec. 13 (3:00pm) – “Hallelujah!: Holiday Traditions and Jubilations”

Strikepoint again joins the Arrowhead Chorale for their holiday concert at First Lutheran Church (1100 E. Superior St., Duluth). The Chorale, Orchestra, and Strikepoint will usher in the wonder of Christmas with music spanning centuries, including works by J.S. Bach, G. F. Handel, John Rutter, and others. Strikepoint will also provide a musical prelude beginning 20 minutes before the start of each concert. In addition, our own Velda Graham Bell will be playing the organ. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$35 at the door) and \$10 for students; available at the door or online at arrowheadchorale.com. Tickets are going fast!

***Friday, Dec. 19 (7:00pm) - Strikepoint presents “A Bell Noël: Ringing in the holidays!”** Our own Strikepoint, along with some distinguished guest artists, will take over our Sanctuary to share holiday favorites. Tickets for this special concert will be available at the door: \$25 for adults; \$10 for kids and students.*

Sunday, Dec. 21 – 10:00am worship – “Christmas at the Coppertop: A Festival of Lessons and Carols”

You don't want to miss our annual Lessons and Carols Service, held during morning worship. This very special service tells the story of Christ's birth through Scripture readings and music offered by FUMC's Sanctuary Choir and Cast in Bronze handbell ensemble, as well as a variety of other vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

Table of Eight, a group for family, friends, and caregivers of people with dementia, will meet on **Thursday, December 11** at 10am in the Fireside Lounge and online on **Friday, December 12** via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87984010825?pwd=1K4ECb2TqdNVwucMJ3MPrMgcuPLnmz.1>, Meeting ID: 879 8401 0825 Passcode: 026414). New members are always welcome.

Guest WIFI Network: FirstUnitedPublic. Password: Public2022.

Thank you to the Livestream Team for making the online service possible.

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Ways You Can Help Your Church

Volunteers are needed to bring cookies and bars (no nuts or peanut butter, please!) for coffee hour following the Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday, December 21**. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex; please bring cookies and bars already plated that morning.

Ways to give to support your church: give online at fumcduluth.com or use the QR code OR text COPPERTOP to 73256 OR mail to FUMC, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55811.



First United Methodist Church
230 E Skyline Parkway Duluth, MN

CHRISTMAS AT THE COPPERTOP



**FESTIVAL OF
NINE
LESSONS
AND CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025
10:00 am worship service**

Discover the beauty of this traditional service of nine lessons and carols during the morning worship service at First United Methodist Church. The story of Christ's birth will be told through scripture readings and music offered by First United Methodist's Sanctuary Choir and handbell ensemble, Cast in Bronze, as well as a variety of vocal and instrumental solos and ensembles.

STRIKEPOINT
presents
A Bell Noël
Ringing in the holidays!

Friday, December 19 🎄 7pm
Tickets available at the door: Adults \$25, Students & Children \$10

First United Methodist Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway 📍 Duluth, MN 📍 strikepoint.com