



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH BROOKINGS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS DECEMBER 7, 2025

### 2026 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL UPDATE

You can help unlock a challenge gift! We've received statements of intent for 2026 giving from 120 households. We're nearing the goal of 150 to realize the generous challenge gift of \$10,000! You can be a part of the excitement. Commitment cards are at each Sanctuary entrance. Or, use the QR code or visit [firstlutheranbrookings.org/give](https://firstlutheranbrookings.org/give). Thanks for being a part of making ministry possible through First Lutheran.

[firstlutheranbrookings.org/Give](https://firstlutheranbrookings.org/Give)



### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL SIGN-UPS

You're invited to join us for our annual Community Christmas Meal on Thursday, December 25th from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM in the Activity Center!

Sign up if you would like to:

- Volunteer to help with set-up, serving, or clean-up
- Bring a pie to share
- Request meal delivery for yourself or someone you know
- Let us know if attending with a group of 6 or more

There are many ways to Sign Up:

- Scan the QR code to the right
- Call the church office at 605-692-6251
- Email [emily@firstlutheranbrookings.org](mailto:emily@firstlutheranbrookings.org)
- Add your name to the sign-up sheets in the office



Thank you for your support in making this celebration special. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas!

## **WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE!**

We believe that everyone belongs here, and we want you to feel at home. To make worship more comfortable for you or your family, we have several resources available:

- \*Aides for the senses: Noise-reducing headphones and focus fidgets.
- \*Accessibility: Large print bulletins and hearing assist devices.
- \*For comfort: Individual pew cushions.
- \*For children: Engaging worship bags.
- \*Communion: Gluten-free wafers and communion delivered to your seat.

If you would like to use any of these, or have a question, please feel free to ask a greeter or usher. We are happy to help!

## **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you goes out to the following people for helping to decorate the Sanctuary and Mission Coffeehouse on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>:

Randy Richards, Lisa Friedrich, Kathy DeKraai, Lyla and Clark Hanson, Marcene Lenander, Carmen Wika, Steve Almos, Austin Ribstein and Beth and Rick Ribstein. A special thank you to Nancy Zink for the new bows adorning the sanctuary swags.

## **HELP CREATE A WARM CHRISTMAS WELCOME**

Help us extend a warm welcome to our Christmas guests! Sign up in the gathering space or the office to serve as an usher. Your friendly presence ensures everyone feels at home during this holy season.

## **CHILDREN'S JOY OF GIFTING**

Help children discover the Joy of Gifting **TODAY** in the Activity Center from 8:30AM – 11:30AM. Kids can choose items for a quarter, gift wrap them and attach a personal greeting card. A great opportunity to gift others at Christmas!

## **JOIN US FOR THE JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Join us on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for our worship service featuring the Journey Christmas Program. Stay afterwards to enjoy cookies and fellowship!

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT FIRST LUTHERAN**

DEC 24<sup>th</sup>: Candlelight Services with Holy Communion at 1:30, 4:30 & 6:30pm

DEC 25<sup>th</sup>: Worship Service with Holy Communion at 10:30am followed by  
Community Christmas meal in the Activity Center

DEC 28<sup>th</sup>: Worship Service at 10:30am

Return to two services at 8:30am & 10:30am with Journey at 9:40am on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>

## **LEGACY CHALLENGE INVITATION**

A generous family at First Lutheran has issued a Legacy Challenge—inviting ten members to also create a legacy gift to our church's Endowment Fund before year's end. Your planned gift—through a will, trust, beneficiary designation, or other option—creates a lasting witness of faith and gratitude, ensuring our mission and ministries continue for generations. To join the Legacy Challenge with a new plan or to document an existing gift, please contact Kathy McHenry, Lutheran Planned Generosity, at 605-868-8754 or [kmchenry@sdsynod.org](mailto:kmchenry@sdsynod.org). Together, we can strengthen our foundation and leave a lasting legacy of faith.

## **BELIZE MISSION TRIP 2026**

If you are interested in learning more about the Belize Mission Trip in March 2026, please contact Jim Schade, 605-940-2363, [schade@itctel.com](mailto:schade@itctel.com). Tentatively we are planning a six day Belize Mission Trip that will be sometime between March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup>. We are planning an information meeting December 14<sup>th</sup> in the Mission Coffee House conference room at 9:45 am.

## **REMINDER TO RESERVE YOUR MEETING SPACES**

We are grateful that our building can host such a wide variety of groups and activities throughout the week. To keep everything running smoothly, it's essential that every group reserves a space for their meeting or gathering. If you're planning something in 2026—even if it's a long-standing event at the same time and day—please confirm your reservation with Doriane at the Welcome Desk. You can reach her at 605-697-2755 or by email at [doriane@firstlutheranbrookings.org](mailto:doriane@firstlutheranbrookings.org).

## **BROOKINGS COUNTY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIONS**

First Lutheran is collecting non-perishable food items for the food pantries in our community. Collection boxes are placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary.

**LOST AND FOUND CLEAN UP** The lost and found is in the Fellowship Hall entrance across from the elevator. Please take a moment to check for your lost jacket, hat, or sunglasses before we donate them. Thank you.

**Mission of the month for December is Good Gifts**

<b>FLC ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 7 – DECEMBER 14</b>
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**Sunday, December 7**

8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service w/HC
9:40 am	Journey
10:30 am	Contemporary Worship Service w/HC

**Monday, December 8**

9:30 am	Staff Meeting
5:30 pm	Sew What

**Tuesday, December 9**

8:30 am	Quilters
2:00 pm	Bible Study in Mission Coffeehouse

**Wednesday, December 10**

5:00 pm	Meal
5:45 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 pm	ALL JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
7:00 pm	Confirmation, Youth Group, 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade Night
	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 11****Friday, December 12****Saturday, December 13**

9:00 am	ALL JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE
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**Sunday, December 14**

8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service
9:40 am	Belize Travel Team Informational Meeting
10:30 am	Journey Christmas Program

Only First Lutheran activities are listed on the schedule on the back page. For a complete list of activities held at First Lutheran, please visit the First Lutheran website – [www.firstlutheranbrookings.org](http://www.firstlutheranbrookings.org)

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE**

There will be Christmas Program Practice for **ALL** Journey students on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (regular Wednesday Journey time) and on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am. For both of these practice times, please meet in the sanctuary.

## **JOURNEY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

Join us on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for our worship service featuring the Journey Christmas Program. Stay afterwards to enjoy cookies and fellowship!



## **UPCOMING CYF EVENTS**

- Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm: ALL Journey Christmas program practice (last Wednesday night of fall Journey); 9<sup>th</sup> grade night; Confirmation Christmas parties (last night of fall Confirmation)
- Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00am: ALL Journey Christmas program practice
- Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> 10:30am: Journey Christmas program (last Sunday of fall Journey)
- Wednesday December 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm: Youth group Christmas party (last night of fall session)

## **UPCOMING WEDNESDAY EVENING MEAL MENUS**

December 10<sup>th</sup> – Chicken Nuggets, Cheesy Noodles and Fruit Fluff Salad